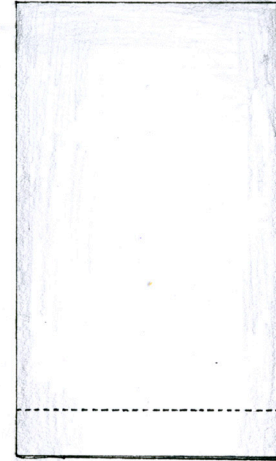




# Basic Pillowcase

## Introduction

This basic pillowcase is a good project to practice your straight stitching. It will be finished with a French seam along the side and a hem at the bottom. It fits a standard or a queen-sized pillow.



## Tools, Supplies & Materials

### Tools & Equipment

- Sewing machine
- Steam iron & ironing board
- Rotary Cutter\*, cutting mat\* & rotary cutting ruler\*
- Straight pins
- 4" Sewing scissors\*
- Marking pencil or chalk marker\*

### Fabric & Notions

Use light-to medium-weight cotton fabric, satin or flannel.

- 1 yard 44-45"-wide fabric
- Thread to match fabric



Right side of fabric



Wrong side of fabric

## Instructions

### Cutting Out

- Use a rotary cutting system or make a paper pattern piece to cut the rectangle of fabric 42" x 34<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>".

**Tip:** If you don't have a big enough mat to cut your pillowcase rectangle flat, just fold it. Place the selvages together and fold in half; then fold it in half the other way. The rotary cutter will easily cut through all layers

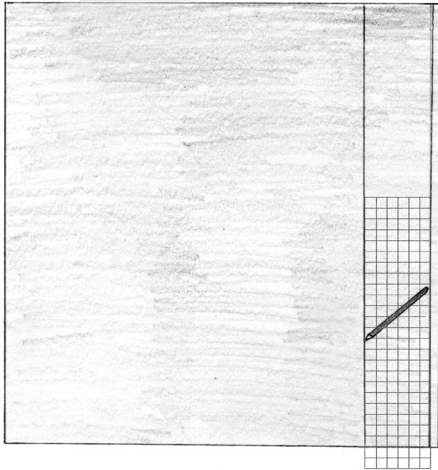
of fabric. Straighten the raw edges. Cut the length at 17<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>". (Unfolded it will be 34<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>".)

Cut the width at 21" (unfolded it will be 42"). Some flannel fabrics are not quite that wide. Pillowcases have a little extra room, so just trim off the selvages and use the full width of the fabric if it is a little less than 42".

\* See Sewing Suppliers List at end of document.

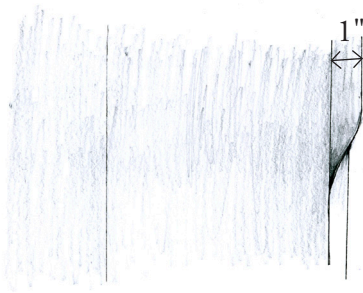
## Mark the Hem

- Unfold the fabric. Lay it on a flat surface with the wrong side up. Using a fabric marking pen or pencil and rotary cutting ruler, mark a line 1" from one 42" edge. Then mark a second line 6" from the first line.

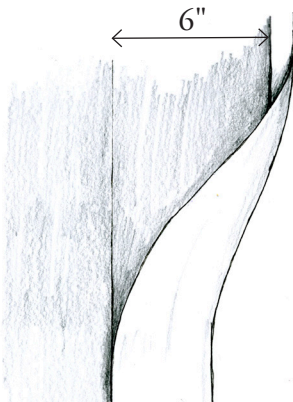


## Pressing & Sewing

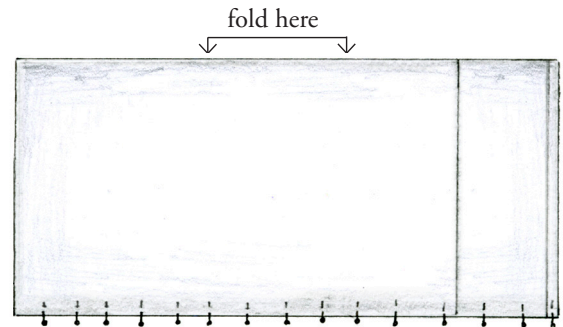
- With the wrong side of the fabric facing up, bring the cut edge to the 1" line and press.



