The “TUBE” Pillowcase Making Instructions©
Standard & Queen

Creekside Quilt Designs
Decorator Pillowcase Instructions

SUPPLIES NEEDED:

Three different Fabrics, Rotary Cutter, Rotary Cutting Mat (24 x 36), Quilter’s Ruler, Straight Pins, Sewing Machine & Thread. You can make pillowcases without the rotary cutter, mat & quilter’s ruler but the instructions are written with the intent of using them.

MAKES TWO STANDARD or QUEEN PILLOWCASES.

Choose 3 different fabrics of your choice. The only criteria here is that the fabric is washable and if you choose cotton, stick with cotton, if you choose polyester or a blend, stick with it. The fabrics must be at least 42” in width. (Width of Fabric = WOF) Don’t purchase any fabric which gives you less than 42” of usable fabric AFTER the selvedges have been removed. If in doubt have the sales person at the fabric store measure the width without the selvedges.

AMOUNT OF FABRIC NEEDED:

PILLOWCASE BODY: 1 ½ yards for Standard 2 ¼ yards for Queen
PILLOWCASE EDGE: ½ yard for Standard and for Queen
PILLOWCASE TRIM: 1/8 yard for Standard and for Queen.

WASHING

To wash or not wash the fabric prior to making the pillowcase is entirely up to you.

PRESSING, FOLDING

Take the fabrics to the ironing surface and, each one in turn; open the fabric to its full width and press, paying particular attention to press out the manufacturers fold in the center. When you are through pressing, FOLD each fabric in half aligning the selvedge edges making sure that the fabric is smooth and even. You are more concerned that the selvedge edges match evenly than the edge where the fabric was cut at the fabric store. There might be over-lap on the cut edges because the fabric was cut using the manufacturers fold and sometimes that fold is a bit off.

MEASURING & CUTTING (You’ll need a large flat cutting area)

The following directions are meant to be used with a Rotary Cutter, Cutting Mat (24 x 36) and quilters’ ruler.

From the 1 ½ yard piece of fabric cut two pieces which are 27” X Width of Fabric (WOF). This is the BODY
From the ½ yard piece of fabric cut two pieces which are 9” x WOF. This is the EDGE
From the 1/8 yard piece of fabric cut two pieces which are 3” x WOF. This is the TRIM
IMPORTANT TRIM FABRIC STEP: When you are through measuring and cutting the TRIM fabric, fold it in half, WRONG SIDES TOGETHER, lengthwise. Press carefully as you fold so as not to stretch the fabric. You are not ironing a pair of jeans, use a gentle hand. Your TRIM piece of fabric will now be 1 ½” x WOF.

LAYERING THE FABRICS (YOU’LL NEED A LARGE FLAT AREA)

DIRECTIONAL FABRIC: A fabric printed with a motif that has a definite directional design must be placed on the cutting surface RIGHT SIDE UP but UPSIDE DOWN. As you are standing at your cutting surface and looking at the fabric, the fabric will be RIGHT SIDE UP but the design of the fabric, to you, will be UPSIDE DOWN.

#1 Take the EDGE fabric (the 9” x WOF piece) and lay it on a flat surface with the RIGHT SIDE UP and the WOF (42” – 45”) stretched out. The raw edge furthest away from your body will be referred to as the TOP.

#2 Take the BODY fabric (the 27” x WOF piece) and lay it RIGHT SIDE UP on top of the EDGE piece of fabric. Align the WOF raw edges at the top.
#3 Take the TRIM fabric (the 1 ½” x WOF piece) and lay it on top of the BODY fabric aligning raw edges at the top.

You now have all three of your fabrics stacked one on top of the other, RIGHT SIDES UP. Edge fabric first on the table, Body fabric laying on top of Edge Fabric and finally the Trim Fabric (folded in half lengthwise) lying on top of the Body Fabric. All of the fabrics are RIGHT SIDE UP. The picture shows the fabrics offset so you can see the layers. You must align your fabrics evenly.

#4 PINNING is VERY IMPORTANT. Making sure that all of the raw edges are even, pin ALL the layers together, about every six inches.

YOU HAVE ARRIVED AT THE TRICKY PART. Maybe not as tricky as it is difficult to write the instructions in how to do it.

Remember you have 3 fabrics on the table, the EDGE fabric, the BODY fabric and the TRIM fabric layered together with the WOF raw edges pinned at the TOP

#5 Grasping the bottom corner edges of the BODY fabric (but don’t pick the fabrics off of the table), start to roll/fold the fabric toward the pinned edge.
#6 Roll/fold the BODY fabric up far enough to barely uncover the EDGE fabric, then give it one more roll/fold. You’ll have about 2” of EDGE fabric uncovered. The BODY fabric is now neatly rolled and is lying on top of the EDGE fabric. If it isn’t try again.

