

[It's Sew Easy Series 1700](#)

Show #1709-1 Pillow Parade

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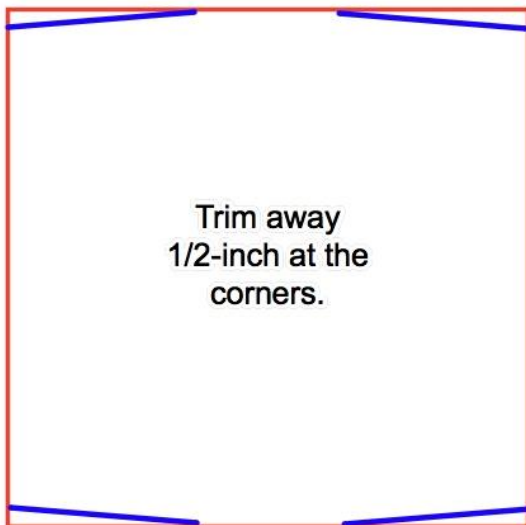


Designing pillows is easy and fun! You'll find that new pillows are one of the quickest ways to update your décor in any room. Pillows make great gifts too! In this show I hope to inspire you with a parade of pillows adorned with various embellishment techniques.

Here are some tips for stuffing and trimming, along with links to more information and inspiration for creating pretty pillows:

- Pillow forms and stuffing make or break a pillow design. Some styles call for a pillow that can be formed and shaped. For example, pillows that look as if they have been pushed down at the top are currently popular in home dec. These are often called “karate chop” pillows. This style is accomplished with a loosely stuffed pillow.
- For a finished pillow that’s full and plump you may need to add more stuffing, especially when using a pre-purchased pillow form. This is easier to do if your ready-made pillow form includes a zippered opening. For another option, you can make your pillow slightly smaller than your form, so it fills in the pillow nicely. Oftentimes, I will make the decorative pillow the same size as the pillow form, and then use ½-inch seam allowances when constructing the pillow. This results in a finished pillow that’s one inch smaller than the measurements of the actual pillow form. Even when using this method, I find that the corners usually require extra stuffing.
- For stuffing pillows, or for adding stuffing to existing pillows, I prefer a “cluster” fiberfill. This filling is made up of small pieces of fiberfill making it easy to create a lump free pillow form. The brand I use most often is [Morning Glory Cluster Stuff](#).
- You can taper the corners of knife edge pillows to create a softer look. See below:

Taper to zero 3-inches
from the corner.



- Instead of sewing sharp corners you can sew a modified point by taking a few stitches across the corners, or by rounding the corners with a small round object. Rounding corners makes it easier to apply piping as well.
- I like to re-enforce the corners with a second line of stitching. Be sure to trim and grade the corners of your pillows so they turn nicely.
- Embellish your pillows with added trim, machine embroidery, or appliqués. When adding piping you can easily join the ends at the center of your panel by criss-crossing the two ends, catching the excess in the seam allowance.

Here are some links for you to explore:

- [CLICK HERE](#) to visit the [Brother Blog](#) and learn how to make a story time embroidered pillow trimmed with rick rack. This project includes instructions for sewing the trim with a twin needle.
- Visit the archives of the [Brother Foot of the month](#) projects for more pillow instructions.
- You'll find some of my additional pillow projects featured in past issues of Designs in Machine Embroidery magazine. [CLICK HERE](#) to view the photo gallery.



Questions? Comments?

- I invite you to visit me at my Sewing and Embroidery website www.letsdosew.com. You'll find online lessons, videos, free downloads, and lots of sewing and embroidery information and inspiration!
- You can sign-up for letsdosew.com news [HERE](#).
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Happy Sewing!

Joanne