- Bring the folded edge to the 6" line. Press.



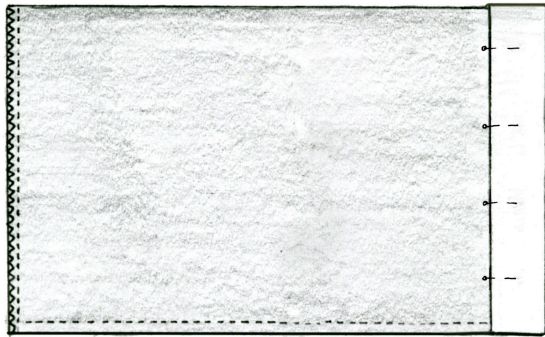
- The side seam will be a French seam. Unfold the pressed creases. Fold the fabric in half, *wrong* sides together. Align the 2 long edges. Smooth the fabric flat and pin this edge.



- Starting at the top, sew a  $\frac{3}{8}$ " seam down the side. Trim any loose threads.
  - Slide the pillowcase on the ironing board. Press the seam open, being careful not to remove the creases in the hem edge.
  - Turn the case inside out, right sides together. Roll the seam to the edge and press it flat.
  - Pin the bottom edge (the edge without the crease marks).
  - Now sew the second stitching of the French seam with a  $\frac{5}{8}$ " seam allowance. Beginning at the hem edge, sew down the side. Keep a little tension on the fabric from behind to keep the fabric from shifting.
- Tip:** If you are a beginner, pin the turned seam before stitching to prevent the fabric from shifting.
- Pivot at the corner and continue the  $\frac{5}{8}$ " seam across the bottom.



- Without removing the fabric from the machine, flip the fabric over to zigzag the raw edge. Set the machine to a zigzag stitch, zigzag across the bottom, encasing the raw edge.
- Refold the hem along the previously pressed lines. Touch up the crease along the seam.
- Beginning with the seam, pin the hem in place.



- Starting at the side seam, topstitch the folded edge of the hem. Put a little tension on the fabric. This will keep the hem from slowly inching forward and twisting. Ease in any fullness between each pin.

**Note:** There is no need to backstitch at the beginning because the stitches will meet and overlap as you finish the seam.

- Once you have gone all the way around the hem, overlap the stitches about 1/2" and shorten the stitch length to secure the ends.
- Trim the threads.

- Turn the pillowcase right side out.
- Gently poke out the corners.
- Starting with the seams, press the pillowcase flat.

Your pillowcase is now complete!

### King Size Pillowcase Variation

For a king-sized pillowcase, you will need 1 1/4 yards fabric per pillowcase.

- Cut the length of your fabric to 40 1/2" instead of 34 1/2".
- Follow the standard pillowcase instructions to sew it.



Review this video: [Project 7: Basic Pillowcase](#)

Watch the next video:

[Project 8: Lined Drawstring Bag](#)

## Questions about Sewing?

Submit any questions for Crissa in the Q&A section on the course homepage or post it to our blog at [www.sustainlife.org/blog/category/sewing/](http://www.sustainlife.org/blog/category/sewing/)

## Sewing Suppliers

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### Simply Fabrics

6408 Gholson Road  
Waco, Texas 76705  
254.829.7119  
info@simplyfabrics.com

## Additional Videos

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### Beginning Sewing

- [Introduction to Sewing](#)
- [Introducing the Projects](#)
- [Notions & Fabrics](#)
- [Sewing Machine](#)
- [Cutting Methods](#)
- [Foundational Sewing Practice](#)

### Project Videos

- [1 Tissue Holder](#)
- [2 Shoe Bag](#)
- [3 Gift Bag](#)
- [4 Double Drawstring Bag](#)
- [5 Bag Caddie](#)
- [6 Bread Cloth](#)
- [8 Lined Drawstring Bag](#)
- [9 Pillowcase with Contrasting Band](#)
- [10 Flange Pillow](#)
- [11 Tote Bag](#)
- [12 Lined Apron](#)