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sewing PILLOWS:

5 FREE Artistic Pillow Cover and Pillow Patterns

1 Art of Bleach Pillows
2 Fabulous Floor Pillow
3 Fly-Away Pillow
4 Chrysanthemum Pillow
5 Cute-As-A-Button Pillow

1

2

3

4

5

Welcome to our new Sew Daily eBook: **5 FREE Artistic Pillow Cover and Pillow Patterns.**

We know how much you love pillow projects, and so we are creating a free eBook that offers you five gorgeous pillow projects that you can create for your home and gifts.

The **Art of Bleach Pillows** by Carol Zentgraf lets you get artistic with stencils and bleach to give denim pillows two unique looks. One pillow features bleached leaves, while the other shows a reverse effect with the background bleached and free-motion stitching to highlight the simple batik technique.

The **Fabulous Floor Pillow** by Kay Whitt is a quilted pillow with pretty scalloped edging that is perfect for lounging on the floor in style. Five coordinating prints make a bold statement, and the fabric-covered buttons and scalloped back closure are the perfect finishing details.

The **Fly-Away Pillow** by Melissa Frantz is created from stenciled fabric paint and handstitching that make happy red balloons on this comfy cotton-canvas pillow. Use a print for the envelop back and design your own corded piping as the final touch.

The **Chrysanthemum Pillow** by former *Stitch* editor Tricia Waddell creates instant elegance with an Asian-inspired silk pillow featuring a ruffled flower centerpiece. Use gathering lengths of ribbon yarn to create spiral ruffles and luxurious texture, then add a contrasting fabric on the pillow back for a tie closure.

Finally, the **Cute-as-a-Button Pillow**, also by Tricia Waddell, layers small coordinating buttons for a modern detail that turns a plain linen pillow into a stylish room accent. Add simple knife pleats and a tea-dyed background for the buttons and then stuff it with 100% cotton filling.

I just love these patterns and am already trying to decide which one I will make first. And I hope you love them just as much!

Happy stitching,

amber eden

Editor, *Stitch* magazine and *SewDaily*

PHOTO BY LARRY STEIN

1. Art of Bleach Pillows
2. Fabulous Floor Pillow
3. Fly-Away Pillow
4. Chrysanthemum Pillow
5. Cute-As-A-Button Pillow

Art of Bleach Pillows

Get artistic with stencils and bleach to give denim pillows two unique looks. One pillow features bleached leaves while the other shows a reverse effect with the background bleached and free-motion stitching to highlight the simple batik technique.

by **CAROL ZENTGRAF**

FABRIC (for 2 pillows)
—1 yd of 45"-wide dark-dye, lightweight denim
—½ yd of 45"-wide muslin for underlining

OTHER SUPPLIES
—Cotton batting
—Temporary spray adhesive
—Bleach: bottled and bleach pen
—Paraffin wax and beeswax
—30 wt. cotton thread
—Darning or free-motion embroidery foot (optional)
—Open-toe presser foot (optional)
—One 16" and one 18" square pillow insert
—Large home décor stencil
—Old newspapers
—Rubber gloves
—Small glass bowl
—Flat fabric paintbrush
—Double boiler
—Unprinted newsprint or packing paper (available at shipping stores)
—Handsewing needle

FINISHED SIZES
16" square and 18" square

NOTES
—All seam allowances are ½" unless otherwise noted.

PHOTO BY JOE HANCOCK

—For explanations of terms and techniques, see Sewing Basics on SewDaily.com.

—Sew all seams with right sides together.

—When working with bleach: Provide good ventilation in the work area, make sure you are working in an area where nothing will be damaged by bleach spills or splashes, wear old clothes or an old apron, and protect your hands with rubber gloves.

CUT THE FABRIC

1 From the denim, cut:

—Two 20" × 20" squares

—One 17" × 17" square

—One 19" × 19" square

2 From the muslin, cut:

—One 17" × 17" square

—One 19" × 19" square

3 From the batting, cut:

—One 17" × 17" square

—One 19" × 19" square

BLEACHED LEAVES TECHNIQUE

4 Spray the back of the stencil with temporary adhesive and adhere it to the right side of a 20" × 20" denim square. Press the cut-out design edges firmly in place to prevent the bleach from bleeding under the stencil. Place the fabric with the stencil on several layers of newspapers to absorb the excess bleach.

5 Put on the rubber gloves. Pour ½ cup (4 oz, or 120 ml) of bleach into a small glass bowl. Dip the paintbrush into the bleach and apply it to the stencil openings (cut-out design), working from the center toward the edges. The bleach should completely saturate the fabric in the openings without bleeding under the stencil.

6 You will see the bleached areas begin to lighten almost immediately and they will continue to lighten as long as the bleach is left in the fabric. When the areas have lightened to your satisfaction, rinse the fabric under cold running water. Hang the fabric to dry.

7 Press the fabric when dry. If there are areas that need defining or need to be lightened further, use the bleach gel pen for touch-ups.

Let the gel set until the desired lightening is achieved. Rinse and let dry. Press the fabric.

BATIK TECHNIQUE

8 Spray the back of the stencil with temporary adhesive and adhere it to the right side of a 20" × 20" denim square. Press the cut-out design edges firmly in place to prevent the wax from bleeding under the stencil. Place the fabric with the stencil on several layers of newspapers to absorb the excess wax. Place the fabric and newspapers close to the stove burner where you will be working, being careful not to let either actually contact the burner.

9 In a double boiler over boiling water, melt a wax combination of 70% paraffin and 30% beeswax. The wax must be very hot as you work to saturate the fabric, so make sure the water continues to boil under the double boiler. Caution: The wax is flammable, so do not heat it directly; always use a double boiler.

10 Working quickly, dip the paintbrush into the hot wax and apply it to the stencil openings (cut-out design), working from the center out. The wax will not penetrate as evenly as the bleach and will create some cracked effects and uneven edges, which are characteristic of batik.

11 Let the wax cool completely. Remove the stencil from the fabric. Pour 1" to 2" of bleach into a sink with the stopper in the drain. Wear rubber gloves and immerse the fabric in the bleach. Crinkle the fabric and move it around in the bleach; it will create a more interesting look if the bleach is absorbed unevenly, and cracks in the wax add to the batik texture. When satisfied with the resulting color, remove the fabric and rinse with cold water. Examine your work and apply more bleach in splatters or by pouring if desired, and rinse again. Hang the fabric to dry.

12 Sandwich the batik denim between layers of absorbent paper (unprinted newsprint or paper towels) and iron with a hot iron to melt and remove the wax. Change the paper occasionally as it becomes saturated with melted wax, and continue ironing until all the wax has been removed from the denim.

ADD STITCHING

13 Trim the bleached leaves panel to 19" × 19" and the batik leaves panel to 17" × 17". Spray the wrong side of each piece with adhesive and adhere it to the corresponding batting square.

