

Crazy Patchwork Cushions

Materials

Calico - 8 1/2 ins x 8 1/2 ins for base of crazy patchwork

Scraps of fabric

Buttons, pieces of ribbon / lace / braids, beads or other embellishments

Embroidery threads

Plain fabric for borders and cushion back -

2 pieces 8 1/2 ins x 3 1/2 ins

2 pieces 14 1/2 ins x 3 1/2 ins

2 pieces 14 1/2 ins x 10 ins

Method

Choose a theme for your crazy patchwork - this could be a favourite colour theme, a colour theme related to an event or time of the year e.g. Autumn, a sporting event etc or it may be a theme inspired by a holiday or country walk.

- Cut some pieces of fabric - not too small as it becomes difficult to sew neatly!
- Place the first piece in the middle of your backing and pin in place.
- Take a second piece of fabric and put it right sides together on the first, matching one edge. Machine or hand sew in place. Open out and press.
- Take your next piece of fabric and place it carefully to cover another raw edge. Sew in place and press as before.
- You can join pieces of fabric together before stitching in place - this can be more interesting than cutting very large pieces of fabric.
- Continue to sew your fabrics in place until the backing is covered. Don't worry if you end up with a few raw edges showing - you can cover them up with a piece of ribbon or lace or you can machine over the edge with a decorative stitch!

If you prefer you can pin your fabrics in place and machine over the edges using a decorative stitch.

- Decorate your work with embroidery stitches, ribbon, lace or buttons - the crazier the better!
- Trim your work to match the base fabric.

- Pin the 2 shorter pieces of border fabric in place, right sides together, and machine stitch with 1/4 in seam.
- Repeat with the 2 longer pieces of border fabric.
- Take the 2 pieces of cushion back fabric and machine stitch a small double hem on 1 long side of each.
- With right sides together match one piece to the raw edge of the front of the cushion. Pin in place. Place the 2nd piece on top, matching the raw edge to the opposite side. Sew all the way round the edge of the cushion. Sew round the edge with a zig-zag stitch to prevent fraying.
- Turn right side out and press.
- Insert a cushion pad!