

How to Make a Pillowcase

Supplies needed:

- Two coordinating fabrics. See table below.
- Select firmly woven 100% cotton or 100% cotton flannel or cotton polyester blend fabric that is a minimum of 44" wide.
- Thread to match or white it fine
- Basic sewing supplies
 - Scissors or Rotary Cutter
 - Ruler
 - Pins
 - Sewing machine



How much fabric is needed:

	Size	Fabric Required:	
	Finished Pillow Size	Coordinating Border Edge	Case Body
Standard	20" X 26"	3/8 yard	3/4 yard

Pillowcase construction:

Step 1:

✂ Cut the pillowcase body and coordinating border edge on the straight grain of the fabric, according to the chart below (each pillowcase requires one piece of Body & one piece of Border):

Pillowcase Size	Pillowcase Body	Pillowcase Border
Standard	27" x 41"	10.5" x 41"

Step 2:

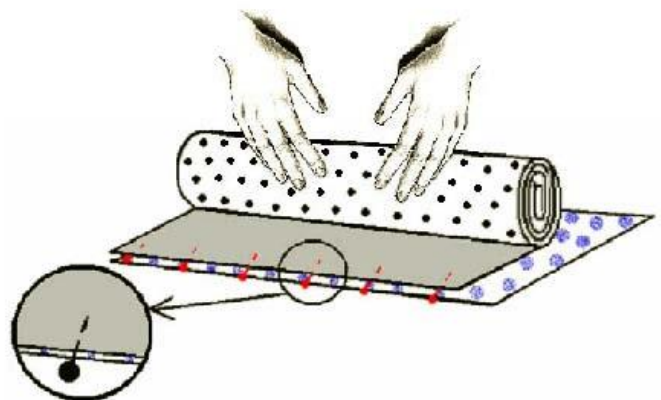
✂ Lay pillowcase border on a flat surface with the "right-side" up.



Step 3:

✂ Place the "right-side" of the pillowcase body face down on the coordinating border edge, matching the raw edges. Pin edges together.

Hint: Place pins at a right angle to the cut edge of the fabric. The head of the pin should extend beyond the cut edge. This allows the pin to be easily removed just before the presser foot reaches the pin. Do not sew over pins; they can break or dull the needle.

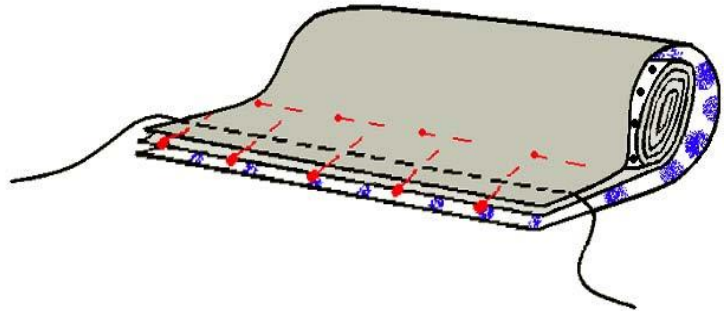


Step 4:

✂ Roll the width of the pillowcase body toward the pinned edge. Stop rolling when you reach the bottom of the pins.

Step 5:

✂ Bring the bottom edge of the border fabric up and over the roll of the body fabric, creating a “tube”. Match raw edges and re-pin.



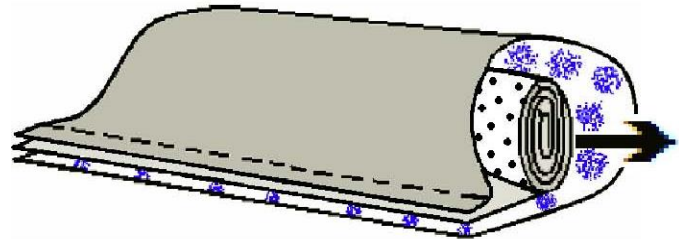
Step 6:

✂ Sew a ½” seam allowance along the pinned edge. Make sure to back stitch at the beginning and end of the seam to prevent unraveling.

Hint: Take care not to sew the pillowcase roll into the seam.

