



DESIGN & MAKE

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Silhouette Pillow Cover



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The perfect simplicity, bordering naivety, is the charm of both the fabric and the cover - it's good design, well executed.

In this room we have rococo style silvered furniture sitting with rich chocolate teddy bear velvet curtains, and an off white flokati - a long pile rug. All sumptuous and warm, comforting and elegant, tempered by plain walls, crisp white bedlinen and the shiny, sharp almost stark bedside lights.

We needed something with character, a textile that contained all of the elements of colour and possibility, yet with decorum. Black and white mattress ticking, sometimes known as English ticking, is a tried and tested fall back to support great fabrics. It's just there, demanding nothing. Sahco Hesslein can always be relied on for something just that bit different and this printed linen doesn't disappoint. The printed silhouette is beautifully serene and genteel, in seeming perfect harmony with the ethos and era of the bedhead, enlivened just enough by the delicate scroll pattern that just shows itself Chagall-like The fine touch of bronze lightens and deflects the possibility of puritanism. What is perhaps surprising is the number of subtle tones of colour that appear in this really lovely, seemingly simple, vignette - fifteen at last count ...

To make this cover, very little is needed in terms of material or time. It can be made easily within an evening without even getting the sewing machine out. We've used it to cover a pillow here, and it is open on both sides, but it could just as easily be open on one end only - this pillow sham concept is one we've used many times and in every situation - childrens rooms, gardens, garden rooms and orangeries, playrooms, kitchens, drawing rooms and dens...



When everything around is as sumptuous and elegant as this, simple fabrics - tonal silhouettes, mattress ticking and black petersham - work incredibly well together, keeping it all in perfect balance.

Make

MATERIALS

- Cushion pad:** already covered
- Cover material:** to fit around the pad plus 3 cms (1 1/4") for the seams x the length or just short of the length of the pad.
- Ribbon or ties:** 2 x lengths of ribbon approx. 60 cms (24") – we used petersham but any ribbon type tie would be just as good.
- Brass rings:** for the eyelets – these were 12mm (1/2") but any size as appropriate
- Perle thread:** no. 5 or 8 – or any embroidery or crochet cotton- it will be used double

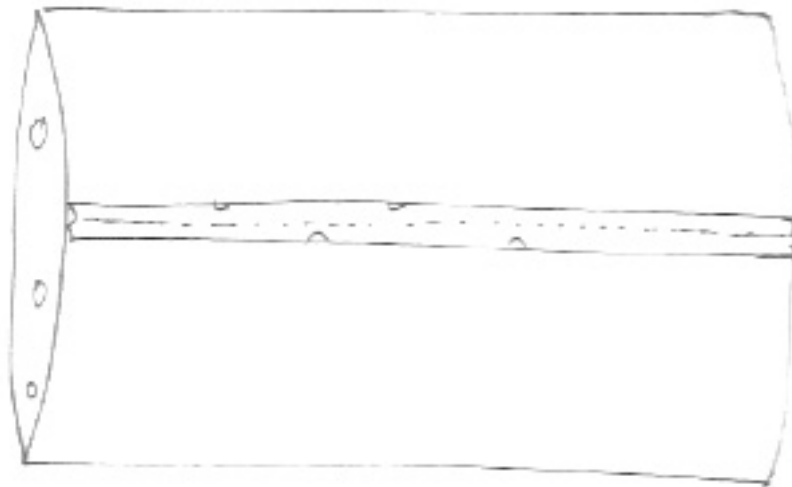
PREPARATION

1. This cushion pad was 35 x 55 cms (14" x 22") and we first covered it with black and white mattress ticking. This one is slip-stitched closed, on the basis that it won't be laundered that often. For regular laundering a zipped or buttoned closure would be more appropriate.
2. The cover was cut to 78 cms deep x 55cms (31 1/2" x 22")

Tip! To refresh cushions and their pads sit them on a towel over an Aga, a range, or a warm radiator for an hour or two, with a few sprigs of rosemary or lavender, or a couple of drops of oil beneath. The inners will fluff up beautifully and the whole thing will feel light and airy again. This applies to feather, down and silk, when synthetic fibre has gone lumpy and flat it can't, as far as I am aware, be rescued.

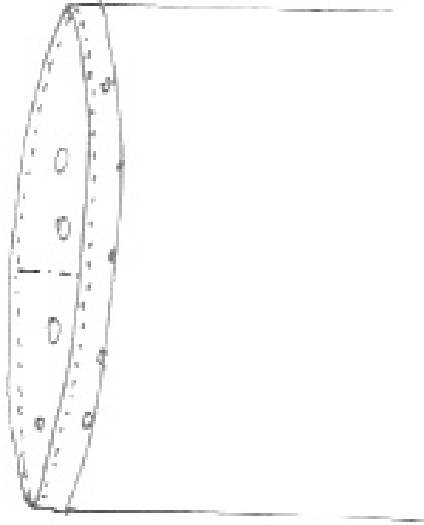
TO MAKE THE BOTTOM SEAM

1. Place the fabric on the worktable and fold in half with right sides together. Pin for a 1.5 cm (5/8") seam allowance all the way along. Stitch, press both sides of the stitching to bed in the stitches. Press the seam flat and neaten the raw edges as you wish.

