

Make in a Day Pillowcase

The Make in a Day Pillowcase is a fun project for all experience levels - beginner through advanced.

A pillowcase is one of the most simple sewing projects you can make: It goes together in a couple of hours with several straight seams. And this simple project can add some wow factor to the bedroom - think big red polka dot fabric in a kid's room or a muted geometric design in the guest room!

The finished pillowcase measures approx. 20" x 31-¹/₄" and fits a standard sized bed pillow (approx. 20" x 26").

Step 1: Read through the entire pattern first to understand how the project will go together from beginning to end.

Step 2: Gather everything you need to make the pillowcase, then pre-wash, iron, and cut your fabrics.



Gather Your Supplies

- Sewing thread to match or blend w/ main fabric
- Straight pins
- Scissors
- Iron and ironing board
- Ruler or tape measure
- Sewing machine (optional but preferable)
- Needle for hand sewing (optional)
- Fabric marking pencil or regular lead pencil if hand sewing project

Gather Your Fabrics

Suggested fabric: 100% cotton quilting fabric (45" wide). Consider the user - choose a fabric that reflects their personality and favorite colors! For each pillowcase, you will need:

- Main fabric - 1-¹/₄ yards to allow for shrinkage when pre-washing fabric
- Accent fabric - remnant (see cutting dimensions at right)

Cut Your Fabrics

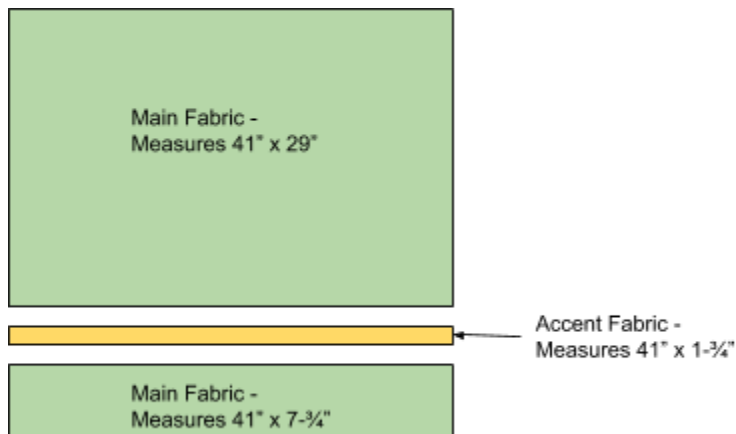
If you are using a directional fabric, make sure both pieces of the main fabric are cut with the pattern oriented in the same direction. For each pillowcase...

- From the main fabric:
 - Cut one piece measuring 41" x 29"
 - Cut one piece measuring 41" x 7-³/₄"
- From the accent fabric:
 - Cut one strip measuring 41" x 1-³/₄"

Important to Note

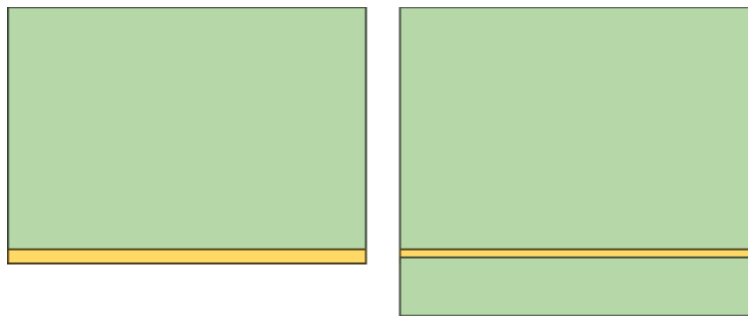
- Use ¹/₂" seams throughout this project
- If you are hand sewing the pillowcase from start to finish - rather than using a sewing machine - use a backstitch for stitching the seams. To help sew a straight seam, lightly mark the ¹/₂" seam line on the wrong side of the fabric with a fabric marking pencil or a regular lead pencil.

Step 3: Lay out cut pieces of fabric on work surface.

