



DESIGN & MAKE

BY HEATHER LUKE

Round cushions



Round cushion



Round cushions like this are easy to make and very versatile - piled on the floor for a Turkish style seat, to fit onto round chair seats, and I like this row on the sofa - more fun than square cushions. They look great on beds and on day beds, mixed with other square and rectangular scatter cushions and box cushions. We've made these quite small but they can be made as large as you like - big floor cushions for dogs, children or both together!

DESIGN

Round cushions have been coming back in fashion for a while now - they first started creeping into magazines like Elle Decoration and in any shabby - chic, vintage textile collections, rooms and articles, having been consigned to the 'old fashioned' bin for years. Everything comes around again, and once two generations have lapsed the velvet smocked and ruched side cushions that mothers and grannies and great aunts had on their sofas, suddenly seem fine, and desirable, again.

A round cushion had been a rare thing in our workrooms for over twenty years, and now we make them in all sorts and sizes and for all types of rooms, from grand salons to cottage bedrooms. Still mostly in vintage type fabrics such as the ubiquitous velvets, silks and damasks, but in softer colours than the reds, greens, terracottas often in vintage shops.

These pastel colours look brilliant together, and here they sit on antique Chinese rugs and an antique gilded French sofa, upholstered in a much brighter silk damask. They look equally good on their own though, and perhaps in schemes that are variations on a theme of one colour or two close colours, with other pastels and tonal variations.

The silk and cotton we used here is from Designers Guild. Tricia Guild has a knack of re-vitalising traditional fabrics with new colours, scale and at a sensible price. The gathers are pulled up with at the centre with drawstring, and this can be on show and decorative, accessible so that the cushion cover can be undone easily, or hidden behind a 'lid' that creates a mini dome on the top.



They remind me of tussocksor stepping stones

Make

MATERIALS

These cushions are quite small, the finished diameter is between 30 and 35 cms (12" - " 14") and they are between 5 - 8cms (2" - 3") high, depending how they have been plumped. We have made them much larger by scaling up the given dimensions - some of which are shown on the last page.

1. **Cushion pad** : One round pad 38cms (15") diameter. We used a feather / down pad which can be plumped up to regain its shape, time after time.
2. **Fabric**:
Base - One piece 34 cms diameter.
Sides - 135 cms x 24- 25 cms (54" x 9 1/2- 10")
Top - one piece of fabric 12 cms (4 3/4") diameter.
3. **Lining**:
Base - One piece 34 cms diameter. If you're using a fine or semi-sheer fabric, then line the side piece as well.
Top - one piece of fabric approx. 12 cms (4 3/4") diameter.
4. **Drawstring**: One piece of blind cord, India tape or decorative ribbon - which one, will depend on whether it will show or not. It needs to be at least 30cms (12") longer than the side piece. So 165 cms (66") minimum.
5. **Piping**: Optional finish for the top - approx. 40 cms made up piping or bought cording.
6. **Stuffing**: Optional finish for the top - 2-3 pieces of wool or cotton wadding, batting approx. 9 cms (3 1/2") diameter - or 3 cms (1 1/4") less than the fabric diameter.

OPTIONS

1. As green cushion below : the sides may be made from more than one fabric, several colours of the same fabric or one fabric in sections that are reversed. In either case, stitch them together to the size needed first.
2. As green cushion below: the top dome can be replaced by a button - instead of making the cording seam at the top leave it raw, pleat it up after the cushion has been inserted and cover the raw edges with a large button.



