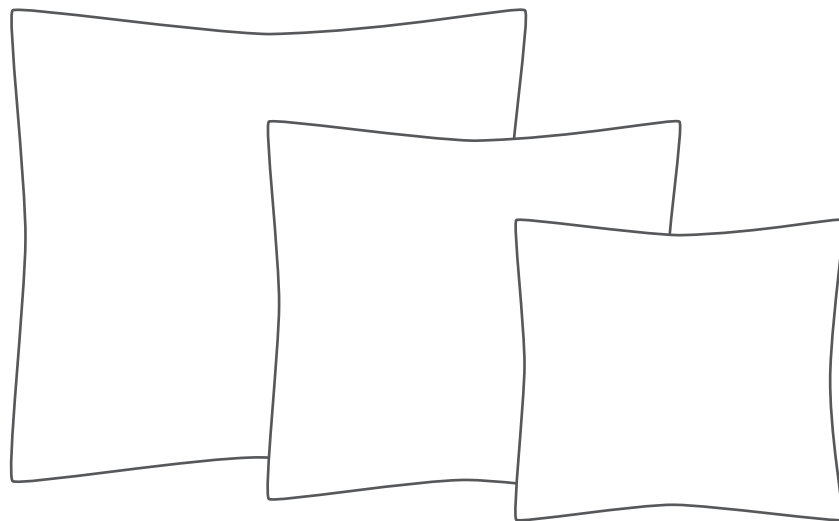




THE
WOVEN
WOLF



ZIPPERED PILLOWCASE

16" / 18" / 20" | BEGINNER



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PROJECT DESCRIPTION

A square throw pillow with an invisible zipper along the bottom. This is the perfect project for beginners looking to sharpen their zipper sewing skills and a quick and simple way to freshen your home decor!

SUGGESTED FABRICS

Easier: quilting cotton, silk dupioni, cotton canvas, cotton flannel

Medium: lightweight cotton, rayon, medium weight home decor / upholstery fabric.

More challenging: brocade, corduroy, velvet,

MATERIALS REQUIRED

Small Pillow: ½ yd 45" - 54" wide

Medium Pillow: ¾ yd 45" - 54" wide

Large Pillow: ¾ yd 45" - 54" wide

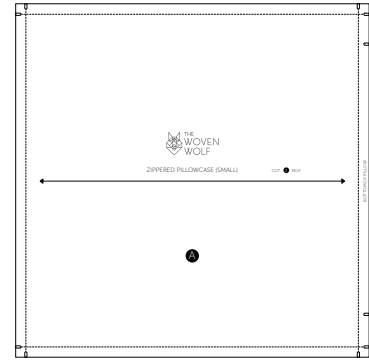
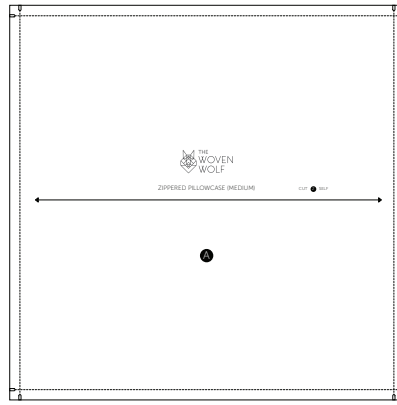
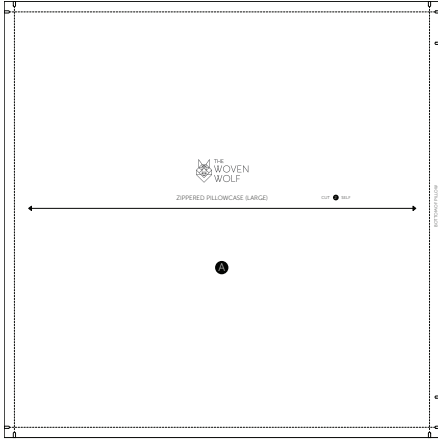
NOTIONS REQUIRED

20" invisible zipper in matching colour

TOOLS REQUIRED

- iron
- press cloth
- measuring tape
- weights (a soup can works well too!)
- fabric marker / tailors chalk
- straight pins
- fabric scissors
- hand sewing needles
- thread (matching *and* contrasting)

PATTERN INVENTORY



-
1. Large Pillow (20" x 20")
 2. Medium Pillow (18" x 18")
 3. Small Pillow (16" x 16")

DRAFTING A PILLOWCASE PATTERN

How to draft a square or rectangular pattern for a pillow of a different size.
If you have downloaded our pattern and would like to use that, you can skip this step.

