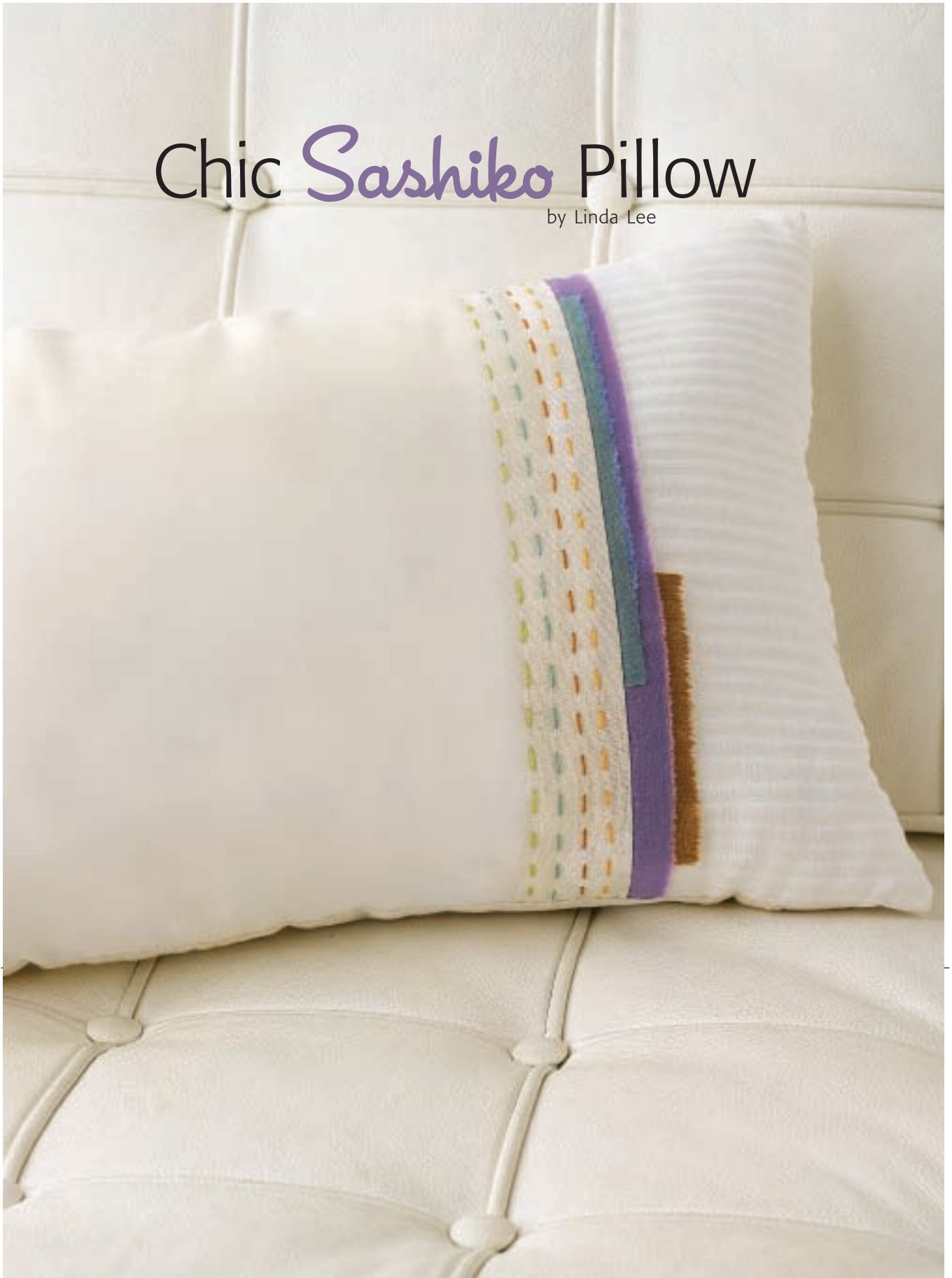


# 10 Fun Pillow Patterns



# Chic Sashiko Pillow

by Linda Lee



Sashiko is a term used to describe a traditional form of hand sewing that originated in Japan and China. A simple running stitch is sewn in repeating or interlocking patterns through one or more layers of fabric. Try your hand at Sashiko by making this clever pillow!

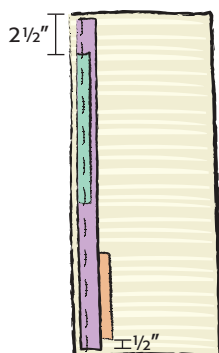


Use  $\frac{1}{2}$ " seam allowances.

### instructions

1. From fabric A, cut one 13"x14" rectangle and one 13"x19" rectangle. From fabric B, cut one 13"x6" rectangle.
2. From the first fabric scrap, cut a 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ "x4 $\frac{1}{2}$ " strip. From the second scrap, cut a 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ "x12" strip. From the third scrap, cut a  $\frac{3}{4}$ "x6 $\frac{1}{2}$ " strip.
3. Position the fabric B rectangle right side up on a flat work surface. Choose one short edge as the lower edge. Position the 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ "x4 $\frac{1}{2}$ " strip along the rectangle left edge, about  $\frac{1}{2}$ " up from the rectangle lower edge; pin. Position the 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ "x12" strip along the rectangle left edge, sandwiching the first strip; pin. Position the  $\frac{3}{4}$ "x6 $\frac{1}{2}$ " strip along the rectangle left edge, about 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ " from the rectangle upper edge; pin. Baste the strips in place along the left edge (A).

A



### tip

To avoid "dog-eared" corners, use a slightly larger seam allowance for a few inches on both sides of each corner.

### Supplies

- $\frac{1}{2}$  yard of main fabric (fabric A)
- $\frac{1}{4}$  yard of contrasting fabric (fabric B)
- 13"x19" rectangle of cotton flannel
- scraps of three contrasting fabrics
- one skein each of four colors of cotton embroidery floss
- matching all-purpose thread
- hand embroidery needle





## can't get enough?

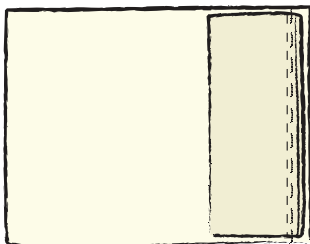
Try your hand at the Simply Sashiko clutch in the Feb/March '09 issue of *Sew News*. The interlocking Sashiko pattern on this clutch is created using a purchased quilting template. Find stencils and templates appropriate for Sashiko at a local craft or fabric store. Trace the design onto the fabric using a removable marking pen, then stitch away!

4. Position the fabric A 13"x14" rectangle right side up on a flat work surface. Choose one long edge as the lower edge. Position the fabric B rectangle right side down over the fabric A rectangle, aligning the right edges. Stitch the right edge, using the basting line as a guide (**B**). Press the seam allowance toward fabric A. This is the pillow front.
5. Position the pillow front right side up over the flannel rectangle, pinning around the perimeter. Baste around the rectangle perimeter.
6. Separate three strands from each skein of embroidery thread. Thread three strands of one color into

the hand embroidery needle and knot the ends. Hand stitch a row of long running stitches parallel to the pillow-front seam. Knot the thread at the stitching end. Stitch three more rows, switching to a different thread color for each row (**C**).

7. Position the pillow front and fabric A 13"x9" rectangle with right sides facing. Stitch around the perimeter, leaving a 10" opening along one edge for turning (**D**). Turn the pillow right side out. Insert the pillow form. Slipstitch the opening closed. •

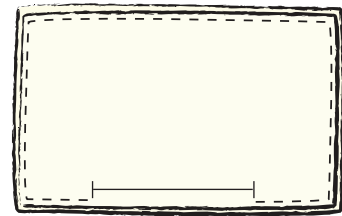
**B**



**C**



**D**



10"

# envelope pillow

THIS CLEVER PILLOW IS GREAT for showcasing a beautiful fabric. Using a chopstick as a closure gives the pillow a unique twist.

