

home about me quilts tutorials buy my patterns

Monday, December 10, 2012

installing zipper closure in a pillow cover {tutorial}

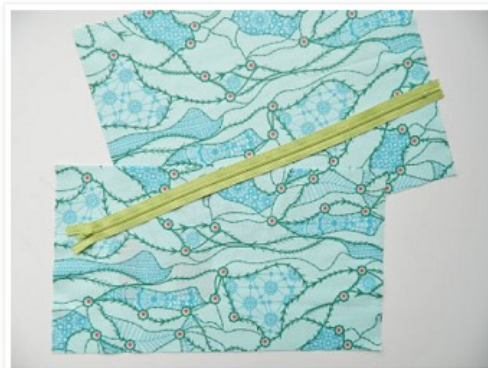
It took a little longer than I thought, but I'm happy to say that I finally finished a tutorial showing you how I do zipper closures for my throw pillows.



A little disclaimer here: this is just my own way of doing it, I'm definitely not claiming this to be the only, or the best way.

Let's start, shall we? All the instructions are for a 16" square pillow, but they could very easily be adjusted for any other size. I used this same method for my larger square as well as rectangular pillows with great success.

You will need: one fat quarter of fabric of your choice
one 16" or larger zipper (I prefer using an 18" zipper as having a longer zipper makes installing it easier)



From your fabric, cut 1 rectangle measuring 9" x 16", and 1 rectangle measuring 12" x 16".



Follow me on [bloglovin'](#)

9263 followers
VIA BLOGLOVIN'

my pattern shop

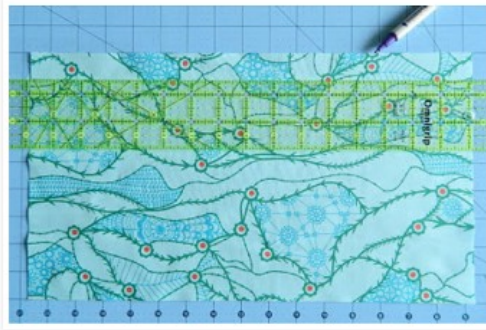


my crafty class



follow by email

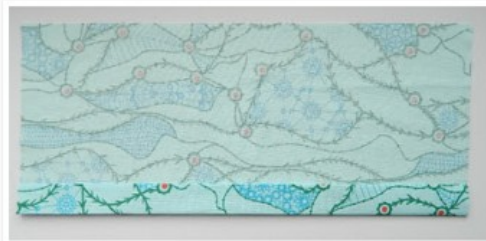
Email address...



Take your 9" x 16" rectangle (top part of the backing), and mark a line 1" from the edge on the long (16") side.



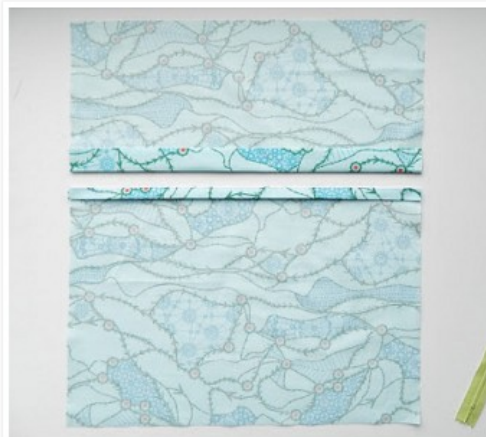
Place your fabric right side down on your ironing board, fold on the line drawn in a previous step, and iron in place.



Fold the fabric over again, iron again. Now your rectangle measures 7" x 16". Place aside.



