

# PILLOWCASE (3)

This pillowcase is designed to fit a standard bed pillow. The finished dimensions are 20" x 30".

## Sewing Skills You Will Learn

1. Learn about color and pattern coordination.
2. Preshrink fabrics.
3. Straighten the grain of the fabric.
4. Measure and cut.
5. Stitch straight seams.
6. Finish seam allowances.
7. Backstitch.
8. Pivot on and reinforce corners.
9. Trim corners and seams.
10. Press with iron.

## Equipment:

Sewing shears or rotary cutter and mat  
Ruler or tape measure  
Straight pins  
Needle  
Seam gauge  
Seam ripper  
Sewing machine and bobbin  
Steam iron

## Fabric Preparation

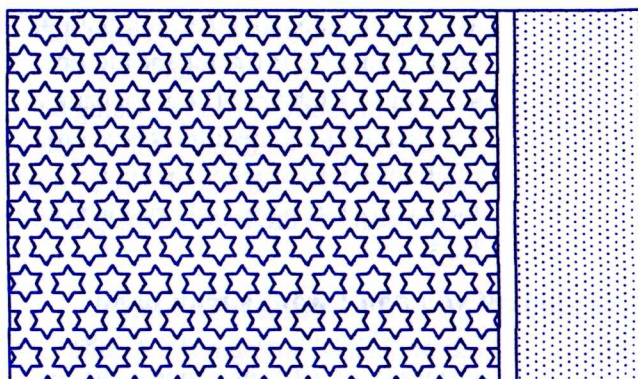
Preshrink your fabrics by washing them in hot water. Since the fabrics are all going to be in the same pillowcase, it is fine to preshrink them together. Detergent isn't needed. Dry in the dryer at normal setting. Just before the fabrics are dry, remove from dryer, straighten the grain (refer to member manual), and press to remove wrinkles and center fold crease.

## Cut the fabrics

**Fabric A. Cuff:** From the 3/8 yard, cut one piece 13" x 42".

**Fabric B. Optional Trim Band:** From the 1/8 yard, cut one piece 3" x 42".

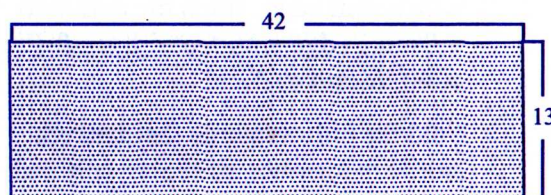
**Fabric C. Body:** From the 3/4 yard, cut one piece 25" x 42".



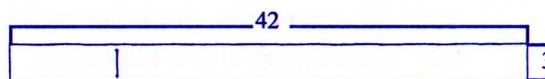
## Fabric:

3/4 yard for the body of the pillowcase  
3/8 yard for the cuff  
1/8 yard for the trim band (**Optional**)  
Matching thread

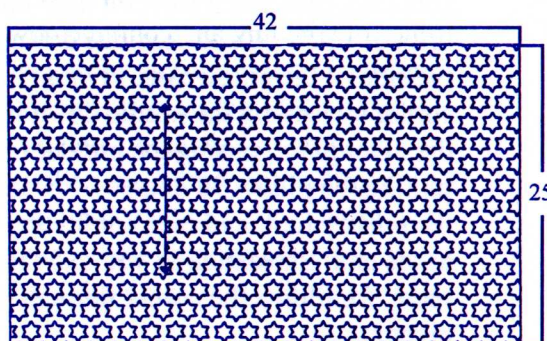
**Fabric A: Cuff: 13" x 42"**



**Fabric B: Trim Band: 3" x 42". Note: This piece is optional.**



**Fabric C: Body: 25" x 42"**





## Sewing Directions

- Step 1. For optional trim band, fold fabric B (trim band) in half, wrong sides together, to make a piece that is 1 1/2" x 42". Press.
- Step 2. With right sides together, pin both 42" edges of fabric B (trim band) to one 42" edge of fabric C (body). Using a 1/2" seam and a medium stitch length of about 12-15 stitches to the inch, sew the trim band to the body of the pillow. Press.

