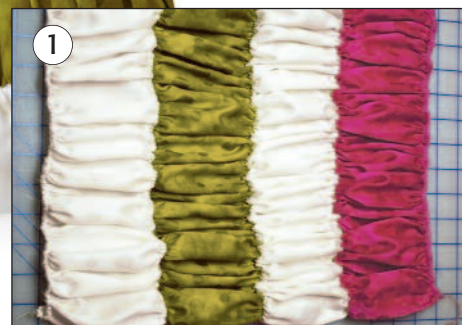


Pillows *A-Plenty*

{ by Cheryl Stranges }



Dress up your décor with a collection of pretty textured pillows featuring easily gathered panels.



Gorgeous Gathers

A serger equipped with a differential feed option saves time on projects that require a gathered edge. The differential feed controls the dual feed dogs at different rates, bunching woven fabric beneath the needle. While conventional gathering techniques require several steps, including basting and manually distributing the fabric, a serger gathers and finishes the fabric edge in one easy step. Sergers vary in terms of needle tension and differential feed settings for gathering, so refer to the machine manual for the manufacturer's recommendations. Specialty serger presser feet and attachments are also available through machine dealers. Before beginning a project, practice gathering fabric scraps to determine the tension and feed settings that are most effective for various fabric weights and types.

Note: Use a $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance for each pillow.

Hip Strips

Gather four fabric strips to create a simple square pillow.

Supplies

- 1 yard of mediumweight cream fabric
- $4\frac{1}{2}$ " x the fabric width strip each of mediumweight green and pink fabric
- Coordinating serger thread
- Polyester fiberfill
- Temporary spray adhesive
- Hand sewing needle

Cut

From the cream fabric, cut two 16" squares and two $4\frac{1}{2}$ " x the fabric width strips.

Serge

Set the serger feed and needle tension for a 4-thread gathering stitch on a double fabric layer, following the manufacturer's instructions.

With right sides together, pin the green strip and one cream strip along one long edge; serge, leaving long thread tails.

With right sides together, pin the remaining cream strip over the green strip, aligning the long raw edges; serge. Repeat to attach the pink strip to the second cream strip long raw edge.

Set the serger to gather a single fabric layer. Serge the remaining pink and first cream strip long raw edges. Adjust the stitches to evenly distribute the gathers, forming 16"-long strips (1).

Spray one cream square right side with temporary spray adhesive. Position the gathered panel right side up over the cream square; finger-press to adhere.

With right sides together, serge the remaining cream square and gathered panel perimeter, leaving a 4" opening along one edge for turning. Clip the corners.

Finish

Turn the pillow right side out and stuff it with fiberfill until plump. Hand stitch the opening closed.



Tip: Create a commemorative wedding pillow by stitching the bride and groom's names on each panel.

Puckered Panache

Choose initials, a favorite phrase, or two coordinating embroidery designs to spice up this pillow design.

Supplies

- ½ yard of mediumweight green fabric
- 4" x the fabric width strip of cream fabric
- Temporary spray adhesive
- Polyester fiberfill
- Hand sewing needle
- Thread: coordinating serger and embroidery (optional)
- Embroidery lettering design (optional)
- Fusible tear-away stabilizer (optional)

Prepare

From the green fabric, cut two 6½" x 9" rectangles and one 9" x 16" rectangle.

Cut the cream strip into one 4" x 9" strip and one 4" x 32" strip.

Select a design or phrase on the embroidery machine to stitch a phrase at each small rectangle center. Adhere tear-away stabilizer to each rectangle wrong side, using temporary spray adhesive. Hoop each rectangle, and then stitch the selected design using coordinating embroidery thread. Unhoop the rectangles and tear away the stabilizer; press.

Construct

Set the serger to gather a single fabric layer. Serge the cream strip long edges, leaving long thread tails. Adjust the gathers until the strip is 9" long.

Spray the short cream strip right side with temporary spray adhesive. Place the gathered strip right side up over the short strip, aligning the outer edges; finger-press to adhere (2). Stitch the perimeter.

With right sides together, position one small green rectangle over the gathered strip, aligning one long edge; serge. Repeat to attach the remaining small green rectangle to the opposite gathered strip edge (3). Press the seams toward the green rectangles.

With right sides together, serge the pillow front and large rectangle perimeter, leaving a 4" opening on one long edge for turning. Clip the corners.

Finish

Turn the pillow right side out. Stuff it with fiberfill until plump. Hand stitch the opening closed.

Romantic Ruffles

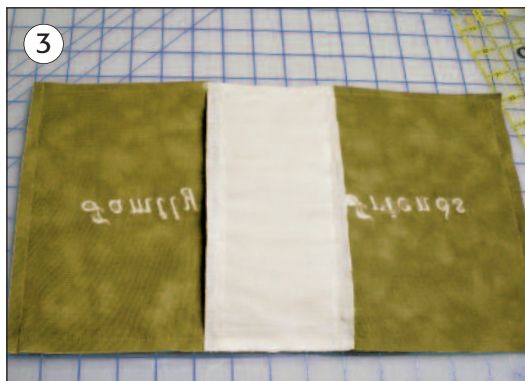
Ruffles and lace make a flouncy feminine statement.

