

# Envelope Backed Cushion

So you've made some lovely patchwork but want to make a cushion. There are many ways to do this but the most basic is envelope back.

## FABRIC

Back of cushion 2 x width of front panel by 2/3 height of front panel

So if my panel measures 12 inches square, I'd need two pieces which are 12 inches wide by 9 inches long. If you are using patterned fabric, think about which way you want the pattern to sit. The envelope slot sits horizontally across the cushion and the top portion sits inside the bottom one.

Quilting cotton is strong enough but benefits from interfacing. Calico and lightweight canvas or curtaining fabric are also good choices.

## USING PATCHWORK PROJECT

If you are using a patchwork project I would advise either, stitching round the panel just inside the seam allowance (so it won't be seen once constructed) or consider adding a border as it's easier to put a plain piece of fabric into a seam rather than a pieced one. If you add a border, remember to measure the panel WITH the border before calculating your backing fabric.

A border is also a good idea as it allows you to use a bigger seam allowance for construction (I find a quarter of an inch too small, you may not) without worrying about losing any points.

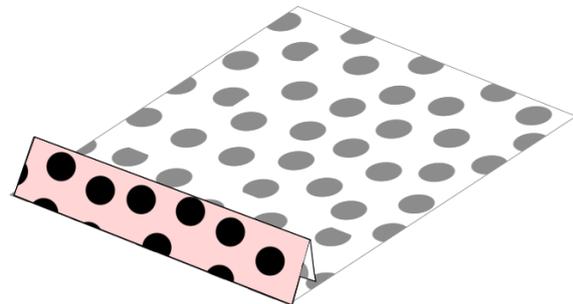
If you are quilting your patchwork, do this before you start the bag construction with your patchwork and layer of batting (yes your machine will work without backing fabric, but if you're nervous use something thin or some ugly fabric you have acquired!)

## Here's how to put it together

### 1 Hem the Back Pieces

Take both pack pieces and create a double hem on one of the horizontal edges on each piece. This is where the envelope slot will be.

*(on a square cushion this is the short end, on a rectangular cushion it may not be. If your cushion is significantly landscape in shape, you may wish to make the envelope slit run from top to bottom – it will then also be the shortest side!)*



I usually fold just shy of half an inch under and then fold again.

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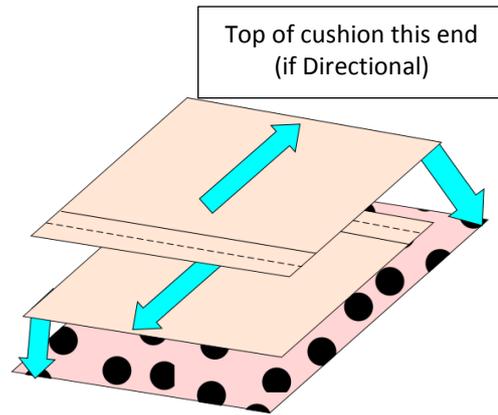
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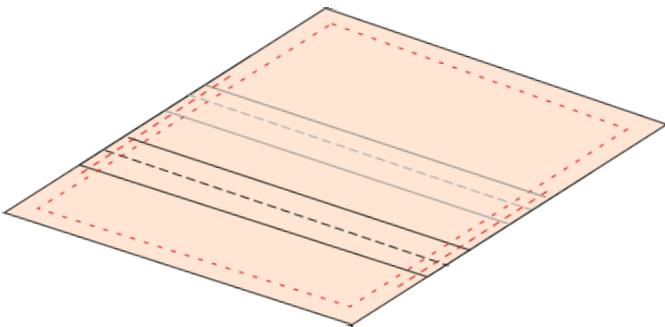
## 2 Sew front to back

With Right Sides together

- pin the bottom back piece to the front of the cushion. Make sure to line up the bottom edge and the sides exactly
- Pin the top back piece on top lining up the top and sides.

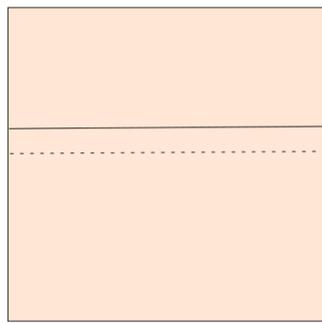
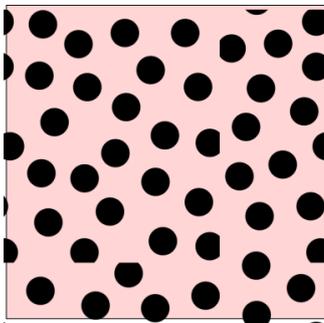


Sew all the way around the cushion. Choose whether you want perfectly sharp corners or if you'd prefer a more rounded one – if rounded, I would suggest you mark them before sewing.



Reinforce the stitching where the pieces overlap. This area takes a bit of strain when you stuff the cushion in the cover.

## 3 Turn through



Turn the cushion through the letterbox gap and tuck the top flap inside the bottom - there you go.

## 4 Create cushion pad

It's really easy to create the cushion if you have the relevant materials. Basically make a square and stuff it! An inside approx. **1 inch bigger than the cover** fills it nicely

An old pillow that has gone a bit flat is great re-use project. .

Cut off two sides of the pillow remembering to leave enough for a seam allowance on the cut side.

So if my pillow was 17 x 25 and my FINISHED cushion cover is 11 inches square then I need to measure from left and bottom of pillow 12 ½ inches and chop off the rest. This means I'm trying to make a 12 inch square cushion pad (one inch bigger than the outer) with half an inch seam allowance.

### Quick method

Squish ALL the pillow stuffing into the new shape and pin or quilt clip the edges. Seam with overlocker (careful with those pins) or zig zag stitch on a regular machine, top stitch and finish with pinking shears, or if you want to fold the edges in and stitch. This can be tricky with a full pillow though!

### Gift worthy method

- Remove the stuffing
- Turn inside out
- Stich up top and side leaving turning gap
- Turn through
- Stuff
- Sew up the gap with a slip stitch or top stitch.

Stuff the inner in the outer, being careful not to rip the seams where the pieces overlap, and tuck the top flap inside the bottom (this should happen easily if you pinned them in the order described earlier.

## 5 Fastening

If you like, and/or have created, your cushion REALLY squishy with loads of stuffing you might feel that the envelope back isn't sitting closed nicely. In this case (and yes it happens to me sometimes) I add poppers or button and loop to the centre of the opening.

*If you know in advance that you want to include a button, cut each piece an inch longer and fold under more than ½ inch. Add button hole/s before step 2*

Ta-da!

### In Summary

- Cut back pieces
- Hem one end
- Pin to front, check orientation
- Sew together
- Turn through
- Make/stuff inner



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