4. Draw a horizontal line 12" from the lower edge to use as a foldline for the pillow lower edge.
5. Add ½" to each edge for seam allowances.
6. Cut one pillow piece from the fabric. Use chalk to transfer the foldline onto the fabric.
7. Cut one overlap facing piece from the same or contrasting fabric, cutting it off at the facing cutline.

## YOU WILL NEED:

- ½ yard of fabric (non-directional motif) or 1 yard of fabric (directional motif)
- ⅓ yard of fabric for facing (additional fabric needed only if contrasting)
- all-purpose thread
- 1 chopstick
- 2" of ½"-wide elastic
- 12" x 16" pillow form
- pattern paper

Finished size: 12" x 16"

## instructions

### pattern

Refer to figure A as a guide for making the pattern.

1. Draw a 16" x 34" rectangle on pattern paper. Mark the upper-edge center.
2. Mark a point 4" down from each upper corner. Draw diagonal lines from the upper-edge center to each point on the sides to create cutting lines for the pillow overlap.
3. Draw a horizontal line 10" down from the upper-edge center to create a cutting line for the overlap facing.

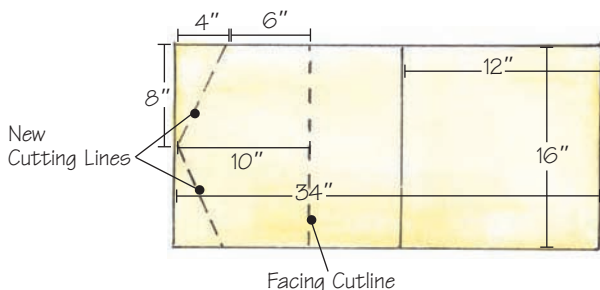
## construction

Use ½" seam allowances.

1. Finish the pillow lower edge (B). Press the finished edge ½" toward the wrong side and topstitch in place.

*Finish the raw edges of this pillow using one of the following methods: Use pinking shears, zigzag the edges on the sewing machine or overlock them using a serger.*

**A** Make pattern.



**B** Finish pillow lower edge.









**2.** With right sides together, fold the pillow lower edge along the foldline and pin in place at the side seams (**C**).

**3.** Finish the overlap facing lower edge. With right sides together, position the facing on the pillow, overlapping the facing over the pillow hemmed edge 2"; pin. Stitch the side seams and the overlap edges (**D**). Finish the edges.

**4.** Turn the pillow right side out. Press the overlap edges so the facing fabric doesn't show.

**5.** Mark a buttonhole placement  $3\frac{1}{2}$ " from the point, centering it on the overlap. Stitch one machine buttonhole horizontally and cut it open (**E**).

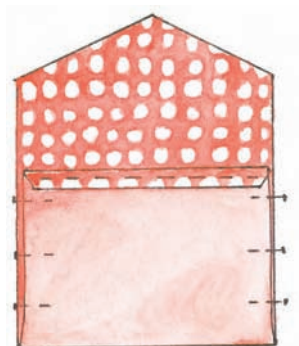
**6.** Insert the pillow form. Position the overlap where you want it. Use pins to poke through the buttonhole, marking the placement of the elastic loop on the pillow.

**7.** Remove the pillow form. Wrap the elastic around the chopstick to determine how much is required for the loop. Add enough to the loop length to sew to the pillow. Either hand tack or machine stitch the elastic loop ends to the pillow.

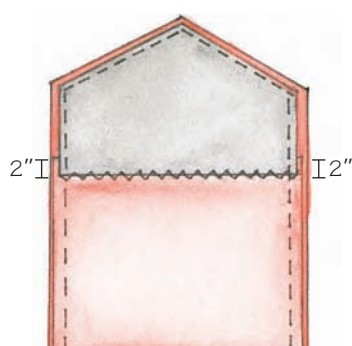
**8.** Insert the pillow form again. Bring the elastic loop through the buttonhole and insert the chopstick through the loop. •



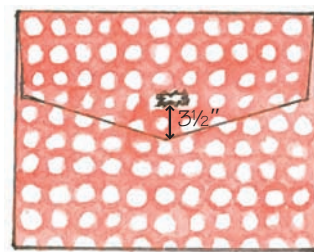
**C** Fold lower edge; pin.



**D** Stitch side seams and overlap edges.



**E** Stitch buttonhole.





# fleece floor pillow

THIS BIG COMFY PILLOW is the perfect fix for an apartment or dorm room with limited seating options. Stitch up several pillows so you're instantly ready to entertain a crowd.

## YOU WILL NEED:

- 1 yard of orange fleece
- ½ yard of pink fleece
- ¼ yard of green fleece
- 30"-square pillow form
- three 1½"-diameter buttons
- matching all-purpose thread
- seam sealant



## instructions

Stitch all seams right sides together with a ½" seam allowance unless otherwise indicated.

Finger-press open all seams.

1. From the orange fleece, cut one 7" x 13" rectangle, two 7" x 19" rectangles and two 17" x 31" rectangles.
2. From the pink fleece, cut five 7" squares and one 13" square.
3. From the green fleece, cut one 7" x 13" rectangle and two 7" x 19" rectangles.
4. Stitch one 7" pink square to the 7" x 13" orange rectangle. Stitch the 7" x 13" green rectangle to the 13" pink square. Stitch the two rectangles together to form the center square (A).

5. Stitch one 7" x 19" orange rectangle to the square upper edge. Stitch one 7" x 19" green rectangle to the square lower edge (B).

6. Stitch one 7" pink square to each short end of one 7" x 19" green rectangle. Stitch one 7" pink square to each short end of one 7" x 19" orange rectangle (C).



Funky buttons add interest to the pillow back.

**A** Stitch center square.



**B** Stitch upper and lower rectangles.



**C** Stitch pink squares to ends.







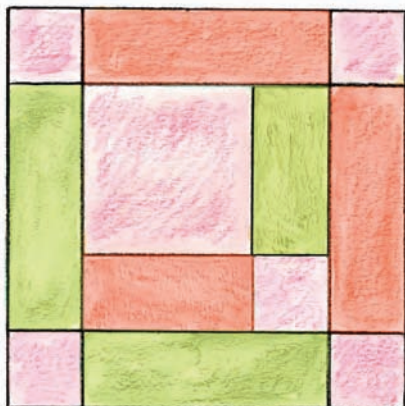


7. Stitch the green pieced strip to the square left edge. Stitch the orange pieced strip to the square right edge (**D**).
8. On one 17" x 31" orange rectangle, measure and mark three evenly spaced buttonholes,



- positioning the first one 1" from one 31" edge. Stitch a  $1\frac{3}{8}$ " buttonhole at each mark (**E**). Cut open each buttonhole, being careful not to cut the stitching. Apply seam sealant to prevent raveling.
9. To create the pillow back, overlap the two 17" x 31" orange rectangles to form a 31" square placing the square with buttonholes on top; baste (**F**).
  10. Aligning the raw edges, stitch the pillow front and back together along the perimeter. Clip the corners, and turn the pillow right side out.
  11. Mark the button positions under the buttonholes; hand stitch one button at each marked position.
  12. Insert the pillow form and button the pillow. •

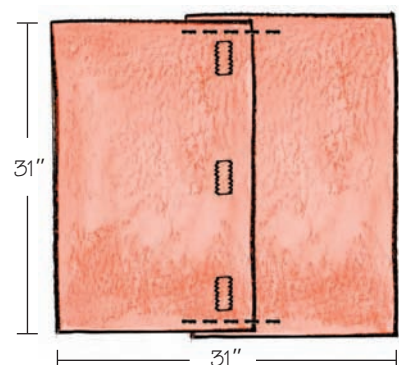
**D** Stitch side rectangles.



**E** Stitch buttonholes.



**F** Baste pillow back.



# graphic pillows

GRAPHIC ELEMENTS CAN ADD DIMENSION AND PERSONALITY TO AN OTHERWISE ORDINARY PROJECT. Use a variety of shapes and contrasting fabric to dress your furniture with these unique and sophisticated pillows.