14 Use either of the following techniques to outline and quilt the design with 30 wt. cotton thread:

For free-motion stitching, lower the sewing machine feed dogs and install a darning or embroidery foot. Stitch around each leaf and stem, then add free-form swirls and lines to the background.

For machine-guided stitching, leave the feed dogs up and install an open-toe presser foot, if available. Stitch around each leaf and vein, varying the placement from the design edge to slightly inside or outside the edge; connect veins and leaves with stitching as desired.

ASSEMBLE PILLOWS

15 For each pillow cover, sew the front panel to the corresponding back panel with right sides together, using a ½" seam allowance. Leave an opening in the center of the bottom edge for turning. Trim the corners.

16 Turn the pillow cover right side out and press, turning the seam allowances to the wrong side along the opening. Insert the pillow form and slipstitch the opening closed.

RESOURCES

—Fairfield Processing, poly-fil.com, Cotton Classic batting.

—Royal Design Studio, royaldesignstudio.com, Endless Vine Allover Pattern stencil.

—Sulky of America, sulky.com, KK 2000 Temporary Adhesive Spray and 30 wt. cotton thread.

CAROL ZENTGRAF *is a writer, a designer, and an editor who specializes in sewing, textiles, painting, and decorating. Her work has been published in several magazines and she is the author of* Pillows, Cushions and Tuffets, Decorative Storage, The Well-Dressed Window, Machine Embroidery Room-by-Room, Sewing for Outdoor Spaces *and* Sewing Christmas Greetings.

Fabulous Floor Pillow

This quilted pillow with pretty scalloped edging is perfect for lounging on the floor in style. Five coordinating prints make a bold statement, and the fabric-covered buttons and scalloped back closure are the perfect finishing details.

by **KAY WHITT**

FABRIC
*Fabrics requirements for A–E are based on 44" wide fabric
—Fabric A: 1¼ yd for pillow front and back
—Fabric B: 1 yd for pillow front and back
—Fabric C: 1 fat quarter or ½ yd for pillow front
—Fabric D: 1 fat quarter or ½ yd for pillow front
—Fabric E: 1¼ yd for scalloped border

OTHER SUPPLIES
—1½ yd fusible fleece (Pellon Thermolam Plus recommended, TP971F)
—Small scrap of lightweight fusible interfacing (at least 3 × 9" or enough to cut 4 of the coverable button templates)
—22" or 24" square pillow insert (use a 22" insert for a softer, flatter result; use a 24" for an overstuffed appearance as shown)
—Four 1½" wide coverable buttons (Maxant brand recommended)
—Matching sewing thread
—Rotary cutter and self-healing mat
—Chalk pencil
—Scallop templates from pages 8 and 9
—Freezer paper to make scallop templates
—Buttonhole foot for your sewing machine
—Handsewing needle

Finished Size: 26½" × 26½"

NOTE
All seam allowances are ½" unless otherwise indicated.

PHOTO BY JOE HANCOCK

FOR EXPLANATIONS OF TERMS + TECHNIQUES USED CLICK HERE FOR OUR SEWING BASICS ONLINE

CREATE PILLOW FRONT

1 Cut a 12" square from each fabric, A–D (**figure 1**).

2 To form two rectangles, place the top two squares (A and B) right sides together and sew. Press the seam allowance toward the darker fabric. Repeat with the bottom two fabrics (C and D).

3 Place the top and bottom sets of squares with right sides together to form one large square, being sure to match up the seams so they are even, then sew together. Press seam allowances to one side.

4 With the right side of the large square facing, mark ½" across the edge from one corner, then mark ½" down the opposite edge from the same corner. Repeat for each of the remaining three corners.

5 Cut four strips from Fabric E, each measuring 33 × 5". Fold each strip in half widthwise to find the center of the strip and mark. With right sides together, pin each strip to one of the sides of the large square, matching up the center mark on each strip to the seam on each side of the large square and matching up the edges. *Note:* There will be excess strip that will extend on each end. *Do not cut away*, because this will be used for mitering the corners in the coming steps.

6 Starting at one of the ½" markings, begin sewing the strip to the large square, stopping when you reach the other ½" mark. Repeat for the remaining three strips. Flip the border strips to the outside of the large square and press flat.

7 To miter the corners, fold the large square in half, right sides together, diagonally from one of the corners. This will align the border strips so that they lie on top of each other right sides together. Be sure that the strips lie with raw edges evenly matched up.

8 At one of the corners near the diagonal fold, fold the top border strip upward at a 45° angle, starting at the corner of the pillow and extending AWAY from the pillow itself (**figure 2**). Press this fold to create a crease.

9 After pressing the fold, lay the strip back down directly on top of the strip beneath it, right sides together, and open out the fold. Pin the strips together at the pressed crease. The crease will be the stitching line for mitering.

10 Repeat Steps 8 and 9 to miter the opposite corner along the same diagonal fold.

11 Repeat Step 7, folding so that the other two corners meet, then repeat Steps 8 and 9 to miter the two remaining corners.
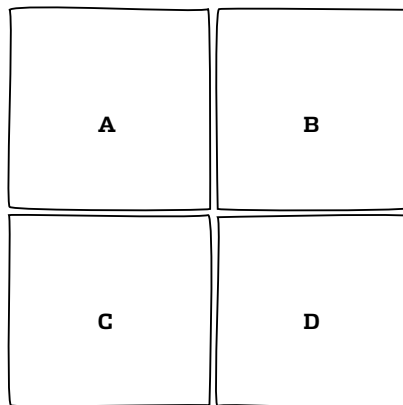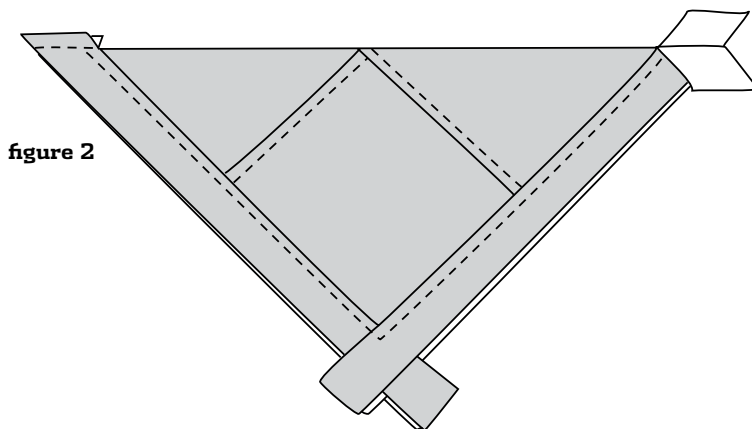

figure 1

figure 2

12 Sew along each crease, starting at the corner of the pillow front where the strips come together and stitching outward to the edge of the strips (**figure 2** shows the miter stitching line). Trim away the excess strip of fabric to within ½" of the seam and press the seam allowances open at each corner. Press the seam allowances at the border away from the large square.

