Installing Grommets with CBTV Live

Chapter 1 - Chapter 1
Grommets
(upbeat music) - Hey everybody, welcome to Creativebug Live. We're coming live like we always do on Tuesdays and Thursdays, which means you can write in and ask us questions, so please do. We always love your comments and questions and today is really exciting. I don't know if you guys got anything in your mailbox yesterday, but when I got home, I had this beautiful full-page spread advertisement from Jo-Ann Fabrics that had guess-who on it? One of my favorite daytime TV hosts. Ellen DeGeneres, of course. She's super-creative and she has great style. if you couldn't tell from her adorable outfits on her show. If you've ever seen any of her homes, she actually has an incredible talent for interior decorating and she just launched a brand-new fabric line with Jo-Ann Fabrics and we got it in advance, just a few weeks in advance, and it was so fun to play with. There are some really beautiful prints inspired by her travels. There are some really cool sort of African mud cloth fabrics. I've got a little scrap of one of my favorite ones here. This is actually Phases of the Moon. There's some blue pallettes, some really great earth tones, even some pops of red. I like the kind of nod to history and this really kind of contemporary feel to it. It kind of blends all the things that we love about Ellen and everything we love about her style. We have a ton of classes on Creativebug for home dec. Annabel Wrigley's Home Dec class is one of my favorites and Ally's going to post a link, so we didn't want to inundate you with a how-to project, but instead give you some great techniques and tools for making your own home decor projects with the Ellen fabric and one of the things that I think is most elusive to a lot of people is how to install grommets. Grommets are great for everyday accents. They could be used on pillows and on blankets. They're great for reinforcing holes for things like play tents or anything that's going to get handled a lot and they're also necessary for making your own curtains or shower curtains, which is another thing that we have in our Annabel Home Dec class. I was going to show you how to install grommets. That way, you have a nice, succinct lesson and you can write in and ask us questions. I've got two styles of grommet set kits here. They came from Jo-Ann in the home dec section. This is your more traditional grommet. It's a metal grommet. If you think about the rivets that are on your Levi jeans, they kind of look like that, but they have an opening in them. Like I said, they're great for reinforcing holes. This is what a grommet, once it's set, looks like. It's a metal finish. You can find grommets in multiple finishes. This one happens to be like a brushed nickel, but you could also do something like a brass and when you get a little kit, it has a setter in it. This is something that you need a little bit of tools, but luckily the grommet kit has a grommet setter in it. It also has this small piece, which is really, really important. You cannot lose this piece. One side is flat and the other side has this ridge and this is actually what part of your grommet's going to sit in when you set your grommet. A grommet has two parts, a part that has a little neck to it and a part that has prongs. The part that has the neck, that's actually the right side of the grommet so this will always go on the right side of your fabric. Here it is with the little neck. It looks like a little hat and this is the face side of the grommet and this goes on the right side of your fabric. The other part of the grommet has these little prongs and that's going to go on the back side of your fabric. To be honest, if you make a mistake if it's your first time, they're both really pretty-finish sides, so I wouldn't worry too much about it. You'll have your grommet setter as well. You'll need a sharp pair of scissors and also a hammer when you're using this type of grommet. I have a scrap of fabric here. This could be anything. It could be the side of an apron. It could be a