## YOU WILL NEED:

- 1 1/8 yards of cotton velvet
- 1/3 yard of contrasting silk doupioni
- two 18"-square pillow forms
- 19" square of tag board
- double-sided fusible tape
- compass
- matching thread
- chalk marker
- Turkish towel
- zipper foot



## instructions

Use 1/2" seams unless otherwise noted.

1. Cut four 19" squares from the cotton velvet fabric.
2. Cut two 12" squares from the silk fabric.
3. To create the circle template, use a compass and rotary cutter to draw and cut out an

8"-diameter circle from the tag board.

Discard the cutout circle.

4. Place the tag board over one velvet square; use chalk to trace the circle onto the square.
5. Using a small stitch, staystitch the circle along the chalk line. Cut out the center of the circle, leaving a 1/2" seam allowance inside the chalk line. Clip the seam allowance to the staystitching line every 1/2" (A).
6. Place the velvet square right side down over the Turkish towel on an ironing surface. Position the tag board cutout over the velvet square.



**A** Clip seam allowance.



*fair and square*







You can also secure the circle by edgestitching close to the circle folded edge on the velvet square right side or slipstitching the folded edge of the velvet by hand.

matching the cut edges of the circle to the staystitching. Press the clipped seam allowance over the edge of the tag board (**B**).

**7.** Fuse small strips of double-sided fusible tape to the seam allowance on the velvet square wrong side. Remove the paper covering from the tape.

**8.** With right sides up, center the velvet square over a silk square. Place the Turkish towel over the velvet square; fuse the velvet square to the silk square following the manufacturer's instructions.

**9.** Install a zipper foot on your sewing machine. Pull the pillow front away from the seam allowance of the circle, exposing the silk square. Stitch along the staystitching line to secure the circle (**C**). This is the pillow front.

**10.** With right sides together, stitch the pillow front to a second velvet square, leaving an opening on one side (**D**). Turn the pillow right side out, and insert the pillow form. Slipstitch the opening closed.

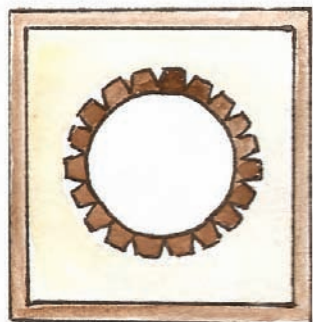
**11.** To construct the square pillow, draw a 7¼" square in the center of one velvet square. Using a small stitch, staystitch the square along the marked lines.

**12.** Cut out the square, leaving a ½" seam allowance inside the square. Clip from the seam allowance to each square corner (**E**).

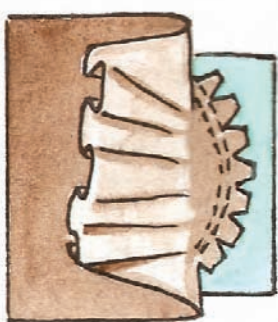
**13.** Cut a 2" x 10" rectangle of tag board.

**14.** Place the Turkish towel on an ironing surface. Place the velvet square on the towel right side

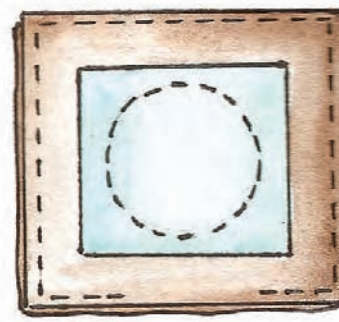
**B** Press seam allowance over tag board.



**C** Stitch along staystitching line.



**D** Stitch front to back, leaving opening for turning.



## SHAPE SHIFT

Experiment with different fabric choices and embellishments to make a set of pillows that reflect your style.

- Use a different color fabric for each graphic insert.
- Reverse the fabric colors on the second pillow.
- Add big hand stitching in a contrasting color around each insert.
- Stitch trim around each insert.

down. Lay the tag board strip along one staystitching line edge; press the seam allowance over the tag board edge (**F**). Repeat for the remaining edges.

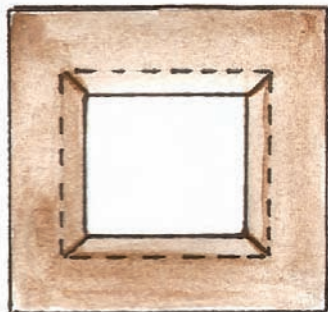
**15.** Apply strips of double-sided fusible tape to the seam allowances on the velvet square wrong side. Remove the paper covering from the tape.

**16.** Right sides up, center the velvet square over the remaining silk square. Place the Turkish towel over the velvet square; fuse the velvet square to the silk square following the manufacturer's instructions.

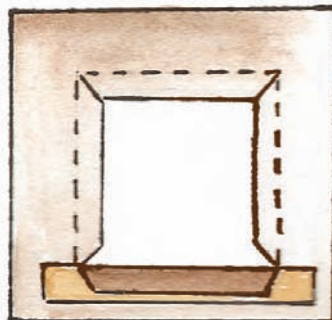
**17.** Fold the velvet square away from the silk square along one edge, exposing a line of staystitching. Stitch just to the left of the staystitching (**G**). Repeat for the remaining square edges to complete the pillow front.

**18.** Right sides together, sew the pillow front to the remaining velvet square, leaving an opening on one side. Turn the pillow right side out, and insert the pillow form. Slipstitch the opening closed. •

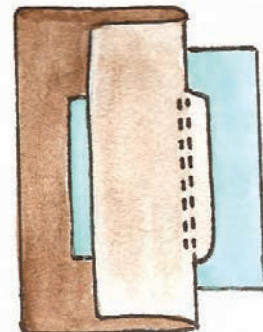
**E** Clip to each corner.



**F** Press seam allowance over tag board.



**G** Stitch to left of staystitching.





# home-dec pillows

IT'S AMAZING HOW MUCH A SIMPLE PILLOW can change the feel of a room. Just look through any decorating magazine or catalog to see the possibilities. Make a few to toss on the couch. You'll be surprised at how easy it is—and you'll love the lower price tag.

Pillow forms come in all shapes and sizes.

To determine the yardage for any size, add 1" to the pillow form height and width dimensions, then plan for two panels using this measurement.

## basic pillow

### instructions

1. Cut two 19"-square panels.
2. Right sides together and using a ½" seam allowance, stitch around the two panels. Pivot at the corners, and leave an opening on one side large enough to insert the pillow form (**A**). Clip the corners, turn right side out and press, turning under the seam allowances at the opening.

3. Insert the pillow form into the pillowcase. Close the opening by machine stitching close to the edge or slipstitching by hand.

## buttoned pillow

This buttoned-down version is a simple variation of the basic pillow. Choose understated buttons for a subtle effect, or look for unique buttons that steal the show.

### instructions

1. Cut one 11" x 17" rectangle and one 12" x 17" rectangle for the pillow front. Cut one 17" square for the pillow back.
2. On the 12" x 17" rectangle, turn under ½" to the wrong side on one 17" edge; stitch. Turn under another 2"; stitch (**B**).
3. On the 11" x 17" rectangle, turn under ½" to the wrong side on one 17" edge; stitch. Turn under another ½"; stitch.

#### YOU WILL NEED:

#### BASIC

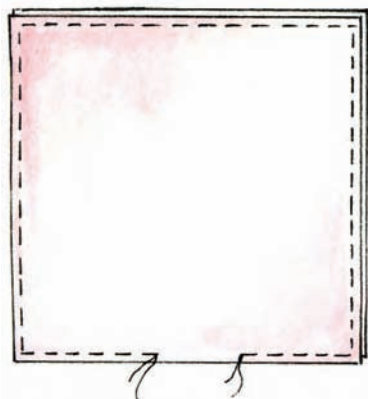
- 18"-square pillow form
- ⅝ yard of 44"- or 54"-wide decorator fabric
- matching all-purpose thread

#### BUTTONED

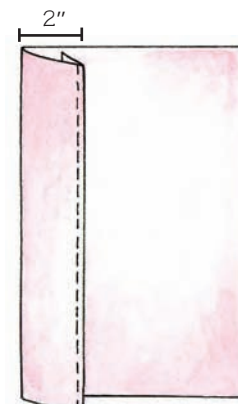
- ½ yard of 44"- or 54"-wide decorator fabric
- 16"-square pillow form
- 4 buttons (1" or desired size)



**A** Stitch, leaving an opening for turning and inserting pillow form.



**B** Hem one panel.







**4.** Mark buttonhole positions on the hem of the 12" x 17" rectangle. Stitch and cut **(C)**.

**5.** Right sides facing up, overlap the two rectangles so the width measures 17", placing the rectangle with the buttonholes on top. Baste across the upper and lower edges **(D)**.