13 Cut a piece of fusible fleece measuring 31 × 31". Lay the completed pillow front on top of the fusible side (bumpy or rough to the touch) of the fleece, with the right side facing up. Following the manufacturer's instructions, fuse the fleece to the pillow top. Trim away any excess fleece that may remain beyond the raw edge of the pillow front fabric.

CREATE SCALLOP BORDER

14 Trace the Outer Edges Scallop Border pattern template onto the matte (non-waxy) side of the freezer paper, placing it on the fold as indicated and copying all guidelines and markings; be sure to notch the center point (on the fold). Cut out. Align the template along one of the borders, with the straight edge of the template lying along the seam attaching the border to the large square; match the center seam of the squares to the center marking on the template and the angled edges to the mitered seams. *Note:* Due to the differences from one sewer to the next, slight adjustments may need to be made depending on how accurate the seams were completed. Make any adjustments necessary to get the scallop template to align properly.

15 Iron the freezer-paper template to the border with the shiny side of the paper against the right side of the fabric. This will cause a temporary bond of the pattern piece to the fabric so that the scallops can be traced. Trace around the scalloped edges with a chalk pencil. Peel away the paper, iron to a new side, and repeat the tracing process until all edges of the border have been marked. Trim along the scalloped edge markings, cutting through all layers.

16 Topstitch directly on top of the seams attaching the small squares to each other (stitching on top of an existing seam is called "stitching in the ditch") to secure the fleece

to the pillow front. *Do not* stitch in the ditch where the border and squares meet because this stitching will occur in a later step. Set the pillow front aside.

CREATE PILLOW BACK

17 From Fabric A, cut two rectangles for the top back panel, each measuring 15 × 23". If the pattern of the fabric is directional, make sure that it runs in the correct direction along the 15" width. Cut a piece of fusible fleece also measuring 15 × 23".

18 Fuse the fleece to the wrong side of one of the Fabric A pieces just cut.

19 Trace the Back Scallop Border Template onto the matte side of the freezer paper and cut out as in Step 14.

20 On the back panel with the fleece attached, align the template with one of the 23" sides (center the template between the ½" seam allowances on each side). Iron the paper in place along the edge so that the top of the scallops lines up with the outer edge of the fabric; trace the scallops with a chalk pencil. Remove the paper and cut out the scallops.

21 Place the scalloped back panel on top of the other back panel with right sides together, lining up the raw edges. Pin along the scalloped edge only. Using a ¼" seam allowance and with the scalloped back panel facing up, stitch the two pieces together along the curves of the scallops. Trim away the excess fabric so that the edges of both panels match (follow the scalloped edge) and then clip along the curves of the scallops by cutting small triangles into the seam allowances with the point of the triangles facing the seam. Cut close to the seamline, but be careful not to cut into it. This will ensure that the piece will lie flat without puckering when turned.

22 Turn the scallops right side out and use your fingers to smooth out the curves. Press the scalloped edge so that the curves are well defined and the seam is flat. Be careful in your pressing so that the fabric from the other side of the scallop does not show. Realign the three remaining raw edges and pin in place.

23 With the right side of the piece with the fleece attached facing up, begin topstitching along the curves of the scallops ¼" away from the finished edge. Continue stitching along the three remaining raw edges, about ⅜" from the raw edges.

24 Choose one or more of the fabrics (A–D) to make the covered buttons. Using the template provided by the coverable button manufacturer, cut four circles from the interfacing scrap. Place these interfacing circles on the

wrong side of the fabrics chosen for the buttons and fuse in place according to manufacturer's instructions. Cut out the circles from the fabric(s). Follow the instructions on the button package to complete the buttons using the circles to cover them. *Note:* The purpose of the interfacing is to give the fabric additional thickness so that the shiny metal of the button form does not show through the fabric.

25 On the right side of the scalloped back panel (the side with the fleece attached) measure in 1¾" from the center of the edge of each scallop and mark. Draw a guideline with the chalk pencil through each mark for a centered (top to the bottom of the scallop) 1¾" buttonhole that runs parallel to the edge (**figure 3**). With the buttonhole foot on the sewing machine, sew buttonholes over each guideline. Clip open the buttonholes between the two lines of stitching. Set this piece aside.

26 For the bottom back panel of the pillow, cut a rectangle from Fabric B measuring 29 × 23". If the fabric pattern is directional, have the pattern running in the correct direction along the 29" length. Fold the fabric in half with wrong sides together so that it measures 14½ × 23" and press the fold.

27 Cut a piece of fusible fleece that measures 14½ × 23". Unfold the back panel and place the fleece against the wrong side, with one edge of the fleece along the fold and the other fleece edges even with the remaining three edges. Fuse in place according to the manufacturer's instructions.

28 Fold the back panel in half again along the existing fold so that the fleece is "sandwiched" between the layers of fabric. Align the raw edges and pin in place. Stitch around the outside raw edges, about ⅜" away from the edge. Topstitch along the folded edge ¼" from the edge.

29 Position the top back panel piece on the bottom back panel piece with right sides (with fleece attached) up so that the scalloped edge of the top panel overlaps the topstitched, folded edge of the bottom panel by about 3". Make sure that your buttonholes are facing up. Pin the back panels together and measure from the top of one piece down to the other end. This piece should now measure about 23" square. If it is smaller or larger, adjust the amount of overlap between the two pieces until the correct measurement is achieved. Tack the layers together by stitching them together on each side of the overlap, about ¼" from the edge (**figure 3**).

30 Mark through the center of each buttonhole onto the lower fabric for button placement. Sew the buttons in place and then button the two sections together.

