

Embroidered Pillowcase 1

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This pillowcase will brighten anyone's bed. I made the one pictured here at one-half the normal size so that I could photograph the steps for these instructions, but the measurements are for a pillowcase to fit a standard pillow. The decorative outer band goes completely around the opening, as we see on purchased pillowcases. The finished pillowcase will be about 20" x 30". Adjust dimensions for other sizes.

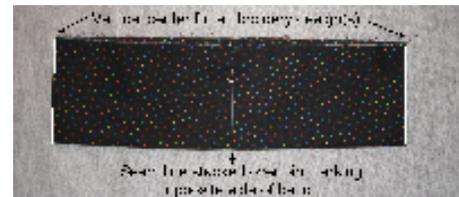
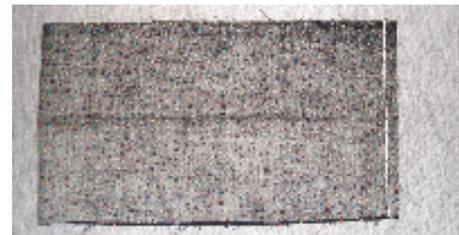


Materials:

1. Fancy Jumbles Alphabets, available at http://www.annthegran.com/online_store/fancyjumbles.htm
2. For the **case**: 25 1/2" x 41" cotton print fabric.
3. For the **trim band**: 42" of rickrack or trim in contrasting color.
4. For the **outer band**: 10" x 41" cotton fabric, solid or nearly solid in color (e.g., marble prints, some batiks, tiny polka dots, or any print that will let your embroidery be the star). You may make this band wider than 10", if you prefer.
5. Thread.
6. Embroidery thread.
7. Stabilizer.

Prepare Outer Band:

1. Press **outer band** in half along the length (folded dimensions are 5" x 41").
2. Let the **outer band** fall open.
3. Right sides together, pin the 10" edges together.
4. Baste or pin paste a 3/8" seam.
5. Refold the **outer band** so that you have a tube that is 5" tall and 40 1/4" in circumference. If a print has an obvious top and bottom, turn the tube so that the bottom of the print is at the fold. If the bottom appears to be at the cut edge, simply invert the tube.
6. Flatten the tube with the seam at one side. Mark the opposite side with pins.
7. Fold the tube so that the pin marks are aligned with the "seam." The new folds are at the centers of the pillow case sides.
8. Using a removable marker or chalk, mark one or both of these new folds with a line for positioning embroidery. Mark a horizontal line about halfway between the cut edge and the fold.
9. Unfold the tube and remove basting or pins. Embroider your design at these centering lines, stitching through a single layer of the fabric. The bottom of the name should be toward the fold. Remove basting, excess stabilizer and marks.
10. Stitch the 3/8" seam (see step 4 above). Press the seam open. Refold the **outer band** into a tube 5" tall.



Assemble the case:

1. Pin rickrack or other trim to one 45" raw edge of the **case**. If the print has an obvious top and bottom, pin it to the edge that is toward the bottom. If you cut your **case** so that the 41" side is along the lengthwise grain, then pin the trim to the side where you want the decorative **outer band**. Stitch the trim in place, about 1/8" from the raw edge.
2. Turn **case** right sides together so that the dimensions of the folded **case** are 25 1/2" x 20 1/2".
3. Pin together along the long seam (parallel to the fold) and the short end seam that does not include the trim.
4. Stitch 3/8" seams. Trim the corner diagonally. Finish seams as desired.
5. Press the seams toward one side of the **case**.



Add the outer band to the pillowcase:

1. Place the **outer band** inside the wrong-side-out **case**. Make sure that the embroidery faces the **case** and that the seams of the **outer band** and the **case** are aligned. Match the raw edges and pin.
2. Stitch seam with a 1/4" seam/overcast stitch.
3. Press seams toward the **outer band**.
4. If desired, topstitch through all layers from the right side.
5. Turn pillowcase right side out and press flat.
6. Insert pillow and enjoy your rest.

