

Ann Kelle

DIY MONOGRAM PILLOWS



By: Anna Joy Pham

Before you start, please read all of the instructions before you begin. Some previous basic sewing knowledge will be required to construct this case. Seam allowance is 1/4". Always backstitch when starting and finishing a stitch.

MATERIALS



ZIPPER PILLOW

FINISHED SIZE: 18"X18"

- 1 - 18.5"x18.5" for background (I used white kona)
- 1 - 16"x16" for initial (I used fuschia kona)
- 36 - 3.5"x3.5" squares for back (I used a mix of Ann Kelle's New Remix print mixed with kona solids)
- 2 - 19"x19" batting (I used Warm & White)
- 2 - 19"x19" broadcloth or muslin

FINISHED SIZE: 12"x12"

- 1 - 12.5"x12.5" for background (I used white kona)
- 1 - 10"x10" for initial (I used fuschia kona)
- 36 - 2.5"x2.5" squares for back (I used a mix of Ann Kelle's New Remix print mixed with kona solids)
- 1 - 13"x13" batting (I used Warm & White)
- 1 - 13"x13" broadcloth or muslin

Other Materials (for both pillows)

- Pellon 805R Wonder-Under
- White thread (I used Gutterman)
- 20" invisible zipper for 18"x18" pillow or 12" for 12"x12" pillow
- Initial letter (template included)

- Zipper Foot
- Walking Foot
- 1/4" Foot
- Straight Pins/Safety Pins



BINDING PILLOW

FINISHED SIZE: 18"X18"

- 1 - 18.5"x18.5" for background (I used white kona)
- 1 - 16"x16" for initial (I used light blue kona)
- 12 - 3.5"x3.5" squares for back (I used a mix of Ann Kelle's New Remix print mixed with kona solids)
- 2 - 6.5"x12.5" strip (I used white kona)
- 1 - 2.5"x12.5" strip (I used white kona)
- 1 - 19"x19" batting (I used Warm & White)
- 1 - 19"x19" broadcloth or muslin
- 1 - 84"x2.5" strip for binding (I used Ann Kelle's New Remix)

FINISHED SIZE: 12"x12"

- 1 - 12.5"x12.5" for background (I used white kona)
- 1 - 11"x11" for initial (I used light blue kona)
- 12 - 2.5"x2.5" squares for back (I used a mix of Ann Kelle's New Remix print mixed with kona solids)
- 2 - 4.5"x12.5" "big" strip (I used white kona)
- 1 - 1.5"x12.5" "small" strip (I used white kona)
- 1 - 13"x13" batting (I used Warm & White)
- 1 - 13"x13" broadcloth or muslin
- 1 - 84"x2.5" strip for binding (I used Ann Kelle's New Remix)

TEMPLATES

There are two letter template PDFs that you can use to make your initials: A 15 inch one and a 10 inch one. If you are wanting to use the 15 inch one, save the PDF on a flash drive and take it to your local print shop. They can print it on big paper for you. The 10 inch template should print fine from your home printer. Just figure out which letter you want and print out that page number.

PATCHWORK



1. Layout your patchwork squares in the order you want them to be in. There will be 6 squares in each column and row.

2. Now place them right sides together. Starting with row 1, take the second square from the left, turn it upside down, and place it on top of the first square from the left. Repeat with the fourth square to the third square and then the sixth square to the fifth square. Then do the same thing to all the rows.

3. Take the first squares that are together in the first row. Using a $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam (either with a $\frac{1}{4}$ " foot or a walking foot), sew a straight line down the right side. Lift the foot, cut the thread, and you should have two squares sewn together! Repeat for all the squares.



4. When you have all the squares pieced together for each row, press the seams open.
5. Now it's time to piece the rows together. Doing the same thing we did with the squares, we are going to put the rows right side together. I like to take the bottom row and place it on top of the top row and so on. Using straight pins, pin the seams together which will help prevent the fabric from shifting around while being sewn together which causes the seams not to line up.
6. Do this to all the rows. Then press the seams open and you should have a complete patchwork square. Place it on your cutting mat and square it up, meaning cut off any excess fabric that might've occurred during the sewing process. Your square should be 18.5"x18.5"

APPLIQUE



1. Print out the letter that you want to use with the template provided. Take your roll of Wonder Under, trace the letter (the letter will be backwards), and then iron it on the fabric you are using for your initial.
2. Let it cool for about 30 minutes and then cut out your letter. Place it in the middle of your background fabric and iron it on. Should stay on immediately when it comes in contact heat.



3. Place your broadcloth/muslin on the bottom, your batting in the middle, and then your initial piece on top.



4. Baste the initial pieces together so they won't shift when you are appliqueing. You will want to sew as close to the edge as possible. I like to use a regular straight stitch for my appliques because of the clean look it gives. This is what my settings are on the sewing machine and I use a walking foot.



5. I use the left side of the foot because I can see the outline better when I'm sewing. Go slowly when rounding a curve.