31 To add the border to the back panel, repeat Steps 5–12.

ASSEMBLE THE PILLOW COVER

32 Once the border has been added, unbutton the back panels and place the pillow front and pillow back right sides together with the outer edges even. Note that the back piece has straight edges and the front is scalloped. Pin the two pieces together.
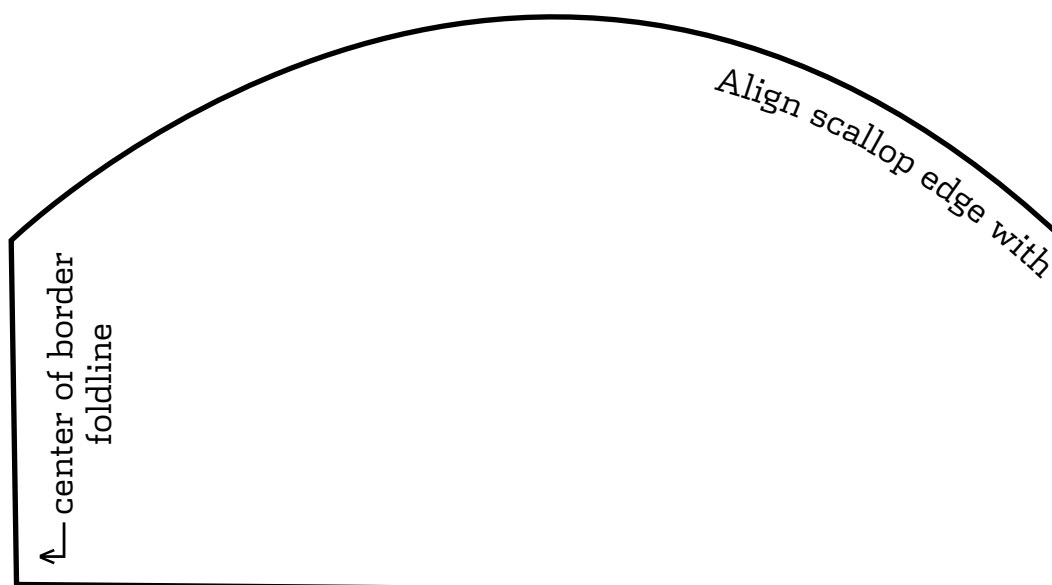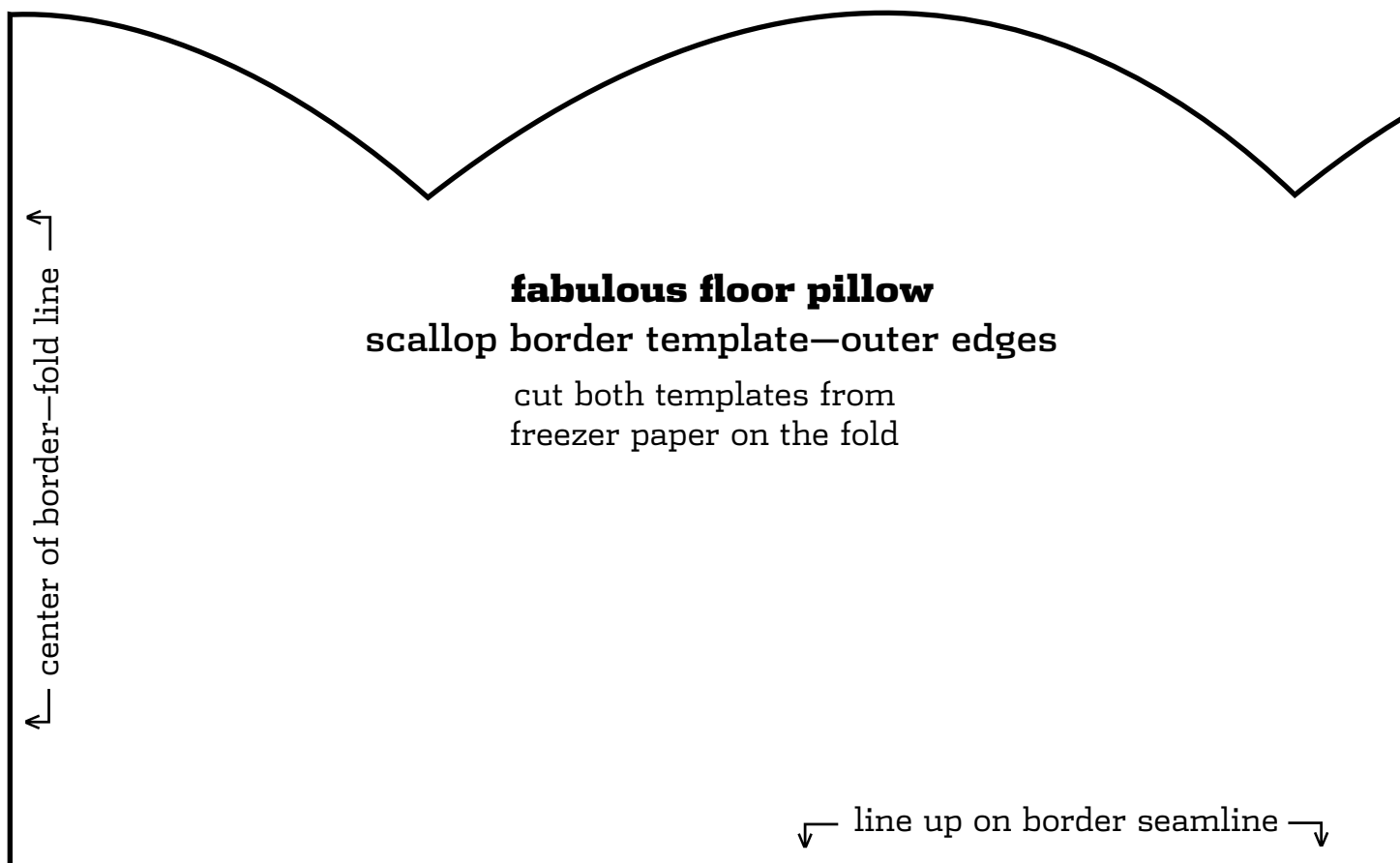
33 Using a ¼" seam allowance and with the pillow front facing up, stitch the pieces together, following the curves of the scallops. Trim away the excess fabric so that the back piece matches the curves of the front piece, then clip along the curves as in Step 21 so that the seam will lie flat.
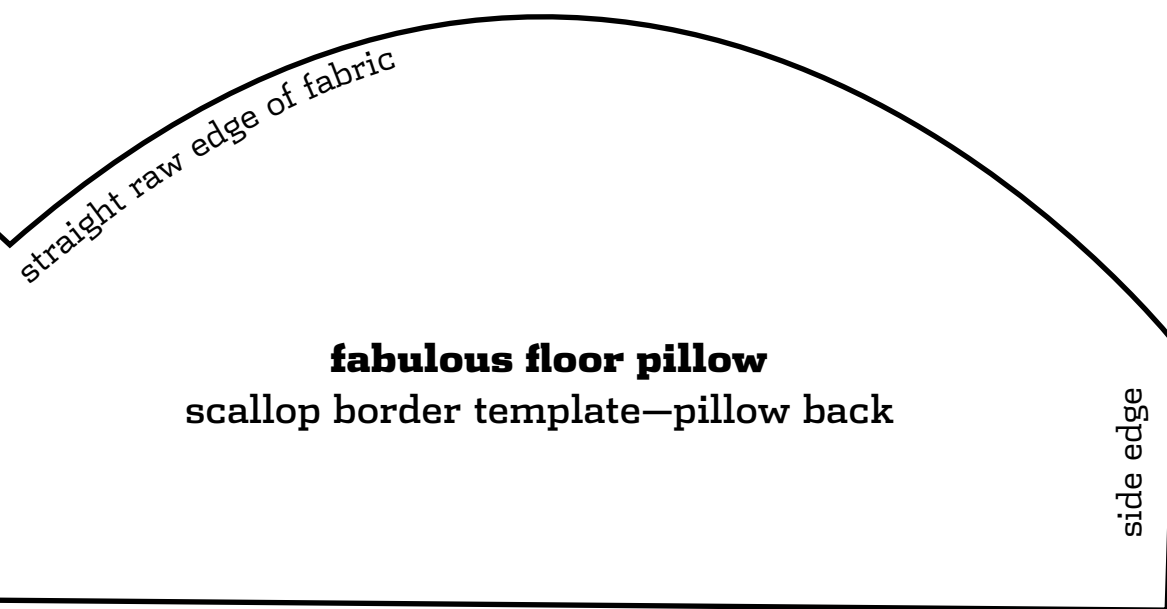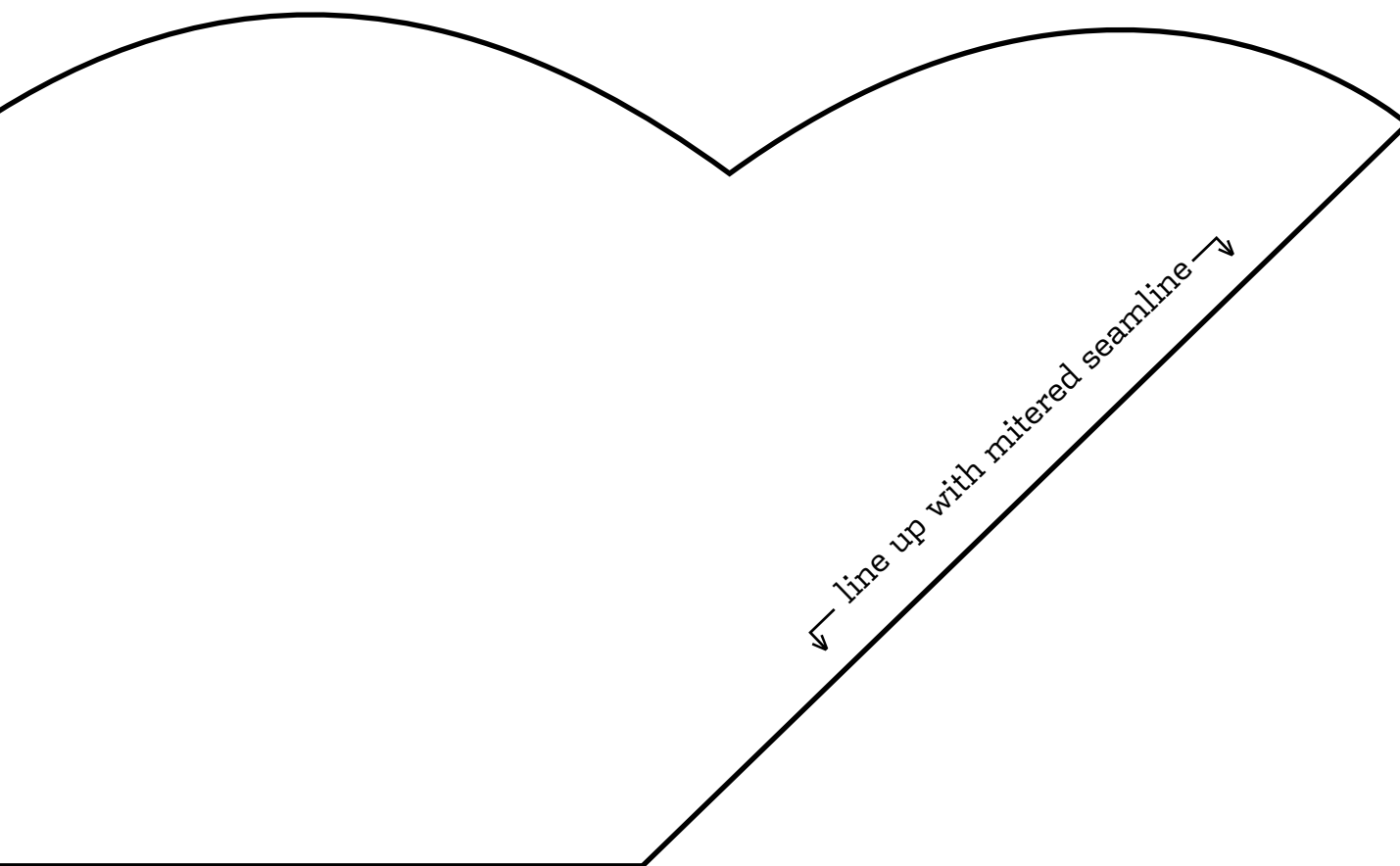
34 Turn the pillow cover right side out through the back panel opening and use your fingers to smooth out the curves. Press the pillow edges flat and smooth. Topstitch ¼" away from the finished edge, following the curves of the scallops.

