

# Simple Edge Pillow

## FREE PATTERN



This Pillow measures 38cm (15") square.

Many embroidery designs lend themselves perfectly to be made into square pillows. This easy pattern has a zipper in the back and a simple narrow edge, trimmed with blanket stitch to complement the embroidery.

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# Simple Edge Pillow

## You will need

- \* 50cm x 45cm wide (20" x 18") piece of print cotton for the back
- \* 30cm (12") matching zip
- \* 40cm (16") cushion insert
- \* Matching sewing thread
- \* Crewel wool (or other thread) to match the embroidery

## Cutting Out

Cut the cotton fabric for the back into two pieces according to the measurements below.

### Backing fabric

Cut one: 17cm x 40cm wide (6 <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>" x 16")

Cut one: 28cm x 40cm wide (11" x 16")

## Construction

All seam allowances are 1cm (3/8") unless otherwise specified. The coloured areas on the following diagrams indicate the right side of the fabric.

### 1. Preparing the embroidered panel

Place the embroidery with the right side down onto a soft, padded surface and press.

**NOTE**- if you have blocked your crewel embroidery you won't need to press.

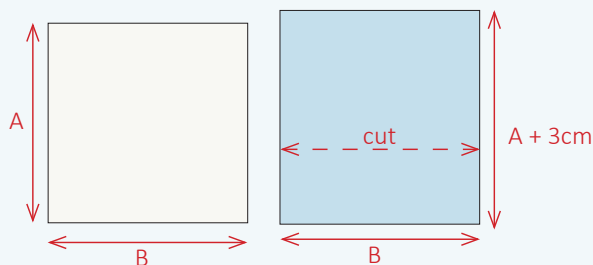
Measuring from the centre, trim the embroidered piece to measure 42cm (16 <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>") square.

## Changing size

The measurements given in these instructions suit a fabric panel that measures 45cm (18") square.

You can easily change the size of the finished pillow to suit smaller or larger pieces of embroidery using the following:

1. Measure the size of your front piece (A x B).
2. Cut the back piece the same width (B) as the front but 3cm (1 <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>") longer (A + 3cm).



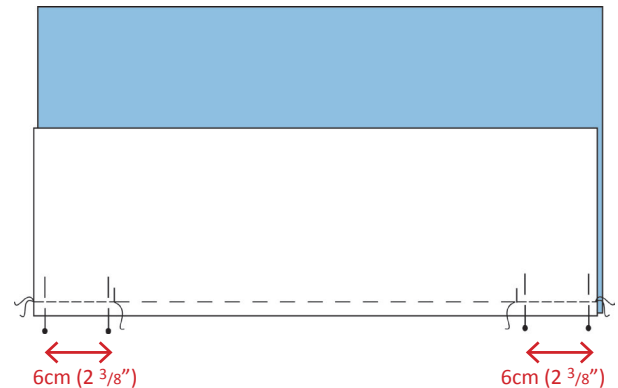
Cut this piece into a top and bottom piece.

3. Use a zip that is 10cm (4") shorter than the width of the pillow.

### 2. Making the back

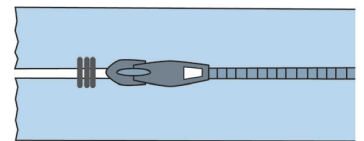
Neaten one long edge of each back piece with a machine zigzag or overlock stitch.

Matching the neaten edges, pin and stitch for 6cm (2 <sup>3</sup>/<sub>8</sub>") at each end using a 1.5cm (5/8") seam allowance. Tack along the remainder of the edge (diag 1).

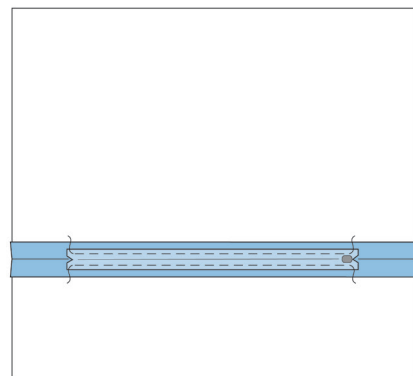


Press the seam open.