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tea towel, which I'll show you guys a little bit later. Anything that you want to set a grommet into will work. You can even do it through multiple layers of fabric. You need first to trace the size of your grommet so that you can cut away your fabric so that this little piece can fit right in and actually, it's really funny, this is exactly the size of the full moon on this fabric so I don't need to trace. I know that I'm just going to find a little full moon somewhere and I'm going to cut that out. I like to just fold my fabric in half and using a sharp pair of scissors, you can start by just making a little nick in the fabric, just something big enough to fit your scissors into and then you can come around. - [Female Assistant] We have our first question. - [Courtney] We have a question. - [Female Assistant] Tracy is asking, "How do you prevent the fabric "from fraying around the grommet?" - [Courtney] Oh, good question. Tracy, is that right? - [Female Assistant] Yes. - Hi Tracy, welcome. You're asking how do you prevent the fabric from fraying around the grommet and that's an excellent question. When you actually cut away this fabric, it's going to be a little bit snug when you slip it over the neck of the grommet and then when you sandwich it all together and hit it with the hammer, it's going to compress all the layers and it's going to trap that fabric in there. It's all enclosed inside your grommet so you don't have to worry about fraying. That's what's great about the grommet, because it really reinforces a hole. It's like the super-industrial version of those little tiny paper sticker rings you put around your binder pages when you were in Junior High. It's kind of like that. Once you have your fabric cut away, you're going to place your setter underneath. You're going to... Remember, this is the right side, so the right side of our grommet goes on the right side of the fabric. We're just going to pop that through our hole and I'm actually going to flip this over now so you can see that's the neck piece. This settles right into our setter and you'll feel it. When I wiggle, I'm wiggling this entire piece. If it's slipping at all, then you may have this on the wrong side. This really just settles right into that, which is awesome. Okay, so then you have your fabric layer, you have your pronged layer. Prongs go face-down right on top. There's nothing really you can mess up here. It's not really wiggly. It just kind of sits on top and then you have your setter. This will cause everything to go in line and you're going to hammer it. Now, if you forget the back of your package has this graphic to remind you. There's the little setter, the neck facing up, your fabric. You may even want to color that in so you know what part is the right side of the fabric that will be face-down. The prongs, the setter, the hammer and I'm working on a cutting mat. You can also use a cutting board for this. Now, it's going to be loud. I apologize. (hammer banging) Give it some good whacks and there you have a beautifully set grommet and you can see there's no fabric fray. There's nothing in there. You can do multiple layers and these are washable. You can throw them in the washing machine. They're super-industrial. Like I said, it's great for reinforcing a hole. If you want to make a play tent or some kind of tarp for the outdoors, you could do that with this. I was going to show you how I added it to a tea towel and to an apron for a little bit more industrial look and some more utility. Now the other type of grommet that I was going to show you how to use is for curtains. It's actually not metal. It's plastic. It comes in a ton of different finishes and it's a really big grommet and it allows you to pass a rod through it. This would be for your shower curtain or for your home curtains. So, I'll just move this aside. Thanks for your questions. Remember, we're live and I'm working on the new Ellen DeGeneres fabric. Oh, and that reminds me before I switch my project, if you're new to Creativebug, we have a great offer right now. It's one full month of access to all of our classes. We have over a thousand classes in art, painting, sewing, knitting, quilting, you name it, we have it. You have one class to keep forever. Even if you go on vacation and you don't have any time to craft, you still have that one class to keep forever and then you get all of that for a single dollar for one month, which is pretty awesome. It's the one-one-one deal. If you need any ideas for what to

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set your grommets on and what to make with your Ellen fabric, then check out our Home Decor classes by Annabel Wrigley. You can figure out how to make pillows, shower curtains, home curtains, all kinds of good things. This is another one of Ellen's fabrics. This one has these beautiful sort of water color stripes and we're going to pretend this is our full curtain because there's a little bit of math we have to do so I wanted to keep it small so you could really see what I'm doing. These grommets also come in two parts and this too has one that has a little bit of a neck, it's pretty shallow compared to the metal grommet, and one that has little prongs. The part with the neck is always the right side of your grommet and the part with the prongs goes on the back of your curtain. You want to do a hem that's around four inches wide for these kinds of grommets. Like I said, these grommets come in different styles. You could do a dark metal, a brushed metal, brass. They have all these great little finishes, so check in the home dec section so you can find one that matches your fabric. I really like the way this looks. I think it picks up some of these warm tones in the stripes. How do you determine how many of these types of grommets you're going to put in the top of your curtain? There's actually a formula for that. Did you know? So, have a little cheat sheet. I actually downloaded this from the Jo-Ann website. We know, I told you that I measured this. Let's pretend this is my finished curtain and it is 16 inches. You always want to have an even number of grommets and I know that I want to have about four, so 16 divided by four is four and that means that this is the distance between my grommets from center-to-center. From the center of one grommet to the center of the next grommet is four inches. Now where do I start my line of grommets? We want to divide that number by two and this tells me that I need my grommets to start two inches from the edge to the center from the side of my curtain. I've already set one and I'm going to place the other ones. - [Female Assistant] We have our next question. - [Courtney] Yes, hi, next question. - [Female Assistant] Donna is asking, "How do you know what size hole to cut?" - I'm going to get there, because there's actually... Donna was asking how do I know what size hole to cut. There's actually a template in your kit when you buy your grommets that tells you exactly, but we need to know where they're going to be placed and where the centers are before we can use our template, so you're a step ahead of us. I like to just put my grommets out. I know that I'm going to do four and then I'm going to move them according to that measurement of four inches. That is from center-to-center. I'm using my tape measure here. The center of my grommet to the center of this grommet is four inches. Then the center of this grommet to the center of this grommet is four inches and the center from this grommet to the center of this grommet is four inches. You can see it's not perfect. We do have obviously like the depth of this. You can mark it without the grommets, but for me, I'm a visual person. I really like to see it laid out. It's always that measure twice, cut once kind of a thing. Now, you want to mark the center. That, I am going to eyeball. I'm just going to put a little X here. I can remove those and then this is where my template comes in. My template has, if you guys can see this, it has the center marked and then it has actually an opening. My template plastic is cut here and this allows me to trace right exactly the circle that I need to cut away for making my openings for my grommets. I'm going to center the template onto those little Xs I made and trace. Do the same thing here. Do it for all of your grommets, all the length of your curtain and our curtain... You can see those now. Our curtain is 16 inches long. We placed these four inches from center-to-center and now we're going to cut away based on the template marks we made. Got to go back for our sharp scissors. Again, this time I'm actually cutting through two layers. I'm going to start by just folding in half and kind of cutting open the center so I have a place to insert my scissors and then from here, I can cut away both those layers. Now, you want to make sure that you're using the template that came with your grommets you purchased because grommets come in a couple of

