

Pillowcase Instructions

These instructions will make two coordinating pillowcase with no exposed seams.

Materials for 2 standard size pillowcases:

- a) 2 yards of coordinating 100% cotton fabrics at least 42 inches wide. Note: most fabrics shrink somewhat in washing, and the fabric may not be cut straight coming off the bolt, so buy a tiny bit extra (1/8 yard) to ensure you really have enough.

Cutting Instructions:

- a) Wash and press your fabrics
- b) Trim the fabrics to remove the selvages and so they are the same width.
- c) Cut a piece 9" tall by the width of the fabric from each of your two fabrics; this is the Band. In the pictures, this is the striped fabric with the red stars.
- d) Cut a 27" tall by width of the fabric from each of your two fabrics; this is the Body. In the pictures this is the cream colored fabric with the small dark stars.

Sewing Instructions:

These instructions are written so you can set up the machine for use by novice sewers, or for mass production or both. Place a little piece of masking tape about 1/8" or more away from the edge of your presser foot (the foot can be either your standard presser foot or a quarter inch foot, it really doesn't matter).

Note: quilters don't like to backstitch, but it is *absolutely necessary* to keep the pillowcases from pulling apart with use.

Step 1

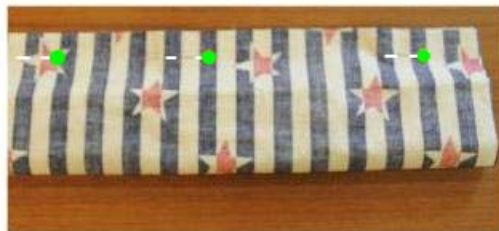
- a) Press each fabric flat: the smaller Band (9") and the larger Body (27")
- b) Put the Band right side up on a flat surface. If the Band has a directional print, for example dogs, place it so the dogs are **upside down** while you work. Place the Body on top of the Band with right sides together; pin if you really want to, but you don't have to at this point.
- c) Roll or fold the Body towards the pinned edge, stopping when you are about 4" from the pinned edge, as shown in Picture 1. It pays to be fairly neat in this step, as the Body will be easier to work with if it will stay in place.



Picture 1

Step 2:

- a) Fold the Band in half, over the rolled up Body, so you have a 4 1/2" band with the wrong side showing and the Body is totally hidden inside the tube. Re-pin the top edge so the pins go through all three layers of fabric, as shown in Picture 2. I like to put the pins in parallel to and 1 inch away from the edge; this ensures that the rest of the body 'behaves' and not get accidentally sewn into the seam. It also means you don't have to worry about running over the pins while you sew.
- b) Be sure not to catch anything but the top edge of the Body in your seam!



Picture 2

Step 3:

- a) Sew the top edge with the fabric edge lined up with the right edge of the presser foot. Back stitch 3 or 4 stitches at each end of the seam.
- b) Then reach into the tube you just made and pull out the Body, so that the Body and Band are now right side out. The seam you just sewed will be totally hidden inside the Band. See Pictures 3 & 4.



Picture 3



Picture 4

- c) Press away from the Body so the Band is flat.

Step 4 (starting the French Seam):

- a) Fold the pillowcase in half with **wrong** sides of the Body fabric together. Pin along the side with the raw edges and the bottom.
- b) Sew the side and bottom with the fabric edge lined up with the right edge of the presser foot. Back stitch 3 or 4 stitches at each end of the seam.
- c) Remove the pins, then run the rotary cutter along the raw edge to get rid of any little threads that stick out, otherwise they will poke through the seam.
- d) Turn the pillowcase wrong side out, and press.

Step 5 (finishing the French Seam):

- a) Stitch the side and bottom seam again, this time lining up the fabric edge with the left edge of the masking tape, so you catch the entire original seam, and its raw edges, inside this new seam.
- b) Trim all the thread ends from your seams
- c) Turn right side out and press.

Repeat for your second pillowcase.

Once you get the hang of it, and only need a reminder when you want to do it again later, you can use this very short version of the instructions.

Cut 9" by width of fabric (Band), 27" by Width of fabric (Body)
Band right side up; right sides together, roll Body up
Fold Band over rolled up Body
Sew, pull Body out of tube
Wrong sides together, sew edges (then trim edges to remove threads)
Right sides together, sew edges using a larger seam allowance.
Trim, turn right side out, press.