Supplies

- ½ yard of mediumweight cream fabric
- Three 4" x the fabric width strips of mediumweight pink fabric
- 1 yard of 2"-wide lace
- Thread: Coordinating serger and multi-colored decorative
- Polyester fiberfill
- Hand sewing needle
- Removable fabric marker
- Fabric adhesive

Cut

From the cream fabric, cut one 10½" x 17" rectangle and four 5" x 10½" rectangles.





A decorative chainstitch adds a touch of color.



Fold one small rectangle in half widthwise; mark the center along one long edge. Mark the short edges 2" from the marks. Connect each 2" mark to the long-edge center mark. Cut along the lines to create the upper triangle.

Position the upper triangle over the large rectangle, aligning the triangle point with one short edge. Trace the triangle upper edge onto the large rectangle. Cut along the lines. This is the pillow back.

Cut the lace into three 10½"-long pieces.

Construct

Set the serger for a 2-thread chainstitch. Thread the needle with serger thread and the looper with decorative thread. With the wrong side facing up, stitch a wavy line lengthwise along each pink strip.

Set the serger for a 3-thread rolled edge and thread the serger with coordinating thread. Serge one long edge of each pink strip.

Set the serger to gather a single fabric layer. Serge each pink strip long raw edge, leaving long thread tails. Adjust the gathers until each ruffle is 10½" long (4).

Position one small rectangle right side up. Position one ruffle right side up over the rectangle, aligning the gathered

edge with one rectangle long edge. Layer a second small rectangle right side down over the ruffle; serge the long edge. Unfold and repeat to attach the remaining ruffles, rectangle and upper triangle (5).

Position one lace piece 2" from the triangle point so the lace lower edge overlaps the ruffle by ½". Stitch or glue the lace in place.

Position the second lace piece 3" from the center rectangle upper edge; stitch or glue in place. Repeat to attach the remaining lace piece to the second center rectangle.

Finish

With right sides together, serge the pillow front and back perimeter, making sure the ruffles remain tucked between the fabric layers. Leave a 3" opening along the short straight edge for turning.

Clip the corners. Turn the pillow right side out. Stuff it with fiberfill until plump. Hand stitch the opening closed. ≈

SOURCES

Husqvarna Viking provided the 936 Serger and Designer Diamond and Sapphire 870 sewing machines: (800) 358-0001, husqvarnaviking.com. JN Harper Co Ltd. provided the Robert Kaufman Marbelous fabrics: jnharper.com. Sulky provided thread and stabilizer: (800) 874-4115, sulky.com.



Charming CHAINSTITCH

Use the serger chainstitch function to create unique buttons and embellishments to decorate coordinating envelope pillows.

Supplies

- ½ yard of mediumweight fabric
- Thread: coordinating all-purpose, 60-wt. variegated embroidery
- Fusible tear-away stabilizer
- Polyester fiberfill
- Removable fabric marker
- Pom-pom tool (such as the Loop-de-Doodle)
- Hand sewing needle
- Fabric adhesive

Download the Elegant Envelope pattern from sewnews.com. From the fabric, cut two pillows and two flaps. From the stabilizer, cut one flap.

Designate one fabric flap

for chainstitching. Use the removable fabric marker to transfer the chainstitch grid from the pattern onto the flap wrong side. Fuse the stabilizer to the fabric flap wrong side.

Set the serger to a 2-thread chainstitch. Thread the needle with all-purpose thread and the looper with embroidery thread. With the wrong side facing up, stitch the flap over the gridlines (A). The chainstitch will appear on the fabric right side.

Set the serger to a 4-thread overlock stitch. With right sides together, serge the flap side and lower edges. Clip the corners and turn the flap right side out.

Position one pillow right side up. Place the flap right side up over the pillow, aligning one long edge. Position the remaining pillow right side down, sandwiching the flap; pin.

Serge the pillow perimeter, leaving a 3" opening along the lower edge for turning. Clip the corners.

Turn the pillow right side out. Stuff with fiberfill until plump. Hand stitch the opening closed.

To make the button, begin chainstitching on a 1½"-square fabric scrap. Continue stitching until you have 10 yards of chainstitched thread (B).

Wrap the pom-pom tool with the thread. Stitch down the thread center (C).

Remove the looped thread from the tool. Twist the looped thread into a 2½"-diameter circle (D).

Cut one 2½"-diameter circle each from the fabric and stabilizer. Fuse the stabilizer to the fabric wrong side. Glue the thread circle to the fabric circle wrong side. Hand stitch or glue the button to the pillow flap.



Download the
Elegant Envelope
pattern FREE at
sewnews.com!