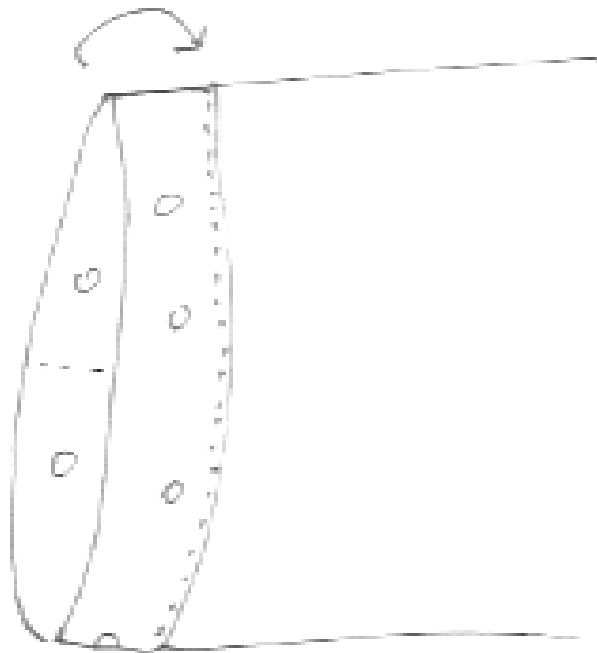


TO MAKE THE SIDES

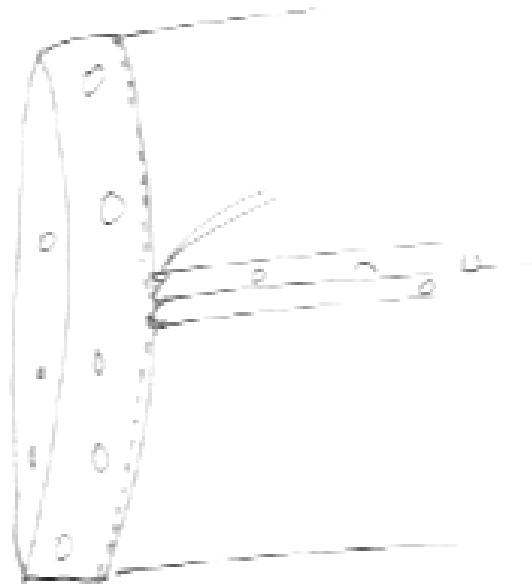
1. Work with one side at a time. Press 1 cm (3/8") to the wrong side, and stitch it in place with a stitching line very close to the folded edge.



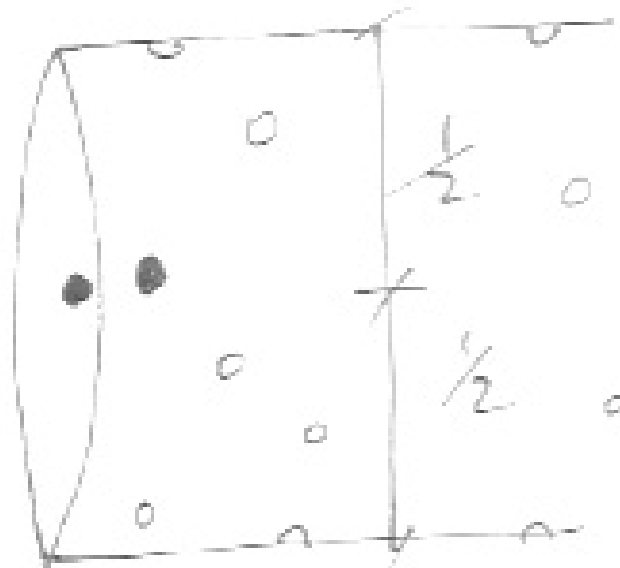
2. Press in a further 5 cm (2") to the wrong side and tack in place.



3. Slip stitch the edge of the flap to the seam just to hold it in place in the one area that won't be visible from the front.



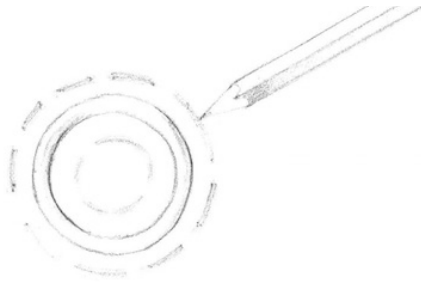
4. Fold the cover in half, right sides out. Press. Mark the positions, 2.5 cms in from the edge and half way along each side.



Make

TO MAKE THE EYELETS

1. Make the markers with a pencilled dot or a coloured tack.



2. Place one of the rings centrally over each and mark the inner edge with a pencil line. Use small scissors to cut a hole just smaller than the marked circle.



3. Work a circle of neat stitches approx. 3 mm from the pencilled line, catching the ring to the fabric at the same time. These will be the stitching guideline, the over-sewing stitches will reach just far enough out to enclose these and the ring.



Make

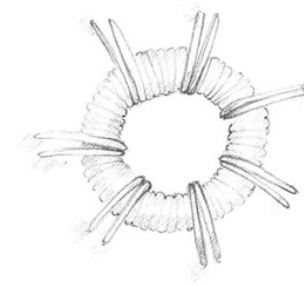
4. Stitch all around either with simple, closely worked over-sewing, buttonhole stitch for a very smart finish and a blanket stitch for an easier, but still knotted, type of finish.



5. Press the stitching with a hot iron over a damp cloth - after which it will all look immeasurably better!



6. Press the cover, slip it over the pad and tie the sides: Add further stitches in the same or other colours if you like





An interior designers guide to home furnishings, something we all need help with, even if only encouragement to find inspiration, follow your instinct, learn by mistakes, make it yours. We all need fun small things that don't cost the earth or take hours and hours to make. It's just this sort of thing - bits and bobs that we can make easily and without worrying that it must be perfect - that makes furnishing our homes the fun it should be, biographical, relevant to what's going on.

The basic cushion cover shown in black and white ticking is very simple but if you need help or a simple cushion with variety of closures- zipper, housekeepers buttons, ties and eyelets, then it's all contained in *Project CU 010*. The mocha damask bolster comes from *Project CU050* and the melted chocolate frilled cushion from *Project CU041*.

This is *Project No. CU005*

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