35 Button the pillow cover closed and turn it over so that the front side is facing up. Pin the pillow cover together through all thicknesses along the border seam on all four sides. Topstitch on top of the border fabric about ¼" away from the seam, all the way around.

36 Unbutton the pillow cover and place the pillow insert inside. Button closed and enjoy!

KAY WHITT *launched Serendipity Gifts in 2001. Since early 2006, her company has operated as Serendipity Studio. Kay is also a licensed designer for the McCall Pattern Company. She resides in Texas with her husband, Keith, and their two birds, ET and Zeppy. Visit her at sewserendipity.com.*

fabulous floor pillow

scallop border template—outer edges

cut both templates from
freezer paper on the fold

↑— center of border—fold line —↑

⌐ line up on border seamline ⌐

center of border
foldline

Align scallop edge with

line up with mitered seamline

straight raw edge of fabric

fabulous floor pillow
scallop border template—pillow back

side edge

Fly-Away Pillow

Stenciled fabric paint and handstitching make happy red balloons on this comfy cotton-canvas pillow. Use a print for the envelope back and design your own corded piping as the final touch.

by **MELISSA FRANTZ**

FABRIC
—½ yd of brushed cotton canvas or medium-weight home decor cotton for front panel
—½ yd of coordinating print cotton for back panels
—2½ yard of 1¾" wide single-fold bias tape or 1 fat quarter (18 × 20") of coordinating cotton to make bias tape (*shown here:* 2 different cotton print fabrics to create a varied length of bias tape)

OTHER SUPPLIES
—14 × 28" pillow form
—90" of ¼" wide upholstery piping cord
—Coordinating sewing thread
—Contrasting embroidery thread
—Handsewing needle
—Balloon template (page 12)
—Fabric Paint (I used Jaquard Textile Color)
—Paintbrush (medium size)
—Freezer Paper
—X-Acto knife or paper blade
—Water-soluble fabric marker
—Zipper foot
—Rotary cutter and self-healing mat (optional)
—French curve (optional)
—Pinking shears or serger (optional)

Finished Size: 14½ × 28½"

NOTE
All seam allowances are ½" unless otherwise noted.

CUT FABRIC
1 Cut a rectangle for the front panel from the cotton canvas or home decor cotton measuring 15" long × 29" wide.