TOOLS REQUIRED

- drafting paper
- 18" pattern drafting ruler / T square
- sharp pencil
- measuring tape

Step 1

Measure the pillow you want to make a case for from seam to seam. Record your measurements in the chart below.

MY PILLOW MEASUREMENTS:

seam to seam horizontally: _____ + 1" for seam allowance= _____ (X)

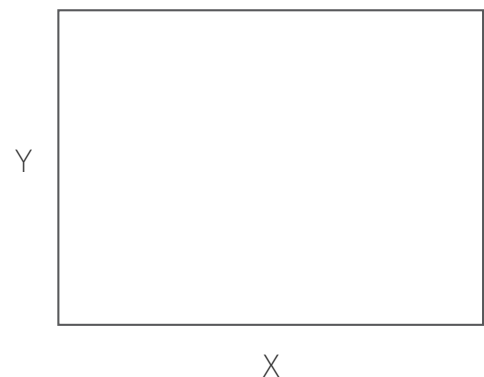
seam to seam vertically: _____ + 1" for seam allowance= _____(Y)

Step 2

Draw the first side of your square (X).

With the square edge of your ruler or a book flush to the first line, draw the second side (Y) at a 90° angle from the first side.

Continue until you have completed the square or rectangle. The last side should connect with the correct measurement if all the corners are square. There is $\frac{1}{8}$ " tolerance so if you're off by more than that, check your measurements again.



Step 3

Add your notches: ½" in from each side at the corners.

Zipper notches are placed at the bottom, 2" in from each side.

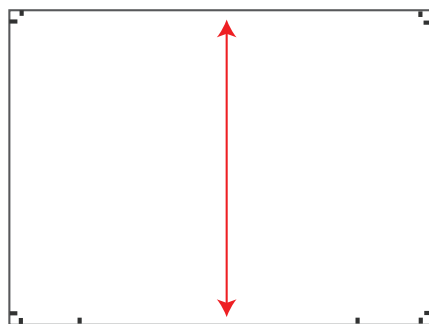


TIP – Notches

Notches are a system of communication. Whether to remind yourself or from a designer to an overseas sewer, they tell you a lot without having to speak about it (or even having to speak the same language). In our case, they communicate the seam allowance and tell you where exactly to place the zipper. They start to become really important as you progress into more intricate patterns.

Step 4

Add your **grainline**: draw a line parallel to one of the sides of the pattern. The grainline tells you how to place your pattern onto the fabric. You always place a pattern with the grainline parallel to the **selvedge**.



Step 5

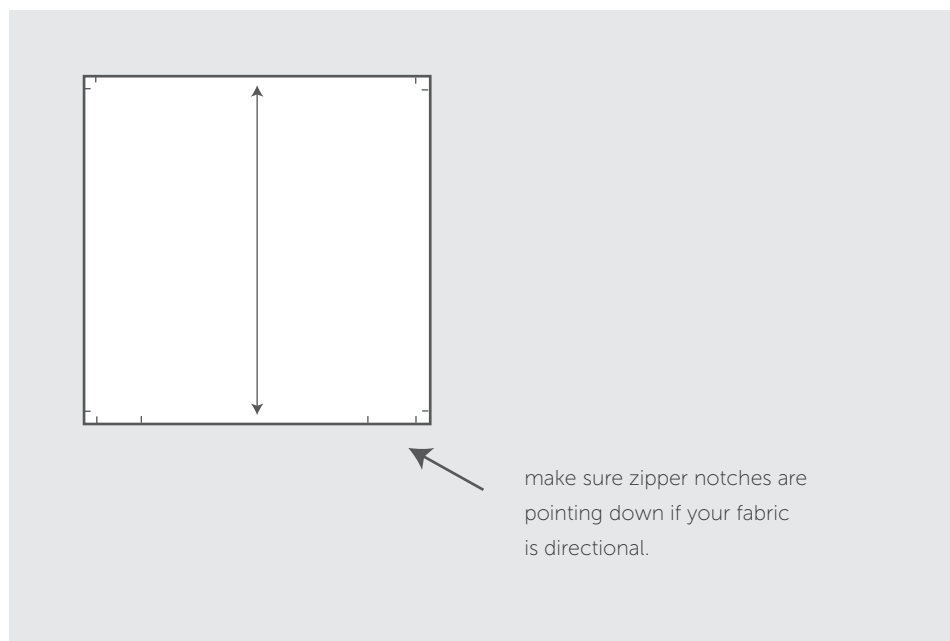
Cut out your pattern with paper scissors (**don't use your fabric scissors! It dulls the blade**).

