

WHITE



EXCHANGEABLE-PANEL PILLOWS

Easily update your room décor with these handsome exchangeable-panel pillows. Make a new panel for each season or holiday and attach it to a basic, neutral pillow cover. The fun comes in deciding what embroidery design to choose!

Supplies

Directions and supplies are for two 15" square pillows with 9"-square panels. Adjustments may need to be made based on the size of the selected embroidery design.

Stitch the embroidery design out first so you can determine your finished pillow size. Lay the embroidered piece on the pillow cover fabric; fold back the edges until you like the proportion of the panel to the pillow cover and measure how large of a pillow to make.

- ◆ 1 yard of 45" or 60"-wide fabric for pillow covers
- ◆ 1 yard of 45" 60"-wide fabric for the panels (additional yardage may be needed for more panels)
- ◆ 1 yard of muslin or similar fabric for the panel backing
- ◆ Tear-away stabilizer
- ◆ Two 20"-22" polyester/nylon zippers
- ◆ Four 7/8"-1" buttons per panel
- ◆ 12 Velcro® brand SEW-ON coins
- ◆ 1 3/4 yard of braid or brush fringe per pillow
- ◆ Assorted rayon embroidery threads and bobbin thread (e.g. Robison-Anton)
- ◆ WHITE embroidery machine
- ◆ WHITE Embroidery card #Americana
- ◆ WHITE Embroidery card #Christmas
- ◆ Air- or water-soluble marking pen
- ◆ *OPTIONAL*: 1/2" ribbon, Soutache braid, mini-piping, medium-size rick rack, 1/4" ribbon

Embroidery

1. Either select a design from the many built-in designs on your WHITE embroidery machine or from a WHITE Embroidery card. Collect all the suggested thread colors needed. Lay them out on a table and see if you like the combination. Remember some colors are just for accent and may look out of place, so consult your guidebook to see how much of a particular color is used.
2. Cut a piece of panel fabric 3" larger than the desired finished panel allowing for 1/4" seam allowances. Center and draw a square the size of the finished panel on the fabric. Mark the placement for the design within the square using the embroidery template. Consider adding words or multiple designs on the panel. Program your machine for the entire design.

3. Place the fabric with the tear-away stabilizer underneath in the hoop positioning the fabric marks for stitching. Be sure you have sufficient stabilizer under the fabric and both are held tightly in the hoop.
4. Begin embroidering your design being sure to cut the threads between each color change. NOTE: Trimming threads as you sew allows for much easier thread removal overall. Before removing the design from the hoop, trim the bobbin thread and any additional top threads. Remove the fabric from the hoop and carefully tear away the stabilizer.
5. Trim the panel to the finished size plus 1/4" on all sides for the seam allowances.
6. Embellish the panel as follows.

EMBELLISHMENT IDEAS:



a. Use medium-size rickrack around the outside edge of the panel. Using a straight stitch and a scant 1/4" seam, position the rickrack so the edge is matching the edge of the panel and stitch in place. Add sewing machine decorative stitches to frame the design. Experiment with different stitches on a piece of fabric, adjusting the stitch width and length for the perfect look.



b. Position 1/2" ribbon around the embroidery design to frame it. Stitch using a straight stitch and your blindhem foot or use a zigzag stitch with a stitch length of 1-1.5mm and stitch width of 1-1.5mm. Zigzag so half of the stitch is on the ribbon and the other half is on the fabric.



c. Find the middle point on each side of the panel. Using a straight stitch and matching thread, guide soutache braid from point to point being sure the stitch falls in the center channel of the braid. Add a second row of braid if desired.

Add mini-piping around the outside edge of the panel. Using your zipper foot, adjust the needle position on your sewing machine so the stitch falls close to the edge of the purchased mini-piping.

7. With right sides together, stitch the lining and embroidered panel together around the edge leaving a 4-inch opening for turning. Turn and press carefully. Finish the opening by hand or topstitch very close to the edge.
8. Decide where the decorative buttons will go and mark. Pin one side of the Velcro® brand SEW-ON coin under the button location on the lining side. If the button can be sewn on by machine, position the

button on the panel side and stitch through both the button and Velcro® brand coin at the same time using your button sewing foot.

Some sewing machines have a button sew-on program with pre-programmed settings, otherwise sew your buttons on as follows:

Lower or cover the feed dogs. The machine is set for left needle position. Stitch 4-6 stitches. The needle will go up and down in place, locking the stitches. Adjust the zigzag width to 3-4mm. This setting depends on the size of the button and distance between the holes in the button, start with 3 and *turn the handwheel by hand* to check the stitch and adjust if necessary. Then zigzag 6-8 times. Return the width to O to lock the stitch again.

If you are using a shank decorative button, stitch the Velcro® brand coins on first then sew the shank buttons on by hand. NOTE:

Buttonholes could be placed in the corners of each panel instead of the Velcro® for attaching the decorative panels. However the same buttons would be used for all the panels. We used buttons to compliment each design so Velcro® brand SEW-ON coins were used.

9. Cut a 16" square for each pillow front and set aside. For the pillow back, cut a 1 3/4" x 16" piece and a 14 3/4 x 16" piece.
10. Press under 1/4" along one 16" edge on both back pieces.
11. Starting at the closed end of the zipper, pin the zipper to one pressed 16" edge of the pillow back pieces leaving the zipper teeth

exposed. The zipper slide will extend beyond the edge of the fabric piece.

12. Using the zipper foot, adjust the needle position to stitch very close to the folded edge. Repeat, attaching the other back fabric piece to the zipper. For the moment leave the extra zipper tape hanging off the edge.

13. For the pillow front, using your zipper foot attach the braid or brush fringe to the edge. Adjust your needle position and stitch very close to the braid or fringe. NOTE: Some decorative braids are too bulky or stiff to turn sharp corners so slightly round the fabric corners first by tracing the edge of a plate or glass.

14. Place the embroidered panel over the pillow front and mark for the Velcro® brand SEW ON coins; stitch the coins in place.

15. Pin the pillow back and pillow front, right sides together. Stitch, using a 1/2" seam allowance, close to the braid or brush fringe over the previous line of stitching. At the closed end of the zipper, carefully stitch through the zipper teeth. On the slide end of the zipper, *BE SURE TO OPEN THE ZIPPER FIRST*, then stitch across the teeth. NOTE: This will allow you to turn the pillow right side out and you won't accidentally cut off the slide end! **Do not** cut off any zipper ends until all the stitching is done.

16. Turn the pillow right side out, press lightly, and insert the pillow form.