

NAME T-Shirt Pillows

by Dorothy A. Hansen, Snohomish, Washington

When I saw the NAME T-shirts on sale for \$5.00 I knew this was a great deal but I really didn't need anymore T-shirts. I think I own at least one in each design. I thought this is such a great deal I have to buy some (a miniaturist can't pass up a bargain). I remembered seeing a pattern to make a pillow out of a T-shirt. What a great idea! I will make some pillows for my miniature friends for gifts. I made four pillows in about 1-1/2 hours and that was stopping to take photos and making notes for instructions. I wanted this to be super easy, straight stitching, no zippers, you could even sew this by hand.

I have a serger sewing machine and one that does stretch stitch but I decided to use my old Singer Featherweight machine, it was already out and I wanted to get these pillows done. I used a straight stitch on my machine, I did do two rows of stitching (about 1/8" apart). Use the stitching of your choice, straight, zigzag, serger or stretch stitch. It doesn't matter what size your T-shirt is. The T-shirts I bought were all different sizes, I was going for color and what it said. The larger they are the more options you have as to the finished size of the pillow. I purchased ready made pillow forms from the craft store but you could use an existing pillow and this would be a new cover.

TOOLS

- Scissors
- Pins
- Thread
- Sewing machine
(a needle and thread will work too)

MATERIALS

- T-shirt
- Pillow Form or Stuffing

Lay your T-shirt out on a flat surface and find the center of your design. I placed a pin in the center and measured out from that. Decide what size you want to make your pillow. The small pillows with the NAME logo are 12" x 12". The "Miniaturists work as little as they can" is 12" x 16". The largest one "A Quarter to One" is 16" x 16".

I pinned the front and back together to cut out. I decided to make the front a double thickness to give it a little more



body. I used chalk to mark my cutting lines. I cut the same size as my pillow form and used a 1/4" seam allowance. It will make the pillow a 1/2" smaller than the pillow cover to fit the form snug. The back is an envelope type closure. You are using the shirt's hem for the width of the pillow.



Finished Size 16" x 16".

Cut the Front Piece

Cut the top of the shirt (the graphic), the same exact measurement as your pillow (length x width). This will be the front of your pillow.

Cut the Two Back Pieces

Based on the pillow measurements,

cut the back pillow pattern pieces. Cut the front and back of the shirt's hem the same width as your pillow, and three-quarters the length of the pillow.

You should now have three pattern pieces: the front of the pillow (the graphic) and the two back pieces (the hems).

There will be two pieces overlapping (envelope-style) in the middle of the pillow. The preexisting hem on the bottom of the T-shirt will serve as the ends.



First back piece placed on top of front piece.

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WORKPROJECT T-SHIRT PILLOW

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Place the First Back Piece

Place the front pillow piece (the graphic) right-side up. Then place one of the back pieces on top of it, right sides together. Match up the three raw cut edges.

Place the Second Back Piece

Take your other back pillow piece and place it on top of that, right side facing

down. Place this on the opposite raw edges of the pillow, so that the hems overlap in the middle. Pin around all four edges and then sew. I trimmed the corners off before turning to reduce bulk.

Flip It Around

Turn the pillow cover right-side out.

Fill It

Stuff the pillow through the back envelope opening.

Fold Over and Smooth

Pull both of the back pieces over the pillow form and smooth. The form should now be safely enclosed inside the pillow cover.



Back of 12" x 12" pillow.



Sew 1/4" seam allowance all the way around. This one didn't overlap as much as I would of liked. I will add some snaps to make sure it stays closed.



This is my favorite. I am keeping this one and using it in my office. Finished Size 12" x 12". The two back pieces were cut 9" x 12".

Sample of cutting for 12" x 16"



Finished Size 12" x 16". Front was cut 12" x 16". The two back pieces were cut 9" x 16".

Embellishing the Paper Dolls

1920's Fashions for Well Bred Young Ladies and Gentlemen

By Cat Wingler, Southport, North Carolina

Generations of women, children and artists have embellished paper doll clothes. This is where you can let your creativity run free. Use tiny beads, glit-

ter, dimensional paint, ribbons, tissue paper, flowers and leaves, scraps of lace and fabric, just whatever strikes your fancy!

Then, when you have an embellished costume you like, or have created a whole new one, put her in a tiny frame or in a tiny dome!

NAME CUTOUTS • PAPER DOLLS BY CAT WINGLER



See page 10 for more information on 1920's Fashions.