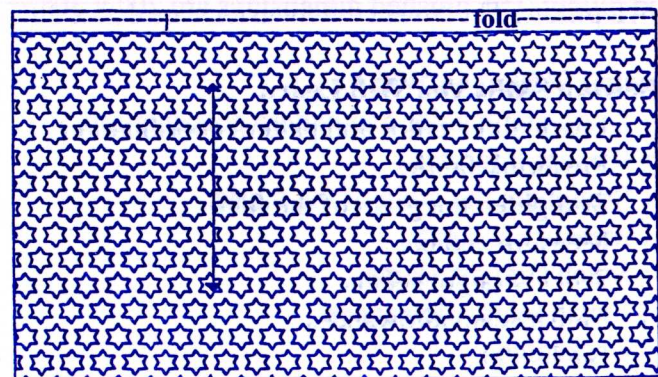
### Start here if you don't want a trim band.

- Step 3. Fold under 1/4" along one 42" side of fabric A (cuff), pin, then baste by hand. This edge is called the hem edge of the cuff. Pin right sides of the other (unfolded) 42" side of cuff to the 42" edge of the body. Be sure to notice the design of your fabric. If using a directional fabric for body or cuff, make sure it will lie in the right direction before stitching the seam. Using a 5/8" seam, sew cuff and body together. This is the cuff/body seam. If making a pillow with a trim band, stitch the cuff onto the same edge with the trim band. Press seam toward cuff.
- Step 4. Fold the pillowcase so that the right sides are together, matching cuff and body fabrics. Pin or baste the pillowcase sides and bottom. Mark the pivot point for stitching the corner 5/8" in from the side and 5/8" up from the bottom edge of pillow.
- Step 5. Sew side and bottom of pillow with a 5/8" seam. Begin with a backstitch. Stitch about 1/4", reverse the direction of the stitch, backstitch over the 1/4" stitching, then stitch forward over both lines of stitching and continue down the side of the pillowcase. Pivot at the corner by leaving the needle down in the pivot point, raising the presser foot, turning the pillow 90 degrees, lowering the presser foot, and then continuing to the end. Backstitch as you end this seam. Reinforce the corner through the pivot point.