This is what your rectangle will look like if opened after ironing.



projects featured in



blog archive

- ▶ 2019 (2)
- ▶ 2018 (36)
- ▶ 2017 (66)
- ▶ 2016 (96)
- ▶ 2015 (121)
- ▶ 2014 (92)
- ▶ 2013 (139)
- ▼ 2012 (189)
 - ▼ December (16)
 - 2012 in quilts
 - the puzzle {finished quilt}
 - merry christmas
 - lola's bed
 - pillows 2012
 - pillow cases for Sandy Hook elementary kids
 - deck the halls {new winner}
 - linen tote bag
 - the puzzle {a finished quilt top}
 - installing zipper closure in a pillow cover {tuto...
 - puzzle quilt {part 1}
 - sew, mama, sew! winner
 - happy little sewing
 - small finishes
 - sew, mama, sew! {giveaway}
 - november sewing
- ▶ November (15)
- ▶ October (13)
- ▶ September (19)
- ▶ August (15)
- ▶ July (16)
- ▶ June (17)
- ▶ May (15)
- ▶ April (15)
- ▶ March (17)
- ▶ February (17)
- ▶ January (14)
- ▶ 2011 (119)

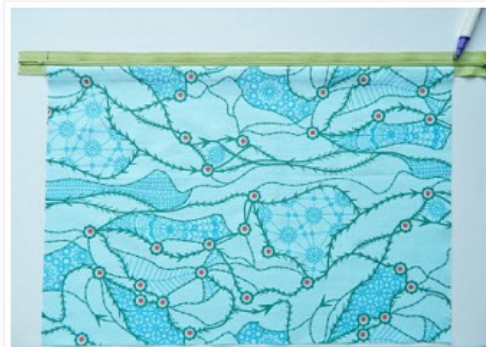
search this blog

buying bag making supplies

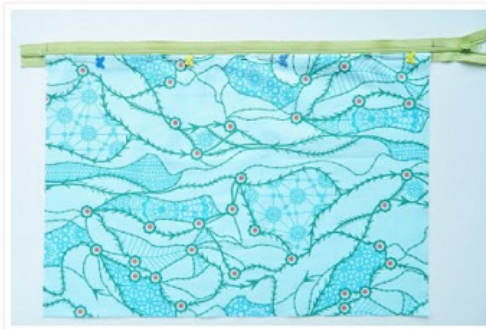
Now let's do the same thing with the 12" x 16" rectangle (bottom part of the backing), only this time fold the fabric over 1/2", press, and another 1/2" again - this bottom rectangle now measures 11" x 16". *The sides with no raw edges is where the zipper is going to be installed.*



This is what your two parts of the backing will look like. Your 1" folded over edge will make a flap to hide the zipper. Your 1/2" folded over edge will be attached to the bottom part of the zipper, this way you'll have no raw edges around the zipper.



Place the bottom part of the backing along the zipper teeth, make sure not to cover those - 16" side of the fabric that you ironed under to get a nice finished edge is overlapping the zipper tape. Mark the points where the fabric backing starts and ends on the zipper (it will come in handy when attaching the top part of the backing).



Pin in place.



Top stitch the pinned area using the edge of your presser foot as a guide. As you can see, I use my regular presser foot, there's no need for zipper foot in this case. Yay for that, I really dislike changing feet on my machine. *Just remember to stitch as close to your zipper teeth as possible since you want to make sure that your zipper tape gets attached properly.*



zipper pouch tutorials



tote bag tutorials



blogs I enjoy

Film in the Fridge
Get in line! – a Heather Ross quilt

Attic24
Wintering

SewKatieDid
:: Going Circular Quilt ::

Stitched in Color
Expat Chronicles: Four Thousand miles

While She Naps
10 Things You Didn't Know About Etsy Search

Becoming Minimalist
Everything Could Change Tomorrow

S SouleMama
Oak Meadow (a soulemama sponsor)

Noodlehead
Scrap Bento Bag Set

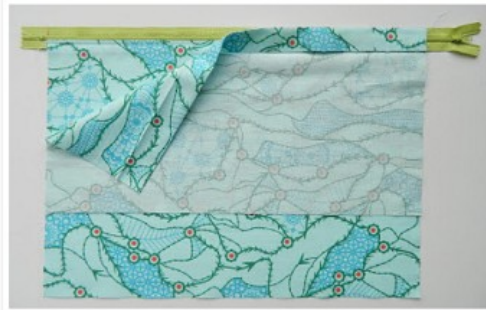
Posie Gets Cozy
My Secret Garden Inspiration