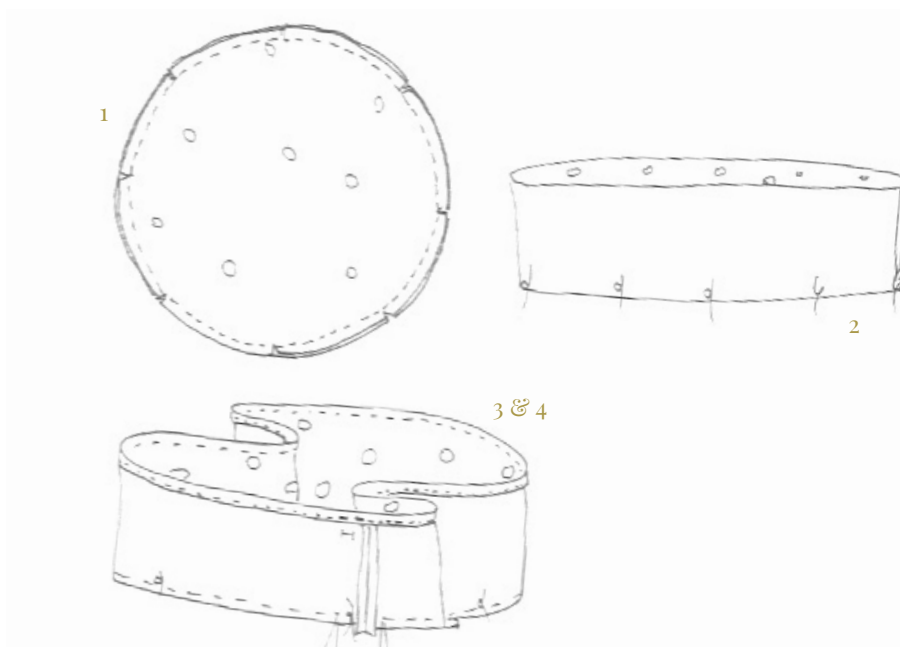
Make

PREPARE

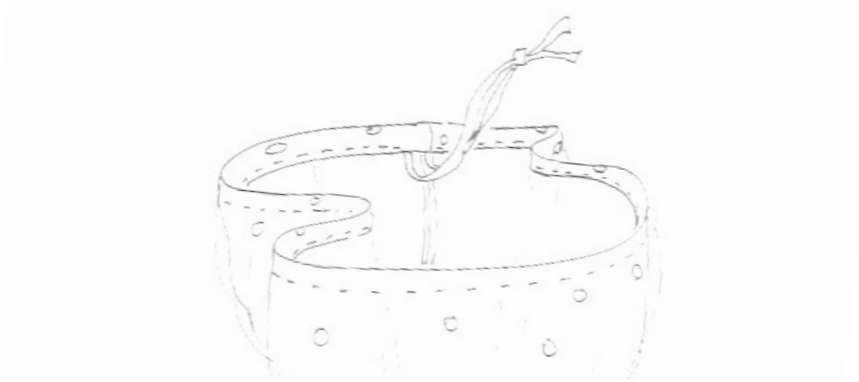
1. Cut out the fabrics and linings, mark the top and right side.
2. To line the base: Place the fabric base right side down on the table. Place the lining over. Pin them together at the centre and then all the way around- at least every 5 cms (2"), with the pins at right angles to the sides so that they can remain in place for the stitching, still holding the fabrics securely. Stitch them 12mm (1/2") from the outer edge- i.e. just within the 15mm (5/8") seam allowance. Take out the pins, then press
3. Do the same for the top piece, and also for the side piece - if you're lining it.
4. Join the short ends of the cushion side. Place it onto the worktable right side up. Press to remove all creases, fold in half width-wise, with the right sides inside. Pin the short sides and stitch together along the seam allowance. Press the stitches from both sides to bed them in, then press the seam open.
5. Make up the piping if it's not already done.

TO MAKE THE CUSHION

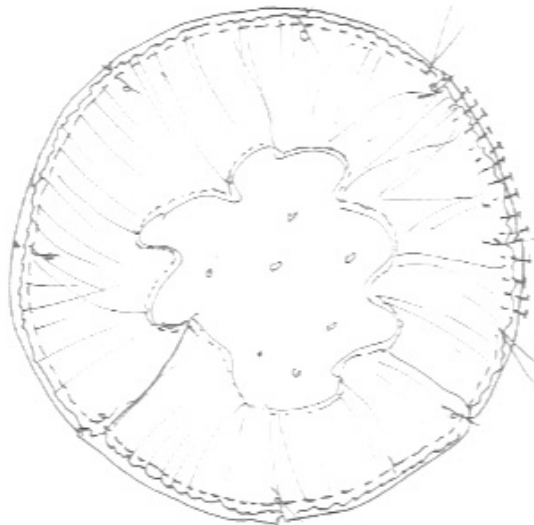
1. Place the cushion base onto the worktable right side up. Divide the circumference into 8 - fold it in half and make small snips, approx. 1 cm (1/4") into the seam allowance. Or stitch small coloured marking tacks if you prefer. Fold in half the other way and do the same, then half way between, until there are 8 evenly spaced markings.
2. Divide the top and side piece into 8. Fold in half then in half again- and denote each section with a similar snip or marking tack along the bottom edge.