Stitch a bartack across the top of the zip to hold the two pieces of tape together (diag 2).

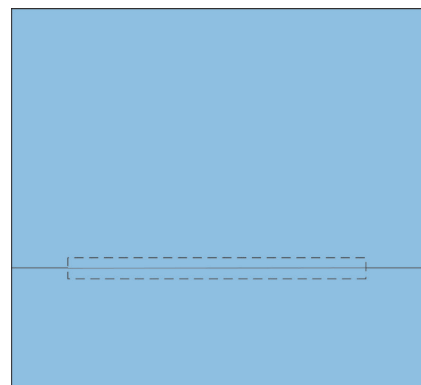


With the right side of the closed zip facing the wrong side of the back, centre the zip over the tacked section of the seam. Pin and tack in place (diag 3).



With the right side of the back facing up and using a zipper foot, stitch the zip in place 6mm (1/4") from the seam along both sides and across the ends (diag 4).

Remove the tacking.



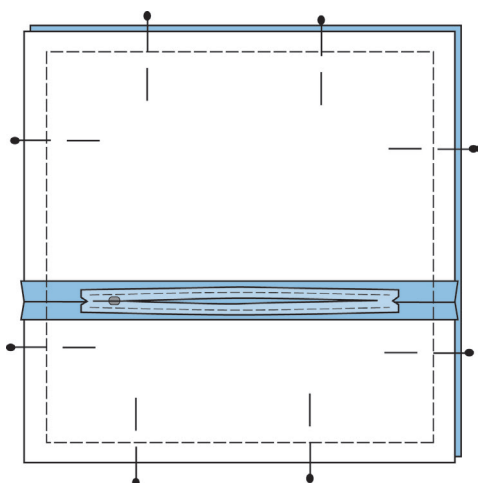
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## 4. Making the cover

Open the zip.

With right sides together and matching raw edges, pin and stitch the front to the back around all sides.

Pivot with the needle in the fabric at the corners (diag 5).

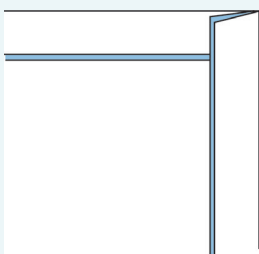


Turn the cover to the right side, pushing out the corners. Press the edges well.

### HINT – Neat, crisp corners

Before you turn the cover to the right side, press the seam allowances first to one side then the other.

Fold the seam allowances to one side at the corner and hold them firmly in place as you turn the corner out.



Using matching sewing thread, top stitch 1cm ( $\frac{3}{8}$ " ) from the edges.

Use the longest stitch length on your machine and pivot with the needle in the fabric at the corners (diag 6).



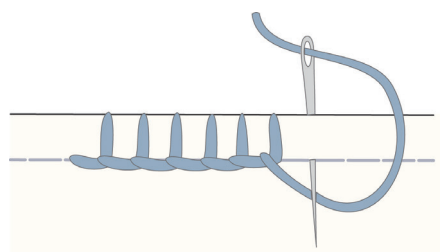
You can finish your pillow here... or add a blanket stitch over the edge as a final touch.



## 5. Forming the blanket stitch edge

Using a matching crewel wool (perle cotton or 6 strands of cotton also works well) emerge on the line of top stitching.

Using the machine stitches as a guide, work evenly spaced blanket stitch around the narrow edge, placing them at a right angle over the edge (diag 6).



### HINT - Even stitches

To help keep the spacing of the stitches even, simply place one stitch over each machine stitch.

When you reach the corner, secure the last stitch with an anchoring stitch around the adjacent side and re-emerge at the corner point (diag 7).

Continue in blanket stitch along the adjacent side.

