

# How to Sew Your Own Pillow Cover

## (Requires Sewing Experience)

### Introduction

Have you ever been on a desperate hunt for a pillow design that fits your taste? Or perhaps you find a design you like but it's overpriced. All of this can be resolved at home where your creativity can flourish and you can create your own personal pillow cover.

### Materials

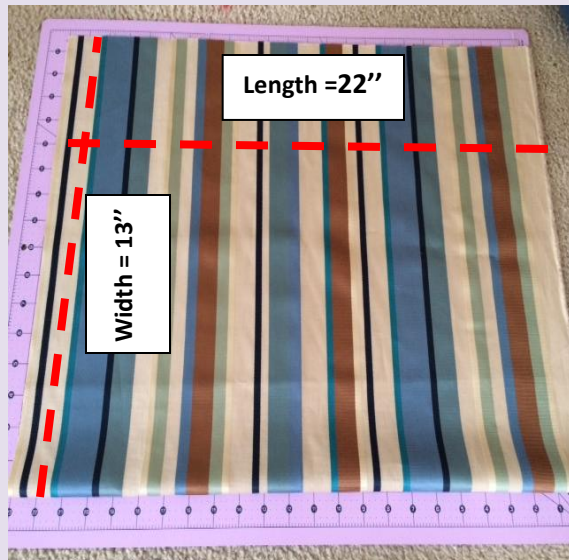
- 12" x 16" pillow
- 1 pkg maxi piping(2 ½ yards)
- Thread
- Seam ripper
- Scissors
- Rotary cutter and mat
- Iron
- Basic sewing machine
- Zipper foot
- Pins
- Ruler



### Cutting

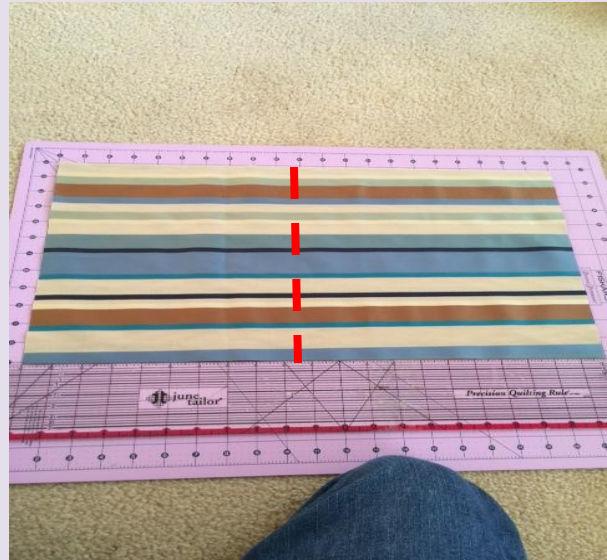
The Cutting process will be the first stage in your pillow design. You can pick your own type of fabric as long as it is half a yard. The materials that you will be using will include, **½ yard of fabric, rotary cutter and mat.**

### 1.) Cutting Fabric into 13"x 22" pieces



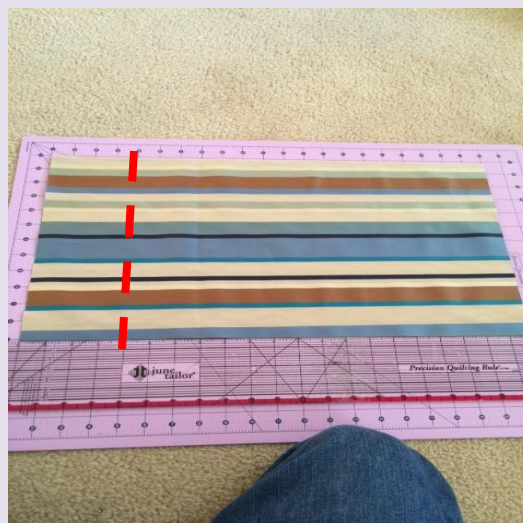
Place your folded half yard of fabric onto cutting mat. Next, use the measurements on the perimeter of the mat to cut out two pieces of fabric with your rotary cutter that measure **13" x 22"**.

### 2.) Cutting Fabric into 13"x 11" pieces



Next, take one of your **13" x 22"** pieces of fabric and cut it in half resulting in two pieces that measure **13" x 11"**.

