

# PILLOW-CA-DAB-RA

This method of pillowcase construction sounds a little complicated, but it's actually so much easier than conventional methods. Once you finish your first one, you should be able to complete a pillowcase in less than an hour. They make great gifts! Children and grandchildren love to have pillowcases made of seasonal fabric. If you're giving a quilt for a gift, make a matching pillowcase to use as a gift bag. Just remember to buy an extra  $\frac{3}{4}$  yard of your focus fabric when you're planning your quilt. Have a friend who takes her own pillow when she travels? How about a bright pillowcase, so it doesn't get left behind in the hotel? Don't forget to make one for yourself!

## YARDAGE:

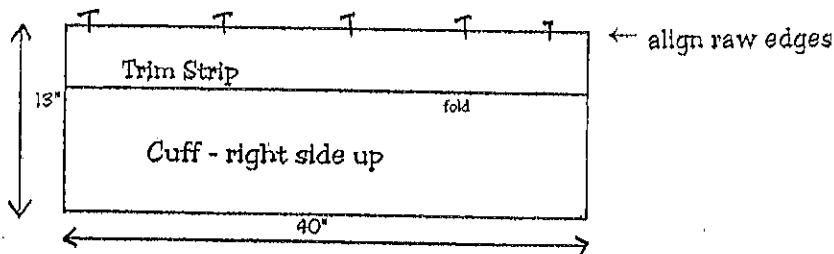
Body of Case:	$\frac{3}{4}$ yard
Cuff:	$\frac{3}{8}$ yard
Trim:	1 $\frac{1}{2}$ inch strip

## PREPARATION:

Press fabric and square up ends. Measure and trim all three fabrics to the same width. Fold the trim strip lengthwise, wrong sides together and press.

## CONSTRUCTION:

Unfold the cuff fabric and lay it lengthwise, right side up on the table in front of you. Place the trim strip across the top of the cuff, matching raw edges. Pin in place, making sure the heads of the pins are off the edge of the fabric.



Next, lay the body fabric, wrong side up, on top of the trim strip. Match the raw edges and pin in place along the length of the fabric. Be sure the pins are placed the same direction as above - heads to the top.

Pick up the bottom of the body fabric and loosely fold it up so that you can see the cuff fabric underneath. Lay the fabric folds along the length of the fabric, being sure that the bulk of the fabric is a few inches below the top raw edge.

Bring the bottom edge of the cuff fabric up and over the folded body fabric. Match the edge of the cuff fabric to the pinned edge of the prepared fabric. Pin the right side of the cuff fabric to the wrong side of the body fabric.

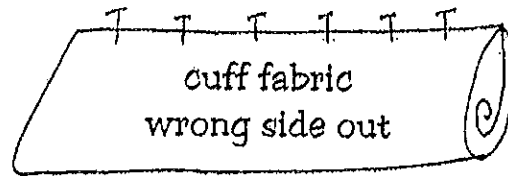
You should now have a tube of the cuff fabric encasing the trim and body fabric. The top of your tube is pinned and the fabric should be layered from back to front as follows:

Cuff fabric, right side up

2 layers of trim fabric, 1<sup>st</sup> right side down, 2<sup>nd</sup> right side down

Body fabric, right side down

Cuff fabric, right side down



Using a quarter inch seam, sew the pinned edge. Remove all pins. Reach inside the tube and pull the body fabric out one end. Keep pulling until the cuff fabric turns right side out. Press the cuff fabric away from the trim on the outside and the seam on the inside. Fold your fabric right side out, so that it looks like a pillowcase.

Use a french seam to close the long side of your pillowcase . In case you missed that class in Home Ec, here's a quick refresher.

With WRONG sides together, sew a 1/3 inch seam down the side of the pillowcase. Then turn the case wrong side out. Now sew the side seam with a 1/2 inch seam allowance, encasing the raw edges of the original seam inside the seam you are sewing now. If you did this correctly, you won't be able to see any raw edges. From the outside this seam looks like a regular seam.

After the side seam is sewn, sew the bottom of the case closed. You can use a regular seam, a french seam or your serger.

Turn right side out and Ab-Ra-Ca-Dabral You have a finished pillowcase. Almost as easy as magic!

## RICKRACK VERSION

Another version features jumbo rickrack instead of the inserted trim strip. Lay out the pillowcase as instructed above, omitting the trim strip. Sew across the cuff, turn right side out and press. Lay the jumbo rickrack along the seam line. Attach the rickrack to the pillowcase by sewing through the center. Finish the pillowcase following the directions above.

## THE QUILT BASKET

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