

cushions

These cushions are completely reversible because they use invisible zips. You can use up to four fabrics, or just stick with two. There are two sets of instructions given: the first is for a 50cm x 50cm (20" x 20") cushion, the second is a 'recipe' to fit the design to whichever sized cushion you have. I hope you enjoy making and using these cushions.



notes

Before you cut the fabric, I recommend that you pin it over the cushions you're planning to cover in shapes that approximate the pattern, and place the cushions where they'll be used for a few days. This way you'll test whether the fabric matches the rest of the room, and whether you like how it looks.

All dimensions in the pattern are in centimetres (cm). Seam allowances of 1cm are included. If (like me) you're not so good at cutting in a straight line, make a template out of newspaper or tissue paper for each pattern piece, pin them on the fabric (be sure to put them on the grain), and cut around.

All materials allowances are for *one* cushion cover and assume that you are using four different fabrics. If you want the same look front and back, use that same fabric for A & B, and for C & D. You want a medium-weight fabric if the cushions are to be used on a sofa, and a heavy-weight if they are to be used on the floor.

materials, notions and tools (50cm cushion)

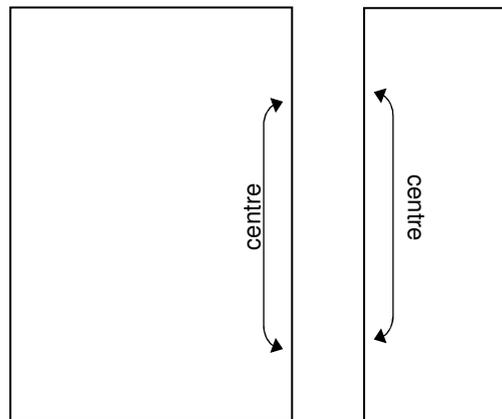
- 55 x 38cm in fabric A.
- 55 x 38cm in fabric B.
- 55 x 19cm in fabric C.
- 55 x 19cm in fabric D.
- 55cm invisible (in-seam) zip to match fabrics A and C.
- Thread to match all fabrics.
- An invisible zipper foot for your sewing machine.
- A chopstick or a knitting needle.
- Pins.
- Scissors.
- An iron.





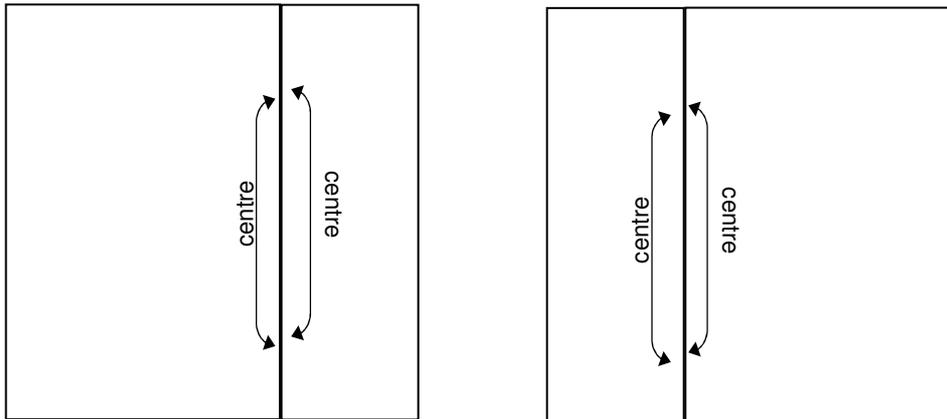
instructions

1. Cut out your fabric pieces and mark on the wrong sides as shown in the diagram. If your fabric has a nap, or a pattern that has a right way up, make sure that you mark the fabric so that it's right way up.



2. Insert the invisible zipper between fabrics A and C along the marked 'centre'. (You can follow the instructions on the zipper packet, or there are several good tutorials on line). Press the seam allowances away from the zip.
3. Pin pieces B and D right-sides-together, and sew a 1cm seam along the side marked 'centre'. Press this seam open.