**6.** Mark the button positions on the lower rectangle. Stitch the buttons in place. Fasten the buttons.

**7.** Right sides together and using a 1/2" seam allowance, stitch the front and back panels together. Trim the corners.

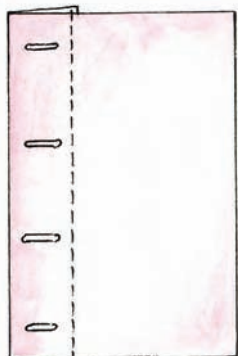
**8.** Unfasten the buttons to turn the pillow right side out. Press the pillow edges.

**9.** Insert the pillow form. Fasten the buttons.

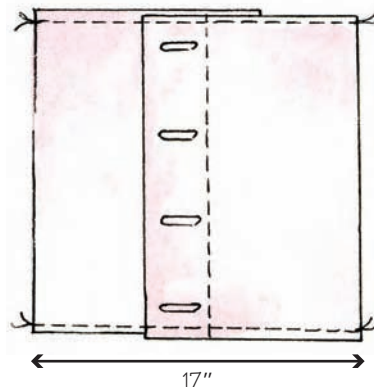
SOURCES | **FreeSpirit Fabric**, [www.freespiritfabric.com](http://www.freespiritfabric.com), provided the fabric. | **Fairfield Processing**, [www.poly-fil.com](http://www.poly-fil.com), provided the pillow forms. <

*Put a button on it.*

**C** Stitch and cut buttonholes.



**D** Overlap panels; baste.







# mock box pillow

A MOCK BOX PILLOW IS SLEEK, modern and oh-so-easy to make. The secret is how the corners are modified to create a squared appearance. This technique can be used with any size pillow, but this one is extra large to toss on the floor while watching TV.

with the *right side down*. Finish the sandwich with another layer of batting. Align all edges (**A**).

**3.** Using a  $\frac{1}{2}$ " seam allowance, stitch around the edges of the pillow cover sandwich. Pivot at the corners, leaving a 15" opening on one side to insert the pillow form (**B**).

**4.** Remove the sandwich from the machine. Carefully trim away the batting as close as possible to the stitched seam on all sides of the pillow cover (**C**). Trim the batting at the 15" opening so it's even with that side. Do not cut away any fabric from the seam allowance—only batting.

## YOU WILL NEED:

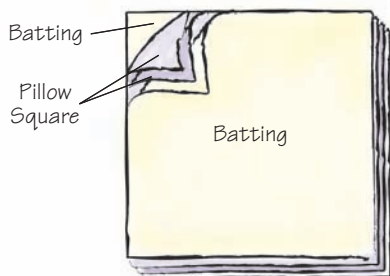
- 1½ yards of 45"-wide fabric
- 1½ yards of fleece-type batting
- 24"-square pillow form
- matching all-purpose thread
- fabric-marking pencil
- seam gauge
- fiberfill
- hand sewing needle

## instructions

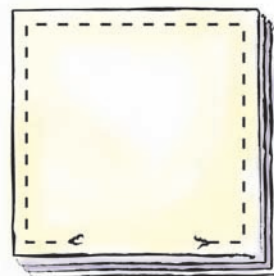
- 1.** Cut two 25" fabric squares for the pillow front and back. Cut two 25" batting squares.
- 2.** Create a fabric sandwich by placing one batting square on the work surface. Place the first fabric square *right side up* on top of the batting, matching all edges. Layer the second fabric square

Give it a rest

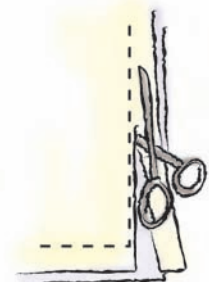
**A** Create fabric sandwich.



**B** Stitch, leaving a 15" opening on one side.



**C** Trim batting from seam allowance.







**5.** On an ironing surface, turn back the top seam allowance and press a fold down the center of the seam (**D**). Turn under the edges of the opening  $\frac{1}{2}$ " and press.

**6.** Box the corners of the pillow using the following technique. At each corner, pull the fabric layers apart and finger-press the seam allowances open. Align the seamlines to form a point. Measure 2" from the point along the seamline and mark with a pin. Fold the point down at the pin mark, keeping the seams aligned. Finger-press the fold. Unfold and stitch along the foldline. Trim off

the corner leaving a  $\frac{1}{2}$ " seam allowance (**E**). Repeat for all corners.

**7.** Turn the pillow cover right side out, and manipulate the corners into shape. Insert the pillow form through the opening. Fill in the corners with loosened fiberfill if needed to create smooth, square corners.

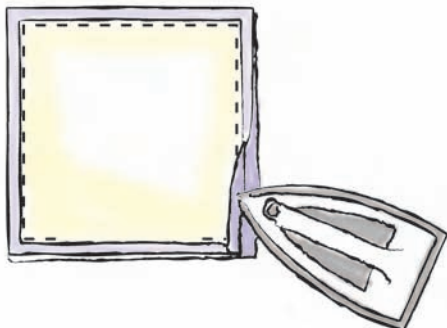
**8.** Close the opening, slipstitching by hand (**F**).

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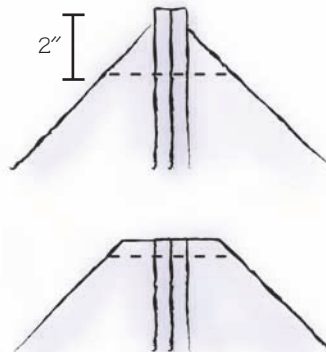
SOURCE | **FreeSpirit Fabric**, [www.freespiritfabric.com](http://www.freespiritfabric.com), provided the fabric. <

 Make several pillows using fabric that features your favorite sports team. Then invite a few friends over to watch the big game and lounge on your comfy creations.

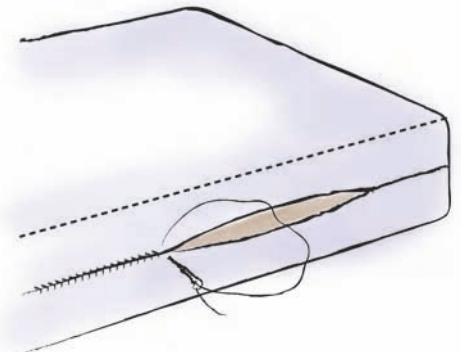
**D** Press open one seam allowance around perimeter.



**E** Stitch along foldline; trim.



**F** Slipstitch opening closed.







# one-seam pillow

SOMETHING AS SIMPLE AS A SEAM can become a great embellishment detail. Fussy corners are eliminated with this easy pillow construction. Serge the edges of the exposed seam with decorative thread, add a contrasting border, and you have the perfect accessory for your bed or recliner.

**3.** With *wrong* sides facing, pin the two serged edges together. Using a  $\frac{1}{2}$ " seam allowance, sew the edges together. Press open the seam. You now have a tube of fabric (**B**).

