

Easy Removable Pillow Sham



Front View



Back View



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Easy Removable Pillow Sham

This pattern is very simple to create and is a great way to highlight a large-scale print, a favorite batik, home decorating fabrics... whatever fits your home's décor!

Since the shams are removable, you can change them with each season or special occasion. They can also be washed in case they become dirty.

Directions in this pattern are made to fit a pillow form that is 17" x 17".

Materials Guide:

Yardage requirements based on 40" wide fabric.

Material:	Yardage:	Cutting Guide:
Fabric	5/8 yard	1 piece 18" x 18" 2 pieces 18" x 12"
White Velcro	3/4" wide non-adhesive backed	3 pieces, each 2" long
Thread	White, Another color that matches or blends in with your fabric	
Freezer Paper	From the grocery store	

Other common pillow form sizes:

Pillow form size:	Yardage:	Cutting Guide:
12" x 12"	1/2 yard	1 piece 13" x 13" 2 pieces 13" x 10"
14" x 14"	1/2 yard	1 piece 15" x 15" 2 pieces 15" x 11"
16" x 16"	1/2 yard	1 piece 17" x 17" 2 pieces 17" x 12"
20" x 20"	5/8 yard	1 piece 21" x 21" 2 pieces 21" x 14"
24" x 24"	3/4 yard	1 piece 25" x 25" 2 pieces 25" x 16"

Assembly:



1) First, cut off the selvage from the edge of the fabric. Then cut the front panel for the sham, by cutting a piece off that is 18" long.

(If making a different size sham, cut as necessary to fit the width of your pillow form.)



2) Finish cutting the front panel by cutting piece into a square that is 18" x 18".

(If making a different size sham, cut as necessary to fit the width of your pillow form.)

Set this piece aside for now.

3) Next, cut the two pieces for the back of the sham. Cut both of them 18" x 12".

Or cut as necessary to fit the size of your pillow form.



4) Cut a strip of freezer paper that is 1" wide. You will use this as a pressing guide when pressing under your seam allowances.



5) On the back side of one of the back panels, place the freezer paper SHINY SIDE DOWN just slightly more than 1/4" away from the edge. Using your iron (no steam), press the freezer paper onto your fabric.



6) Carefully, fold the excess 1/4" of fabric down over the freezer paper and press.

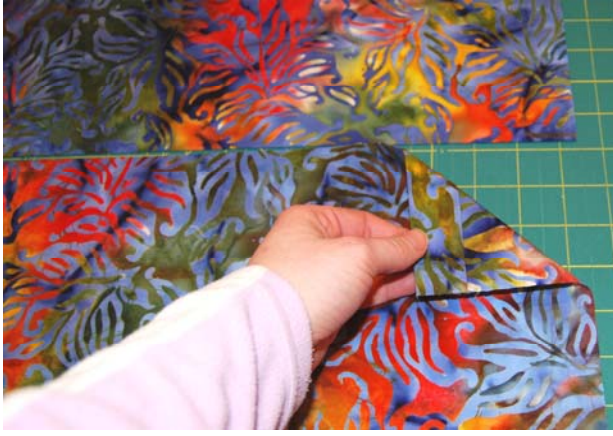


7) Then fold the fabric with the freezer paper forward, so that the fabric folds right along the edge of the freezer paper, and press.

Let your fabric cool for a few minutes before continuing.

8) Once the fabric has cooled, gently peel off the freezer paper strip and set it aside. Make sure the fabric still folds along the press marks you made. Set your iron to a steam setting and iron again to set the fold marks well.

9) Repeat steps 5-8 for the other back panel.



10) Place your two pieces on the table so that the folded sides are next to each other with the folded part underneath.

(The picture shows me pulling a corner back to show the folded part, which is underneath.)



11) Lay out your Velcro pieces on top of your fabric. The two on either end should be 3" in from the edge of the fabric, the middle one should be centered. Place the fuzzy half on the bottom, and the prickly half on the top. Pin the fuzzy pieces in place.

(If you are making a larger sham, you may wish to add another piece of Velcro.)



12) Using white thread, sew the fuzzy pieces onto the fabric along all four sides.



13) Now it's time to attach the prickly part. Turn back the other piece of fabric so that you see the folded part. Orient the prickly part so that it lines up with the fuzzy part. Pin only to the flap of folded over fabric, but not through all the layers! This is how we will "hide" the Velcro so that it isn't seen on the back of the finished pillow.



14) Here is a close up to show you how the prickly part has been pinned only to the folded under layer of fabric. Unfold the fabric to sew the prickly part down to just the one layer of fabric. Sew all three pieces in place.



15) And here are all the pieces of Velcro, sewn on. The top part has been folded back to show you the Velcro, though if the piece was lying flat you wouldn't see them.



16) Now we must finish the two back pieces. Change your thread from the white to whatever color best matches or blends in to your fabric.

Making sure your seam allowance is still folded under, sew along that folded edge. Don't sew RIGHT on the edge, sew in about 1/16" or so. Can you see the grey stitching in the picture?

