

ROMANTIC PILLOW – CHEATING PATCHWORK

Jenny Haskins © 2001

This little pillow is a great way to use those left over pieces of fabric you cannot bare to throw out. The secret to the beauty of this pillow is color coordinated fabrics and thread with a limited pallet in both fabric and thread. Choose your fabrics and threads carefully exactly matching your thread to the colors in your fabric and the results are magic.

MATERIALS

- 18in strip of calico/muslin across the width of the fabric
- 15in strip of fusible batting across the width of the batting (36in wide)
- 9in strip of floral fabric across the width of the fabric
- 9in strip plain fabric across the width of the fabric
- 6in strip checked fabric across the width of the fabric
- 6in strip of mottled fabric across the width of the fabric
- 12in cushion insert
- Machine feet: open-toe foot and ¼ in foot
- Machine needle: size-80 metallic Schmetz needle
- Design Software and blank card
- Victorian Pansies © CD by Jenny Haskins **panspray** design
- Threads: Rayon-40 embroidery threads that best match the fabric
- Construction thread cream
- Gold metallic thread
- Fine thread pre wound bobbins
- Self-adhesive tear-away stabilizer for hoop embroidery
- Photo copy paper for embroidery stitches
- Glass head pins
- Vellum tracing paper to print out **panspray** design
- Rotary cutter, quilting ruler and self healing mat
- General sewing requirements

PREPARATION

Cutting:

- 1.) Use the rotary cutter, quilting ruler and self-healing mat to cut:
From the four fabric strips:
 - six, 3in wide strips of coordinated fabric each 15in long for strip piecing
 - 11, 1in wide strips of coordinated fabric each 15in long for weaving in strip pieced fabric
 - two, 3in wide strips of fabric, one plain one floral 12in long for piped prairie points
 - four, 3in wide strips of plain fabric 14in long for pillow borders
 - one, 3in wide strip of floral fabric 12in wide, cut into four 3in squares for corners of the pillow border after the batting is ironed to the back of the fabricFrom the Calico/Muslin cut:
 - one, 15in square to back the strip piecing
 - one, 18in square to back pillowFrom the Fusible batting cut:
 - one, 15in square to back match square of Calico/Muslin
 - two, 3in strips 18in long to back long side of pillow border fabric
 - two, 3in strips 14in long to back short side of pillow border fabric
- 2.) Fuse the 15in batting square to the back of the 15in calico square of Calico/Muslin and the 3in wide 14in strip to the back of the four matching strips of plain fabric. Before cutting the 3in wide by 12in long strip of floral fabric into the four 3in squares fuse the batting to the back of the strip then cut into the four 3in squares.
- 3.) Down load **panspray** from Victorian pansies to a memory card or machine using the software and print out a template on a 1:1 ration on the vellum tracing paper.

PIPED PRAIRIE POINTS

- 4.) Use construction thread in the needle and bobbin and the ¼-in foot to sew the 3in wide, 12in long floral and plain fabric together strips together (right sides together stitching from the wrong side.
- 5.) Press the fabric flat with the seam allowance to the plain fabric. Place paper behind the fabric as a stabilizer, select a contrasting thread to sew stitch No 108 (83) combined in a memory with stitch No 77 (60) width and length 6.0 density 0.25 on the dark fabric, parallel to the seam line using the open-toe foot, size-80 needle and a pre wound bobbin.
- 6.) Fold the fabric in half lengthwise and press so the plain fabric folds back over the seam allowance, creating a 14in border. Press.
- 7.) Place the folded fabric on a table so the plain fabric is facing up. Fold the left-hand side of the fabric down at a right angle across the width of the fabric and pin.
- 8.) Fold the right-hand side of the fabric down at right angles to form a point and pin. Machine in place along the bottom, straight side of the point close to the edge of the plain fabric. Make three such points.

STRIP PIECING AND WEAVING.

- 9.) Place the 15in square of Calico/Muslin, backed with fusible batting, Calico/Muslin side up, on a flat surface then place a 3in x 15in strip of fabric at the top of the square with wrong side of strip to right side of the Calico/Muslin.
- 10.) Place a contrasting strip of fabric over the first strip, right sides together, raw fabric edges aligned and pin. Sew through all layers using construction thread and a ¼-in foot.
- 11.) Fold the top strip of fabric back over the Calico/Muslin and press flat. Use a sharp pair of scissors to cut from the raw edge of the fabric strips back towards and up to the seam at 3in intervals.
- 12.) Flip every second cut panel up, and then lay a 1in strip of fabric over the remaining flat strips of fabric sewn to the 15in square close to the seam line. Flip the panels down over the 1in strip, and then weave a second piece of 1in wide fabric through the bottom section of the 3in wide strip towards the raw fabric edge. Do this on both 3in strips of fabric seamed together through the 15in Calico/Muslin square.
- 13.) Stitch along the top of the first woven fabric strip holding the top strip to the Calico/Muslin square and pin the narrow woven strips at either end.
- 14.) Repeat this process until the 15in Calico/Muslin square is covered with woven fabric strips.
- 15.) The piped prairie points can be inserted between any fabric strips – choose strips that are close to the center of the cushion. Center the three prairie points on the sewn down fabric strip with right sides of prairie points to the right side of the woven fabric strip and stitch in place.
- 16.) Lay the next fabric strip over the top of the prairie points and the previous fabric strip as before and strip piece as previously.
- 17.) Flip fabric strip and prairie points back over the Calico/Muslin so that the prairie points now sit over the fabric strip with right sides of points and strip uppermost.
- 18.) You may choose to weave this underlying strip of fabric and strip piece as before being careful not to catch the points of the prairie points in the seam line.

