Blue Sea Star Designs

Easy Throw Pillows



Skill Level
BEGINNER

Instructions to make any size pillow cover

Introduction

NOTES

This Easy Throw Pillow pattern was designed to use orphan quilt blocks or fabric panels to make a quick and easy zippered pillow cover.

According to the American Quilter's Society, a quilt must consist of 3 layers: quilt top, batting, and backing and have a running stitch that passes through a top, middle layer, and backing fabric.

This pattern suggests "quilting" with two layers. Two layer quilting is sometimes done when using a fleece, flannel, or minky backing. In addition to being called two-layer quilting, it is also called making a coverlet or summer quilt.

Feel free to use three layers for practice when quilting the pillow top.

Please read all instructions before beginning and don't forget to have fun!

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- Press fabric before cutting to ensure accuracy
- Use a **½" seam allowance**, unless noted otherwise
- Press as desired, unless noted

FABRIC & SUPPLY REQUIREMENTS

Supply	Throw Pillow	Sample Measurements
Quilt Block	Any size to match the pillow insert	12 ½" Quilt Block
Pillow Back	Same size as quilt block	12 ½" Pillow Back
Quilt Backing (and optional batting)	1" larger than size of quilt block	13 ½" Backing (and optional batting)
Nylon Zipper	At least 2" less than the quilt block size, can trim if longer	10" or longer zipper
Pillow Form	Any size to match quilt block	12" pillow insert

Pillow Assembly

Pillow Piece Preparation

Complete the following steps to prepare the pillow top.

1) Trim quilt block or panel pieces to desired size.
   a) If using a panel block, decide if quilting is desired. If not desired, proceed to Step 5.
2) Cut the quilt backing to 1" larger than size of quilt block.
   1) Layer quilt block, batting (if used), and quilt backing pieces. This is the quilt sandwich (Figure1).
   b) Leftover flannel or fleece scraps work great when doing two-layer quilting.
3) Quilt the pillow top block as desired.
4) Trim excess fabric from quilted pillow top.
5) Serge or zig zag stitch around all four edges of the quilted pillow top and pillow back. This will protect the edges from fraying once assembled.



Figure 1: Quilt Sandwich

Pillow Assembly

Complete the following steps to assemble the throw pillow.

1) Lay the quilted pillow top and pillow back right sides together.
2) On the bottom of one side, mark 2 ½" in on both edges (see Figure 2)
   a) Verify the drawn lines go past the metal ends on the zipper (see Figure 3).
3) Using the ½" seam allowance, sew across the bottom in the following manner (see Figure 4):
   a) Backstitch to begin (gray circle in figure), sew with a regular stitch (2 - 2.5mm) to the first 2 ½" line, backstitch at the line
   b) Sew with a basting stitch (4 - 5 mm) to the second 2 ½" line, backstitch at the line
   c) Sew with a regular stitch to the edge, and backstitch at the edge.

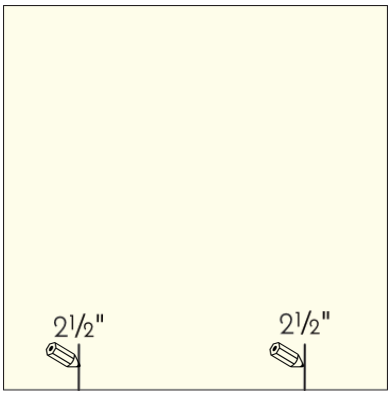


Figure 2: Pillow Markings

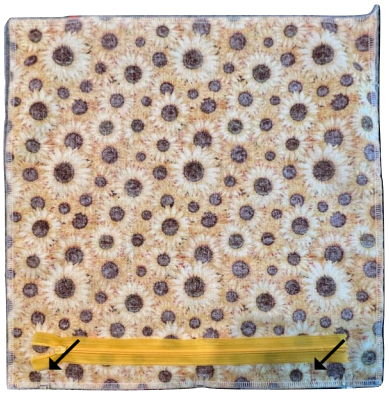


Figure 3: Verify Zipper Size

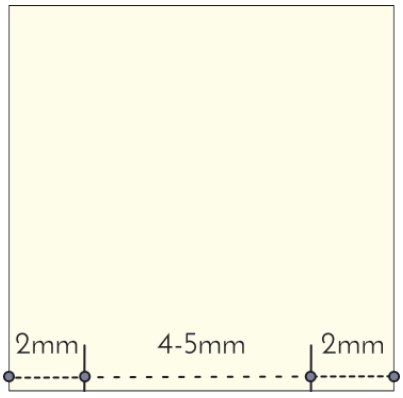


Figure 4: Pillow Stitch Lengths

Pillow Assembly

Pillow Assembly Continued

4) Open the fabric, with both right sides facing down, and press the seam open (Figure 5).
5) If needed, mark the 2 ½" line across both sides.