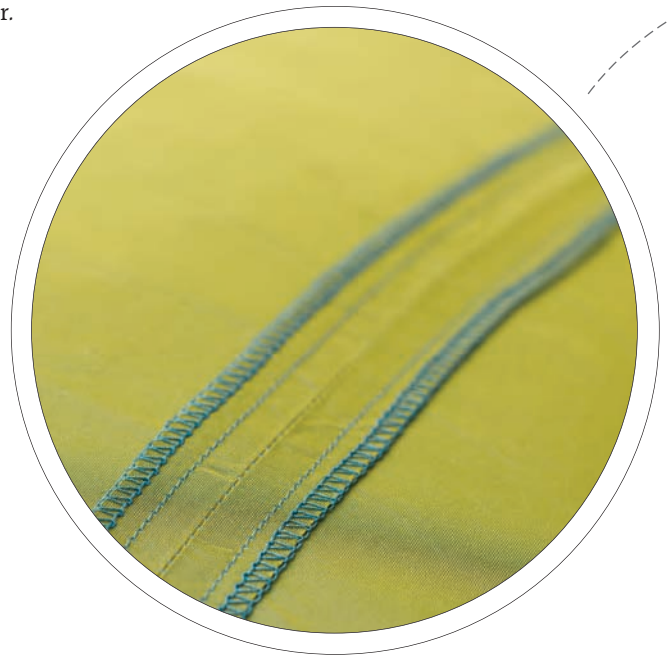
## YOU WILL NEED:

- $\frac{3}{4}$  yard of fabric (pillow)
- $\frac{1}{8}$  yard of fabric (contrasting trim)
- Thread:  
3 spools of rayon or polyester decorative thread in a contrasting color, all-purpose to match pillow fabric
- 12" x 16" pillow form
- hand-sewing needle
- serger

Finished size: 12" x 18 $\frac{3}{4}$ "

## instructions

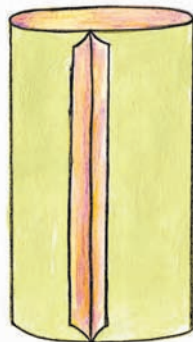
- 1.** Cut one 18 $\frac{1}{2}$ " x 25" rectangle from the pillow fabric. Cut one 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ " x 25" strip from the contrasting fabric.
- 2.** Thread the serger with the decorative thread and set it for a three-thread stitch. Serge-finish the pillow fabric short edges (**A**).




**A** Serge-finish short edges.



**B** Stitch short edges to form tube.



The fabric used in the featured project is acetate taffeta, which is usually quite stiff when purchased. Wash and dry it, and the fabric will become softer and slightly crushed—a great look-alike for silk taffeta for a fraction of the cost.

 If you don't have a serger, use contrasting fabric to bind the fabric edges to eliminate raw edges and add a decorative element to the seam.

*Front and center*





**4.** With right sides together (the seam is now on the inside), pin one end of the tube together, placing the seam in the center of the flattened tube. Sew a  $\frac{1}{2}$ " seam (**C**). Turn the tube right side out with the decorative seam allowance on the outside and top of the pillow.

**5.** Right sides facing, sew the short ends of the contrasting trim together using a  $\frac{1}{2}$ " seam allowance to form a tube. Press open the seam.

**6.** Right sides together, press the contrasting trim fabric tube in half lengthwise. Press one long edge to the wrong side  $\frac{1}{2}$ ".

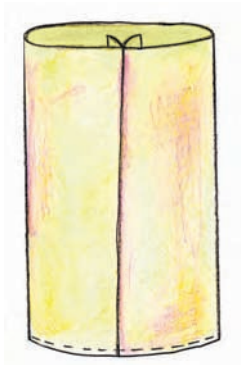


**7.** Right sides together and using a  $\frac{1}{2}$ " seam allowance, sew the unpressed long edge of the contrasting piece to the open end of the pillow, placing the seam allowance of the trim on the pillow back side (**D**). Trim the seam and press it toward the trim.

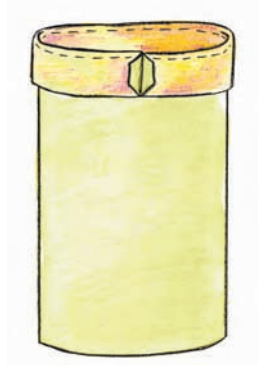
**8.** Turn the trim to the wrong side. Pin the finished edge just slightly over the stitching line; slipstitch the trim in place. •

*Just trim it*

**C** Stitch lower edge.



**D** Stitch trim to pillow.







# polka-dot pillow

WOOL FABRICS ARE WONDERFUL for creating all kinds of easy holiday projects; this pillow is a great example. Needle felting is used to secure the wool dots to the cheery wool pillow top.

using the patterns on page 31. Or create your own dots by tracing various jar lids or cup rims and bases.

## YOU WILL NEED:

- 5/8 yard of red felted wool (See “Fine Felting” on page 30.)
- 1/8 yard each of felted wool: green, white
- hand needle-felting tool and mat (such as Clover’s Art. No. 8900 and 8911)
- hand-sewing needle (optional)
- coordinating all-purpose thread



## instructions

Makes one 20” pillow.

**1.** Cut two 21” squares of red wool for the pillow front and back. Cut green and white wool dots

**2.** Arrange the dots on one red square keeping them 2” from the cut edge of the pillow front (**A**). Pin in place.

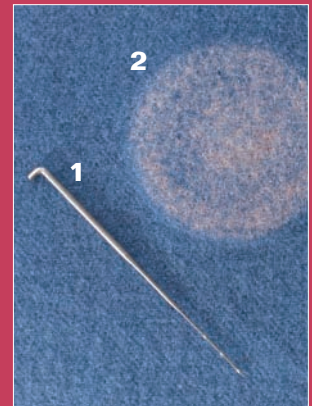
**3.** Using the needle-felting tool and mat, needle felt each dot into the pillow front. Remove any pins before felting. See “Needle-Felting Know-How” below.

## NEEDLE-FELTING KNOW-HOW

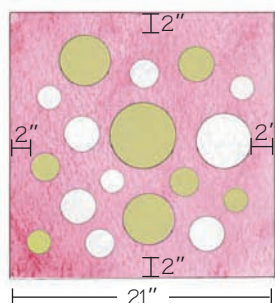
**Needle felting** is the process of using barbed needles (**1**) to force the fibers of an appliqué fabric (in this project, the wool dots) into a base fabric (the wool pillow top). Wool fabric is ideal for this kind of project because of its softness and natural texture.

Depending on the thicknesses of the fabric base layer, a faint shape in the appliqué color should show on the pillow wrong side (**2**). This lets you know that the dot fibers are being integrated into the base fabric.

Read and understand the instructions for any new tool or machine you acquire. Practice using the tool(s) on test fabric before beginning your project.



**A** Arrange dots on red square.



To reduce the chance of needle breakage, hold the needle-felting tool upright and punch the needles straight into and out of the fabric. Broken needles often occur when the needles are forced to enter and exit the fabric layers at changing angles.





## FINE FELTING

Felting is a process where 100% wool is washed or manipulated to cause it to shrink, making it textured and dense.

When felting wool, purchase double the amount of fabric needed since wool shrinks unpredictably.

Machine-wash the fabric in warm water with laundry detergent on a gentle cycle. You may need a second rinse. Dry the fabric in the dryer, checking the fabric and emptying the lint filter every 10 to 20 minutes.

If it's your first time felting, test samples using the gentlest cycles on the washing machine and dryer. To felt the fabric more, wash it again using hotter water, more agitation and a hotter dryer temperature.



**4.** With right sides together and cut edges aligned, place the pillow front over the pillow back.

**5.** Stitch around the pillow using a 1/2" seam allowance. Pivot at the corners and leave a 10" opening along one side for turning and stuffing.

**6.** Backstitch at both opening ends. Clip the corners to reduce bulk (**B**).

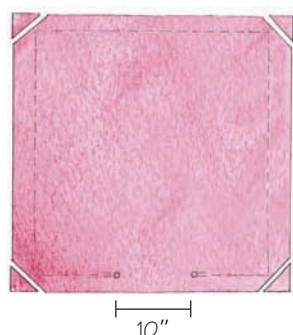
**7.** Turn the pillow right side out. Stuff the pillow with a 20" pillow form or fiberfill.