EMBROIDERY STITCHING

All embroidery uses the open-toe foot, size-80 metallic needle, fine pre wound bobbin and rayon 40 embroidery thread in two matching/contrasting colors to the fabric strips and gold metallic thread for accents.

- 19.) All the raw fabric edges are covered with rows of machine embroidery stitches to embellish and cover the edges of the fabric strips starting and stopping at the end of the strip being woven.

NOTE: It is easier to embroider all the horizontal strips first then sew straight down the vertical divide strips.

Suggested stitches:

- Stitch No 92 (65) length 10 width 6.5 density 0.25
- Stitch No 150 (123) default width and length density 0.25
- Stitch No 72 (55) length 10 width 6.0 density 0.25
- Stitch No 78 (61) length 10 width 6.0 density 0.25
- Stitch No 104 ((79) length 0.25 width 7.5
- Stitch No 183 (164) width 6.0 length 7.5 density 0.25
- Stitch No 176 (157) width and length 6.0
- Stitch No 112 default width and length new stitch on 2140

- Stitch No 89 (62) length 12 width 6.0 density 0.25
- Stitch No 159 (132) default length and width
- Stitch No 77 (60) length and width 6.0 density 0.25

The choice is yours; it is a wonderful way to learn your stitches and your sewing machine.

EMBROIDERY MOTIFS

All embroidery motifs use size-80 metallic needle, fine pre wound bobbin, embroidery thread and the self-adhesive tear-away stabilizer in the hoop with the fabric place over the hoop not in the hoop. This is particularly useful when using multi-layered fabric projects that would otherwise be hard to place in the hoop.

- 20.) Use a ruler and pencil to draw vertical and horizontal lines on the **panspray** vellum template, that intersect through the cross marking the center of the design. Use a small sharp point to make holes on either end of the lines and through the center. Mark the top of the hoop.
- 21.) Position the template over the strip fabric pieced pillow top (using the photo as a guide) and use a fabric-marking pen to mark through the holes in the template and to mark the top of the hoop position on the fabric. Use a ruler and fabric-marking pen to join the marked dots with lines that intersect representing the center position of the design.
- 22.) Select **panspray**, place the hoop with the self-adhesive tear-away in it, in the machine then place the striped fabric square on the hoop centered under the needle (intersection of vertical and horizontal drawn lines) matching the marked top of the design with the top of the hoop.
- 23.) Embroider the design using colors that best match your fabric.
Color sequence for **panspray**:
 - color 1 – leaves
 - color 1 – leaf outline and veins
 - color 3 – stems
 - color 4 – bud
 - color 5 – bud outline
 - color 6 – calex
 - color 7 – bottom three petals of pansy (you may choose to add more colors here)
 - color 8 – top two pansy petals
 - color 9 – pansy outline
 - color 10 – beard and whiskers
 - color 11 – beard and whiskers
 - color 12 – pansy center
 - color 13 – throat
- 24.) Use the photo as guide and the **panspray** template to position then embroidery and other pansy spray on the opposite side of the 15in strip piece square.

CONSTRUCTION

Use the ¼-in foot, and construction thread to sew the pillow together.

- 25.) Use the rotary cutter, self-healing mat and quilting ruler to trim the 15in striped block to 13 ½ in square..
- 26.) Stitch a 3in plain fabric strip to the top and bottom of the square. Press strips flat and seams over the strips. Trim ends of the plain fabric strips at the top and bottom of the block in alignment to the sides of the cushion.
- 27.) Cut the remaining two 3in plain fabric strips backed with batting to 13 ½ in long and join a 3in floral fabric square to either end of the strips. Join these strips to the sides of the block matching the corner of the floral square to the corner of the cushion. Press strips flat and seams over the strips.
- 28.) Pin the 18in Calico/Muslin backing fabric to the pillow top; right sides together raw fabric edges aligned stitching from the wrong side.
- 29.) Stitch around all sides, leaving a 7in opening for turning.
- 30.) Turn pillow to the right side and press the seams. Pin the pillow top to the pillow backing around backing then use the open-toe foot to stitch in the ditch in the seam of the border and the pillow leaving an opening to match the boarder opening.
- 31.) Place the pillow insert in side the center of the pillow, pin the striped panel opening then stitch this closed along the seam line.

- 32.) Turn the seam allowance in to the wrong side on the border opening, pin then top stitch around the edge of the boarder fabric closing the turning opening.

This technique can be used in garments, quilts, and home décor a wonderful to use up those left over strips of fabric and a fun way to learn your machine.



Cheating Patchwork Cushion - 1 Day Class