PHOTO BY JOE HANCOCK

2 With the front panel lying flat on a table in front of you, measure 2" over from one corner along the edge and mark, then measure 2" down the other edge from the same corner and mark. Repeat to mark the edges at the other three corners. Using a drinking glass or French curve as a guide, draw a curve at each corner from mark to mark to create evenly rounded edges. Cut along the curved marks.

3 Cut two rectangles for the back panels from the coordinating cotton, each measuring 15" long × 20" wide.

STENCIL BALLOONS

4 Trace the balloon bunch template from page 12 onto freezer paper, drawing on the matte (non waxy) side. Using an X-Acto knife and a cutting mat or scissors, carefully cut out each balloon, being careful not to cut into the paper connecting the balloons. On a separate piece of freezer paper, trace and cut the single balloon shape.

5 With the front panel facing right side up, place the larger stencil (waxy side down) on the front panel, positioning it about 5" from the left (short) side of the pillow and about 3" from the bottom. Using a hot dry iron, press the stencil onto the fabric for a few seconds. The wax will melt, forming a resist for the paint. Place the single balloon stencil near the opposite corner (about 6" from the right side and about 4½" from the top, or as desired) and repeat pressing.

6 Take your paintbrush and dab a light layer of paint over the stencil balloon shapes, working from the outer edge in. Let dry. You may need several light coats of paint until you are satisfied with the saturation. Let dry completely.

7 Rip away the freezer paper and heat-set the paint according to the manufacturer's specifications.

8 Outline each balloon with embroidery thread (use just one or two strands), using a small running stitch (see Stitch Glossary on SewDaily.com). Using a ruler and a fabric marker, draw in balloon "strings" extending to the edge of the fabric and embroider them using a running stitch as before. Draw a free-form balloon string from the remaining balloon (on the opposite corner), about 3" long or as desired and embroider with a running stitch as before.

ASSEMBLE PIPING AND ATTACH TO PILLOW FRONT

9 If you are using readymade bias tape, skip to Step 10. Cut 1¾" wide bias strips and sew them together end to end (placing them right sides together and sewing diagonal seams) until you have a 2½ yd length. (See Diagonal Seams for Joining Strips in Sewing Basics at SewDaily. com under Free Resources.) To achieve the look of the piping on my pillow, cut strips of varying lengths from the two different prints and stitch together. Trim the excess fabric from the seam allowances and press flat.

10 If you are using readymade bias tape, press it flat. With wrong sides together, cover the upholstery piping cord with the bias tape by placing cord in the center of the bias tape and then bringing the raw edges together, enclosing the cord inside the bias tape. Pin along the length as you go to secure. Stitch the piping closed, about ⅛" from the raw edge.

11 With the right side of the pillow front facing up, pin the raw edge of the piping to the raw edge of the pillow front.

12 Pin the beginning and the end of the piping overlapping at a 45° angle (**figure 1**). Baste the piping to the pillow front ⅛" from the raw edge. Remove the pins.

ASSEMBLE PILLOW BACK

13 With the wrong sides facing up, lay both back panel pieces side by side with short sides together. Fold each center edge over ½", then fold over again 1" and pin. Topstitch about ⅛" from the top of each fold, then topstitch again, about ⅛" from the outer edges, creating one finished center edge on each panel.

figure 1
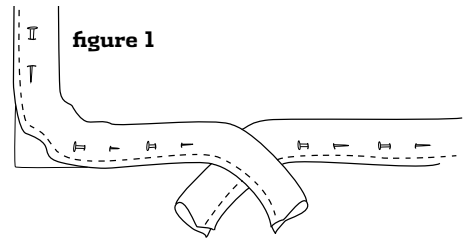
14 With the right sides facing up, overlap the center edges of each panel so that they create a finished back panel measuring 29" wide. Pin the panels together using two or three pins down the center.

ASSEMBLE COMPLETE PILLOW

15 With the right sides facing, pin the front and back panels together, taking care to make sure that the piping is still flipped inside and sandwiched between the two panels. You may have to stretch the front panel slightly as you pin because the piping may have pulled it some.

16 Using a zipper foot, position the needle as close to the piping as you are able and stitch around the entire perimeter. It will make a seam allowance that is about ½" wide. Trim the corner edges of the seam allowances on the back panels to match the curves on the front panel. Pink or serge the seam allowances or use the zigzag stitch on your sewing machine to finish the edges. Carefully remove all pins.

17 Turn the pillow case right side out through the overlapped back panels and stuff with the pillow form.

MELISSA FRANTZ *lives and sews in Portland, Oregon, with her partner and three boys. You can find her at allbuttonedup.typepad.com.*

Balloon bunch template

Single balloon shape
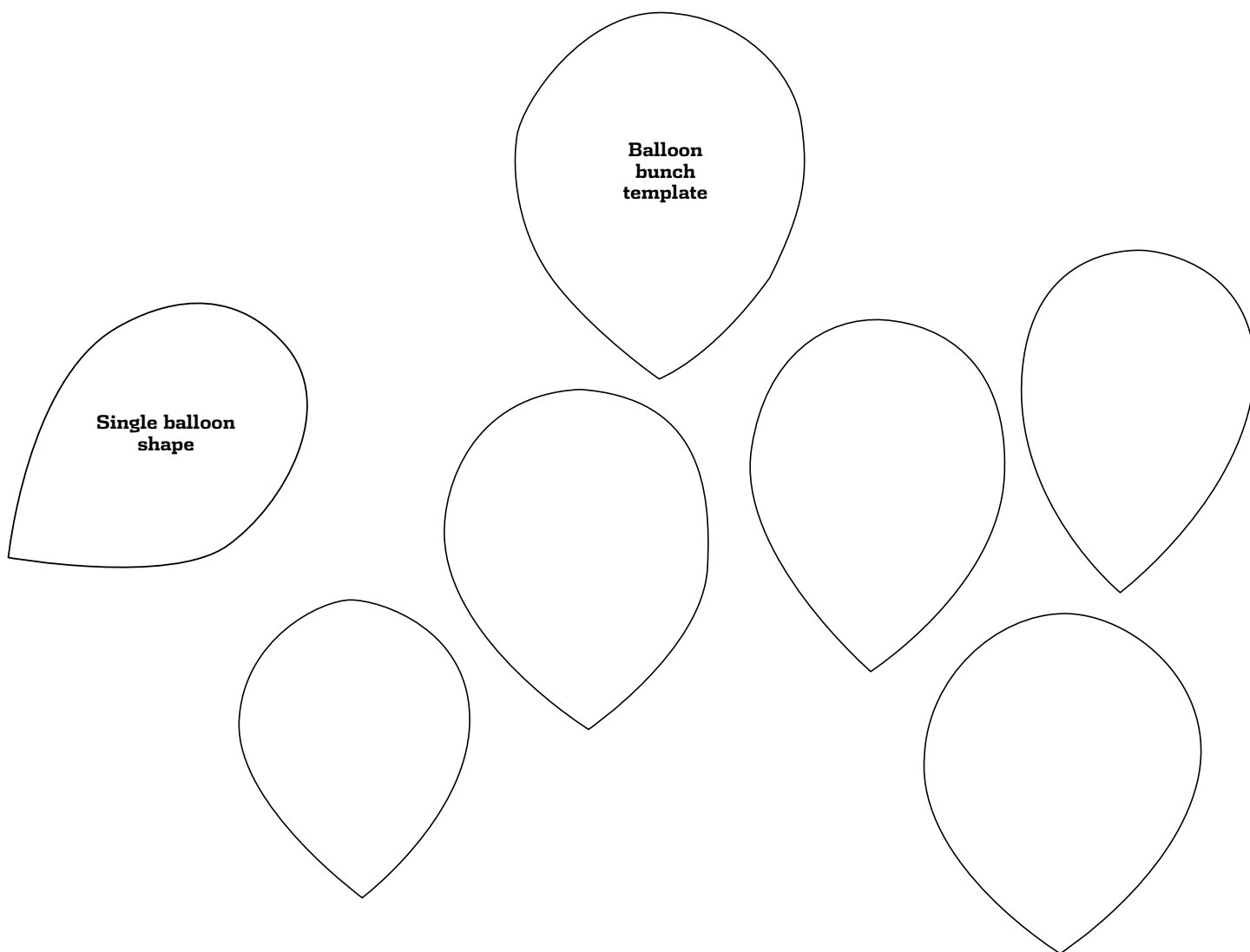
Chrysanthemum Pillow

