

Spinner Pillow & Towel

a Maudie's Cottage Design



This charming pillow is just the right size to adorn a summer porch, or to add a bit of warmth to any corner you put it in. The matching tea towel brings a bit of summer whimsy to the kitchen. Pillow finishes to 12" x 16". Tea Towel measures 18" x 24 ½" not including ruffle.

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

Ruler and cutting board
Appliqué pressing sheet (optional)
Stabilizer
Zipper foot
Temporary marking pen
Hand sewing needle (optional)

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.

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.

Materials List

12” x 16” piece of muslin	12” x 16” pillow form
1/2 yd of fabric for pillow	Threads to match fabric and appliqué pieces
Assorted fabric scraps for the appliqué, at least 4 colours	1 sheet Fusible web
18” or longer zipper	Tea towel measuring 18” x 24 ½”
Assorted cute buttons	Strip of fabric for ruffle and bottom band
	1 ½ yd of ric rac trim

Cutting

From the ½ yd of fabric cut 2 pieces 12” x 16” . Cut one 2” x 16” piece.

From the scraps cut 4 x 4” squares.

Cut 4 x 4” squares from the fusible web.

Cut a 3 ½” x wof strip of ruffle fabric.



Cut a 1 ½” x 26 ½ “ strip of fabric for the bottom band.

Applique Instructions

1. Fuse the cut out web squares onto the *back* of your fabric squares – 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).
2. Cut the fused squares twice, on the diagonal, to produce 4 triangles from each square. Cut 1 triangle of each colour in half again to produce 2 smaller triangles.
3. Stabilize all appliqué pieces as you sew them – they will look much better and you will be happier with the finished result. I try to use coffee filters, ironed flat, whenever possible. They are acid free, and tear away easily without harming the appliqué piece. After you have finished appliqueing the paper will tear away easily. I like to zig zag my appliqué pieces on an informal project such as this pillow, but you may prefer a blanket or some other stitch. This is a personal choice.

Pillow Instructions

1. Place the piece of muslin under the pillow front 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. Treat these two pieces of fabric as one.
2. Fold the pillow front in half in both directions and press the folds. The creases will be used as placement lines for the applique.

3. Place the larger triangles in a pinwheel design along the ironed creases. The triangle points should just about touch in the centre. Place the smaller triangles evenly spaced between the larger one. Fuse all pieces in place. Use the cover photo as a guide.
4. Use a zig zag stitch to applique the pieces to the pillow front. Match the thread to the pillow background colour.
5. Draw a line $\frac{1}{4}$ " from the edges of the pillow front using a water soluble or iron off marking tool. Baste the ric rac in place so that the curve of the rick rack is just touching the drawn line.
6. 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. 
7. 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. 
8. 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.
8. Sew a cute button to the centre of the pinwheel.
9. Insert the pillow form and admire your handiwork.

Tea Towel Instructions

Make and apply an appliqued pinwheel to the towel using the same techniques as the pillow with the following exceptions:

1. Fold the towel in half from side to side and press. Fold in half from top to bottom and press. With the towel still folded, bring the bottom hem up to the fold and press again. Position any appliqué using the pressed folds on the bottom half of the towel as centering lines.
 2. Place a piece of tear away stabilizer under the towel behind the applique shapes and iron the pieces together to help them stick to one another. It may be easier to pin the stabilizer in place if the applique is too large.
 3. Using thread to match the towel, apply the pinwheel to the tea towel with a zigzag stitch.
- I generally use coffee filters, ironed flat, as my tear away stabilizer. If they are not large enough to cover the shape being appliqued, I just add another one in the area needing stabilization. They tear away very easily and any scraps caught in the stitching disappear in the laundry.

Sewing

1. Unpick the bottom hem of the tea towel and about 4 - 5 inches of each side hem.

2. Measure the width of your tea towel including the unpicked side hems. Re-cut the bottom band to this measurement if necessary . Gather the fabric strip to this same measurement. Press under $\frac{1}{4}$ " along one edge of the bottom band.
4. Place the gathered fabric strip even with the unpicked hem, wrong sides together. Baste in place $\frac{1}{4}$ " from the edge. Make sure to include the unpicked side seams in your stitching. Turn the seam to the right side along the stitching line and press.
6. Place the unpressed edge of the bottom band over the seam, edges even. Stitch in place. Press the band up. Stitch across the top as close to the edge as possible.
7. Fold the side edges in twice, using the original fold lines and including the band and ruffle. Sew with thread that matches the tea towel, starting a few stitches past the unpicked seam and continuing all the way to the end of the ruffle.
8. Sew a cute button to the centre of the pinwheel.

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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