

WHITE

Festive Holiday Pillows



Add some sparkle to your holiday decor by making these bright, festive felt pillows. Appliquéd poinsettias and green leaves create an array of color on each design. And the beads and heavy stitching give the pillows added dimension.

NECESSARY SUPPLIES:

For one pillow

18" pillow form

7/8 yard of red felt

15" square of white felt

1/4 yard of green felt

1 yard of paper-backed fusible web

1 yard of fusible interfacing

Red, green and yellow threads

7" square of yellow felt (poinsettia pillow only)

Yellow Pony beads (poinsettia pillow only)

Clear beads (vine pillow only)

Pinking shears

Fine chalk marking tool

Red rayon thread

PREPARING YOUR FABRIC:

For the Poinsettia Pillow:



Cut two 22" squares from the red felt for the pillow front and back. Cut an 18" square of fusible interfacing. Center the interfacing on one of the felt squares and, following the manufacturer's instructions, fuse it making this the pillow front.

Fuse the interfacing to the white, green and yellow felt pieces for the flower, leaves and center.

Using your computer's printer, print off the all of the flower pattern. Trace the poinsettia petals and center pattern onto the paper backed fusible web. Trace five leaves onto the paper-backed fusible web turning the pattern over twice to change the look of the

leaf. Following the manufacturer's instructions, fuse the traced patterns to the interfaced side of the correct color felt. Let the pieces cool and cut out the flower petals, leaves and center using pinking shears.

READY, SET, SEW

Match the center of the flower with the center of the pillow front. Place the poinsettia petals and leaves in a pleasing manner with the leaves positioned behind the flower petals. Use the photo above for reference.

Remove the flower and set aside. Remove the paper backing from the leaves and fuse in place following the manufacturer's instructions. Using a regular straight stitch and embroidery foot, stitch the leaves in place with the edge of the foot along the pinked edge.

Using a fine chalk marking tool, draw the veins in each leaf. Select a triple straight stitch (stitch

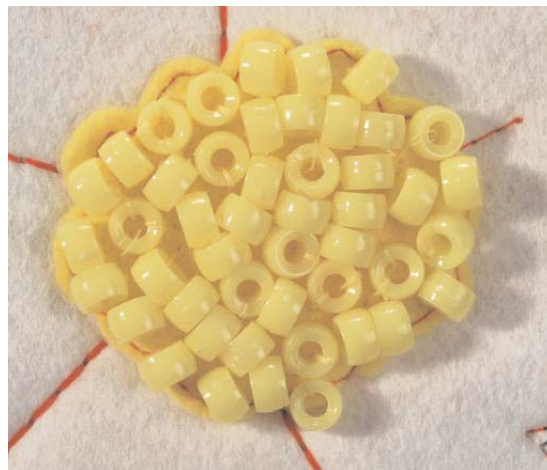


length-3) or a small satin stitch (stitch width- 2 to 3mm) and stitch the veins.

Next, fuse the flower in place overlapping the edges of the leaves. Using red or white thread, stitch around the flower in the same manner as you did on the leaves. For accent, draw five lines out from the center of the flower and stitch using the triple straight stitch or a small satin stitch.

Place the flower center over the petals and stitch as before. Sew small pony beads on top of the flower center. Stitch so the beads are flat and on their sides. This will add more texture and make them seem more like the real flower "bud" in the center.

Place the pillow front and back, wrong sides together. Either lightly mark 1-3/4" in from the edge or use the seam guide attached to the presser foot to stitch around the pillow 1-3/4" from the edge. Stitch along three sides, stop, insert the 18" pillow form and then stitch the final side. Holding the pillow edges together, pink the edge to finish.



For the Vine-y Pillow:



PREPARING YOUR FABRIC:

Cut two 22" squares from the red felt for the pillow front and back. Cut a 20" square of fusible interfacing. Center the interfacing on one red felt square and following manufacturer's instructions, fuse it making this the pillow front. Repeat the same procedure with the paper-backed fusible web.

Fuse the interfacing to the green felt for the leaves. Using the leaf pattern provided trace 15 to 18 leaves on the paper-backed fusible web varying the size slightly if desired. Fuse the traced patterns to interfaced side of the green felt. Let cool and cut out the leaf shapes. Set aside.

READY, SET, SEW

Using a fine chalk marking tool, draw a line on the right side, 1-3/4" in from the edge on the interfaced pillow front. Within this new square, draw a vine shape on the right side of the felt.

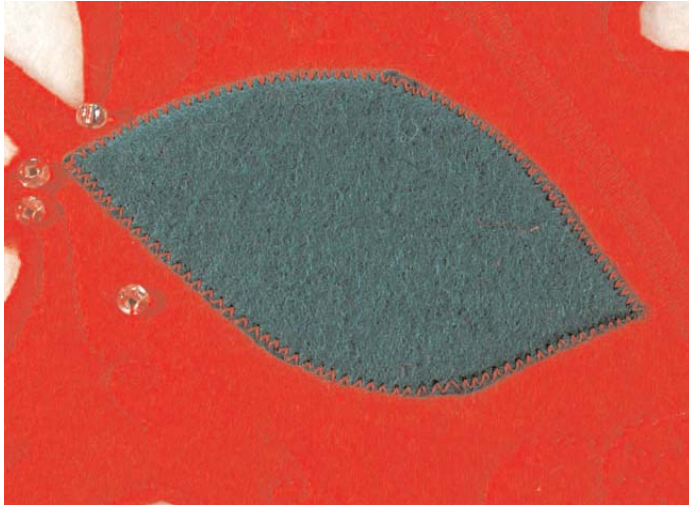
Set your sewing machine for a satin stitch (length-2mm and width-widest tapering to 0.) Using the red rayon thread, stitch along the drawn lines. Starting with a wide stitch width, taper towards the end.



Place the leaves along the vine in a pleasing manner and fuse in place, following the manufacturer's instructions.

Trace the small petal pattern onto an index card or other firm paper. Alter the size and shape slightly for variety. Using the chalk marking tool, trace around the pattern in clusters of three at the end and intersections of some of the vines. Carefully cut out the teardrops along the drawn lines.

Remove the paper backing from the back of the pillow front. Place the 20" square of white felt behind the red felt front and fuse in place following the manufacturer's instructions. The white felt now shows through in the teardrop areas.



Appliqué the leaves in place using a small zigzag stitch (length-1 and width-1) and the red rayon thread. Then, either zigzag around the teardrop cutouts using the same settings as the leaves, or do free motion stitching around the cutouts by dropping or covering the feed dogs and using a straight stitch to outline the areas.

Using the free-motion technique, stitch curly tendrils off the vines in open areas.

By hand, stitch small cluster of clear beads at the points of the cutout areas.

Pin the pillow front and back, wrong sides together. Using the drawn line as your guide, stitch around the pillow 1-3/4" from the edge on three sides. Insert the 18" pillow form and stitch the final side.

Enjoy the holiday's with these cheery pillows!