



SEWING 101:

How to Make a Simple Envelope-Back Pillow Cover

Making pillow covers for throw pillows to accent living rooms, bedrooms and more is a terrific way to use sewing to save big money on home decor. Making covers that can easily be removed from pillow inserts adds to the practicality of decorative cushions by enabling them to be washed easily and changed out as frequently as you like.

In this Creativity U session, you will learn how to make a simple envelope-back pillow cover to fit a square or rectangular pillow insert.

SUPPLIES

Main (Front) Fabric
Secondary (Back) Fabric
Coordinating Thread
Rotary Cutter & Mat
Shears
Iron
Sewing Machine



(Back side of pillow shown.)



MAKE YOUR CUTS.

Each pillow is constructed of 3 pieces: 1 main (front) panel, and 2 overlapping back panels.

The front panel should be cut to the exact dimensions of your pillow form. Thus, if you have an 18x18" pillow form, the main (front) panel should likewise be 18x18".

The size for each of the back panels is calculated like this:

Measure the width of your pillow form. This measurement will be called W. Write this number down.

Measure the length of your pillow form. Now divide this number by 2 and then add 3". Call this number L, and write it down.

Cut 2 back panels that measure W" x L".

EXAMPLE:

My pillow form is 18x18".

W = The width of the pillow form = **18"**

L = (The length of the pillow form / 2) + 3 =
(18/2) + 3 = 9 + 3 = **12"**

Thus, for my 18" pillow form, I will need to cut:
1 main (front) piece that is 18x18"
2 overlapping back pieces that are **W x L**" = 18x12"

Quick-Reference Guide for Dimensions

Pillow Insert Size	Main (Front) Panel Size (Cut 1)	Back Panel Size (Cut 2)
14x14"	14x14"	14x10"
16x16"	16x16"	16x11"
18x18"	18x18"	18x12"
20x20"	20x20"	20x13"
26x26" (Euro Pillow)	26x26"	26x16"



PREP THE BACK PANEL PIECES.

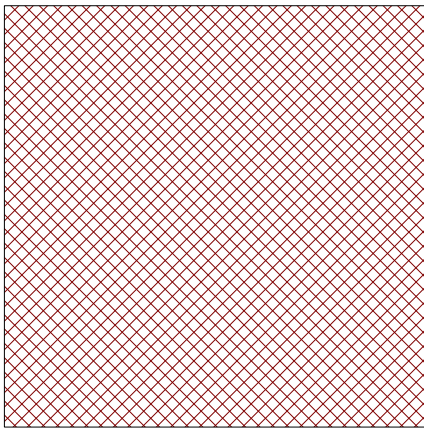
Using a narrow hem, finish one of the long edges of each of the back panel pieces. For a narrow hem, fold under the edge by 1/4"; press. Fold under another 1/4", press, and stitch into place. (Alternatively, you can use a serger to finish each of these edges.)



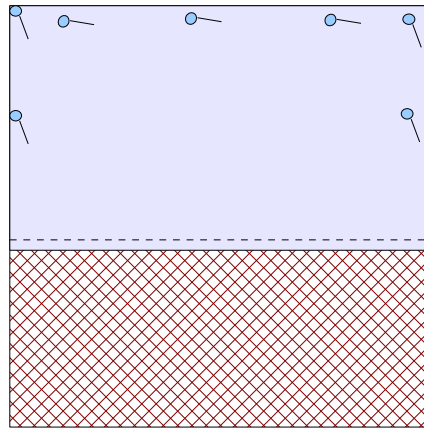
POSITION & PIN.

Lay the front panel face up on your work surface. Place one of the back panel pieces face down on top of the front panel, so that the right sides of each panel are facing, and the long raw edge of the back panel piece is aligned with the top edge of the front piece. Carefully align each of the corners and all of the raw edges, so that the seamed edge of the back panel piece runs through the center of the front piece; pin into place.

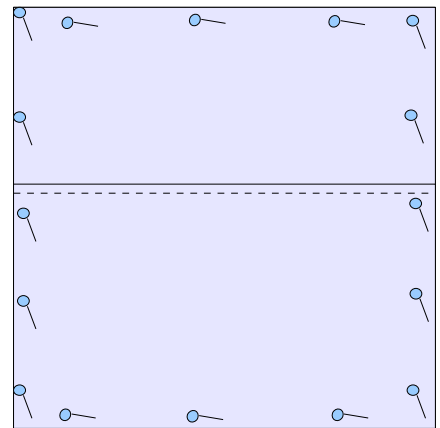
Now, position your other back panel piece on the bottom portion of your pillow front piece in a similar manner. Pin. *Note: The hemmed edges of your back panel pieces will overlap by a few inches at the center of your pillow.*



1. Place pillow front face up on work surface.



2. Place upper back panel face down on pillow front, aligning raw edges; pin.



3. Place lower back panel face down on lower half of pillow front, aligning raw edges and overlapping seamed edges at the center; pin.

4 STEP

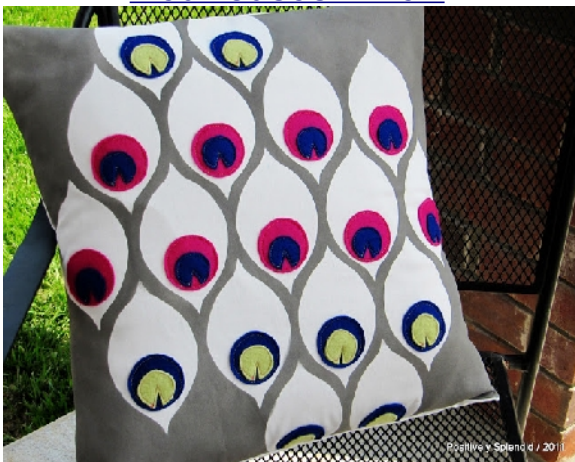
STITCH.

Using a 1/2" seam, stitch all the way around the outer perimeter of the pinned pieces. Finish the seams by zig-zagging or serging, if desired, before clipping your corners and turning the cover right-side out.

YOU DID IT!

Now that you know what it takes to make pillow covers, try your hand at one of these great projects, all of which feature an envelope back.

Mod Peacock Pillow



Freshly Squeezed Pillows



Outdoor Monogram Pillows



Bee Happy Pillow

