

HootyOwl Pillow

A Maudie's Cottage Design



This little pillow is just the right size to tuck into the small of your back in your favourite lounge chair, or to add a bit of charm to any corner you put it in. Finished size 17" x 8".

Note: Please read through all instructions before starting the project.

All seams are ½ "

Patterns already reversed

All seams are pressed open except where noted.

Materials List

1 fat quarter for sides and back of pillow
1 piece of fabric 8"x 9" for the background
Assorted fabric scraps for the appliqué
Half yard of muslin
Fusible web

20-22" zipper
18" piece of rick rack
Fiberfill stuffing
Threads to match fabric and appliqué pieces
Two small black buttons

Recommended Tools

Rotary cutter and sharp blades	Mechanical or lead pencil
Ruler and cutting board	Stabilizer
Steam iron	Sewing machine with zig zag capability
Appliqué pressing sheet (optional)	Zipper foot

Cutting

From the fat quarter cut two pieces 6" x 9". Cut one 9" x 18" piece. Cut one 2" x 18" piece.

From the background fabric cut one piece 8" x 9".

From the muslin cut two pieces 9" x 18"

Centre Panel Instructions

1. Trace the appliqué pieces onto the paper side of the fusible web. They are already reversed for your convenience. Space the pieces far enough apart that you can easily cut out each shape with about a ½ "margin all around. Make sure to trace all design elements (such as the eye placement on the owl) to the fusible web as well. Cut out the appliqué shapes leaving about ¼" margin around each shape.
2. Fuse the cut out shapes onto the *back* of your chosen fabric – follow the manufacturer's recommended settings (but if you've lost them or thrown them away, a good rule of thumb is to use a dry iron on a silk or wool setting).
3. After fusing the appliqué shapes to your fabric and letting it cool, cut out each shape *on the drawn line*. Transfer detail lines like the owl's eye placement to the right side of the appliqué piece. The easiest way to do this if you don't have a light box is to hold the appliqué piece up to a window, in daylight, so the light can shine through and expose the detail lines. Trace over these lines with a pencil.
4. Flip the pattern and trace. Position the flipped pattern under the appliqué pressing sheet and using it as a guide, fuse the owl to the branch, tucking in the feet where indicated. (Use the photo as a guide). Fuse the eyes and nose onto the owl. If you do not have an appliqué pressing sheet for this step, a piece of parchment paper works just as well. You may wish to appliqué some of the smaller pieces first before attaching them to the background fabric. For instance, I fused the eyes and nose onto the owl and satin stitched around them, then fused the owl to the background as one completed piece.
5. Using either matching or contrasting thread, appliqué the fused pieces to the background fabric. You might find it more comfortable to test your appliqué technique with a few leftover pieces of fabric before starting the project. This will also give you a chance to fine tune the settings of your sewing machine to a stitch length and width you find pleasing. I generally use a stitch width of 2 mm and a length of .7 mm for satin stitch, but you may prefer a wider/narrower width or closer/longer length. Make sure that the swing of the needle catches more of the appliqué fabric, and only a thread or two of the background fabric. After all appliqué is done, give the piece a good press, using steam this time.

Note: Stabilize all appliqué pieces as you sew them – they will look much better and you will be happier with the finished result. Because tear away stabilizer is so expensive, I try to use coffee filters, ironed flat, whenever possible. They are acid free, and tear away easily without harming the appliqué piece. If you are not a coffee drinker, a sheet of plain paper makes a good stabilizer. I like to satin stitch my appliqué pieces, but you may prefer a blanket stitch. This is a personal choice.

Sewing Instructions

1. Cut the rick rack into two equal pieces and baste to each side of the centre panel. Sew a 6 x 9 piece of pillow fabric to each side of the background piece. Press the seam allowances toward the centre so the rick rack will lie smoothly.
2. Using the 2 x 18 strip and the 9 x 18 piece of pillow fabric insert the zipper as follows: Fold under and press $\frac{1}{2}$ " along one long edge of the 2 x 18 strip. Using a zipper foot and with the zipper facing up sew this folded edge, right side up, to the right hand side of the zipper tape. You want to sew as close to the zipper teeth as possible. Make sure the excess zipper is equally spaced at each end of the fabric strip. Fold under and press about $\frac{5}{8}$ " to $\frac{3}{4}$ " along one long edge of the 9 x 18 pillow back fabric. Place this folded edge on the zipper tape covering the stitching on the other side, (forming a lapped zipper) and using the zipper foot, stitch this piece to the zipper on the left side of the zipper tape. Make SURE to sew this second side in the same direction that you sewed the first side to prevent the fabric from twisting and stretching. Open the zipper half way and bar tack across the open end to secure (so the zipper pull doesn't fall off when you trim the zipper).
3. Making sure the zipper is open about half way, pin the pillow front to the pillow back at the top, right sides together, and sew around all four sides. Use the front side of the pillow as a guide to sew the bottom, then trim the excess from the bottom back. If you wish, you can serge or overcast these seams. Trim the corners and turn right side out. Press. Sew the black buttons on the eyes.
4. Pin the two pieces of muslin right sides together and sew around three sides, leaving one short end open . Back stitch at beginning and end. Turn right side out and stuff with fiberfill until you have a pillow size that is pleasing to you. Sew up the last side by hand or machine. Insert into the completed pillow case.
5. Admire your handiwork.

Thank you for trying this pattern. There are many more fine designs at maudiescottage.com

Please drop by for a visit or to leave a comment. We would LOVE to see photos of your finished project and hear what you think of the pattern. You might also enjoy our blog at maudiescottage.com/blog. If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to email or write Maudie at:

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