6. You should have nice, straight stitches that are as close to the edge as you can get when you are done.

MEANDERING QUILTING



1. Don't be intimidated by meandering/stippling quilting. It does take practice to achieve the flawless look but that just means you should practice now! Before you start on the quilt itself, you should practice on paper and then on a scrap piece of fabric with batting. It takes time to figure out how fast you need to move your fabric and how fast you need the needle to go. Both should work in harmony to get nice stitches. As I said, it takes practice. And all those scraps of quilted fabrics would work well as pot holders or mug rugs!

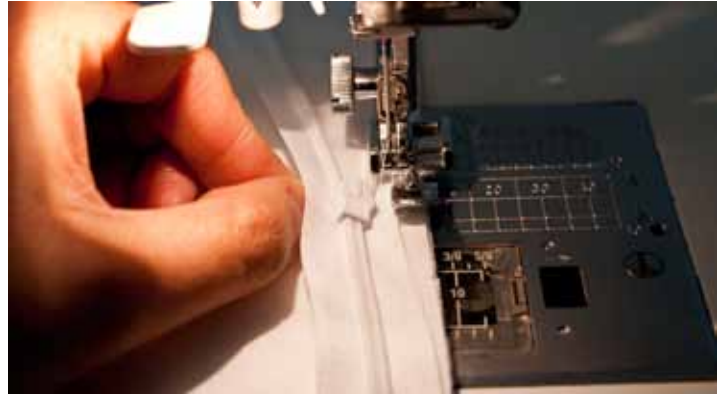
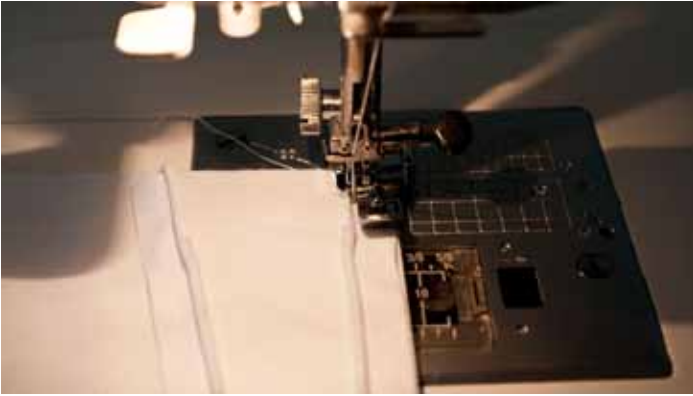


2. When you feel comfortable to start, baste your patchwork together with the batting and broadcloth/muslin. You'll need to lower your feed dogs on your machine (follow your manufacturer's instructions) and use a free motion quilting foot. This is what my settings look like when I quilt.

3. When you first start, place your needle down at your starting point. I like to start at the top right corner. Sew a couple of stitches over the same spot, kind of like back stitching, then start quilting.

4. I like to start at the top right corner, work my way down on the right side, turn it 90 degrees, work it down, turn it again and keep working it until it reaches back to my starting point. Take out your safety pins as you quilt. Sew over your finish spot a couple of times and then cut the threads.

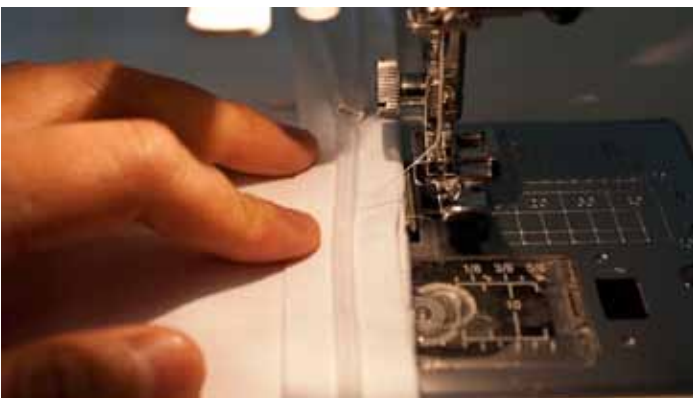
ZIPPERS



1. Don't be scared of zippers! They are actually super easy. Take your zipper and lay it right side together with your initial pillow piece. You'll want the "right side" of the zipper to be sewn down first. Align the top part of the zipper with the top part of the pillow piece. If you're using a zipper longer than your pillow piece, let it tail off at the end. We will cut it off. Pin it down so it'll stay secure.

2. To sew, you will need a zipper foot. Zip your zipper down towards the middle. Start sewing from the top, slowly. You'll want the stitches to be just right below the teeth of the zipper.

3. When you get to the zipper, about an inch away, stop. Lift the foot up, gently pull the whole piece away from the foot, and then zip the zipper past the foot. Then put the whole piece back under the foot and continue sewing to the end.



4. You will repeat the other side to the pillow bottom piece. Make sure your zipper and your patchwork pillow piece are right side together.



PUTTING IT TOGETHER

(ZIPPER PILLOW)



1. Time to finish your pillow. Put the two pieces right sides together and pin it down. Leave the zipper zipped down towards the middle. Using a walking foot, sew all around except for the side with the zipper.

2. When done, clip your corners.



3. You'll want to finish your seams. I like to zig zag stitch all my seams because I don't have a serger. For your settings, you want your zig zags to be long and kind of close together. Find the best preference for you. Zig zag all the sides and then down one side of the zipper and then the other side of the zipper.