Cut the notches: use a professional pattern notcher or snip a tiny triangle with your scissors. It's a good idea to label the pattern with the size pillow it's for, for future use.

Your custom pillow pattern is complete!

CUTTING LAYOUT

selvedges



fold

Fold your fabric right sides together, with the two selvedge edges on top of each other.

If your fabric is **directional**, make sure it is oriented properly (ie: if there are animals they should be facing the right direction and not upside down).

Place your pattern closer to the selvedge edges. This will give you a bigger piece of leftover fabric. Make sure your grainline (the arrow) is parallel to the selvedge.

SEWING INSTRUCTIONS

Step 1

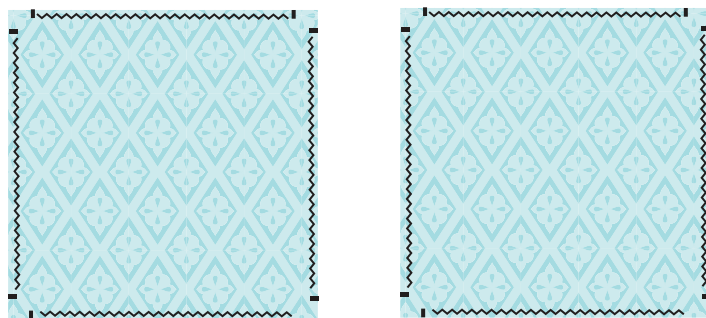
Place your pattern on the fabric according to the Cutting Layout on page 7. Weigh the pattern down (we use soup cans), and trace around the edge with chalk or fabric marker.

Pin the 2 layers together so they don't shift around as you cut.

Cut out your fabric. Clip your notches very small—no more than $\frac{1}{4}$ ".

Step 2

Zig zag stitch all the sides on both pieces. Start and stop at $\frac{1}{2}$ " notches, making sure to **backstitch** at the beginning and end.



Step 3

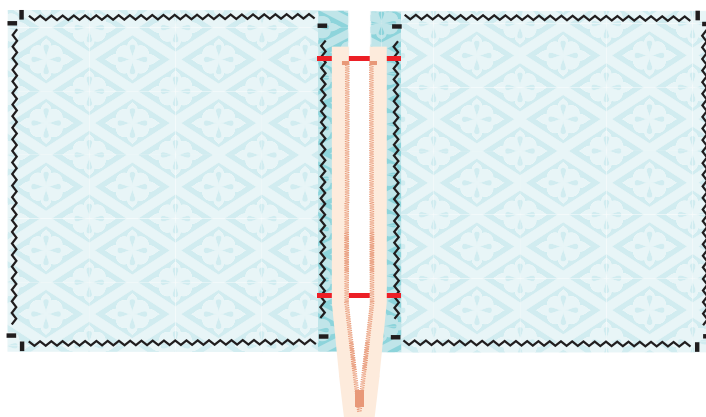
Iron up the bottom edge (where you want the zipper to go) a half inch on both pieces:

Measure in 1" from the raw edge and mark with chalk. Fold your raw edge to meet the 1" chalk line. Make sure you are looking at the bad side of the fabric and bringing up the good side.

Step 4

Line up your pieces so the folds are parallel and almost touching. With good side face down, open up zipper. Place the start of your zipper teeth at the zipper notch. The zipper notches (in red) are the 2 extra notches that land 2" inside the bottom edge of the pillow. They indicate where the zipper gets sewn in. Lay the zipper teeth against the folded edge. Pin the zipper here but be sure that you are only going through **one layer** of fabric.