Salty Oat
photo shoot at cause creative

Crazy Mom Quilts
lizzie's quilt, a 40 year finish and farewell



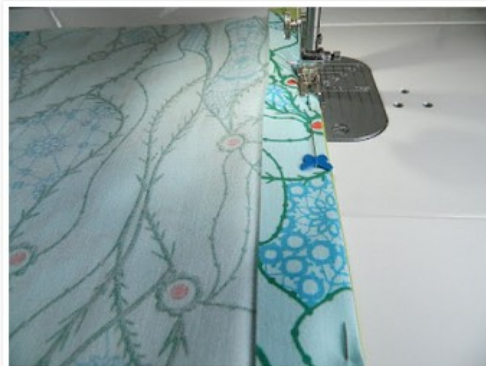
This is what your zipper attached to the bottom part of the backing will look like.



Now take the top part of your backing, open up the 1" edge that we ironed under twice in the earlier step. Fold over just once and place on top of the zipper tape, as shown in the picture. Right sides of your pillow cover fabrics are touching.



Align the top edge of the zipper tape with the edge of the pillow top (folded down once by 1"). Pay attention to the marks on your zipper tape to keep both the top and bottom parts aligned. Pin.



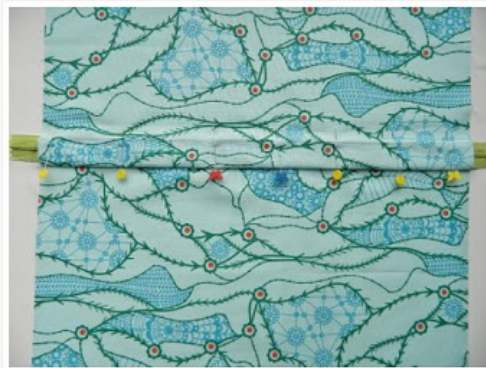
Stitch in place, using about 1/8" seam allowance, taking the pins out as you go. Again, use the edge of your presser foot as a guide to get your stitching nice and straight.



This is what the pillow cover will look like after attaching the top part of the backing to your zipper.



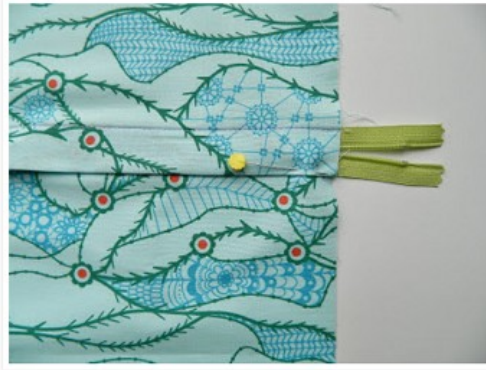
Flip over the top part of the backing. See how the flap forms all by itself where you ironed the fabric before? Using your ruler, mark 1" line along the flap.



Pin to hold everything nicely in place, use lots of pins at this stage as things tend to get shifty here. Stitch over the drawn line from the previous step.



Very important!!!! Make sure to open your zipper at this point, as shown in the picture.



Pin the edges where the top part overlaps the bottom one. Stitch over the sides to keep all the parts in place and properly aligned.



Snip off the excess parts of the zipper on both sides. This is where the stitches from the previous step come in handy as they hold both parts together securely.

Yay, congratulations!!! Your pillow back is now finished. Let's attach it to the pillow front now, shall we? *As you will notice, I used a different back for the pillow in following pictures. Hope that's not too confusing.*



Place the pillow back on the mat, wrong side up. Put a pillow front on top of it, wrong sides are touching. As you can see, the back part is a little larger than the pillow front. I do this on purpose to make sure that I can align both parts without any problems.



Pin your pillow front and back together and cut off the extra fabric on the bottom.



Stitch about 1/8" around the perimeter of the pillow, making sure your pillow front and back are stitched together. It's a good idea to use a walking foot, if you have one, as it will keep everything in its place as you sew around. Press.