What you will be doing in the next step is making a “tube” for the BODY fabric to be inside of and you’ll be using the EDGE fabric to do it.

#7 Working with the EDGE fabric that was just uncovered ....Pick up the bottom corner edges of the EDGE fabric, but again, DON’T pick the fabrics up off the table, lift this bottom edge over the BODY fabric to match the TOP raw edges which are already pinned together on the table. You now have 5 layers of WOF raw edges. Using the existing pins, re-pin all 5 layers of raw edges together. Be really careful with the pinning here. You are working with 5 layers of fabric and it is easy for one or the other of them to shift.

What you have now is a “TUBE”. The EDGE fabric is wrapped around the other fabrics. The BODY fabric is lying loosely inside this TUBE.

SEWING NOW  Take the entire project to your sewing machine.

#8 Sew a ¼” seam across the top, (the top is the pinned edge) taking out the pins as you go, and being extra careful to make sure all of the fabric layers are even AND making sure that the BODY fabric which is on the inside of your TUBE
is NOT being caught up in the sewing. Backstitch at the beginning and end. If the seam is any wider than ¼” you’ll be taking fabric away from your TRIM piece.

YOU HAVE CREATED “THE TUBE”…… WHOOPEE!!!

PULLING & PRESSING

#9 Remove fabric from machine and reach inside THE Tube and pull on the BODY fabric so it emerges out of the “tube”. It’s not hard to remove the BODY fabric but sometimes it becomes obstinate and you have to do a slight tugging and sliding of the fabrics to have it emerge. You now have the EDGE and TRIM seams encased in a non-exposed seam.

Pressing toward the top edge, press the seam flat on both sides.
FOLDING & CUTTING

What you will be doing in the following steps is cutting the width of the pillowcase AND cutting off the selvedge edges which in turn make all of the fabrics the same width.

#10   Fold the fabric in half (make it look like a pillowcase) RIGHT SIDES OUT, WRONG SIDES TOGETHER  Line up the selvedge edges of the BODY fabric and make sure the raw edges and bottom corner is even. Make sure the TRIM edges meet and are folded down. FOLD the bottom of the pillowcase up to meet the top. Keep the selvedges edges matched

#11   Place the FIRST FOLDED edge of the pillowcase on the 0” vertical mark on the cutting mat. The selvedge edges will lay to the right. With your rotary cutter, cut on the 21 1/2” vertical line of the cutting mat. If you have to fudge a bit here with the width, that’s ok BUT don’t cut it any smaller than on the 20 1/2 “ line.

PINNING & SEWING

#12   With WRONG SIDES TOGETHER (this is the exact opposite of how you would normally sew something), match the raw edges across the bottom and up the side taking particular care at the bottom corner AND where the TRIM fabrics meet. Pin to secure the edges. Make sure that the TRIM pieces are facing the way you pressed them. Don’t have one going one way and the other going the other. You’ll have some seam ripping to do if you forget to check.
#13  Sew a ¼" seam first along the bottom edge and then up the side removing pins as you sew. Don’t sew over the pins. And YES you are sewing on the RIGHT SIDE of the fabric.

TURNING and POKING and PRESSING

#14  Remove fabric from machine and turn your pillowcase, (yep, you have a pillowcase) **WRONG SIDE OUT** and poke out the corners and press the seams going one way. You don’t want any folds in this pressing process. Take your time.

In the next sewing step you’ll be creating a French seam, so don’t skip this VERY IMPORTANT PART. This is what encloses your seams and makes them ravel proof.

SEWING AGAIN!

#15  This time you’ll sew a ½” seam with the fabric **WRONG SIDE OUT**. The seam has to be wide enough so it doesn’t interfere with the 1/4” seam you’ve already sewn. Sew ½” seam across the bottom and up the side, AGAIN. You are sewing on the WRONG SIDE of the pillowcase. Backstitch at the beginning and end.

TURNING AND POKING AND PRESSING, yet AGAIN@!
#16   Turn RIGHT SIDE OUT. Poke out corners AGAIN and press, yet AGAIN. Be careful pressing here. Don’t press a double lip, make sure it’s flat.

You’re done. Beautiful!

RIGHT????

RIGHT!!!!!!

Of course it is and you’ll make one for everybody you know because they are so addicting. You can’t make just one.

If you have any problems, or don’t understand something please contact me:

Judie West, PO BOX 248, Otis, OR 97368, 541.994.3066, email: quiltsbycreekside@gmail.com

Website:  www.quiltsbycreekside.com
Please don't infringe on the copyright laws. Use the pattern as you see fit, just don't call it your own and resell it. You can do anything you want with the finished pillowcases. Sell them on the internet or bazaars, anywhere, just have fun making them.