4. Turn your pillow inside out. Using the eraser point of a pencil, I push all my corners out. Fill your cover with a pillow form and you're done!

PIECEING THE BACKSIDE

(BINDING PILLOW)



1. Take your Ann Kelle and solid color squares and sew them together. (To know how to sew the squares together, please refer to the instructions under "Patchwork"). It's six squares in a row, two rows together.
2. Take one big and one small solid color strip and piece them on each side of the patchwork rows (like in the picture).



3. After all the pieces are piece and pressed, you will top stitch the seams down. Using a walking foot, I placed the needle where my 1/4" seam is. But instead of sewing 1/4" away from the seam, I wanted it to be closer so I aligned it with the inner part of my foot. This allowed my stitch to be closer which I like.



4. Next, we need to finish the seam on one side of the piece. While using your fingers, finger press the side down 1/4". It doesn't have to be exact or precise but make sure it looks consistent all the way through. Fold the side over 1/4" again and use your finger to press it down. Then take your iron and press it so that is crisp and won't unfold easily.

5. You'll repeat this same step to the second big solid fabric piece that will be used for your backside.



6. Then you'll top stitch the folded edges down.

7. Take the initial pillow piece and place it facing down. Then take the solid fabric backside piece, facing up, and align it with the right side of the initial pillow piece. Take the patchwork row backside piece and place that on top of the other two pieces and align it with the other side. Then pin all around. (Use picture for reference).



8. Using a walking foot, sew all the way around.

MAKING THE BINDING



1. Take your two fabric strips that you will be using for binding and place them together like in the picture. If you need, make a diagonal mark from top left to bottom right. Sew on top of that line.

2. Cut the extra piece off, leaving a 1/4" seam. Use your straight edge and rotary blade to do this rather than scissors.



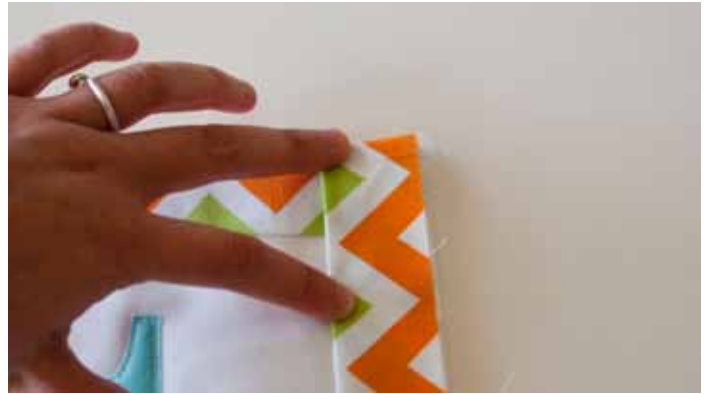
3. Press the seam open. Then fold the strip in half and press it with an iron. This is your binding.

PIECING THE BINDING



1. Place the binding on a side of your pillow. The beginning of the binding is about 2 inches away from the top of the pillow.

2. You're going to leave about a 4 inch tail. We're going to call this the right tail. Start sewing about 2 inches away from the bottom and then stop about 1/4" away from the end.



3. Flip all of the binding up to create a diagonal fold. Finger press.

4. Flip it all back down so that it aligns with the next side that needs to be sewn. Finger press.



5. Start sewing again about a 1/4" from the top. Repeat these steps for every corner you get to.

6. When you get back to the side you started on, sew about an inch down, backstitch, and stop.



7. You're going to trim the binding (we'll call this the left tail) to stop at where you had first began sewing on the binding.

8. Open up the right tail at the beginning.



9. You're going to fold it to where the end of the tail is showing about 1/2" on the side of the pillow. It'll make a diagonal crease. Finger press that dress.

10. Then fold the right tail back in half. The diagonal will get folded up with it. Finger press the crease.



11. Take the left tail and place it inbetween the right tail.

12. Now open up the left tail and the right tail together. Have a steady hand because we don't want the fabrics to shift around too much.



13. Now keeping with a steady hand, pull the two tails up. On the right tail, you should see the diagonal line where we finger pressed. Pin the two tails together there.



14. Sew down the diagonal line. Cut the extra pieces off, leaving a 1/4" seam. Press the seam open and then press the binding back in half. You've connected the ends of the binding together! Now finish sewing the binding around the pillow.



15. Flip the pillow over to the backside. Now start turning the binding over to the back side and pinning it down. Go all the way around the pillow until it's all pinned down.



16. When you get to the corners, turn the pillow onto the other side, then fold down the binding to where the corner makes a diagonal.



17. For my settings, I used a walking foot and wanted my needle towards the middle but more towards the left. I used the right part of my foot to guide me down the seam. Play around with your settings until you can get the needle to come down right next to the seam, not on top of it or too far away from it.

18. You're going to sew on top of the front of your pillow. Take the pins out as you slowly sew up to them. Sew all the way around the pillow.



When you're done, check the back side of your pillow to make sure the binding got sewn down. If there are some gaps, go over them until they are sewn down. You're done!



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