

# Pillowcases

## **QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE:**

### **Organize your supplies and cut your fabric.**

#### **Sew one side seam in a French seam:**

1. First line of stitching: WRONG sides together, stitch a 3/8 inch seam.
2. Trim: Cut both seam allowances in half.
3. Press: Press the seam open and then closed, making sure that no pleats or tucks are present.
4. Second line of stitching: With the RIGHT sides together, sew a 1/4 inch seam allowance, completely enclosing all of the raw edges.
5. Trim: Inevitably, there are some areas that need a hair cut. Be very careful not to cut your fabric.

#### **Attach the piping and the band:**

1. Attach the piping: Sew the piping to the RIGHT side of the pillowcase, along the side that remains open. If you are using a Bernina, use your #31 foot, but with your needle in the middle position, and ride the piping in the first groove on the left.
2. Attach the band: Right sides together, attach the band to the pillowcase, sandwiching the piping between the two layers of fabric and sewing as close as possible to the piping. If you are using a Bernina, use your #31 foot, with your needle all the way over to the left, riding the piping in the first groove on the left.
3. Trim: Trim the seam allowances to 1/2 inch.
4. Close the band: Encasing the entire pillowcase inside the band, put right sides of the band together and stitch again, 1/8 inch away from previous stitching. If you are using a Bernina, use your #31 foot and position your needle half way over to the left, riding along the piping in the first groove of the foot.
5. Turn right side out and press: Pulling the pillowcase out from the band and press. When pressing the band, make sure that the fabric is pulled away from the piping neatly.

#### **Sew the second side seam:**

1. As in the first section, sew the second side seam in a French seam.
2. Make sure that the piping and the top of the band fit exactly together.
3. Press again.

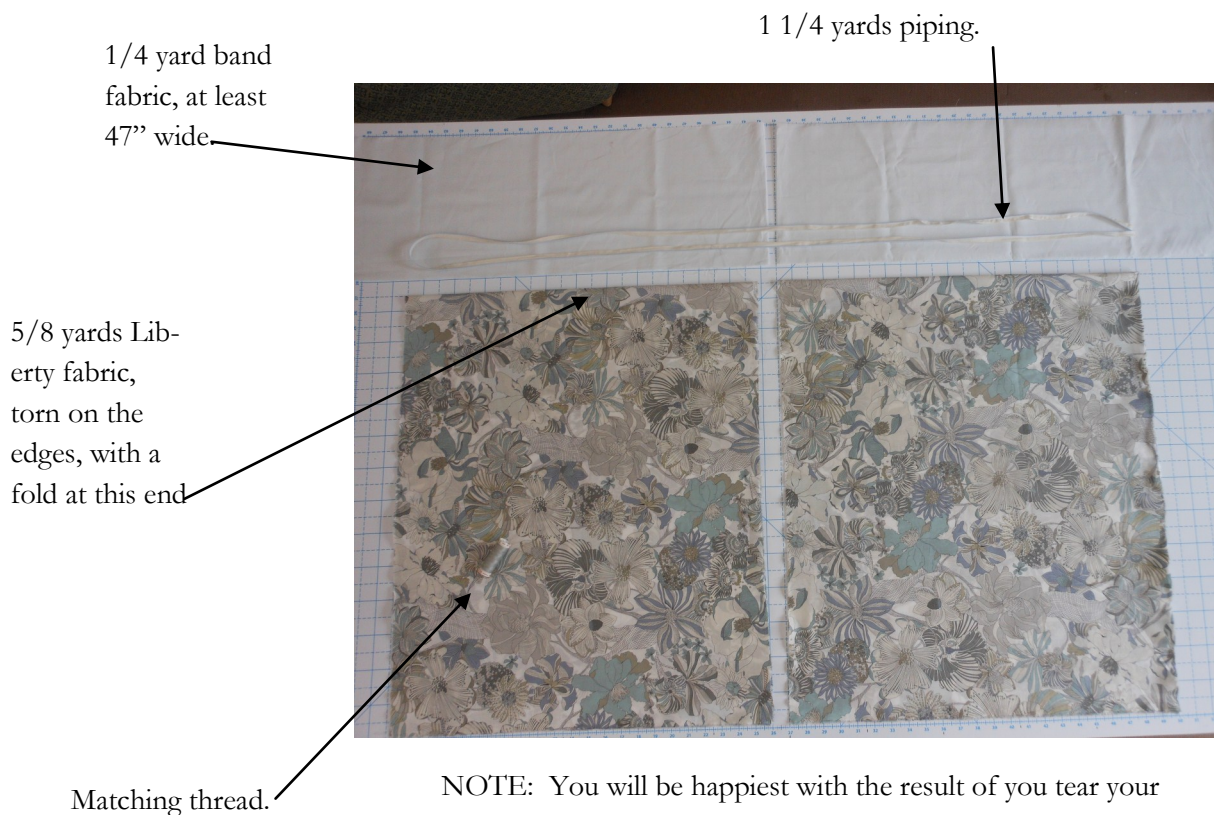
# Pillowcases

## Organize your supplies and cut your fabric:

You will need:

- Pillowcase fabric, shown here in the Liberty. Each pillowcase requires 5/8 yards of a 54" fabric.
- Banding fabric, shown here in white. Each pillowcase requires 1/4 yard of a fabric that is at least 47" wide.
- Piping. Each pillowcase requires 1 1/4 yards of piping.
- Matching thread
- Your basic sewing supplies, such as scissors and pins.

You should preshrink the fabrics and the piping. You can put the piping into a lingerie bag to keep it from getting all twisted around the fabric.