This is what the back of your pillow will look like. Now all you need to do is attach the binding. I do it the same way as I would for a quilt, I just cut it about 1/4" thinner.



And, you're done! Put the pillow form in the cover you just made, sit back, and admire.

I hope you find this tutorial useful and enjoyable. Any questions, let me know. I'd love to help.

Posted by [Svetlana](#) at 7:25 AM



53 comments:



1. **tiffany** December 10, 2012 at 7:39 AM

thank you so much! perfect photos & explanation. i've tried invisible zippers on the bottom seam & simple envelope closures on the back, but wasn't crazy about either one. THIS is fantastic! (and that bear truly couldn't be any cuter.)

[Reply](#)

2. **Anonymous** December 10, 2012 at 8:11 AM

what a great tutorial!! Thank you! And, that little polar bear is adorable!

[Reply](#)



3. **Esch House Quilts** December 10, 2012 at 9:02 AM

Great tutorial, Svetlana! Your pillows always look so nicely stuffed - do you make your final measurements smaller than the pillow form?

[Reply](#)



4. **Heather D.** December 10, 2012 at 10:38 AM

Great Svetlana. Thank you!

[Reply](#)



5. ****nicke...** December 10, 2012 at 10:42 AM

smart! love it!

[Reply](#)



6. ***Jamie Lee*** December 10, 2012 at 10:54 AM

This is the best, most useful tutorial ever! Thank you!

[Reply](#)



7. **Bea Garcia** December 10, 2012 at 11:26 AM

Thanks for the tuto...

[Reply](#)



8. **Lia's Handmade** December 10, 2012 at 11:45 AM

awesome tutorial, am so bookmarking this, could it be any easier to make pillows? lol and that bear is super cute!

[Reply](#)



9. **Captain StitchyPants** December 10, 2012 at 1:09 PM

Brilliant timing! I have a couple of cushion covers I need to make, and I've been worried about the zip part.

[Reply](#)



10. **Kristie** December 10, 2012 at 1:11 PM

Perfect! I was trying to dissect it from my pillow, so it is nice how you laid it all out he, lol!

[Reply](#)



11. **Kristie** December 10, 2012 at 1:12 PM

*here

[Reply](#)



12. **Live a Colorful Life** December 10, 2012 at 2:03 PM

Great tutorial!!

[Reply](#)



13. **Nat at Made in Home** December 10, 2012 at 4:57 PM

Great tutorial! I love th bear cushion, so cute!

[Reply](#)



14. **Katy Cameron** December 10, 2012 at 6:24 PM

Great idea and I want that polar bear!

[Reply](#)



15. **Dina** December 10, 2012 at 11:24 PM

Your zipper pillow backs look so nice & neat, but I didn't think I would be able to replicate it. Now with this tutorial, maybe I can work up my nerve to try it.

[Reply](#)



16. **Heidi Staples** December 11, 2012 at 12:37 AM

I can't wait to use this tutorial, Svetlana! Thank you so much for sharing it!!

[Reply](#)



17. **patchworkdelights** December 11, 2012 at 6:39 AM

Great tutorial! Printing it off and filling it to give it a shot! Gorgeous polar bear! FI

[Reply](#)



18. **Rebeca** December 11, 2012 at 7:23 AM

Great tutorial! Thanks!!!

[Reply](#)



19. **Leanne** December 11, 2012 at 8:08 AM

This is an excellent tutorial and this does not look hard at all. I will give it a try on my next pillow cover.

[Reply](#)



20. **Jenny** December 11, 2012 at 10:39 PM

That's great! Love your polar bear -- the hand quilting is so quiet but so nice!

[Reply](#)



21. **katie@stvital** December 13, 2012 at 10:18 AM

Thank you, I have either done an overlapping envelope fold or a zipper on the edge. I will have to try this next time.

[Reply](#)



22. **Debbie** December 17, 2012 at 8:06 AM

Nice tutorial! Thanks for sharing.