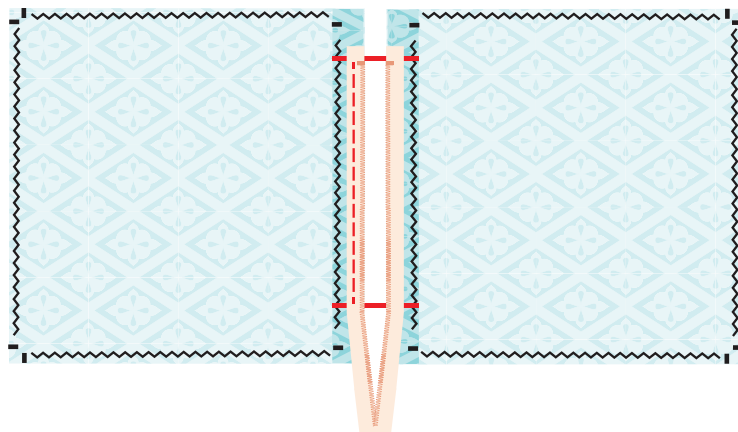
You should still be able to unfold the edge flat after pinning. Pin from zipper notch to zipper notch.



Step 5

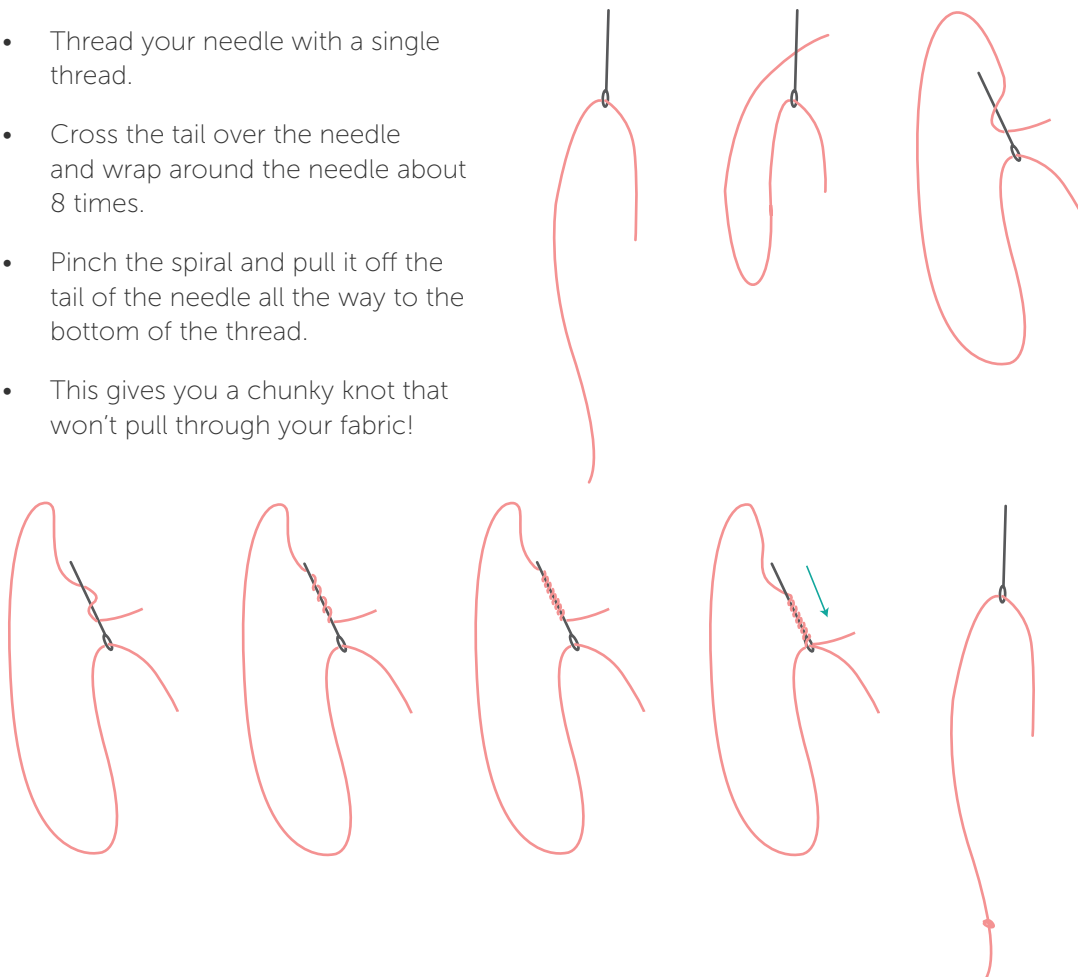
First, we'll pin and **baste** the zipper in. Then we sew it in by machine. Hand baste the zipper into place using a **running stitch** between the zipper notches. This will keep the zipper from shifting when we use the invisible zipper foot on the sewing machine. Again, make sure you are only going through the one layer of fabric when you hand baste.

