

Tutorial: Making a Cushion

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Step 1: Fabric



Figure 1: Materials Required

1. To make a medium sized cushion, you will need about 0.5 metres of your main fabric. For larger cushions, you may need more fabric. Good fabrics to use are medium weight cotton, linen or polyester.
2. If you are doing patches or embroidery, you will need fabric scraps large enough to make the patch design, and topstitching thread in a colour or colours of your choice. Good fabrics to use for patches include felt fabrics, and lighter weight cottons and polyester. Felt is a good choice because it will not fray.
3. If you are doing patches, some fusible interfacing will also be useful.
4. A small zipper, about 20 cm long.
5. (Not pictured) Cushion stuffing, or old scraps of fabric.

Step 2: Pattern

1. Figure out what sort of cushion you'd like to make. Examples include regular rectangle cushions, squares, circles, or other shapes. The shape that you choose may make it easier or harder to sew.



Figure 2: Base Pattern Pieces

1. Once you have your pattern measurements (for a square, say 40 cm x 40 cm) add a seam allowance of at least 1 cm around all edges, and cut out two of your pattern from your main fabric.
3. If you are doing a pattern, like a unicorn, or a shape that is not symmetric, you will have to cut one piece reversed to the other.

(Optional) Step 3: Patches



Figure 3: Interfacing

Figure 4: Patch Fabric

1. If you are doing patches, cut out your shapes in your chosen fabric. It is often useful to find an appropriate image online and print this out to guide the cutting out of the fabric.
2. If you have fusible interfacing, cut out your shapes from this too. Once you have your shapes, sandwich the fusible interfacing between your patch and the right side of your fabric. Iron over your patch, and the fabrics should fuse together.

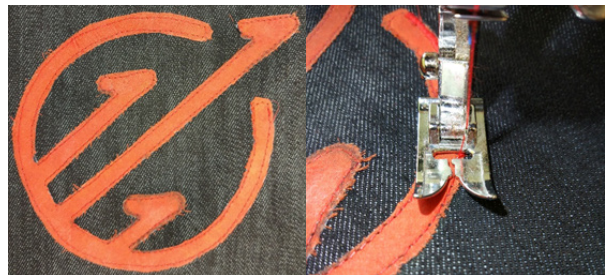


Figure 5: Topstitched Design

Figure 6: Zigzagging the edge of the design

3. Then, use either blanket stitch by hand, or topstitch your fabric down by machine, to secure the patch to the fabric.
4. (Optional) If using a fabric that will fray easily, the zigzag stitch on the machine can be used to better secure the patch to the cushion piece.
5. If you want embroidery stitching on your cushion, now may be the best time to do those stitches, especially if you are relying on the machine for your stitching.



Step 4: Zipper

- It is probably easier to sew the zipper in before sewing the rest of the cushion.



Figure 7: Pinned Zipper

1. Pin the zipper to one side of the fabric as shown, with the top of the zipper against the right side of the fabric. You can pin the zipper anywhere along the side of your fabric, but the corner is recommended.

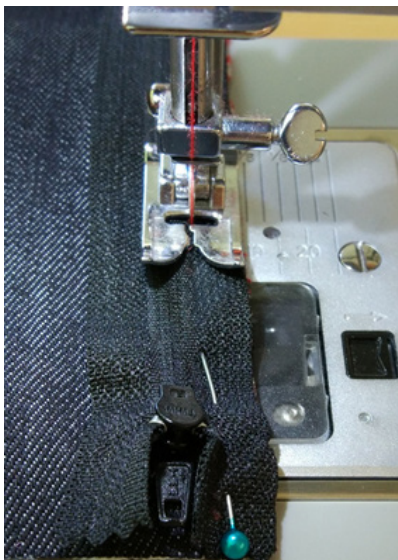


Figure 8: Zipper Sewing

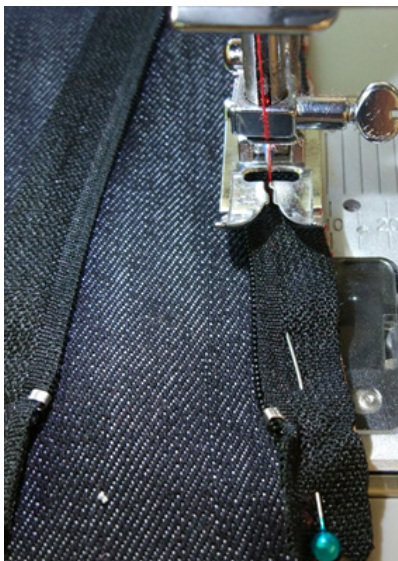


Figure 9: Unzip Zipper for Straight Seams

2. Sew down flat as shown, with the edge of the fabric in line with the edge of the presser foot. Make sure that the needle is in the central position. It is recommended that you move the head of the zipper when you are approaching the end of the zipper, as it may make the line of stitching uneven.



Figure 10: Example Zipper Seam

3. Fold the fabric over, and carefully press with an iron on low heat, taking care to avoid the zipper, as it may melt.
4. Repeat with the other piece of fabric.



Figure 11: Finished and Ironed Zipper

Step 5: Sewing the cushion



Figure 12: Pinned Seams (Avoid Zipper)

1. Once the zipper has been sewn in, pin the edges of your cushion, with the right sides of the fabric together.

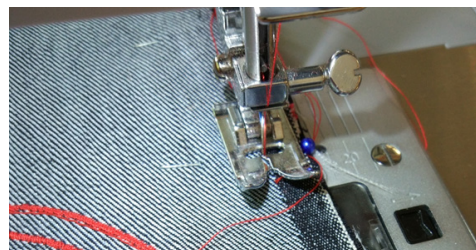


Figure 13: Sewing Final Seam



2. Sew all around the cushion, starting at one end of the zipper, and finishing at the other end.
3. Remember to only sew over the ends of the zipper, not over the body of the zipper itself.
4. Remember to remove the pins as you sew.

(Optional) Step 6: Cleaning up the raw edges

1. Overlock the edges that you have just sewn with the Overlocker. Be careful to REMOVE ALL PINS before overlocking seams.
 - Be careful to not overlock the zipper shut.

Step 7: Stuffing your cushion

1. Turn the cushion inside out through the zipper hole, and fill it with enough stuffing to make the cushion as plump as you want.
2. If you do not have stuffing on hand, old scraps of fabric can be used. If using scraps of fabric, make sure to chop them up finely.

Your Cushion is done!