4. You should now have two pieces that are mirror images of each other, and measure 55cm x 55cm.



5. Open the zip partway. Place the two pieces right-sides-together, carefully matching the centre seams, and pin. Make sure you pin both sides of the zipper tape to that it doesn't slip as you sew over it.
6. Starting half way along one of the sides that isn't cut by the centre seam, sew a 1cm seam all the way round.
- When you get to a corner, sew to within 1cm of the edge, stop with the needle in the fabric, lift the foot, and swivel the fabric through 90 degrees. Then put the foot down, and continue sewing along the next edge. This gives you a nice square corner.
 - When you get to the zips, just sew carefully and slowly across.
7. Now reinforce the corners. At each corner, starting about 5cm from the corner, sew along the seam line to the corner, swivel as above, and then sew 5cm along the next seam line.
8. Reinforce the zip ends. Where the zip crosses the seam line, sew back and forth on the seam line across the zip.
9. Trim the tail of the zip to slightly less than the seam allowance. Clip the seam allowance across each corner at 45 degrees. Press the seams open.
10. Turn the cushions right way out. Use the chopstick or knitting needle to gently push out the corners so that they are square and pointy.
11. Close the zip and press the whole cover well. You want the seams to be fully open and the whole cover to be square (it should be 53cm x 53cm).
12. Pin around the edges. Open the zip partway (pin both sides of the zipper tape at the edge).
13. Sew 1.5cm from the edge all the way round. Then reinforce the zip ends as in step 8 above.
14. There will be a small gap where the open zip crosses the edge of the cover. Slip-stitch this closed by hand.
15. Press one last time, insert your cushion, and have a cup of tea while you admire your work.

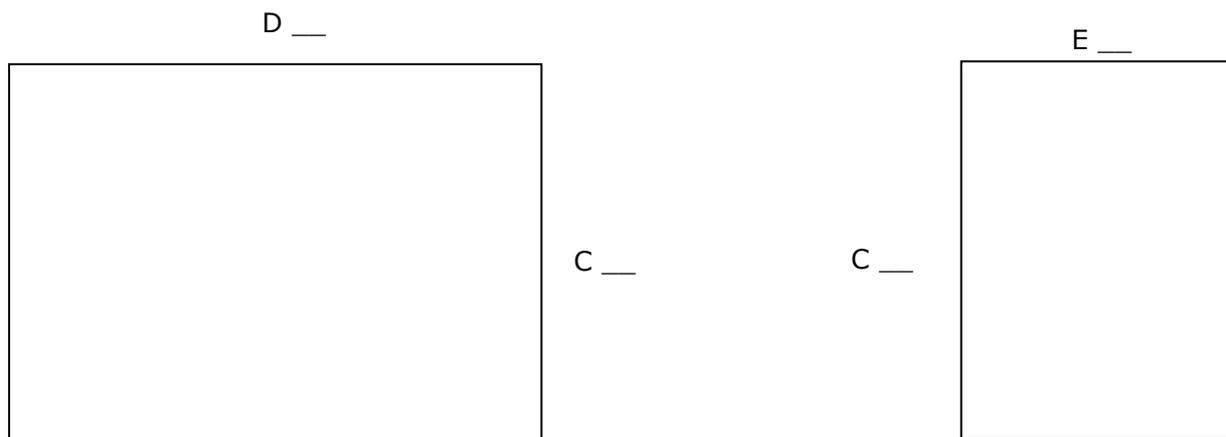


recipe to fit any cushion

If your cushion is not 50cm x 50cm, you can follow these instructions to create a cover for a cushion of a different size.

1. If the cushion is not square, decide which edge you want as the 'bottom' and which as the 'side'. The vertical line created by the zip and the contrasting fabrics will run from the 'top' to the 'bottom', parallel to the 'side'.
2. Measure your cushion from seam to seam, both top to bottom and side to side. Write these measurements in the table below.
3. Now you need to do some sums! Follow the instructions in one of the tables below, and then apply the results to the diagram below.
4. Now cut out your fabric pieces to the dimensions shown in the diagram.
5. Follow the instructions for the 50cm cushion, noting the following:
 - a. In Step 4, instead of having two pieces that are 55cm x 55cm you will have two pieces that are the dimensions shown in the third part of the table below.
 - b. In Step 11, instead of a 53cm x 53cm cover, you will have one that has the dimensions shown in the third part of the table.

Part one: cushion dimensions		(centimetres)
top-to-bottom	A	
side-to-side	B	
Part 2: maths for the pattern pieces		(centimetres)
A+5	C	
$\frac{2}{3} \times B + 3.5$	D	
$\frac{1}{3} \times B + 3.5$	E	
Part 3: maths for use while sewing up		(centimetres)
dimensions at step 4:	C	
	B+5	
dimensions at step 11:	A + 3	
	B + 3	



Fabrics featured in this tutorial:

- Page 1: ecrulat lyceene (Japan) in grey / cream
- Page 2: screen-printed bird motif from Prints Charming (www.printscharming.com.au). Cushion fabric 'wrens' from ink + spindle (www.inkandspindle.com.au)
- Page 4: ecrulat lyceene (Japan) in duck egg blue / cream