Basting is just a simple hand stitch to hold things in place. Try to keep your stitches no longer than 1cm. It doesn't have to be perfect, as long as it does its job! Tie a little knot at the end: make a tiny stitch and before you pull the thread all the way through, bring your needle through the loop and pull tight.



TIP – Tying a Knot for Hand Basting or Sewing (our favorite sewing trick!)

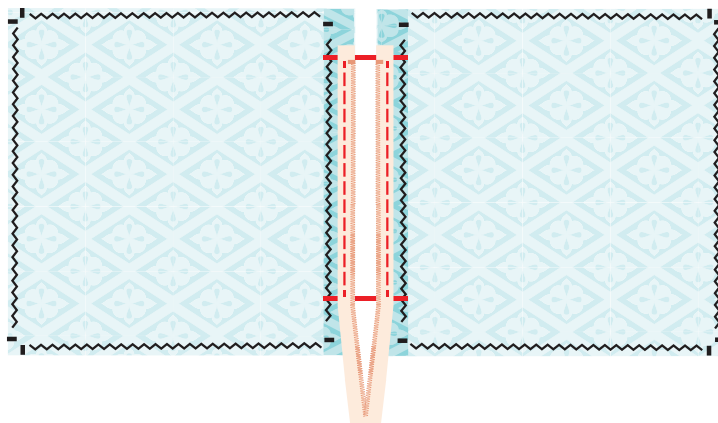
- Thread your needle with a single thread.
- Cross the tail over the needle and wrap around the needle about 8 times.
- Pinch the spiral and pull it off the tail of the needle all the way to the bottom of the thread.
- This gives you a chunky knot that won't pull through your fabric!



Step 6

Now for the other side: zip the zipper closed so you can line up the other side without twisting the zipper. Again, make sure the top of the zipper teeth match the upper zipper notch. Unzip the zipper, and pin in place through only one layer of fabric as we did before.

Baste the zipper in place.



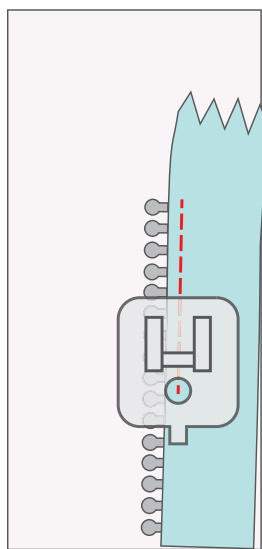
Step 7

Change your foot to an invisible zipper foot.

Change your machine settings to straight stitch.

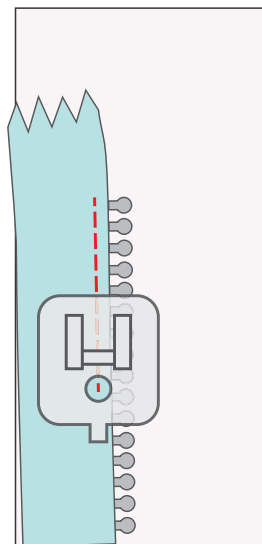
Open up the fold we pressed up earlier, so everything is nice and flat. Be certain you are only sewing through the one layer of fabric and the zipper.

Sew from the top of the zipper down. When you have the excess fabric on the left, line up the zipper teeth in the left hand side of the foot. Turn the fly wheel toward you to sew a couple stitches by hand to test things out. If you hear any crunching you might need to uncurl the teeth of your zipper before lowering the foot onto them. Otherwise you can start sewing. Sew between the zipper notches, backstitching at the beginning and at the end.



Step 8

The other side: when you have the excess fabric on the right, line up the zipper teeth in the right hand side of the foot. Sew between the zipper notches, backstitching at the beginning and at the end.



Step 9

Once you have sewn on your invisible zipper, zip it up to make sure it works. If the zipper won't zip up, don't fret! Sometimes the fabric twists as you sew, so just untwist it and try to zip it up again, Remove your basting stitches.

TIP – How to Make Your Invisible Zipper Even More Invisible

Sewing with an invisible zipper foot is something you just need to get a "feel" for. Often by the second side of the zipper you get the hang of it. So if it's not as invisible as you like the first time, it's super easy to fix! Don't rip any stitches out, just sew it again, trying to uncurl the teeth a little more and get your stitch line just a little closer to them.