**8.** Hand stitch the opening closed. •

**RESOURCES** | *Indygo Junction's Needle Felting* by Amy Barickman, C&T Publishing, 2006. | **Nancy's Notions**, (800) 833-0690, nancysnotions.com, carries the fabric, needle-felting tools and thread used in this project. | **Wal-mart** carries the beads and embroidery floss used in this project. | Web sites: hermajestymargo.com, fiberella.com



**B** Stitch; clip corners.



To complete these projects with speed, purchase a needle-felting machine, such as Baby Lock's Embellisher, Sewing With Nancy's Fab Felter or Husqvarna Viking's Huskystar ER10. These machines feature multiple barbed needles and felt projects in a fraction of the time.



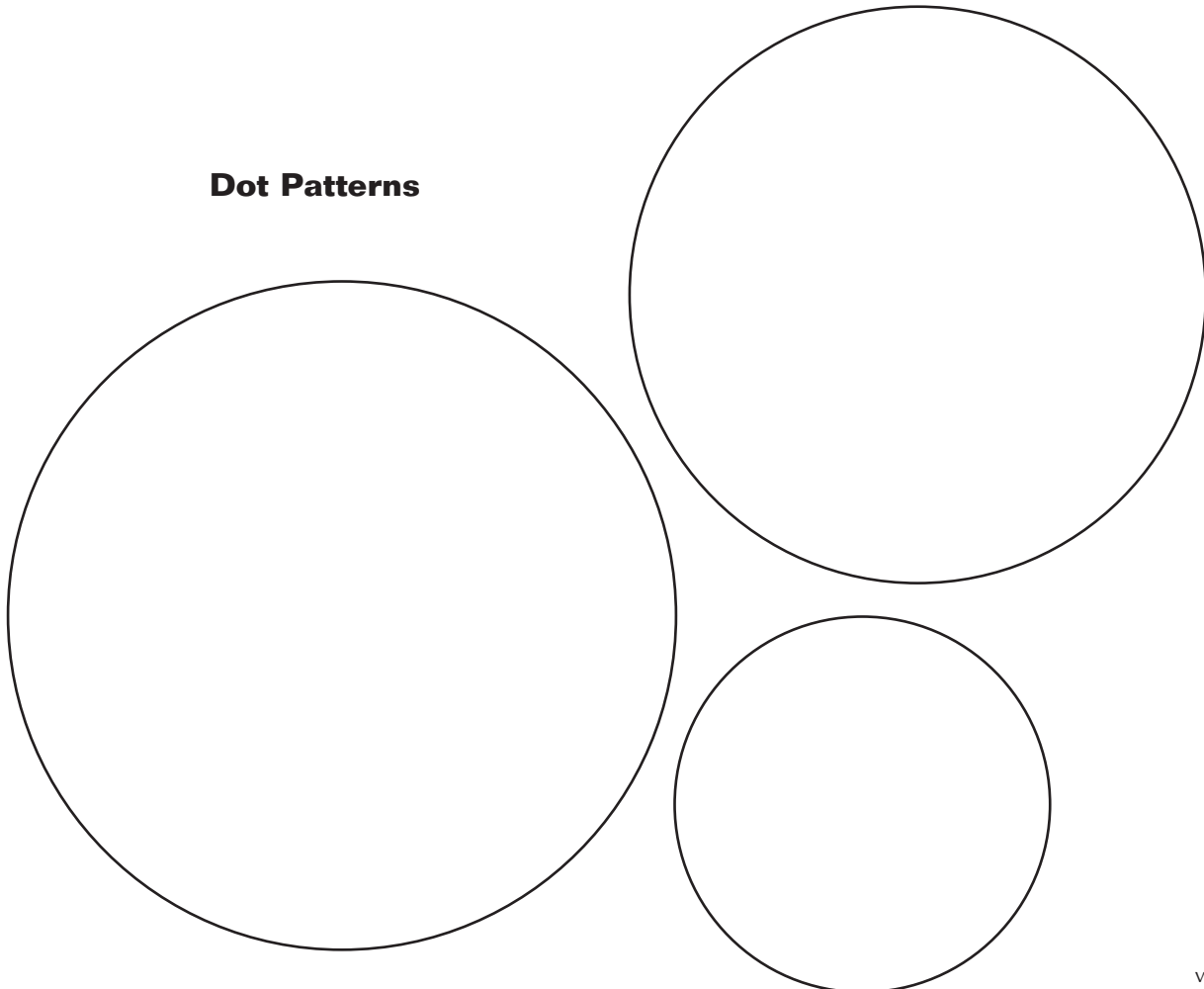
# OPTIONS A 'PLENTY

This project is a good foundation for your favorite embellishment technique. Try one of the following options:

- Select a different color combination for seasonless appeal (1).
- Add hand-embroidery stitches using cotton floss or wool embroidery thread (2). (See *Sew Simple*, Volume 2 for hand-embroidery stitch options.)
- Attach beads and/or sequins for a sparkly transformation (3).



## Dot Patterns





# shirred pillows

## YOU WILL NEED:

### PINK

- 1 yard of pink silk (pillow front)
- ½ yard of embroidered pink silk (pillow back)
- white elastic thread
- matching all-purpose thread
- 16"-square pillow form
- air- or water-soluble fabric-marking pen

### CHOCOLATE

- ¼ yard of chocolate brown stretch velvet
- black elastic thread
- matching all-purpose thread
- air- or water-soluble fabric-marking pen or tailor's chalk
- polyester fiberfill



SHIRRING CREATES INSTANT TEXTURE, and is easily done on a variety of fabrics. These pillows give you a chance to perfect your shirring skills while creating cool accents for your home. Make the pillows using smooth silk and luscious velvet as shown, or experiment with other fabrics. For all you free spirits out there, play with changing the spacing between stitching lines and see what happens.

## pink pillow

Finished size: 16" square

### instructions

Use ½" seams unless otherwise noted.

- 1.** From the plain silk, cut one 36" square. From the embroidered silk, cut one 17" square and set aside.
- 2.** Press the plain silk square to remove all wrinkles. Using a ruler and the fabric-marking pen, draw stitching lines across the fabric right side, spacing them 1" apart (**A**).

**3.** Hand wind elastic thread onto a bobbin, stretching the elastic slightly as you wind. Insert the bobbin in the machine, and thread the needle with matching all-purpose thread. Set the machine for a 3.5 mm or 4.0 mm stitch length.

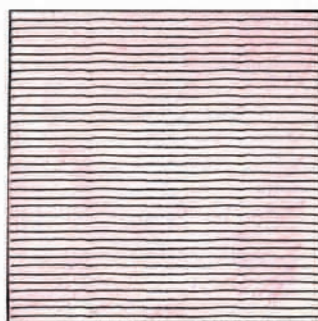
**4.** Stitch along each marked line; do not backstitch. Leave at least 3" thread tails at each seam end. Secure all thread ends on the fabric wrong side (see "Shirring" on page 18 for more details).

**5.** Place the shirred fabric on your ironing board. Hold a steam iron directly above the shirring and steam for approximately 10 seconds. Allow the fabric to cool, and then turn it over and repeat on the opposite side.

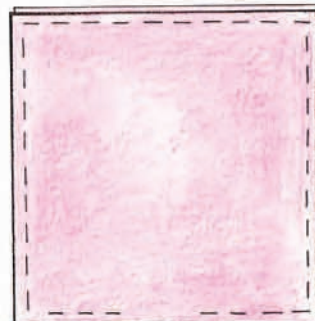
**6.** Trim the shirred fabric to 17" square; baste the perimeter.

**7.** Right sides together, stitch the shirred square and the embroidered square, leaving an opening large enough to insert the pillow form (**B**). Clip the corners, turn right side out and press, turning under the seam allowances at the opening.

**A** Draw stitching lines.



**B** Stitch, leaving an opening for turning.









**8.** Insert the pillow form. Close the opening by machine stitching close to the edge or slipstitching by hand.

## chocolate pillow

Vary the spacing between stitching lines to create an entirely different effect. The rich chocolate velvet fabric adds another textural element to the pillow.