### 3.) Cutting the Remaining 13"x 22"

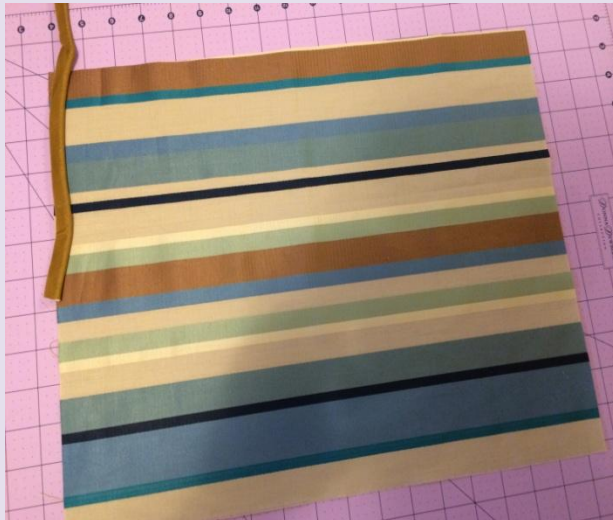


Take the remaining **13" x 22"** piece and cut **5"** off the length side so it becomes **13" x 17"**. This piece will be used for the front of the pillow.

## Piping the Front Side (13"x 17")

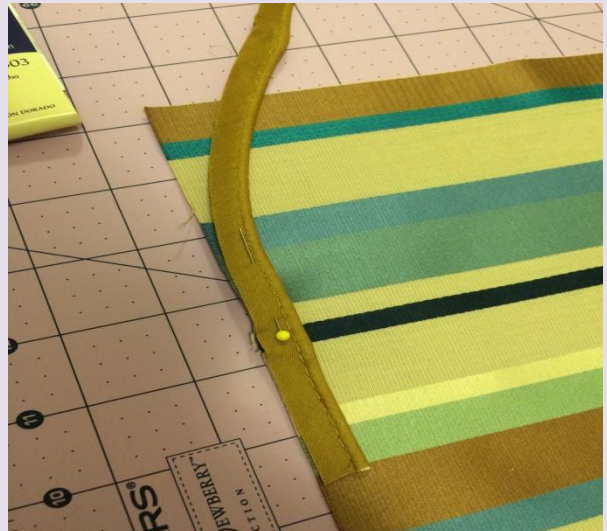
Although piping isn't necessary to put around the perimeter of your pillow, it adds a decorative embellishment to the overall appearance. It makes the difference between a fashionable pillow and a plain one. The materials that will be used are **pins, piping, scissors, ruler, seam ripper, zipper foot, and sewing machine.**

### 4.) Placement of Piping



Place your **13" x 17"** piece of fabric onto the mat. Proceed to place piping at any of the middle sides of the fabric.

### 5.) Placement of First Pin



Next, place your first pin **2"** above the beginning of the piping. Continue pinning the piping around the perimeter of the fabric until you reach a corner.

### 6.) Corners



When you approach a corner, use your scissors to cut small slits into the edge of piping so it will lie flat. Continue pinning the piping until you come back to where you started.

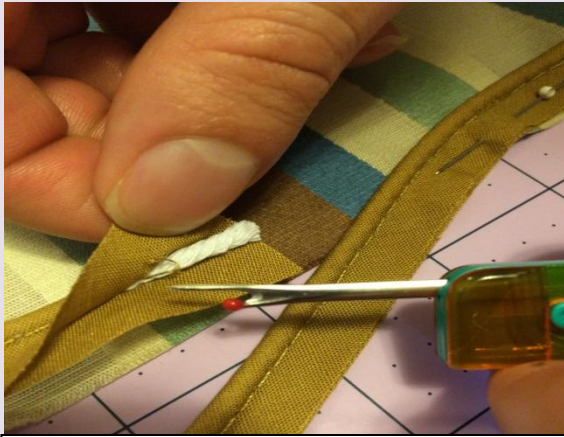
### 7.) Remaining Piping



Next, when you start to approach the beginning piece of piping, cut your end piece so it extends **1"** beyond the beginning piece.



### 8.) Opening up the seam



Now using your seam ripper, open up the beginning piece of piping to expose **1"** of cording.

### 9.) Cutting the cord



After this, cut off **1"** of the exposed cord. You will now have a piece without cording.

