



MATERIALS

Coats & Clark Dual Duty XP® All-Purpose Thread, variety of colors

Scraps of assorted fabrics, for piecing

1/8 yd (11.43cm) backing fabric

Filler (see notes below)

Funnel (optional)

Stabilizer (for decorative stitch version only)

 SEWING, DECORATIVE STITCHING | SKILL LEVEL: **BEGINNER**

Featuring Coats & Clark Dual Duty XP® All-Purpose Thread

Treat yourself to a colorful pincushion and pattern weights to brighten your cutting board or create gifts for your sewing friends. They are a great project for beginners plus a fun way to try some of the decorative machine stitches on your machine.

MEASUREMENTS

3" x 3" (7.62cm x 7.62cm); 3" x 8" (7.62cm x 20.32cm)

Note: *Because the strips are so narrow, accurate cutting and seam allowance stitching is very important.*

CUTTING

From assorted scraps, cut:

Strips, 1" (2.54cm) wide x 4" (10.16cm). For the small size, cut (6) strips and for the large size, cut (16) strips.

From backing fabric, cut:

(1) square, 3 1/2" (8.89cm) for small size; (1) rectangle, 3 1/2" x 8 1/2" (8.89cm x 21.59cm)

Seam allowances are 1/4" (.64cm).

ASSEMBLING THE TOP

1. Lay out the strips in the desired order.
2. Sew the strips together, press the seams flat as stitched, then press to one side. Be careful to keep the pieced section squared and not to distort the strips by overpressing.

ASSEMBLING THE SHAPES

1. Place the pieced front and backing right sides together and sew around three sides and barely around the corners on the remaining side.
2. Trim the corners diagonally and turn the shape right side out. Gently poke out the corners.
3. Fill with the desired stuffing to the intended fullness and securely hand-stitch the opening closed.



Add Decorative Stitches

After piecing the top, place a piece of stabilizer under the strips and embellish some or all of the narrow strips with decorative machine stitching. This is the perfect place to try out those stitches you never use in your machine.

Remember that the strips are only ½" (1.27cm) wide, so adjust the stitch width to center the design down the strips.

Once stitching is complete, trim the stabilizer out of the side seam allowances and complete as directed above.

What to use for filling?

The filling you put into your pieced shapes can vary greatly, depending on the final use.

For pattern weights or bean bags, use something heavy, like crushed walnut shells (scented or unscented), sand, rice or small beans. Keep in mind that the shapes won't be washable with these fillings. Use a funnel to fill the shapes and prevent spilling.

For pin cushions, use polyester fiberfill, crushed walnuts or emery. Add bits of steel wool to help keep needles sharp.