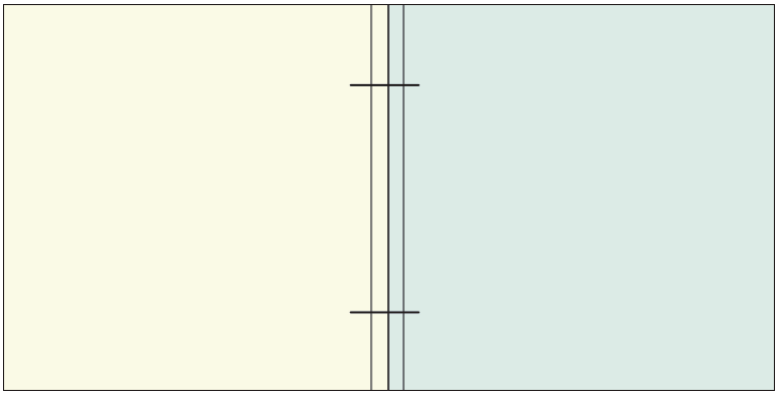


Figure 5: Wrong Side Up, Seam Pressed Open, 2 ½" Line Redrawn

6) Lay zipper with the teeth side down (the right side of the zipper should be facing the seam that was just sewn).
7) Pin the zipper to the seam. If desired, mark the 2 ½" line across the zipper.
8) Move the zipper pull to the center and, if available, install zipper foot on sewing machine.
9) As shown with a red line in Figure 6, using a regular stitch (2 - 2.5mm), beginning at one of the 2 ½" lines, stitch and backstitch at least once over the 2 ½" line (3 stitch lines total), then turn with the needle down, and sew down the side of the zipper.
    a) Note: when approaching the zipper pull, leave the needle down and lift the presser foot, move the zipper pull out of the way, drop the presser foot, and continue sewing.
10) Turn and stitch and backstitch at least once over the 2 ½" line (3 stitch lines total), then turn and stitch down the other side of the zipper. Backstitch at the end.

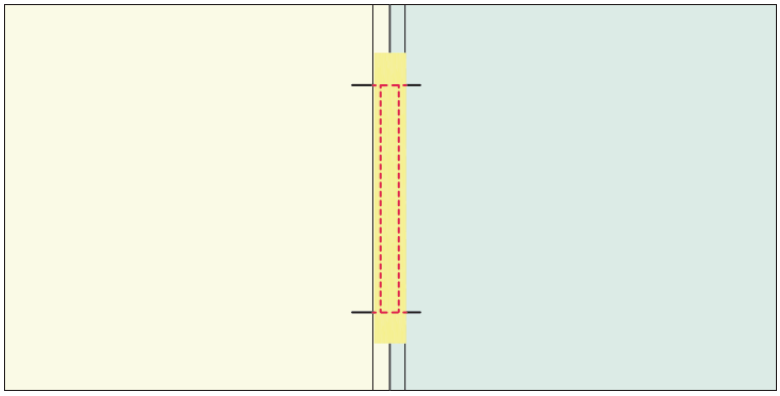


Figure 6: Sewing the Zipper

Pillow Assembly

Pillow Assembly Continued

11) Using a seam ripper, carefully remove the basting stitches.
12) Unzip the zipper about halfway.
13) Putting the right sides together, pin the remaining three sides, making sure to the lay the zipper corners flat when pinning.
    a) If using quilt tags, add them to one of the sides.
14) Sew along all three sides (still using a ½" seam allowance). Make sure to backstitch at the start, finish, and both corners before pivoting (See Figure 7).
15) If fabric is thick, clip corners to reduce bulk (see Figure 8). Be careful to not cut the stitch line.
16) Turn pillow right side out, push out corners, put the pillow insert in, and zip cover closed.

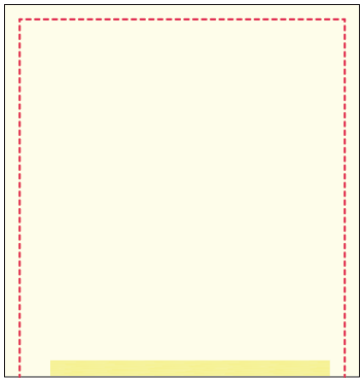


Figure 7: Finishing the Pillow

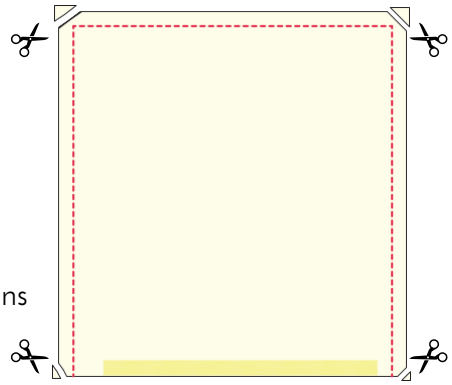


Figure 8: Clipping Corners

Sharing

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Please share on social media and tag me @BlueSeaStarDesigns or use hashtags #BlueSeaStarDesigns or #EasyThrowPillows

How to Find Deb:
Website: www.BlueSeaStarDesigns.com
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Corrections: Every effort has been made to ensure accuracy of the cutting and pattern assembly instructions. If you find an error, please let me know so that I can correct it.
Pattern corrections will be available at www.blueseastardesigns.com/pattern-corrections/



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