

O Canada Pillow

a Maudie's Cottage Design



Here's a quick and easy pattern to dress up your porch in celebration of Canada's special day!

Note: Please read through all instructions before starting the project. All seams are ½" and are pressed open except where noted. Applique patterns are already reversed for tracing.

Recommended Tools

Rotary cutter and sharp blades

Steam iron

Mechanical or lead pencil

Sewing machine with zig zag capability

A serger is also helpful but not essential

Fresh sewing machine needle

Scissors – small sharp scissors (3-4" blades) for cutting out the appliqué pieces, not big shears, and not your good sewing scissors either – use paper scissors.

Ruler and cutting board

Appliqué pressing sheet (optional)

Stabilizer

Zipper foot

Temporary marking pen

Hand sewing needle (optional)

Fabric requirements are based on 40" - 42" wide 100% cotton fabric, pre-washed, dried, and pressed before cutting or appliquéing. Do NOT use fabric softener. To allow for shrinkage and fabric unevenness, I always purchase ¼ yd extra.

You can make this pattern any size. My samples were sewn using a 12" x 16" pillow form, so those are the measurements I will use in the instructions. You can make any modifications needed if you choose a different sized pillow form.

Materials List

12" x 16" piece of muslin
½ yd of red fabric for pillow and flag
Scrap of white fabric for the pillow centre
18" or longer zipper

12" x 16" pillow form
Threads to match fabric and appliqué
1 sheet Fusible web

Cutting

Note: Pattern pieces as cut are the same size as the pillow form, as a slightly smaller sewn case makes the pillow look fuller. I starch my fabrics before cutting.

Canada's flag is designed so that the centre white portion is twice the width of each side panel. For a 16" wide pillow, cut one centre panel 12" x 8.5" wide and two red side panels 12" x 4.25" wide. Cut a piece of muslin to match the white centre panel.

Cut a 12" x 16" and a 2" x 16" piece of fabric for the pillow back.

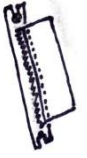
Applique Instructions

1. Trace the appliqué shapes onto the paper side of the fusible web. Space the pieces far enough apart that you can easily cut out each shape. Transfer any markings or numbers/letters that will aid in correctly placing the pieces. 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*. If you have drawn any placement lines, hold the pieces up to a window or use a light box to transfer these markings to the right side of the fabric using a pencil.
4. Centre the leaf on the white panel and fuse in place. Place the piece of muslin under the centre panel and iron the pieces together to help them stick to one another. Not only does the muslin act as a perfect stabilizer, but it has the added benefit of making the front of the pillow look more pleasing and the white fabric less transparent.
5. Treating these two pieces of fabric as one, use a fine thread and a small fine straight stitch to applique the leaf to the centre panel. You may prefer to use another type of stitch to applique the pieces, which is perfectly fine – whatever you choose will work. I generally prefer a stitch length between 2.0 and 1.5 for fine straight line stitching. Press the front panel when done.

Sewing Instructions

1. Sew the two red panels to each side of the centre panel with a $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam. Press the seam open.

2. Using the 2" x 16" strip and the 12" x 16" pillow back fabric, insert the zipper as follows: Fold under and press $\frac{1}{2}$ " along one long edge of the 2" x 16" 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 $\frac{3}{4}$ " along one long edge of the 12" x 16" pillow back fabric. Place this folded edge on the zipper tape covering the stitching on the other side, (forming a lapped zipper) pin in place, 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.



5. Making sure the zipper is open about half way, pin the pillow front to the pillow back, right sides together, and sew across the top of the pillow. Press this seam open to make the exterior clean looking, and then refold so you can serge or overcast these seams. Next sew the two side seams. Give them a good press and serge or overcast. Lastly, trim the back of the pillow to the same length as the front. Sew the bottom seams together. Serge or overcast. Turn right side out. Press well.

6. Insert the pillow form and 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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