

A Case for a Cause – Pillowcase Project Directions

Here are some easy directions for sewing a pillowcase. You can also find directions on web. Just search for “hot dog sewing method”. If you choose to use an alternative pattern, please use the basic fabric amounts and dimensions provided below.

Fabric

7/8 yard 100% cotton (**no flannel**) for the pillowcase body
1/4 yard 100% cotton for the border

Cut Your Fabric

42 x 31.5” (or 7/8 yard) for the body
42 x 9” for the border



Assembly

You can use any method you like to sew your pillowcase, however, using the “hot dog” method and “French seams” hides the seams and eliminates all raw edges. Check out this video for quick and easy instructions for making a standard size pillowcase with French seams: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TAomYjHzUQk>

Otherwise, use a serger, zig zag stitch or pinking shears to prevent raveling. You can watch this video from Missouri Star Quilts: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3mXaYrSMk8c> for a pillowcase without French seams.

Hot Dog Method

- Lay your border strip right side up.
- Put your pillowcase body piece on top of the border wrong side up facing you. The two right sides of the fabric will be facing each other.
- Pin these 2 pieces together at the top.
- Roll up the body fabric tightly to about 2 inches from the pinned top.
- Wrap the bottom of the border strip up and over the rolled “hotdog” to meet the top edge.
- You should have the wrong side of the border strip facing you.
- Re-pin the 3 edges together. You have now formed the “bun”.
- Sew with a 1/2 inch seam.
- Reach inside and gently pull the rolled body of the pillowcase out.
- Your border is now attached to the pillowcase body with all raw edges enclosed.
- Press the border.
- To finish the pillowcase using French Seams, fold the pillowcase with wrong sides together and stitch a 1/4 inch side seam.
- Press.
- Turn the pillowcase inside out so that the right sides are together and stitch a 3/8 inch seam encasing the previous seam.
- Press.

- Repeat this same process for the bottom seam making sure your corners are squared before you see the 3/8" seam.

Your pillowcase is now complete! You do not need to wash the pillowcase, but please put it in a 1-gallon sealable plastic bag.

Be creative

Consider making a pillowcase for an adult or child, male or female. You can insert a bit of lace, rickrack, piping or even a flange (a 2 x 42" strip of accent fabric) into the seam between the right side of the border and wrong side of the body of the pillowcase. You could also applique pieces of decorative fabric along the accent piece of the pillowcase. Avoid embellishments that would be uncomfortable to lay your head on or might snag long hair. Smooth, soft surfaces are desired.

Judges Criteria

Your judge will be asked to evaluate the pillowcase on the following characteristics:

- ✓ Basic construction techniques (straight seams, for example)
- ✓ Visual appeal (colorful, fun for example)
- ✓ Durable fabric
- ✓ Fits Standard 20"W x 30"L, or Queen 20"W x 34"L size pillow
- ✓ Finished seams (so they don't ravel)

*This contest was adapted from a project of the
DuPage County Fair
Wheaton, IL*