



## Handmade Throw Pillows



### **Creating a Handmade Throw Pillow**

Because even a handmade throw pillow can get dirty, these instructions are designed to make a cover that will slip on and off to accommodate washing.

Keep in mind – cotton is usually machine washable. Other fabrics may need special care. A true linen will need to be hand-washed in warm water and a mild detergent. Leather requires special cleaners, and fur or faux fur will need to be dry cleaned. Take this into consideration before creating your handmade throw pillow.

For these directions, I will use the 18” pillow form that I had on hand to create the one in the photo. However – if you use a smaller or larger form, you will have to make adjustments accordingly.

### **Supplies:**

- 1 yard (or more) fabric (I used a linen blend)
- Ruler
- Scissors
- Straight pins
- Coordinating Thread
- 18” Pillow Form

## Optional Supplies

- Self-healing cutting mat
- Rotary Cutter
- Any embellishments you choose to use (embroidery supplies, ribbons, buttons, etc.)

## Directions:

Front: Cut one piece of fabric 19" x 19". At this time, add any embellishments you choose. Set aside.

Back: Cut two pieces of fabric 19" high x 12.5" in length. On one short side, fold your fabric in 1/2", and press. Fold over again 1/2" and press. Sew in place close to the edge. Repeat this process with the second piece of 19"x 12.5" fabric. Your finished pieces should be 19" x 11.5".

On your workspace, place your pillow front face up. Line the first back piece face down along the top, bottom and one side. Use a straight pin or two to hold in place. Repeat this process with the second pillow back, pinning to the opposite side of the pillow front.

These two pieces will overlap each other by roughly 2". Pin the front to the back securely to keep from slipping.

Sew a 1/2" seam around all four sides. Using the opening created by overlapping the back, turn your handmade throw pillow right side out.

Gently insert the pillow form. Using your hands, gently tug until the pillow form fits smoothly.

**Note:** If your pillow form is a bit bulky, you can easily adjust the length of the back panels to make sure the closure works properly. To make certain of this, lay your back panels across the pillow form, leaving your outside 1/2" seam allowance draping off the sides. Check to make sure the overlap allows for a smooth closure.

## **A Bonus Handmade Pillow Idea!**

I love playing with fabric. While searching in my stash for fabrics, I came across some pieces of Homespun that I thought would be perfect for a handmade throw pillow.

Alas – not one of the pieces were large enough to accommodate the front and back of an 18” form.

But little glitches like that never stop me. I took three of the prints. One was large enough for the back pieces, plus a section of the front. So, I did this:

- Cut 3 strips 19” long x 7” wide.
- Sew the strips together using 1/2” seams. This should create a 19” square
- Cut the back pieces 19” high x 12.5” long.
- Continue with the assembly directions above



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