

Roll it Up Pillowcase

Original MKE Mixers Team
MCFLS

Audience

Seniors, Adults, Teens, School age children

Description

A simple machine sewing project, adapted from Better Homes & Gardens' HowtoSew.com
<http://howtosew.com/blog/first-projects/roll-it-pillowcase>

Budget

Varies, depending on how many participants you have and how much fabric you are supplying.
\$1-\$50, \$51-\$100

Mixes

- Textiles Mix - Box 2: Sewing Machines
- Textiles Mix - Box 3: Sewing Machines

Program Execution

1. Place the band strip printed side (or “right side” in common sewing terminology) up on a table. Matching up the long edges, put the pillowcase body rectangle printed side down on top of the band strip. There’s no need to pin these together right now. The fabrics should stick together naturally. [Photo 1](#).
2. Beginning at lower long edge, roll the pillowcase body toward the band that is underneath it. When you get to the band, don’t roll it up. Just keep on rolling the pillowcase body only. [Photo 2](#).
3. Stop rolling when you reach a point about halfway up the band. The long edges that you matched up in Step 1 should still be straight and together. Bring the band’s bottom edge up and over the pillowcase body roll to form a tube. Match up all three long edges. [Photo 3](#).
4. Pin the three long edges together, making sure the rolled pillowcase body is out of the way (see picture on right below) and doesn’t get caught by your pins. When you have it all pinned, peek in the tube and check to make sure that all the layers are lined up evenly. If they’re not, remove a few pins, adjust the layers to even them out, and repin. [Photo 4](#).
5. Time to sew! Sew along the pinned edges with a straight seam using a 1/2 " seam allowance. [Photo 5](#).
 - a. Start with a backstitch: Sew a few stitches forward, then put the machine in reverse and stitch a few stitches back to the beginning of the seam, then continue sewing the full length of the straight seam. This is called a backstitch and will make the result stronger!
 - b. Do not sew over pins. Instead, remove each pin just before it reaches the sewing machine’s presser foot.
 - c. Sew at a slow speed so that you can control your fabric layers and keep the seamline straight. If you have to stop to readjust the layers, stop with your sewing machine needle down in the fabric so it won’t shift as you adjust the pieces.
6. Now for the magic! It’s time to turn the tube so the printed side is out. To do this, fold over a cuff at one end of the band. With your fingers holding on to the band and gently pulling it down, pull up on the roll of fabric inside the tube. Continue pulling the band and the roll in opposite directions, as if you were pulling a sleeve from a sweater, until you’ve turned it completely right side out. [Photo 6](#).
7. Unroll the pillowcase body. All the seam allowances should be enclosed inside the pillowcase band, leaving a finished look to the band portion. [Photo 7](#).
8. Press (iron) the seam flat on the printed side where the band and body come together. You may need to tug slightly to ensure the seam comes flat before ironing. The seam allowances inside should be going toward the band (you can feel these with your hand). Turn over and repeat to press the seam on the other side. [Photo 8](#).

9. To complete your pillowcase, finish it with side and bottom seams. [Photo 9](#).
 - a. Fold the pillowcase in half with printed sides together.
 - b. Pin the edges together: first pin the long edge, beginning at the band and working toward the opposite end. To make sure it matches up properly, pin the intersection where the band meets the body first. Then, pin across the short end at the bottom of the pillowcase. Make sure the heads of the pins are sticking off the edge so you can take them out as you sew.
 - c. Using a ruler and marking pen, mark a dot on the bottom corner 1/2" from each edge.
10. Using a 1/2" seam allowance, begin at the top edge of the band and backstitch to secure the start of the seam. (The bulk of the pillowcase will be in your lap as you begin to sew this seam.) Sew a straight seam to join the long raw edges of the pillowcase. When you get to the dot marked 1/2" from the bottom corner, stop with your needle down in the fabric. Lift the presser foot and pivot the fabric and continue sewing across the bottom of the pillowcase. Backstitch to secure the end of the seam. [Photo 10](#).
11. To make sure the seam allowance doesn't fray, zigzag stitch in the seam allowance (to the right of the line of stitching you did in Step 10) across the pillowcase side and bottom. [Photo 11](#).
12. Turn the pillowcase printed side out and press the seam allowance flat. You're done!

Photos

Photo 1.



Photo 2.



Photo 3.

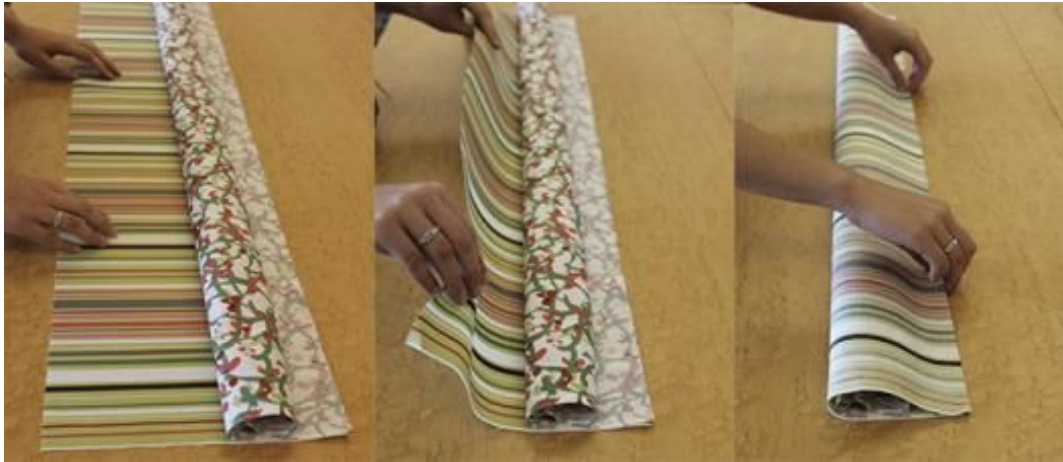


Photo 4.



Photo 5.



Photo 6.



Photo 7.



Photo 8.



Photo 9.



Photo 10.



Photo 11.