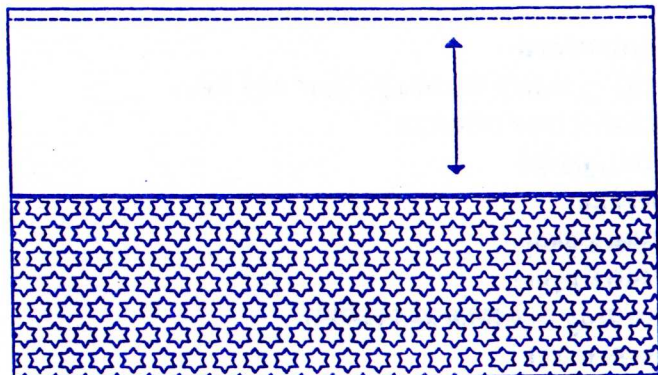
STEP 1



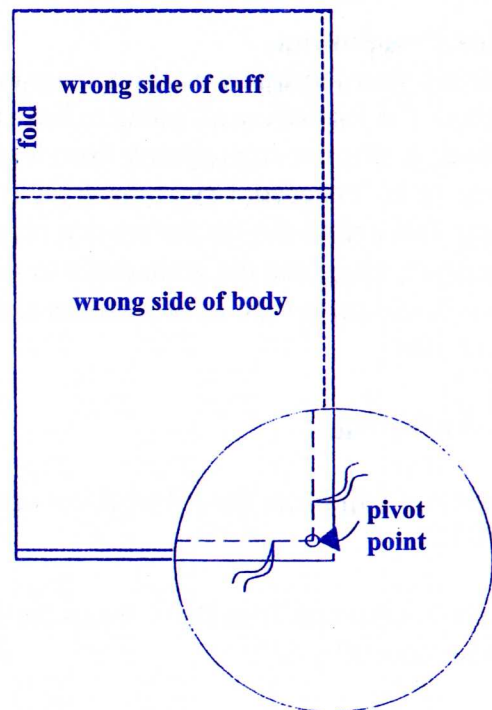
STEP 2



STEP 3



STEP 4

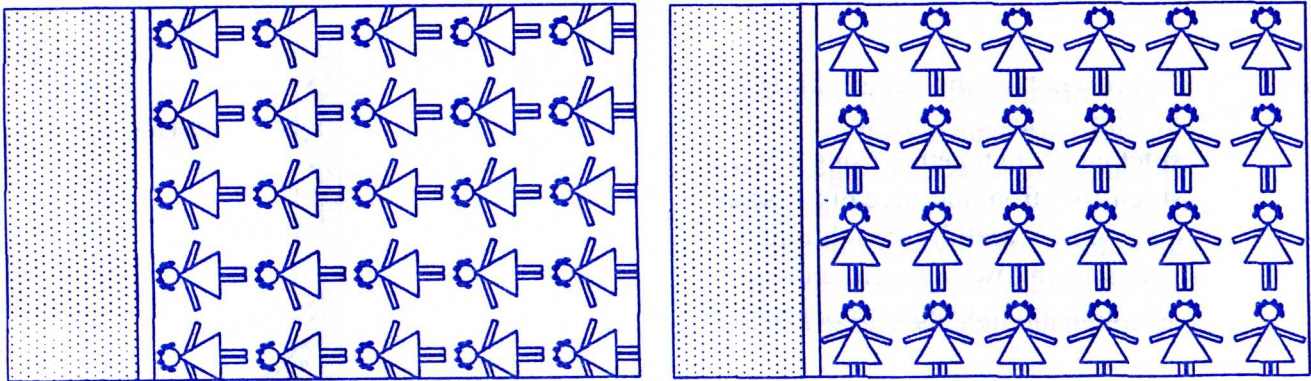


To reinforce the corner, begin stitching 1" above the pivot point, stitch to the pivot point, pivot and stitch 1" past the pivot point.

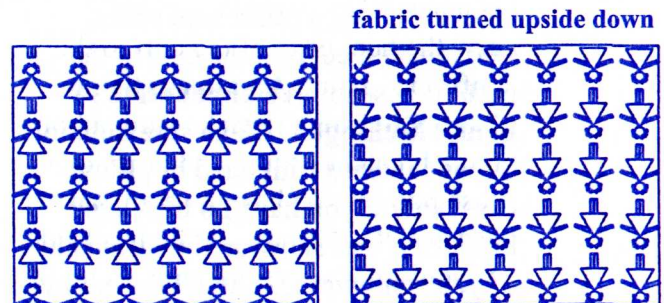
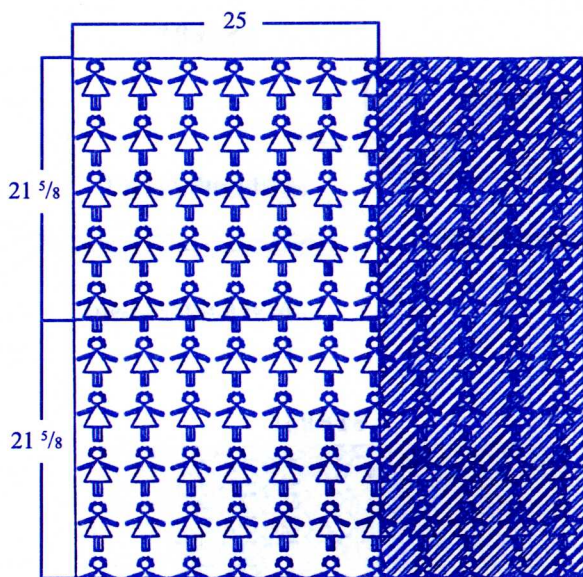


# OPTION: FABRICS WITH ONE-WAY DESIGNS

Some fabrics have one-way designs. If this is the case, it is important to visualize the finished pillow before cutting the fabric. Some designs would not look right sideways.

