



Throw Pillow with Hidden Zipper

By Thanita Glancey of One Happy Tree

I've been working on some throw pillows for my friend who lives down the street. She also happens to be an interior designer for the hospitality industry (hotels etc...) so she gets to play with some fabulous fabrics...which in turn allows me to play with them too!

Awesome friend who lets my play with her fabrics had commissioned me to make 2 sets of pillows each with hidden zippers. One was 20" x 20" the other 16" x 24". I had a great time making them that I wanted to share the instructions with you so that you too can make your own!

NOTE:

The following pattern is for the 20" x 20" pillow. You can adjust the dimensions as needed for which ever pillow shape/size. I used a 1 inch seam allowance. Try to use something heavier in weight like upholster weight fabrics or similar. If you will use a quilters cotton I suggest backing it with stabilizer for a nice crisp look (Pellon 931TD works well).

The finished measurements will be 20" x 20" but there will be a 1/4" top stitch seam which will allow the pillow to look full and poofy (technically speaking of course!). I made

2 different pillows in different fabrics and took pictures of the process. So the pictures you see may have different fabrics but the method is still the same.

Materials:

- * 1 piece of choice fabric measuring 22" x 22" square, (this will be the front) A
- * 1 piece of same fabric measuring 20" x 22" (this will be part of the back) B
- * 1 piece of same fabric measuring 4" x 22" (this will be part of the back) C
- * 1 - 22" zipper in coordinating color
- * thread in coordinating color
- * measuring tool
- * disappearing marker

Directions:

It's important to finish your raw edges because you will be reaching in and out of the pillow cover and you want those edges to be nice and neat. Most of all you want them to stay intact! Here's how:

1. Attach your "edging foot" (you will do an overcast seam)
2. Adjust your stitch to a 3 step zigzag (not a normal zigzag)
3. Line up the raw edge with the foot's guide
4. Sew following the foot's guide



5. Do this for all the edges of all your fabric pieces
6. Continue following the directions below (don't forget to switch back your pressure foot now!)

PREPPING FOR THE HIDDEN ZIPPER

1. Take fabric pieces B and C and place right sides together matching up raw edges long ways (22" length)



2. Measure 2" from top edge and mark



3. Adjust your sewing machine to a straight stitch and the longest stitch length (I use 4.5), you will be basting at the moment
4. Sew along the line you just measured

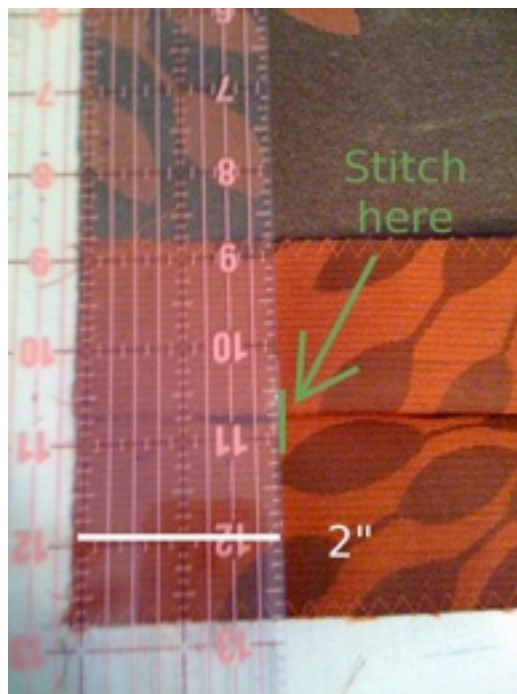
5. open both sides so that you can see the right sides and press with iron



6. Adjust your stitch length back to normal, tighter stitch
7. Measure 2" in from each side



8. Sew a small stitch and back stitch to make sure the basting stitch doesn't unravel from that point



9. Do this for the opposite side

APPLYING THE ZIPPER

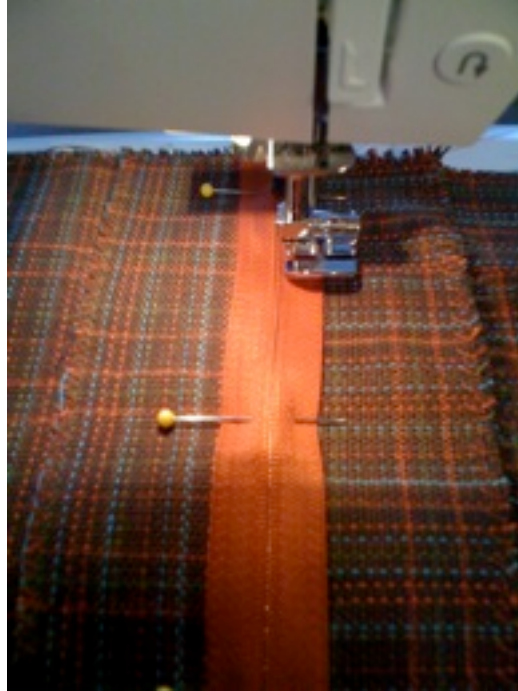
1. apply the zipper face down on the center of the basting stitch



2. pin in place

3. attach your zipper foot (I put it on the left so the bulk of the fabric is on the left and make my needle move to the left 2 times at -1.0)

4. with your zipper foot stitch on either side of the zipper while it is still facing down. Sew all the way to the end, backstitch and turn. Sew the other side.



5. flip fabric BC over so right side is facing up
6. with sharp, applique scissors or small scissors, carefully clip the basting stitches revealing the zipper inside (it's so magical!)





7. open the zipper about 2-3" wide so that it's easier to reach in when turning (ignore the pins in the picture please! No pinning here.)



CONSTRUCTING THE PILLOW

1. place fabric piece A face up
2. place fabric piece BC on top of A face down so that A and BC are together right side facing (opposite of the picture, make sure the zipper side is facing you in case you have some trouble)



3. stitch around the edges using a 1" seam allowance
4. clip the corners (I finished the clipped edges with another overcast seam for durability)



5. very carefully try opening up the zipper a bit more. Remember you are looking at the back of the zipper so it'll be tricky
6. turn right side out
7. push out edges carefully with a wooden dowel or chopstick
8. press with iron
9. top stitch a 1/4" seam all around
10. stuff with pillow



11. TADA! You're done!!!



Now make a whole bunch :) Make some with outdoor fabric to dress up your deck or patio!!! I'm going to for sure!!!

Enjoy!

Thanita G.