[Reply](#)



23. **Marisa** December 17, 2012 at 12:53 PM

This is such perfect timing! I have an 18" pillow that I'm just about ready to try this with. Just wondering if my math is correct: would you cut the pieces 10x18 and 13x18? Thank you so much for this tutorial!!!

[Reply](#)



24. **Jeannie** December 21, 2012 at 5:01 PM

Excellent tutorial, thanks for posting it!

[Reply](#)



25. **Laura C @ littleandlots** January 20, 2013 at 11:21 AM

Thank you for this tutorial! I tried it out yesterday with excellent results. I linked to it in my blog post about the pillow I made. I'll never make another lazy envelope closure for a pillow again!

[Reply](#)



26. **Melissa** March 2, 2013 at 5:01 PM

Love the clean finish, and so much easier than fiddling with an invisible zipper. Thank you so much for this great tutorial.

[Reply](#)



27. **Joy** March 5, 2013 at 10:02 AM

I can't believe I have avoided using zipper closures for my pillows all these years. Your tutorial is marvelous!

[Reply](#)



28. **Bloom** October 8, 2013 at 7:28 PM

Brilliant tutorial Svetlana! From this day forward, I will never do zippers any other way. Beautifully neat finish. Thank you so much for sharing your technique.

[Reply](#)



42. **Heide** May 27, 2016 at 4:24 PM

Thank you, Thank you, Thank you. I just followed your tutorial to install my first zipper in a pillow.

[Reply](#)



43. **abhinnav Aggarwal** October 4, 2016 at 2:24 AM

Thanks for giving this tutorial. Please share to make the [bed linen](#) tutorial.

[Reply](#)



44. **Susan Russell** October 8, 2016 at 12:27 PM

If my pillow top measures 16 inches what size pillow form do you use...16 inch or 18 inch? Thanks! I want to attempt a zipper.....it has been 30 years or more since I did and that was in clothing. ~S.

[Reply](#)



45. **Barbara Cavallotti** October 30, 2016 at 3:09 AM

Great job! Fantastic tutorial! Thank you so much!

[Reply](#)



46. **Barbara Cavallotti** October 30, 2016 at 3:12 AM

Great job! Fantastic tutorial! Thank you so much!

[Reply](#)

47. **Seattle Bicycle Advocate** March 9, 2017 at 6:04 AM

Wow! I've been wanting to learn how to make a zip this way, so thanks for sharing! I love the fabric, too! :)

[Reply](#)



48. **Hazel Mills** March 11, 2017 at 4:32 AM

Thank you, very pleased with my first effort!

[Reply](#)



49. **Margaret** August 29, 2017 at 10:40 AM

Very nice clear tutorial, and great photos! Thank you! I'm wondering why you don't include a seam allowance. Does the pillow look plumper if the cover is a little smaller than the pillow? I was afraid it wouldn't fit, so I added material for a 1/2" seam allowance.

[Reply](#)



50. **Sally K** July 12, 2018 at 8:46 PM

wow! This looks like a great method. I can't wait to try it out on my next pillow project. Thank you for sharing it.

[Reply](#)

51. **Colleen** July 16, 2018 at 8:16 PM

I used this tutorial to sew 6 cushions, and it worked like a charm. Created such a professional finish. Now I'm about to sew 5 more cushions for outdoors. Very clear and easy to follow. Thank you

[Reply](#)



52. **KaHolly** August 17, 2018 at 5:43 AM

This is an excellent tutorial. I've referred to it several times. Thank you Sew much. I suggest that if someone has pieced a pillow top, and it measures 16.5", to be sure to cut the pieces 16.5" wide, not 16".

[Reply](#)



53. **Donna Ramsey** January 10, 2019 at 10:53 AM

Great instructions and pics. I searched through a lot of sites to find these instructions Exactly what I wanted.

[Reply](#)

Enter your comment...



Comment as: **Google Account** ▾

[Publish](#)

[Preview](#)

[Newer Post](#)

[Home](#)

[Older Post](#)

Subscribe to: [Post Comments \(Atom\)](#)

Simple theme. Powered by [Blogger](#).