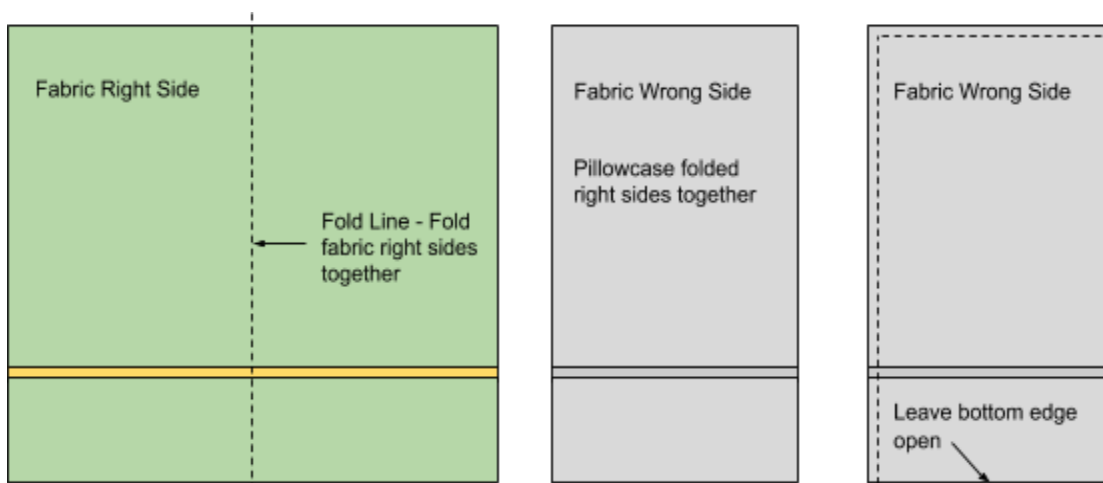


Step 4: With right sides together and edges aligned, pin Accent Fabric to lower edge of Main Fabric. Stitch together using a 1/2" seam. Press seam open with iron.

Next, with right sides together and edges aligned, pin accent strip to top edge of the remaining piece of Main Fabric. Stitch together and press seam open with iron.



Step 5: Fold stitched piece in half, right sides together, align edges and match seams of Accent Fabric strip. Pin in place. Next, stitch top and side seams. Leave the bottom edge (where the pillow will slip in) open.

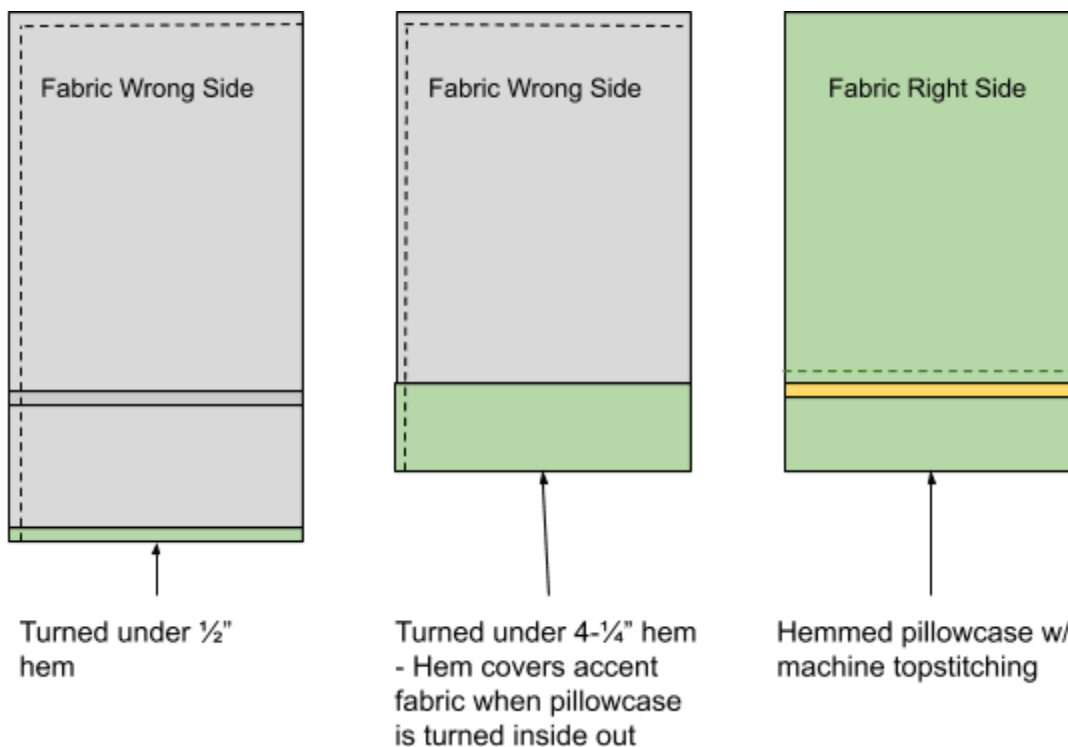


Step 6: Clip corners and turn pillowcase right side out. Poke corners out with a point turner or chop stick and press.

Step 7: Time to hem! Working with pillowcase turned right side out, and using a ruler and pins, mark a $\frac{1}{2}$ " hem along bottom raw edge of pillowcase. Then, turn pillowcase inside out, fold $\frac{1}{2}$ " hem up along pins, and press edge into place with iron. (See image at left below.) Remove pins as you press.

Next, again working with pillowcase right side out, measure a $4\text{-}\frac{1}{4}$ " hem up from bottom edge and pin into place. Press along the folded edge, keeping pins in place. (See middle image below.)

In the sample (pictured in photo on page 1 of this pattern), the hem was hand stitched. If you are hand sewing hem into place, work with pillowcase inside out and use a blind stitch (aka slip stitch). If you are sewing with a machine, turn pillowcase right side out. (Move pins to outside as well.) Then, using a contrasting or matching thread and a slightly longer stitch length, top stitch hem into place. To make sure you catch hem as you stitch, use a marking pencil to mark stitch line. (See finished pillowcase image at right below.)



Step 8: Use and enjoy! Pillowcases make a great gift for family and friends - to celebrate an occasion like a birthday, to enclose with a get well card, or simply to share with someone just because.