After you sew that edge, sew again along the outer edge of the piece.



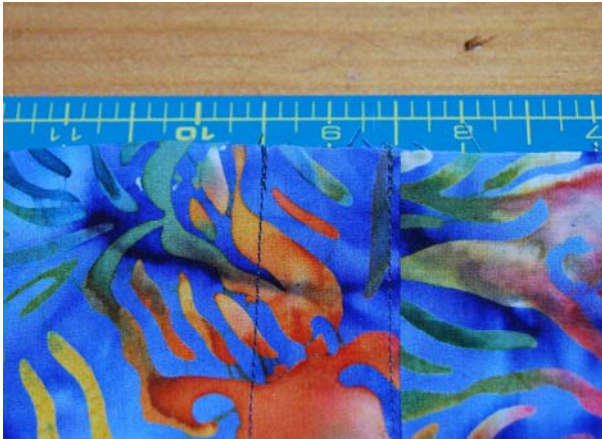
17) Here is a close up of how the stitching will look once both sides have been sewn. At this point, there will not be any raw edges along this side of your fabric.

Repeat for the other back piece, the one with the fuzzy Velcro sewn on.



18) Once both pieces have had the seams sewn down, attach them together with the Velcro. Notice how the Velcro, and even the stitching used to attach the Velcro, isn't visible? It's all hiding on the inside.

When attached, it will be longer than the size of the front piece, so we must trim it down to size.



19) You will want the Velcro to be at the center of the pillow sham's back. Determine where that will be. For this pattern, the sham front is cut 18" square, so I want to line up the center on the 9" mark on my cutting mat.

Determine where your sham back should be centered based on the size of the front piece you cut in step 2.



20) Trim off the excess material at both ends. For this pattern, I cut along the 0" line and the 18" line. This gives me a back piece that is 18" x 18", the same as the front piece I cut in step 2.

Determine how much you should trim off your back piece based on the size of the front piece you cut in step 2.



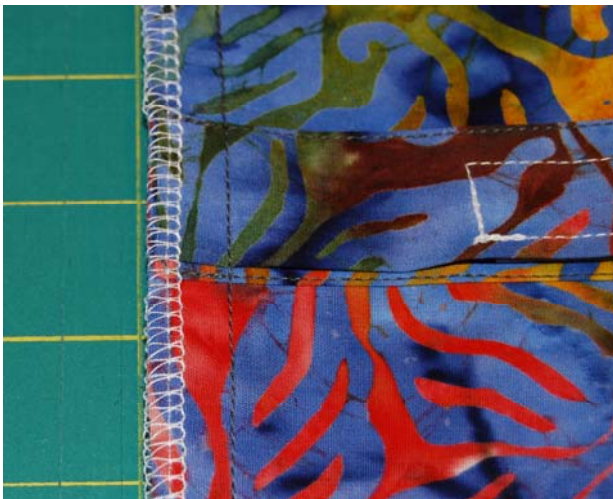
21) Lay your top piece from step 2 face up on your table, then lay your bottom piece (that is still attached together by the Velcro) face down on top of it. Pin them together along all four sides.



22) Using a 1/2" seam allowance, sew around the entire pillow, until all four sides are sewn down.



23) Using a tight zig-zag stitch on your sewing machine, or using a serger if you have one, finish the raw edge of your pillow sham so that the fabric won't fray when you wash it.

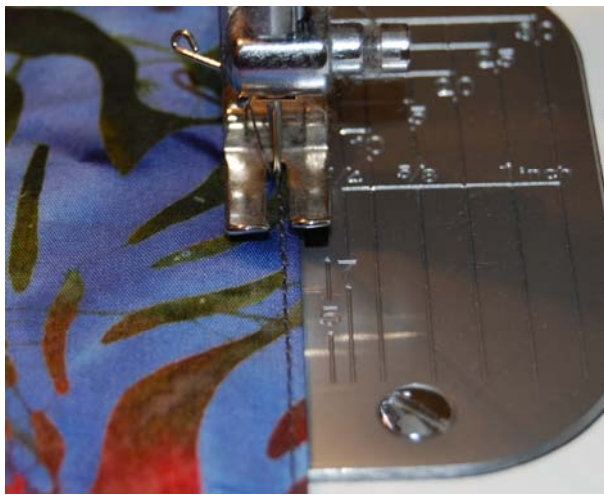


24) Here is a close up picture of what the sewing will look like after you've finished the edge.



25) And here's what the finished, inside-out pillow sham looks like.

Now, turn the pillow sham right side out. Use a chopstick or corner turner tool to make sure the corners are turned out as much as possible. With the steam setting on your iron, press the seam as flat as possible.



26) The last (optional) step is to sew 1/16" away from the edge of your right side out pillow sham to make the seam more stable. If you are using a thick home decorating fabric, denim, or other solid fabric, you do not need to do this step. But for fabrics such as batiks or other quilting cottons, I recommend this as it will extend the life of your pillow sham.



And now you're done! Put the pillow form in your sham and enjoy your beautiful pillow!



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