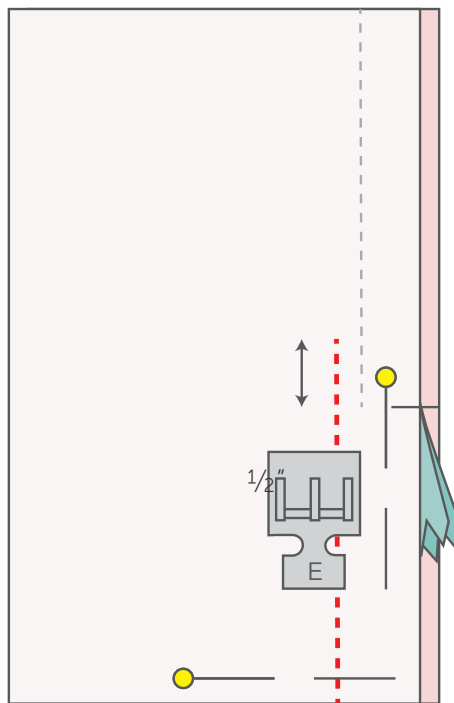
Step 10

Now we must close both ends of the zipper:
(The 2" we left on the top and the bottom).

Unzip your zipper half way. Place your pillow right sides together. Make sure each zipper side lays flat and unfolded, one on top of the other. At the top of the zipper, place a pin through the zipper tape, parallel to the zipper. Place another pin perpendicular to this one, along the top edge of the fabric.

Attach your regular zipper foot. Clip it in on the right side. Start with bottom of the zipper. Move the zipper excess out of the way and match your two corners at the bottom.

Find where your invisible zipper stitching ends. Start 1/2" above that and sew right to the bottom of the fabric making sure to backstitch at the beginning and at the end. Try to get as close to the zipper stitching as you can. Do not stitch on the zipper, only the fabric. On the side with the open zipper ends, make sure to stack the zipper teeth on top of each other.



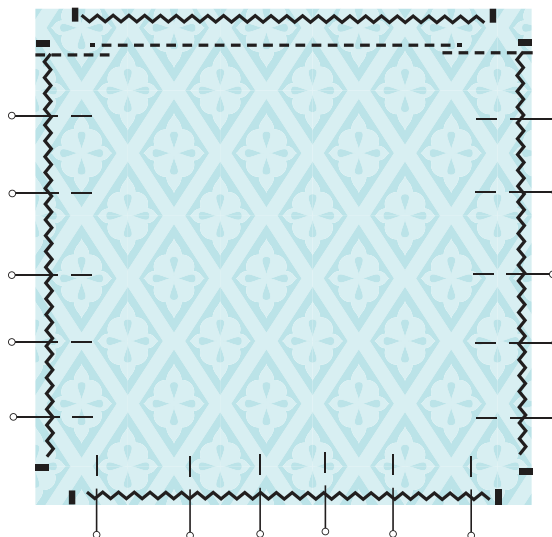
Safety Note

Keep your fingers out of the way of the needle!

Step 11

Open the zipper half way and place pillow pieces good sides together. Line up the corners.

Pin the other 3 sides, leaving the zipper unpinned. Place pins perpendicular to the line you are about to sew, with the heads sticking out. This makes them quick and easy to remove so that you don't sew over them. If your corners don't match up, it's ok! A tolerance of $\frac{1}{8}$ " is normal. If it's more than $\frac{1}{8}$ ", you might need to trim them back.

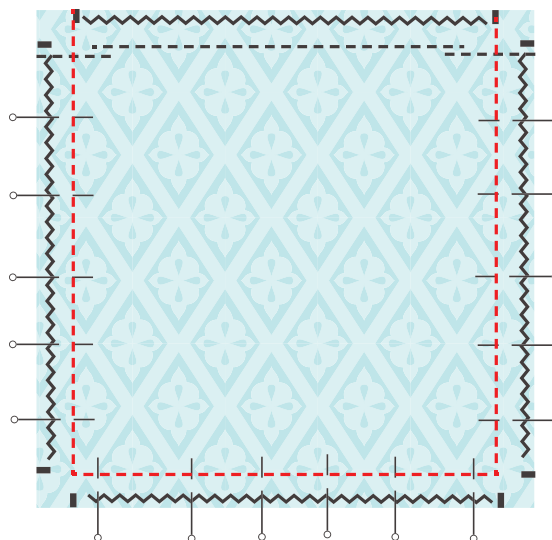


TIP – How to Sew a Perfect $\frac{1}{2}$ " Seam Allowance

Use a piece of masking tape as a guideline. Most machines have so many lines for your seam allowance it's hard to keep your eye on the right one! Align the left side of the tape with the $\frac{1}{2}$ " guideline. Line up the edge of the fabric with the edge of the tape.