3. With the fabric flat on the table, right sides inside, press the top edge 2.5 cm (1") onto the wrong side. Fold the raw edge under, tucking it tight into the fold line, to make a hem of 1.2- 1.3 cm (1/2") Pin to hold. Stitch around, close to the fold line, leaving an opening of 2.5 cm (1") at the seam. Make sure the stitching is well secured at each end.
4. Run a gathering thread around the lower edge, just slightly within the 1.5 cm (5/8") seam allowance.
5. Thread a cord through the channel at the top to pull in the centre - knot it to prevent it being pulled back through. Pull up to approx. 105 cms (41" - 42")



6. Place the cushion base onto the worktable right side up. With right sides together and the raw edges lined up pin the side to the base, matching the section markers. Work around the circle, even out the gathers and pin securely, until each section lies neatly - you'll need something like one pin for each 1 cm (3/8"). Stitch close to the gathering line. Remove the pins and all gathering threads. Neaten the seam.



7. Press the seam from the right side and press it away from the circle if the fabric is fine and light, or onto the circle for a thicker fabric. In which case, notch into the seam allowance until the seam lies flat. Trim back the gathers if necessary.
8. Place the cushion pad over the base. Pull up until the hole at the centre is approx. 6 cm (5 1/2") in diameter.



TO MAKE THE TOP

Option One - Tie the cord into a loose holding bow. Neaten the edges of the top circle (line it if it would be of benefit) and slip it inside the ruched opening, so that it covers the pad inside and sits neatly. Pin it to the seam at one side, and stitch the edge of the circle to the seam at either side of the opening - inside. This is just enough to hold the circle in place without it getting in the way when the cover is later removed for laundering.

Option Two: Make up the top cover piece. Pipe, or stitch bought cording, around the circumference 1.5 cm (5/8") from the edge. Press the seam under, slip the wadding , or batting, into the circle, under the seams. If you want quite a fat 'dome' make a few stitches right across the back to pull the edges together and hold the filling inside. Place it over the hole and pin it in place around the sides, so that the piping line is always just outside the stitched line.



OTHER DIMENSIONS

The gathered side can be more or less full. As it doesn't need to be exact, the measurements given are approximates and between. So if you want it to fit within a width of fabric or a spare piece then just make sure it gives you enough fullness (we are working with approx 4 x the diameter). Or to make a width or a given piece a bit bigger, add a section to make a tonal or contrasting slip.

In each case the tops can be gathered in at the centre, to be covered with a button; left open ; or covered 'domes' of around the standard 7- 10 cm (2 3/4 - 4") or more. (They can only be smaller if the fabric is fine enough to be pulled up tighter. It's just what you'd like to see.

For all : Top - the cone or under flap is cut 12 - 15 cm diameter (4 3/4" - 6")

Cushion approx. 33 cms diameter x 5 cms high (13 1/4" x 2 ")

Pad 38 cms (15 1/2") diameter

Base One piece 34 cms (13 1/2") diameter to make 31cms (12 1/4 ")

Side One piece 130 - 140 cms x 24 cms (52 - 56" x 9 1/2 - 10 ")

Cushion approx. 39 cms diameter x 6 cms high (approx. 16" x 2 1/2")

Pad 45 cms (18") diameter.

Base One piece 38 cms (15 1/4") diameter to make 35 cms (14 ")

Side One piece 130 - 140 cms x 29 cms (52 - 56" x 11 1/2")

Cushion approx. 42 cms diameter x 8 cms high (approx. 17 " x 3")

Pad 50 cms (20") diameter.

Base One piece cut 41 cms (16 1/2") diameter to make 38 cms (15 1/4")

Side One piece 145 - 160 cms x 32.5 cms (58 - 64" x 13")

Cushion approx. 46 cms diameter x 9 cms high (18- 19 " x 3 1/2 ")

Pad 55 cms (22") diameter.

Base One piece cut 45 cms diameter to make 42 cms (16 1/2 - 17")

Side One piece 165 - 175 cms x 35.5 cms (52 - 56" x 14 1/2")

Cushion approx. 50 cms diameter x 10 cms high (approx. 20 " x 4")

Pad 60 cms (24") diameter

Base One piece cut 49 cms (19 1/2") diameter to make 46 cms (18 1/2")

Side One piece 180 - 200 cms x 38 . 5 cms (72 - 80" x 15 1/4")



Easy in the garden...



An interior designers guide to home furnishings large and small, essential and ancillary, fun and serious. It's good to contribute to our own home furnishings and our patterns are designed for the nearly beginner to be able to follow and for those with experienced to have fun with...

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