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sizes, so your templates will change depending on the size of grommet you have. Really going to move this around. It's easier for me to cut like this, counter-clockwise, and just kind of rotate my fabric. (excited shrieking) - [Male Assistant] There's monkeys in the office. - [Courtney] Yeah. - [Female Assistant] (mumbles) mute this. - All right, it's not a perfect circle, but that's totally fine as long as my grommet will fit through. Remember, the part with the neck is the front part. Let's say this is the front of my curtain. I just want to flip that over. Doesn't matter if it looks good or bad because it's all going to be sandwiched inside of my grommet. We just want to make sure that it fits. This is the back piece with the prongs and you're just going to press. (snap) You'll hear a snap and then that's on and I would do the same all the way down the length of my curtain, just cutting away where I made my template marks and popping on the neck piece on the front of my curtain, the prong piece on the back of my curtain and that's how you install grommets for a pocket rod for something like a curtain, could be for a shower curtain. What's awesome about this is you can actually wash these so you can throw this whole thing in the washing machine. You do want to let it air dry. You don't want to put plastic in your dryer. I will say that the Ellen DeGeneres fabric recommends it to be dry cleaned. Dry cleaned, but I actually did two projects that are totally utilitarian, an apron and a tea towel and I washed them several times and they held up really well. Because this is a home dec weight fabric, it's actually nice and heavy duty sort of like a canvas, so I'm not worried about pristine lines. This is screen-printed fabric and I don't mind if it deteriorates a little bit just by a lot of handling and washing, but you can also dry clean if you're doing something like pillows or anything that you want to keep a little stiffer fabric for the look of whatever your project is. I think we have some other questions. - [Female Assistant] We do. Tuwanna is asking about the cheat sheet and she's wondering, "Is that for purchase? "How did you come up with that?" - Hi Tuwanna, thanks for joining us. I had this little formula that I actually downloaded from the Jo-Ann website. They have a tutorial on making your own curtains. It's very detailed. I find watching a video so much easier so that you can write in and ask questions like in these live streams and get some hands-on real-life experience by watching somebody put it together in front of you, but I did love this little formula. It's super easy and I'll have Ally post a link to it after we're done with our live shoot because I have to send it to her. What's great about this is it's a pretty simple formula. It allows you to do the finished width of your panel, the number of grommets you want to put in. Remember, it's always an even number. The distance. Just by doing some simple math, then you get the distance, which is super easy for those people who don't want to think about math too much while they're making their project. I wanted to share with you a couple of other projects like I mentioned. Let's bring her a little closer. This is an apron I made. Hopefully you guys can see that and this is using one of my favorite fabrics from the Ellen DeGeneres collection. It's inspired by an African mud cloth, which is really popular right now. It's a really soft sort of indigo denim. I left this edge frayed because I like the sort of rustic look and then I paired it with a trim that I found at Jo-Ann that had kind of the colors, this nice warm tone and then this really pretty blue and you can see that instead of just sewing on my straps, I used grommets here and just a really heavy-duty knot, which I like the look of. I also made a tea towel. I really love how this fabric has washed. I'm kind of a rule-breaker, so even though it says dry clean recommended, I washed it a bunch of times, but I like how heavy duty the fabric is. I think this would be a great tea towel and for easy use and for hanging, I just added a grommet in a corner. You could do that with a store-bought tea towel as well. Also behind me, I don't know if you guys can see, but I took some canvases that I found at Jo-Ann and just covered them with some of my favorite fabrics. It's a really easy way to do wall decor, maybe put it over a bed for a beautiful backdrop or instead of a headboard because it's

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lightweight and easy to do. You can just do it with a staple gun. Thanks for joining us. Run out to your local Jo-Ann's and find that Ellen fabric. It's pretty awesome and fun to play with. If you're new to Creativebug, we can do the one-one-one, one month, one class to keep forever, for one dollar, and we'll see you on our next live shoot on Thursday. (upbeat music)

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