Create instant elegance with an Asian-inspired silk pillow featuring a ruffled flower centerpiece. Use gathered lengths of ribbon yarn to create spiral ruffles and luxurious texture, then add a contrasting fabric on the pillow back for a tie closure.

by **TRICIA WADDELL**

FABRIC
—1 yd of douppioni silk
—½ yd of douppioni silk in a contrasting color

OTHER SUPPLIES
—55 yd of 1" wide ribbon or ribbon yarn (shown here: Trendsetter Yarns Cha Cha [47% wool, 47% acrylic, 6% polyamide]; 66 yd; 1 skein)
—All-purpose thread to match main fabric
—19" square pillow form
—Handsewing needle
—Tailor's chalk or fabric pencil
—Point turner

NOTES
—All seam allowances are ½" unless otherwise noted.
—Adjust the tension on your machine for sewing on lightweight silk to avoid puckering. Practice on a fabric scrap before starting the project.

Finished Size: 19 × 19"

CUT OUT FABRIC
1 Cut one 20½" square (pillow front), one 12½ × 20½" piece (pillow back A), and one 9 × 20½" piece (pillow back B) from the main fabric.

2 Cut one 16 × 20½" piece (pillow back C) from the contrasting fabric.

3 Cut two 7½ × 2" pieces from the main fabric for ties.

CREATE FLOWER RUFFLE
4 Cut the ribbon into manageable strips (around 60" each). With your handsewing needle and thread, baste (see Stitch Glossary in Sewing

PHOTO BY JOE HANCOCK

Basics, see bottom of page 13) one of the ribbon strips along the length, ½" from one edge. When you get to the end of the strip, pull the thread to gather the ribbon in a loose ruffle, then secure the thread. Repeat basting and gathering for all the remaining ribbon strips; set aside.

5 Using tailor's chalk or fabric pencil, mark a 13½" diameter circle (I used a round charger plate as a guide) on the right side of your pillow front fabric square. This will be the outer edge of your flower.

6 Take a gathered ribbon strip and pin it all along the edge of the circle, once around, placing the non-gathered edge of the ribbon along the circle line. Leave any remaining ribbon strip unpinned until you have sewn around the circle once. Topstitch along the ribbon ¼" from the gathered edge. As soon as you have made your way around the circle once, continue to pin the remaining length of the ribbon strip, spiraling in and layering the ribbon as you go, then stitch it in place. Be sure to place each new layer of ribbon so that it overlaps the layer before it and none of the fabric shows through between the layers. Continue adding ribbon strips in a layered spiral until you have a 3" diameter center fabric circle remaining.

7 To create the center of the flower, take a gathered ribbon strip and coil the strip in a continuous circle around itself to form a rosette that is wide enough to fill the center circle of the flower. Baste the base of the rosette to keep it coiled. Whipstitch (see Stitch Glossary in Sewing Basics) the rosette in place in the center of your flower.

8 Check to make sure all your flower ruffles are secure by running your hands through the ruffles. Handstitch any areas that are not fully stitched down.

PREPARE PILLOW BACK PIECES

9 Fold pillow back C in half lengthwise (wrong sides together) so that you have a piece measuring 8 × 20½". Pin the folded piece (the side where the two raw edges meet) to pillow back B along the 20½" lengths, right sides together. Stitch along the pinned edge through all three layers. Use the zigzag stitch on your sewing machine to stitch along the seam allowances (held together), close to their seamline, to minimize fraying. Trim the seam allowances to reduce bulk and press all seam allowances to one side.

10 With right side facing up and the contrasting fabric (pillow back C) on the right, topstitch (see Stitch Glossary in Sewing Basics) along the seam on the main fabric (pillow back B), 1" to the left of the seam.

11 Using pillow back A, fold the 12½" side under 4" and press. Zigzag stitch along the raw edge of the folded-under edge to minimize fraying. With right side facing up, topstitch 1" in from the fold along the 12½" length.

CREATE TIES

12 To create ties, take one of the 7½ × 2" pieces and fold it in half lengthwise, right sides together, so you have a 1" wide strip.

13 Machine stitch along one short edge and the long edge with a ⅛" seam allowance, leaving the other short edge unstitched. Clip the corners. Use a point turner to turn the tie right side out and poke out the corners.

14 Repeat Steps 12 and 13 for the second tie. On the large pillow back piece (B and C seamed together), pin a tie in the center of the piece 9¾" from either end, with the open edge of the tie lined up along the inside of the topstitching and the rest of the tie lying toward the contrasting fabric. Fold in the edges of the short edge of the tie and topstitch a rectangle (about ⅝ × ⅞", keeping the stitching ⅛" from the edge) along the edge of the tie, securing the tie to the back piece.

15 Repeat Step 14 to attach the second tie to the remaining pillow back piece, attaching the tie along the topstitched line. The long end of the tie will be facing toward the fabric fold (hanging off the pillow back piece).

ASSEMBLE PILLOW

16 Place the pillow front on the table right side up. Place the smaller pillow back piece on top of the pillow front, right sides together, and matching up the raw edges so that the tie is facing toward the middle of the pillow; pin the raw edges together. With right sides together, place the larger pillow back piece with the contrasting fabric in place on the opposite side of the pillow front so that it overlaps the other pillow back by about 4". Again, match up the raw edges so that the tie is facing toward the middle of the pillow and pin in place.

17 Machine stitch around the perimeter of the pillow. Zigzag stitch the seam allowances to minimize fraying.

18 Turn the finished pillow cover right side out through the back panels. Insert the pillow form and tie the ties in a simple knot.