Step 11

Sewing the perimeter--you're almost done! Sew at $\frac{1}{2}$ " seam allowance making sure to backstitch at the beginning and at the end. Pivot your corners. This means that when you get to the corner, you leave your needle in the fabric, lift up the presser foot and pivot the material.

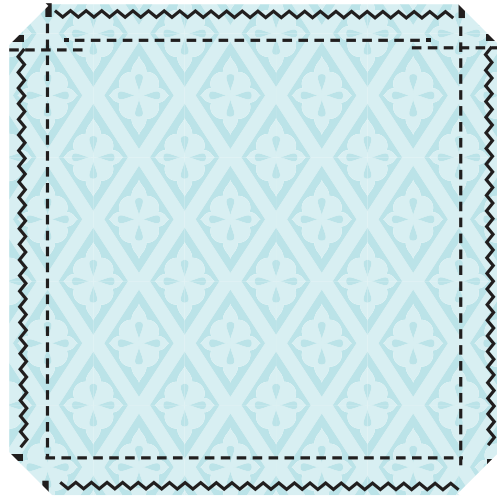




Step 12

Finishing the zipper: pull the zipper excess away from the fabric, flip it teeth down and sew across the zipper 3 times or so (backwards, forwards) about a $\frac{1}{2}$ " away from the fabric. This will prevent the zipper from separating. Then you want to cut off the excess of the zipper $\frac{1}{4}$ " below the stitching.

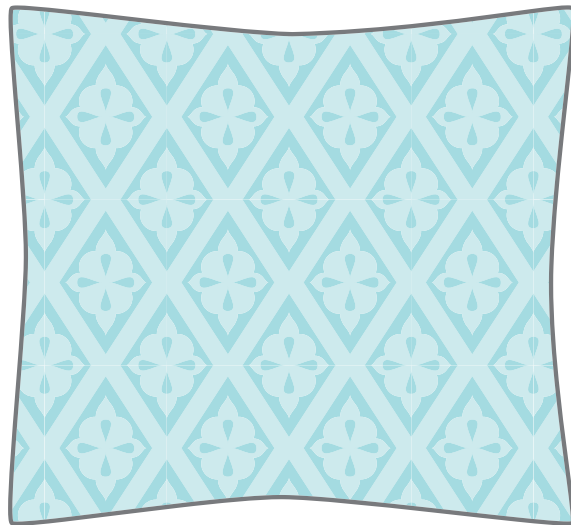
Cut the seam allowance corners on a 45° angle from corner notch to corner notch.



Step 13

You're done! Flip the pillow right side out and poke out the corners with a point turner (or carefully with a chopstick or knitting needle) so they're nice and sharp.

AWESOME PILLOW!



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GLOSSARY

Selvedge

This is the finished edge of the fabric; it doesn't fray. It is a result of how the fabric is made. The width of any fabric is measured from selvedge to selvedge.

Grainline

This is the arrow on your pattern piece. It tells you how to place the pattern onto fabric. You generally place the arrow parallel to the selvedge but when a fabric is the same vertically and horizontally (like quilting cotton) you can also place the grainline perpendicular to the selvedge if its the only way your pattern will fit.

Directional (Fabric)

Fabric, whose pattern has a direction. For example, a fabric with kittens has one direction and should only be seen from this direction, otherwise the kittens will be upside down or sideways. Whereas an abstract print like polka dots looks the same from all directions.

Backstitch / Backtack

This is an extra 3 to 5 stitches on top of your line of stitching, at the beginning and end to secure it. It is done by sewing backwards. Your backstitch only needs to be 3 to 5 stitches or about 1/2" long.

Baste

A basting stitch is a long stitch in a bright contrasting colour done by machine or by hand. It is used to hold pieces together temporarily and it is easy to remove if necessary.

For example, it can be used in place of pins to hold a zipper in place while sewing or to test the fit of a garment.

Running Stitch

A running stitch, or straight stitch is the most basic stitch in hand-sewing or embroidery. It is made by passing the needle in and out of the fabric, heading in one direction. It looks like this:

