

PATCHWORK PILLOW TUTORIAL

By Melissa Mortenson | weallsew.com



Hello there We All Sew readers! My name is Melissa Mortenson, and I'm the founder of [the Polka Dot Chair blog](#). I also work as a fabric designer for Riley Blake Designs and have my own line of sewing and quilting patterns.

I'm excited to be with you today sharing a tutorial for this Patchwork Pillow. The pillow is pretty simple-to-stitch up, you can make a bunch in no time. I'm going to show you a "trick" to get all of the squares on the pillow to line up correctly!



I also added a bit of pom pom trim to the edge of my pillow, because I adore pom pom trim. If you've not sewn with it before, give it a try, it's not as complicated to add as you may think it is.

Okay, ready to get started?

Supplies:

3" x 3" squares of various prints of fabric, 18

3" x 3" squares of stripe fabric, 18

2" x 15" piece of border fabric, 2

2" x 18" piece border fabric, 2

2" x 15" piece of gridded interfacing, 2

2" x 18" piece of gridded interfacing, 2

18" x 18" piece of fabric for pillow back

1 yard gridded fusible interfacing – cut a piece that is 20" x 20" to start.

2 1/4 yards of pom pom trim

18" pillow form

Your sewing machines.

Step One: Gridded Interfacing

We are going to use the quilters grid interfacing as a "shortcut" way to ensure that we get even points when stitching our pillow top together. I love using this technique. It makes for super fast and accurate piecing and is wonderful for small projects like pillows.

The gridded interfacing is double-sided. One side has fusible adhesive. Begin by placing the fusible side up. The grid is broken down into 1" squares. Since we are working with 3" squares of fabric, each fabric square will cover 9 squares on the grid.

Begin laying out your design. You want to have 6 rows of 6 squares each.

My design alternated various prints of fabric with stripes of the same fabric. I think it helped to give the pillow some continuity and balance out all of the busy prints.

For a bit of variety, I alternated the strips so that they go in different directions on the rows.

I recommend working in small batches. Place the squares on top of the interfacing so that the edges of the fabric line up with the lines on the interfacing. The wrong side of the fabric will be touching the fusible side of the interfacing.





When you have all of the squares in the correct place, move the piece to your ironing board. Press the squares with the iron so that the adhesive onto the interfacing secures the fabric in place.

TIP: I notice that I need a pressing cloth when I'm adhering the squares. You can use a cloth or a silicone sheet if you have one.

Step Two: Stitching

Fold the pillow top **right sides facing**, along the center line. Make sure that you've folded it EXACTLY along the grid line in the interfacing.

With the Patchwork foot #97D on your machine, the seam guide at 1/4", and the Dual Feed engaged stitch along this line 1/4" in from the folded edge. Unfold and refold at the next row of squares. Keep repeating until you've sewn all the rows of squares together (all going in the same direction).

Flip it over to the front and make sure you didn't miss any squares.



Flip it back over to the wrong side and clip the seams you just stitched at the intersection of the rows running in the opposite direction (this will help you to more easily fold the fabric in the opposite direction).

Next begin stitching the rows of squares together, this time working in the opposite direction. Begin close to the center again and work your way out.

When you are done, trim all of the excess interfacings off of the pillow top.

Step 3: Borders

Iron the 2" wide pieces of interfacing to the corresponding 2" strips of fabric. Stitch the 15" long strips of fabric to the pillow top and bottom. Press seam to one side. Stitch the 18" long strips of fabric to the two sides of the pillow. Press seam to one side.

Step 4: Pom Pom Trim



Change your machine foot to the 1D foot, and engage the dual feed. Select stitch 2, which is a standard zig-zag stitch.

Pin the pom pom trim on the outside of the right side of the sewn pillow top so that the straight edge of the trim is close to the raw edge of the pillow.

Using your zig zag stitch, stitch the pom pom trim to the front of the pillow. Pivot at corners, and keep going until you are back where you started stitching.

Step 5: Finishing

Layer the 18" x 18" piece of backing fabric onto the pillow top, right sides facing. Stitch together using a 1/4 1/2" seam allowance. The seam allowance is less important than making sure that you are encasing all of the trim in the pillow. I recommend stitching with the pillow top facing up so that you can see where your pom pom trim was attached to the pillow front (you can see the zig-zag stitching line on the wrong side of the fabric).

Leave a 10" opening in one side of the pillow. Turn right side out. Feed pillow form into the pillow, and slip stitch the opening closed.

Difficulty level: Beginner

Time to Complete: Evening

Used Material: coordinating thread, cotton, cutting mat, pom poms for trim, rotary cutter, scissors

Projects: home décor, pillow, sham

Seasons: all seasons

Techniques: patchwork, quilting, sewing, sewing a seam, sewing with cording, sewing with piping