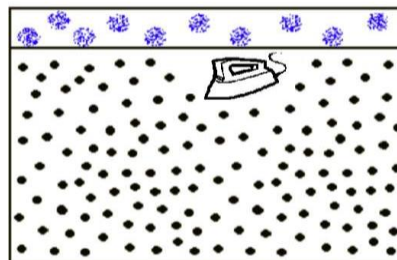
Step 7:

✂ Reach into the tube and pull the pillowcase body out through the side opening on one end. The pillowcase and border is now “right-side” out.



Step 8:

✂ Press the seam flat on both sides until the seam lays flat, eliminating wrinkles.

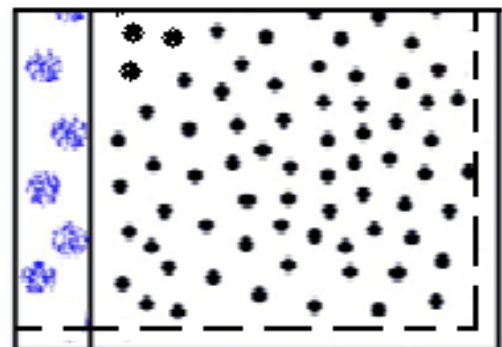


Step 9:

✂ With “wrong-sides” together, fold the pillowcase in half, matching the raw edges. Trim the fabric as needed.

Step 10:

✂ Sew a ½” seam allowance, starting at the top of the border. Make sure to back stitch at the beginning of the seam. Sew to within ½” of the bottom of the pillowcase, put the needle in the down position and raise the presser foot. Pivot the fabric 90 degrees. Put the presser foot down and continue sewing across the bottom of the pillowcase. Back stitch at the end of the seam.



Step 11:

✂ Trim side and bottom seams to remove excess fabric. Be careful not to cut through the stitches.

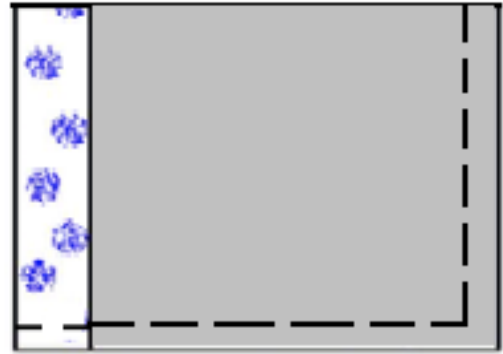
Step 12:

✂ Turn the case inside out so that the wrong side of the fabric is now on the outside. Press the seams.

Step 13:

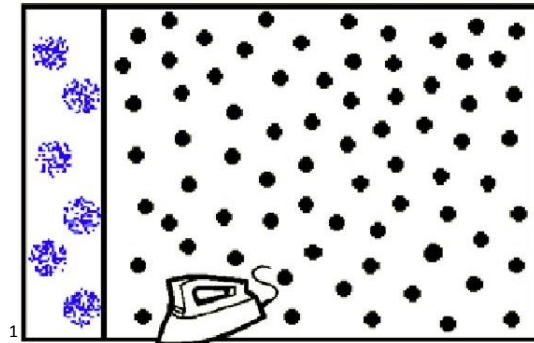
✂ With the wrong side out, sew a ½" seam allowance, starting at the top of the border. Make sure to back stitch at the beginning of the seam. Sew to within ½" of the bottom of the pillowcase, put the needle in the down position and raise the presser foot. Pivot the fabric 90 degrees. Put the presser foot down and continue sewing across the bottom of the pillowcase. Back stitch at the end of the seam.

This step encloses the raw seam, so there are no exposed edges. It gives a more professional look.



Step 14:

✂ Turn the pillowcase inside out and press. You're done!



¹ Source: Utah State University. Ronda H. Olsen, M.S., USU Extension Agent, Uintah County, Debra Proctor, M.S., USU Extension Agent, Wasatch County, Karen Biers, Ph.D., USU Extension Specialist.
http://extension.usu.edu/files/publications/publication/FL_ST_Construction_2006-102pr.pdf