



Scatter Cushion with Piping and Zip

Materials

Cushion Pad (Feather pads are better)

Face fabric

Piping Cord

Zip

Basic sewing equipment

Knowledge of how to do piping

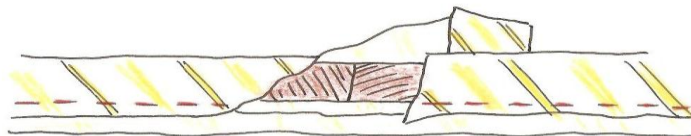
Cushions, a great and inexpensive way to refresh and liven up any interior scheme. They are relatively quick and easy to make and a useful way of using up offcuts of fabric.

If you are a beginner, you may find it easier to make the following cushion without using the piping.

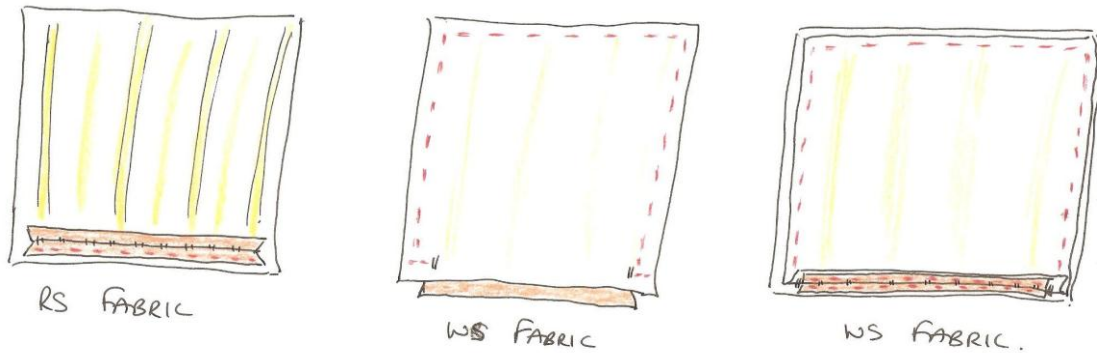
1. Decide on the best size of cushion for your room – 46cm (18”) sized cushions are a great all round size that works well on sofas, easy chairs and as scatter cushions on a bed.
2. To ensure a comfortable fit, your cushion cover should be 2.5cm smaller than the cushion pad when it’s finished. Choose the finished size of your cushion adding a 2cm seam allowance all round, then make a paper pattern the cut size of the cushion cover.
3. Use your paper pattern to cut out the front and back pieces of the cushion. If your fabric is patterned, place the paper pattern over the part of the fabric design that you want to see on the cushion.
4. Make your piping – piping fabric is cut on the bias (across the grain of the fabric).

Cut bias strips wide enough to fold over the piping cord plus your 2cm seam allowance. Longer strips are better as then you don't have to join the pieces. Position the cord in the center and fold the strip in half, make sure the right side of the fabric is on the outside. Machine as close as you can to the cord using a piping foot.

5. Position one end of your finished strip of piping in the middle of the bottom edge on the right side of your front piece of cushion fabric. Make sure the raw edges are level.
6. Carefully machine the piping into place. At the corners, leave the needle in the fabric, lift the presser foot and snip the seam allowance on the piping to the stitch line. This will allow you to turn the cover, bring the piping round the corner, re-position, lower the presser foot and carry on machining.
7. When you arrive back at the beginning you will need to join the piping. Cut the pieces of cord so that the ends butt together. Trim the fabric up to the cord on one end. On the other end, leave an overlap of about 3cm. Fold in the raw edge and overlap the ends of the piping neatly. Machine through as close as you can to the cord.



8. Inserting the zip – change to a zip foot. Use a zip 5cm shorter than the finished cushion. Place the zip, face down on the right side of the cushion cover along the lower edge, using the piping as a guide. Machine down the right hand side only, as close to the teeth as possible.
9. Place the right sides of the two cushion pieces together, stitch the front and back together beginning at one end of the zip and ending at the other end. Follow along the piping line.
10. To attach the zip to the back cover, machine the zip to the back fabric lower edge using your seam allowance and stitching as close to the teeth as possible. When you need to stitch past the zip, leave the needle in the work, lift the foot and open the zip below. Carry on sewing to the end.



11. Trim all the seams with pinking shears to prevent fraying. Turn the cover through to the right side, put in the cushion pad and plump into shape ready to use.
12. To add a slightly more interesting and creative look, use a contrast fabric for the piping.



Happy making!

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