



How to Make a Cushion Cover

It's amazing what a couple of simple throw cushions can do for a room. They're perfect for adding a pop of colour to an otherwise neutral décor or adding bold pattern to amp up a basic, boring space.



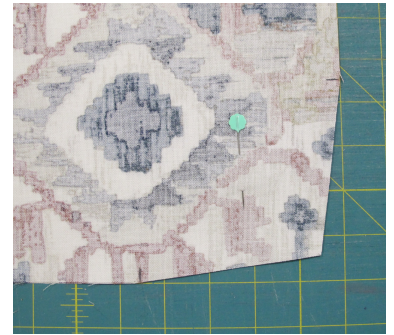
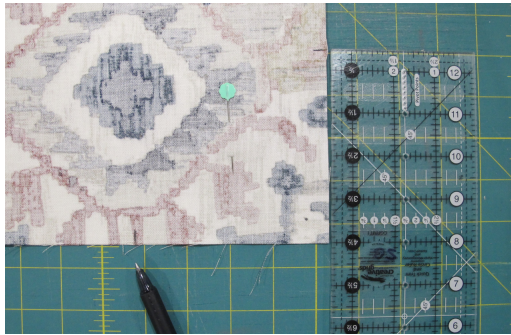
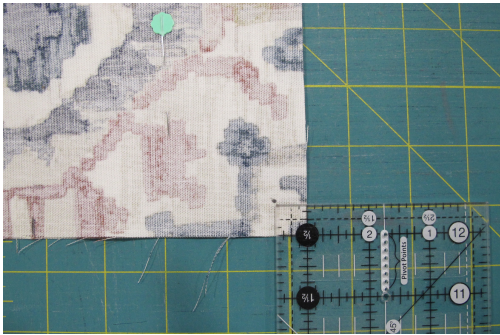
The first order of business is to determine the cut size for the front of the cushion cover. For demonstration purposes here the pillow insert is 18" square. When doing anything regarding upholstery use $\frac{1}{2}$ " seam allowances because the fabric is usually a little heavier or denser. I do like the pillow form to fill the cover well so I usually only add $\frac{1}{2}$ " to the measurements instead of a full inch. So, the finished cut size for the front is $18\frac{1}{2}$ " finishing at $17\frac{1}{2}$ " once seam allowances are sewn.



If there is a motif in the fabric that needs to be centred and if matching cushions are being made, cut one $18\frac{1}{2}$ " square centering the design and then pin it in place it on top of the second one with the design matching and cut around the edges of the top one. Draw an arrow with chalk on both fronts marking the design if it is directional. This comes into play again later on when installing the zipper at the bottom rear of the cushion cover.



Keep the fronts pinned together (if making a pair). At each corner measure in $\frac{1}{2}$ " and mark with a pencil or Frixion marker. From each corner also measure $4\frac{1}{2}$ " along each edge and mark. Trim each corner from the point at the corner to the markings on the edges. The shape looks super weird, but it stops the corners of the cushion from "winging" out. The completed cushions will indeed look square. Set the fronts aside until later.



For one cushion cut one piece 19" W x 5" L (press $\frac{1}{2}$ " to the wrong side on the long edge) and cut one piece 19" W x 19" L (press $1\frac{1}{2}$ " to the wrong side) for the back. The back sections are cut slightly larger than necessary (strictly for insurance) and then are trimmed according to the front after they're sewn together. The pressed edges here are not finished, but if you have a serger or want to finish the edges so they don't fray feel free.





Use a slightly longer nylon zipper (22" here) because it allows the zipper pull to be well out of the way when sewing the sections together and it's easily trimmed to size later.

Attach the zipper foot to the machine and move the needle to the right (check your manual or the *What's a Scant Quarter Inch*? tutorial on the *Quiltish Corner* website for how to do that) so it snugs up to the edge of the fabric and doesn't hit the zipper teeth. If necessary, pin in a couple of spots at the beginning until it's anchored or you may choose to use Wash Away Wonder Tape (shown on the next page) to hold it in place.

There's a great woven line on the zipper tape (where the awl is pointing) to use as a guide. Line up the edge of the fabric to that line and then stitch along the fold of the fabric. This allows enough room for the zipper tab to slide easily along without getting caught on the fabric.



Apply the Wash Away Wonder Tape to the raw edge of the other back fabric as shown, remove the paper and finger press the top edge of the zipper face down to that raw edge. The glue from the tape will hold the zipper in place until it's stitched down. Stitch from the zipper side so you can follow along the woven line for a nice straight line of stitching.



The zipper is now hidden under the placket. At the end with the zipper stop stitch back and forth a couple of times within the seam allowance.

*****Important:** At the opening end of the zipper make sure the zipper is open and the tab is not extended past the end before stitching back and forth within that seam allowance. You want to be able to access the zipper opening.



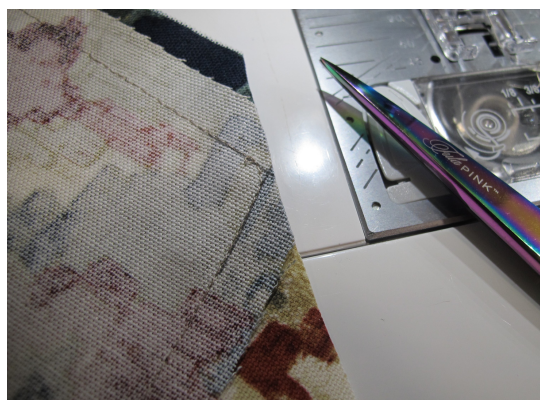


With the **zipper open at least halfway**, place the back zipper section right side up on the table in front of you with the zipper area at the bottom. With right sides together place the cushion front on top with bottom edges lining up together...but remember...if you have a directional fabric be sure that the arrow is pointing towards the top.



At this point you can choose to pin the layers together and trim the back even with the front, or follow the photos below.

Pin the layers together and stitch all the way around with a $\frac{1}{2}$ " seam allowance. Stop a couple of stitches from each corner, pivot and take 2 stitches diagonally across the corner before continuing down the next side. Trim the back even with the front then trim the corner seam allowances to reduce bulk. If you wish, finish the seam allowance with a serger or an overcasting stitch on the sewing machine.



Now all you have to do is turn the cover right side out, give it a finishing press, insert the pillow form, and stand back to admire your work.