Finished size: 9"x12"

### instructions

Use ½" seams unless otherwise noted.

**1.** From the stretch velvet, cut one 22" x 28" rectangle and one 10" x 13" rectangle. Set the 10" x 13" rectangle aside.

**2.** Press the 22" x 28" rectangle carefully to remove all wrinkles. Working on the fabric right side, measure and pin-mark a center 6" section. Using a ruler and the marking pen or tailor's chalk, draw stitching lines across the 6" section, spacing them 1½" apart (**C**).

**3.** Hand wind elastic thread onto a bobbin, stretching the elastic slightly as you wind. Insert

the bobbin in the machine, and thread the needle with matching all-purpose thread. Set the machine for a 3.5 mm or 4.0 mm stitch length.

**4.** Stitch along each marked line; do not back-stitch. Leave at least 3" thread tails at each seam end. Secure all thread ends on the fabric wrong side (see "Shirring" on page 18 for more details).

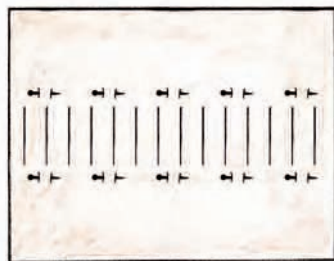
**5.** Place the shirred fabric on your ironing board. Hold a steam iron directly above the shirring and steam for approximately 10 seconds. Allow the fabric to cool, and then turn it over and repeat on the opposite side.

**6.** Trim the shirred fabric to a 10" x 13" rectangle, centering the shirred section; baste the shirred edges.

**7.** Right sides together, stitch the shirred rectangle and the remaining velvet rectangle, leaving an opening along one long edge for turning. Clip the corners, turn right side out and press, turning under the seam allowances at the opening.

**8.** Stuff the pillow with fiberfill. Slipstitch the opening closed. ●

**C** Draw stitching lines.



*To change up the pillows, experiment by changing the spacing between stitching lines. Let yourself play and see what happens!*



# tropical pyramid pillow

IN THE SUMMER MONTHS, the materials and organic shapes of the natural environment inspire home interiors. To turn your home into an eco-oasis, take images from the garden and combine them with stitching savvy favored in the South Pacific Islands.

This home accessory will whisk you away and teach you a trick or two. The unique pyramid shape will spice up an ordinary room and the appliqué technique is borrowed directly from Hawaiian quilting. This is the perfect project to stitch while you sip an umbrella drink and dream of your next summer getaway.

## instructions

1. To make a 20" pyramid pillow, cut one 21" x 42" rectangle from the cotton twill.
2. Wrong sides facing, fold the fabric in half widthwise to form a 21" square. Using tailor's chalk and a tape measure, mark the center point along the fold.

3. Enlarge the appliqué pattern on page 78 so it measures 16" square, and cut it out. Cut out one leaf shape from the green fabric, adding a ¼" seam allowance (A).

4. Hoop the pillow fabric in the embroidery hoop, centering the mark. Align the center of the appliqué piece with the mark; pin. Tack the appliqué in place using long straight stitches. (Always tack in a contrasting thread so the stitches are easy to remove later.) Remove the pins (B).

5. Using quilting thread and an appliqué needle, stitch the appliqué in place using the needle-turn technique. See "Needle-Turn Know-How" on page 77.

6. When the appliqué is complete remove the tacking stitches. Use tailor's chalk to freehand draw additional details on the leaf. Use the appliqué template as a guide; add as much or as little detail as you like (C).

### YOU WILL NEED:

- 1 yard of unbleached mediumweight cotton twill or linen
- ½ yard of green mediumweight quilter's cotton
- off-white 20" dress zipper
- 2 bags of fiberfill
- 18" embroidery hoop
- appliqué and embroidery needles
- tailor's chalk
- 1 skein of 6-strand embroidery thread (such as DMC color #3819, lime)
- thread: green quilting, off-white all-purpose



**A** Cut out leaf appliqué.



**B** Tack appliqué in place.



**C** Draw details on leaf.





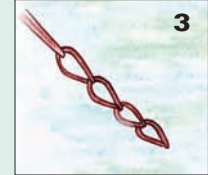




## EASY EMBROIDERY

The chain stitch is one of the quickest and easiest embroidery stitches. It's perfect for creating the curved lines that accentuate this tropical leaf appliqué.

- To begin, knot the thread and bring the needle from the back to the front of your work.
- Insert the needle back through the work very close to the first stitch. Don't tighten the stitch; leave it as a loop (1).
- Bring the needle back to the surface of the work through the loop about 1/8" in front of where you began (2).
- Continue to make these loops to form a chain (3).



**7.** Thread the embroidery needle with two strands of embroidery floss. Chain stitch along the chalk lines. See "Easy Embroidery," above.

**8.** Remove the fabric from the embroidery hoop and press with a dry iron to remove any hoop marks. Press lightly over the embroidery and the appliqué so you don't flatten it.

**9.** Right sides facing, fold the fabric along the original foldline; pin the upper edge. Using a 1/2" seam, stitch the upper edge, beginning at the foldline and ending 1/2" from the raw edge (**D**).

**10.** Right sides facing, baste the edge opposite the foldline using a 1/2" seam; press open the seam. Right side down, pin the zipper to the seam allowances, aligning the zipper teeth with the

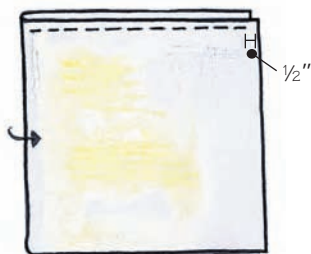
seam and positioning the zipper upper end at the square lower edge. Baste the zipper in place (**E**).

**11.** On the right side, topstitch the zipper 1/4" from the seam using a zipper foot (**F**). Remove the basting stitches.

**12.** Pin-mark the foldline lower edge. Right sides facing, meet the zipper upper end and the pin (**G**). Open the zipper halfway. Pin the fabric lower edge; stitch using a 1/2" seam to form a pyramid shape.

**13.** Open the zipper all the way and turn the pillow right side out. Stuff the pillow with fiberfill making sure to fill the corners well. Toss the pillow on your couch or floor and dream your way to a tropical locale. •

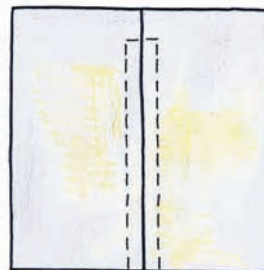
**D** Stitch, ending 1/2" from raw edge.



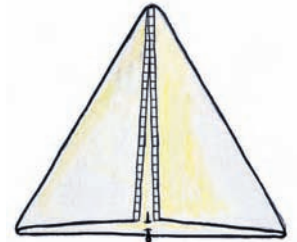
**E** Baste zipper.