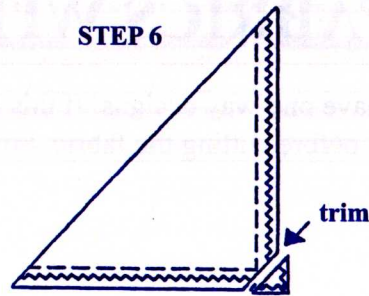


To use a fabric with a one-way design, buy  $1 \frac{3}{8}$  yard of fabric. Cut two pieces of fabric **25" wide x  $21 \frac{5}{8}$ " long**. Before following the sewing directions for the pillowcase, turn one of the pieces upside down (180 degrees), pin right sides together and stitch with a  $\frac{5}{8}$ " seam along one of the  $21 \frac{5}{8}$ " sides. This seam should be zigzagged and trimmed (see step 7 in the sewing directions). Press toward one side. Proceed with the sewing directions.

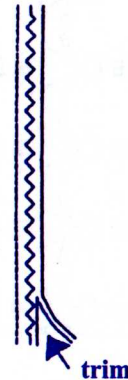




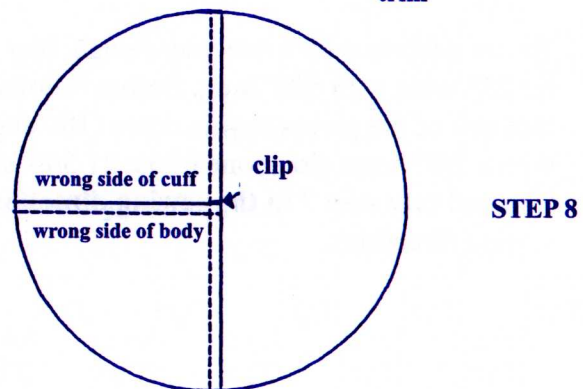
- Step 6. Clip diagonally across the corner with the pivot stitch, being careful not to clip the stitching.



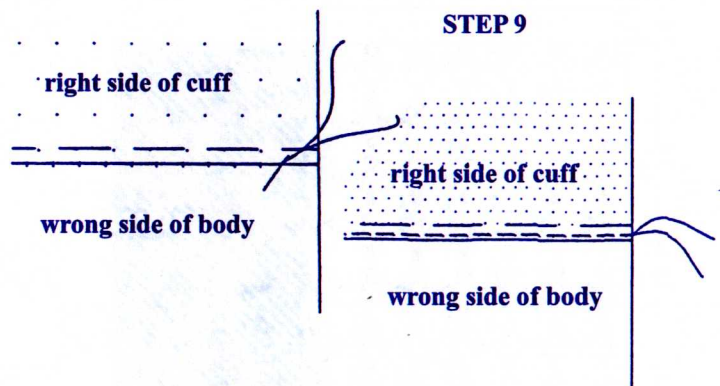
- Step 7. To prevent the fabric edges from fraying, finish the seam allowances by stitching them together using a zigzag stitch 1/4" from the edge of the seam allowance. Carefully trim through both seam allowances, close to, but not cutting through, the zigzag stitches.



- Step 8. Clip through the cuff seam allowance just above the cuff/body seam, up to, but not through, stitching. Press body seam toward the back of the pillow, press cuff seam toward front of pillow.



- Step 9. Fold the cuff in half, to the inside of the pillowcase. Be sure the 1/4" hem edge covers the cuff/body seam. Baste the cuff in place all round the pillowcase by hand, using long running stitches. Using a blind hem stitch, sew the hem edge of the cuff to the cuff/body seam. **An alternative to hand stitching:** 1. Make sure bobbin thread matches trim band or pillowcase body if you have no trim band because it will show on the front side of your pillowcase. Stitch the hem by machine using 12-15 stitches per inch.



- Step 10. Turn the pillowcase right side out and press thoroughly. ENJOY your new pillowcase!