### 10.) Folding



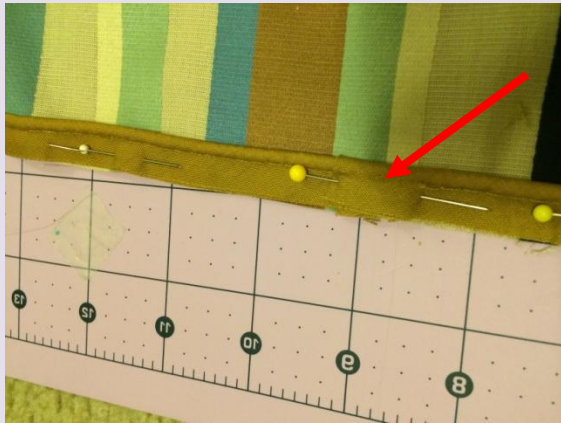
Take the piece without cording and fold it back approximately an **1/8 of an inch** so the end of the piping will have a smooth edge.

### 11.) Joining the Piping



Once you have a smooth edge, take the ending piece of piping and place it inside the piece without cording (beginning piece).

### 12.) Pinning Joined Pieces of Piping



Next, pin together the enclosed pieces and make sure that they are lined up together so they look like one continuous piece of piping.

### 13.) Sewing the Piping On

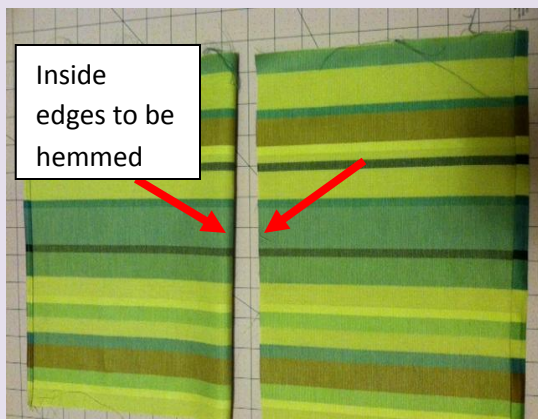


After pinning the last part of the piping, you are now ready to sew your piping down. Using a zipper foot make sure your needle will be sewing on the left side of the foot. Your stitches should be close to the rounded cord. Sew around the perimeter.

## Prepping the Back Sides (13" x 11")

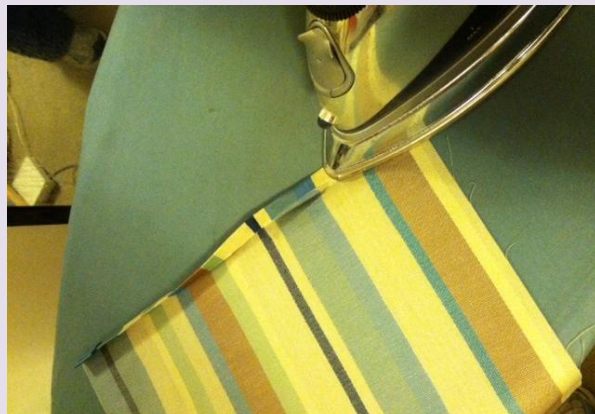
Prepping the backsides involves folding, ironing, hemming, and pinning down the inside edges of the **two 13" x 11" pieces of fabric**. These two pieces will make up the back of the pillow covering. Materials used will be an **iron, pins, zipper foot, and sewing machine**.

### 14.) Prepping for the Hem



Start by laying the back pieces side by side placing the right side of the fabric down. The right side is the exterior of the pillow covering.

### 15.) Ironing the Hem



Now, fold the inside edge of the fabric about a **quarter of an inch** and iron the folded hem and then pin your hem.



### 16.) Sewing the Hem



After pinning your hem, begin to sew your hem using a straight stitch. Upon completion, begin to pin your back pieces to the front pieces.

### 17.) Lining up Back pieces to the Front



Start by placing the two back pieces on top with right sides facing down. One piece will overlap the other. Line the corners of the front and back pieces.

### 18.) Pinning Front and Back Pieces



Next, pin together both front and back pieces along the perimeter.

### 19.) Sewing the Pieces Together



Finally you can begin to sew your front and back sides together. When sewing around the edges of the pillow cover, stitch close to the right of the piping catching all layers. (Layers are the front, the piping, and the back of the cover).

## 20.) Trimming up the Cover



After you have finished sewing, trim edges with scissors close to the stitching line.

## 21.) Finished product



Once trimming is completed, turn your pillow cover inside out and then insert your pillow in the back openings of the cover.