NOTE: You will be happiest with the result of you tear your fabric, or at least cut it very straight on grain. Fabric is inevitably twisted as it sits on the bolt. Once washed, it will revert to straight grain, so you'd best have it sewn on straight grain or your pillowcase will be all wonky, once it is washed.

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## Sew one side in a French seam:

1. First line of stitching: **WRONG** sides together, stitch a 3/8 inch seam.
2. Trim: Cut both seam allowances in half.

NOTE: by sewing a 3/8 inch seam, you have a nice stable piece of fabric to the right of the needle, which gives you an easier time of sewing straight.

By trimming half of the seam allowance away, you have trimmed off the ruffled part that came from tearing the fabric.



3. Press: Press the seam open and then closed, making sure that no pleats or tucks are present.

NOTE: using a point presser is an easy way to get the tiny seam allowance pressed open.

4. Second line of stitching: With the **RIGHT** sides together, sew a 1/4 inch seam allowance, completely enclosing all of the raw edges.

NOTE: This gives you a completely finished seam that is very sturdy, as it has been stitched twice. It is also a small seam which is good in this application.





# Pillowcases

## Attach the piping and the band:

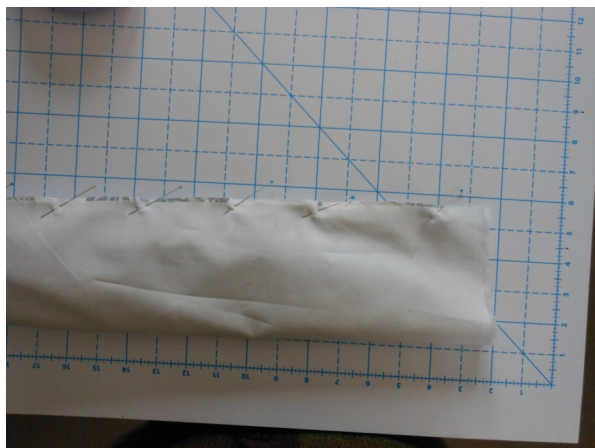
1. Attach the piping: Sew the piping to the RIGHT side of the pillowcase, along the side that remains open. If you are using a Bernina, use your #31 foot, but with your needle in the middle position, and ride the piping in the first groove on the left.

NOTE: the stitching will not yet be right up next to the piping. That's according to plan. You can use a regular zipper foot to attach the piping and the band, but you won't be able to stagger the 3 lines of stitching and you won't have as good control as you do with a piping foot.



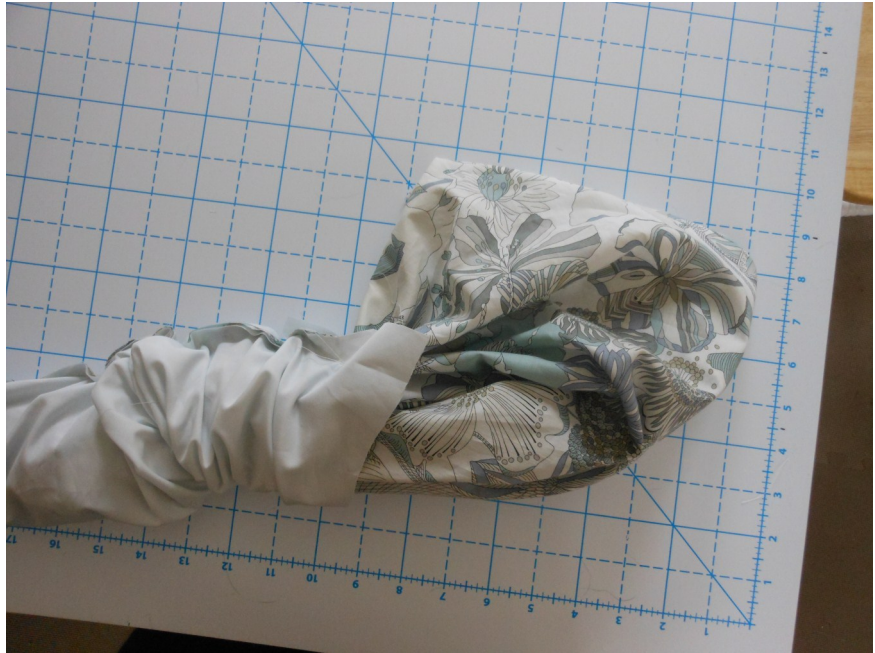
2. Attach the band: Right sides together, attach the band to the pillowcase, sandwiching the piping between the two layers of fabric and sewing as close as possible to the piping. If you are using a Bernina, use your #31 foot, with your needle all the way over to the left, riding the piping in the first groove on the left.

3. Trim: Trim the seam allowances to 1/2 inch.
4. Close the band: Encasing the entire pillowcase inside the band, put right sides of the band together and stitch again, 1/8 inch away from previous stitching. If you are using a Bernina, use your #31 foot and position your needle half way over to the left, riding along the piping in the first groove of the foot.



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5. Turn right side out and press: Pulling the pillowcase out from the band and press. When pressing the band, make sure that the fabric is pulled away from the piping neatly.



NOTE: The right side shows the piping, with the fabric pulled tightly away and pressed.

NOTE: The back side shows one line of stitching, as the last line of stitching was staggered by utilizing the needle position. This provides a flatter finished seam.





# Pillowcases

## Sew the second side seam in a French seam.

1. As in the first section, sew the second side seam in a French seam.
2. Make sure that the piping and the top of the band fit exactly together.
3. Press again.

NOTE: your band will probably extend farther than desired. Use a straight edge to continue the edge of the fabric. Then, trim off the extra bend as you trim the seam.



NOTE: make sure that the piping and the edge of the band are nicely aligned, particularly as you sew the second line of stitching.