**F** Topstitch zipper.



**G** Meet pin and zipper.

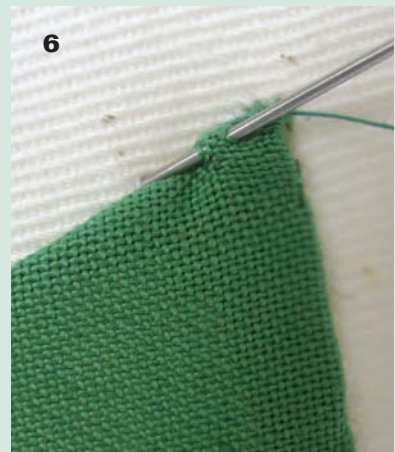
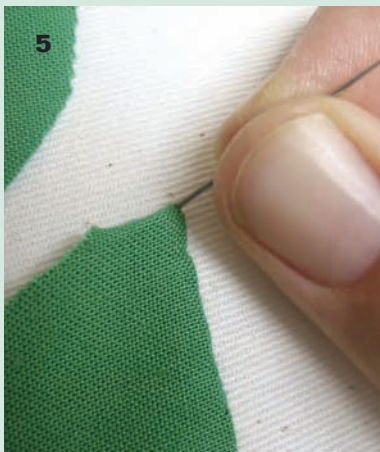
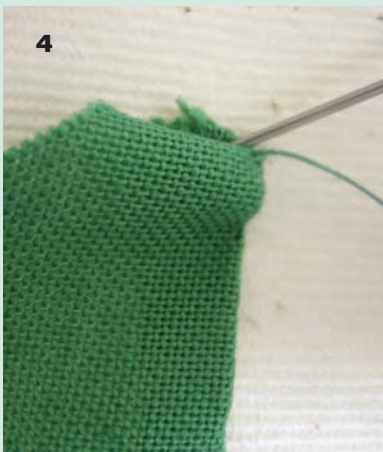
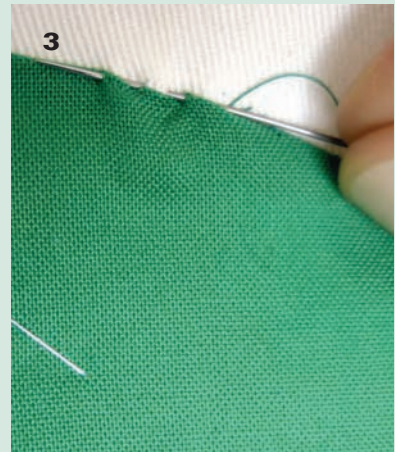
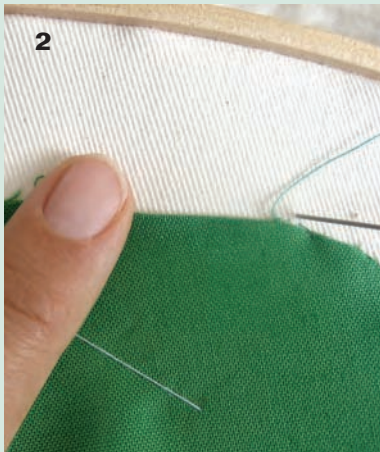
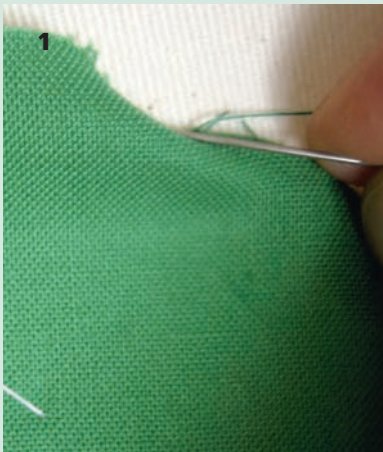


# NEEDLE-TURN KNOW-HOW

Needle turn appliqué is a technique used in Hawaiian quilting. It simply means turning under the appliqué edge  $\frac{1}{8}$ " to  $\frac{1}{4}$ ", pressing it with a needle, and then stitching it in place **(1)**.

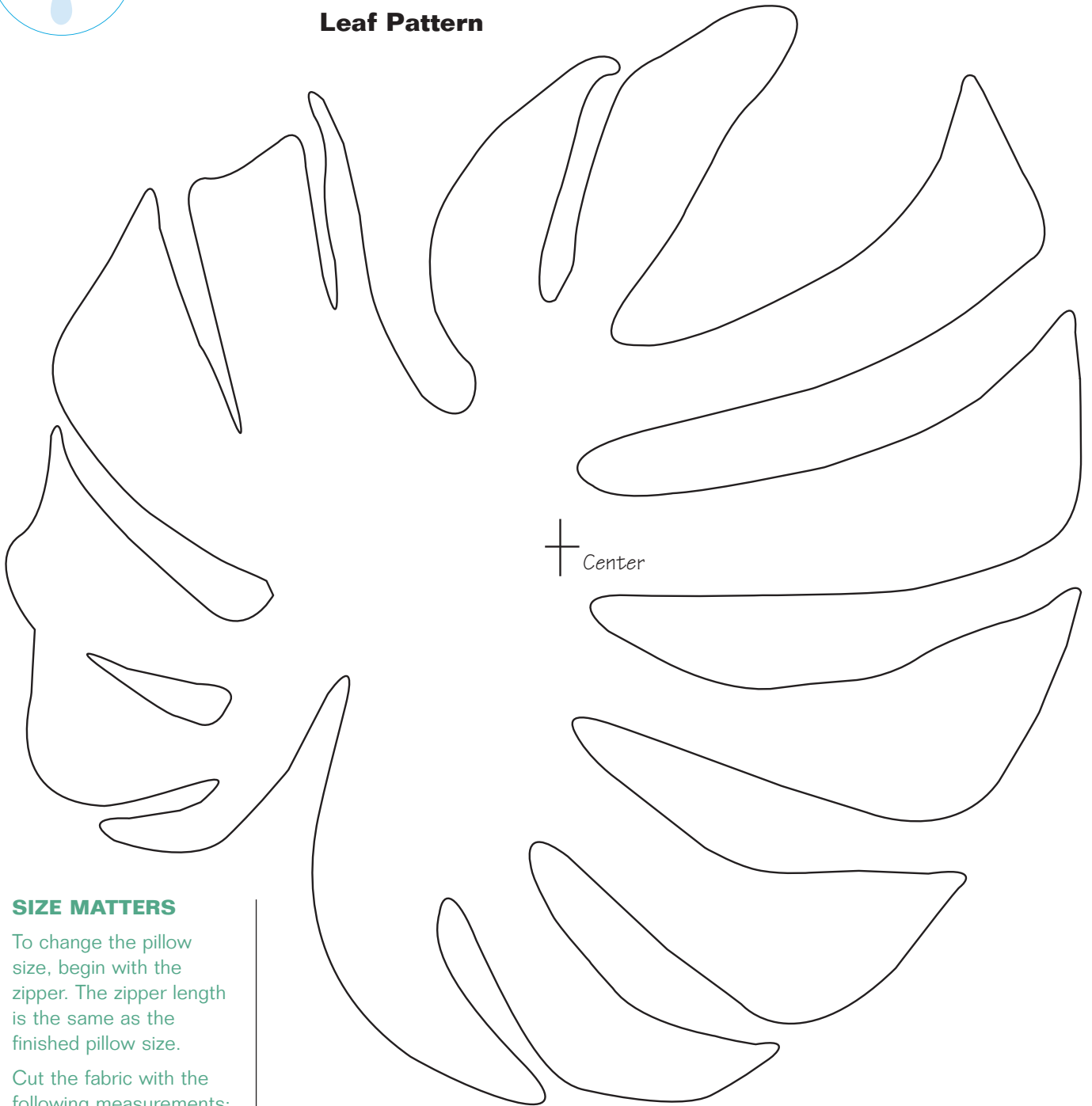
It's best to use high quality cotton fabric for this technique. The fabric has a memory, so when you press under the fold with a needle, it stays in place as you stitch. The fabric also frays far less than synthetic fabrics.

- When learning this technique, you can cheat by turning under the fabric edge and pressing with your finger instead of the needle **(2)**. Whatever method you use, only press about 1" in front of you at any time to help keep an accurate shape.
- Stitches should be small and invisible **(3)**. To help stitches disappear choose quilting thread slightly darker than the fabric. The darker color helps the stitches to recede.
- As you move around the leaf shape you'll encounter points and curves, which can be tricky for a needle-turn novice. To get a sharp point, press and stitch toward the point. When you reach  $\frac{1}{4}$ " from the end, use the needle to tuck under the fabric to create the point **(4)**. Take a deliberate stitch at the point to emphasize it **(5)**. Then continue stitching along the other edge **(6)**.
- For curves, make stitches closer together (almost as close as a satin stitch) as you move toward the base of a curve. This prevents fraying.





## Leaf Pattern



### SIZE MATTERS

To change the pillow size, begin with the zipper. The zipper length is the same as the finished pillow size.

Cut the fabric with the following measurements:

- width = length of the zipper plus 1"
- length = double the width

For example, to make a 40" pillow cut a 41"x82" fabric rectangle.