RESOURCES Trendsetter Yarns Cha Cha ribbon yarn can be found at your local yarn store or trendsetteryarns.com.

TRICIA WADDELL *is the former editor of* **Stitch**. *When she's not working, she spends her time making stuff.*

Cute-as-a-Button Pillow

Layer small coordinating buttons for a modern detail that turns a plain linen pillow into a stylish room accent. Add simple knife pleats and a tea-dyed background for the buttons and then stuff it with 100% cotton filling.

by **TRICIA WADDELL**

FABRIC
—¾ yd of medium-weight linen for main pillow fabric
—½ yd of medium-weight linen in a contrasting color

OTHER SUPPLIES
—Various buttons in coordinating shades (scrapbooking stores are a great place to find packs of small coordinating buttons)
—All-purpose thread to match main fabric
—100% cotton stuffing
—Clear acrylic ruler
—Tailor's chalk or fabric pencil
—10" diameter embroidery hoop (optional)
—Handsewing needle
—Pressing cloth

Finished Size: 11 × 18"

NOTES
—All seam allowances are ½" unless otherwise noted.
—Can't find the perfect natural shade of linen? Try tea dyeing. Brew two cups of tea, let the tea steep for a couple of minutes, then soak a piece of white linen in it for 5 to 10 minutes. Ta da! The perfect sepia-toned shade of linen to match the buttons. Try the same idea with fruity herbal teas for varying colors.

FOR EXPLANATIONS OF TERMS + TECHNIQUES USED CLICK HERE FOR OUR SEWING BASICS ONLINE

PHOTO BY JOE HANCOCK

CUT OUT FABRIC

1 Cut a 12 × 34½" piece from the main fabric for the pillow front. Cut a 12 × 19" piece from the main fabric for the pillow back.

CREATE BUTTON DETAIL

2 Using the clear acrylic ruler, mark a 5¾ × 7¾" rectangle on the contrasting fabric with a fabric pencil (do not mark this along the edge of the fabric; leave enough fabric around the rectangle to secure the fabric in the 10" embroidery hoop). Along one short side, mark a line ½" inside the rectangle (running all the way along and parallel to the edge. On the remaining three sides, mark a line ¼" inside the rectangle as before. These are your seam allowances.

3 To make it easier to sew on all the buttons, put the contrasting fabric in an embroidery hoop with the drawn rectangle evenly centered. Be careful not to pull the fabric too tightly in the hoop to avoid puckering.

4 With a handsewing needle and thread, begin sewing your buttons in the center of the rectangle, keeping them at least ½" away from the seam allowance lines. Layer the buttons as you go, randomly distributing button sizes and colors.

5 When you are finished sewing buttons, cut the fabric to the size of the outside rectangle markings. Fold under the three ¼" seam allowances and press. Set aside.

CREATE KNIFE PLEATS

6 Place your larger pillow front fabric right side up, and starting from one short end, mark a line 1½" from the edge (running all the way along and parallel to the short edge).
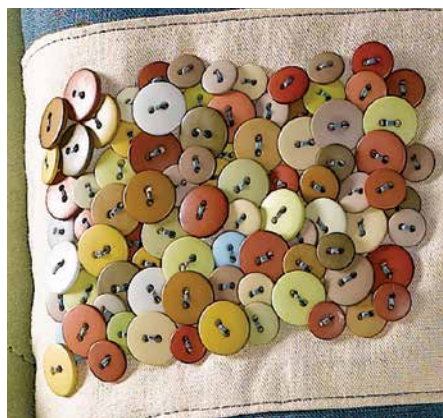
Mark 22 more lines, each 1" apart. These will determine the size and position of your pleats.

7 Beginning at the second line (toward the middle of the fabric piece), fold the fabric over (with right sides together) along the line and finger press, then fold it back over (with wrong sides together) along the next line (**figure 1**); secure with pins at the top, middle, and bottom of the fold. To make the next pleat, skip a line and fold the fabric over along the next line, then fold it back over along the next line (don't skip one this time); this will place the edge of your next fold along the line previously skipped so that there is 1" between the first two pleats (**figure 2**). Continue creating these "accordion" folds in the same manner, pinning at the top, middle, and bottom of each fold to secure as you go. Continue folding pleats until you have 1" left at the end. Using a pressing cloth, iron the pleated folds in place.

8 Baste (see Stitch Glossary in Sewing Basics at SewDaily.com) ¼" from the top and bottom edges of the pillow front to secure the pleats in place.

9 With a handsewing needle and thread, tack the pleats at three evenly spaced points along each pleat to hold it in place. To tack, pick up a few threads on the underside of a pleat near the edge but far enough back to remain hidden, then pick up a few threads on the top of the opposite pleat (make sure it will still be hidden under the top pleat). Keeping the stitch slightly loose, pick up a few threads on the underside of the top pleat again, then tie off and use the needle to thread the tail through the pleat for a short distance. Bring the needle out and cut the thread against the pleat so that the tail will retreat into the fabric with a gentle tug.

ASSEMBLE PILLOW

10 On the pillow front piece (with right side facing), pin the button detail (right side up) opposite the pleated side, centering the ½" seam allowance side of the detail on the short side of the pillow front and lining up the raw edges. Make sure the ¼" seam allowances on the button detail piece are still folded under and then topstitch (see Stitch Glossary) ⅛" from the edge on all three sides, turning at the corners without lifting the needle for a continuous stitch line.
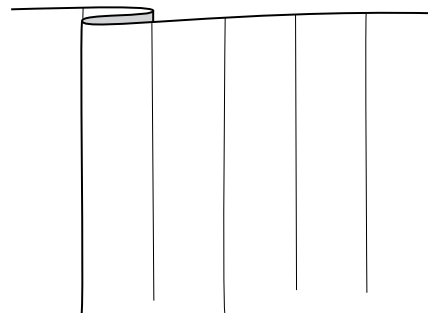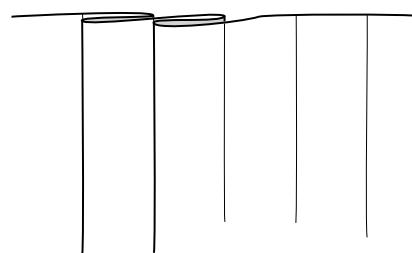

figure 1

figure 2

11 Place the pillow back fabric piece on top of the pillow front, right sides facing. Pin and then stitch around three sides of the pillow, leaving the short side with the button detail open. Clip the corners by cutting a triangle into the seam allowances at each corner with the point of the triangles pointing toward the seam; be careful not to cut through the seam or cut so closely that the fabric will fray through the seam. Turn right side out through the opening.

12 Stuff the pillow with cotton stuffing. Be careful not to overstuff so you don't distort the pleats.

13 Fold in the remaining ½" seam allowances and handstitch the pillow closed using a slip stitch (see Stitch Glossary).

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