

Easy Sewing Projects for the Home: Free Sewing Patterns For Home Decor







8 Easy Sewing Projects for the Home: Free Sewing Patterns for Home Decor

Copyright 2014 by Prime Publishing LLC

All rights reserved. No part of this book may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, or by any information storage or retrieval system, without written permission from the publisher, except in the case of brief quotations embodied in critical articles and reviews.

Trademarks are property of their respective holders. When used, trademarks are for the benefit of the trademark owner only.

Published by Prime Publishing LLC, 3400 Dundee Road, Northbrook, IL 60062 – www.primecp.com









Free Knitting Projects

Free Quilt Projects











Free Craft Projects

Free Crochet Afghan **Patterns**

Free Christmas Crafts













Free Jewelry Projects

Free Holiday Craft Projects

Free DIY Wedding Ideas





Free Kids' Crafts

Free Paper Crafts



Letter from the Editors

Hi Sewists,

You love to create all kinds of beautiful things, so naturally you'd like your home to reflect your creative personality. That's why I've rounded up some simple home décor projects and ideas that I think you're going to love. Choose fabric in your home's color scheme and transform the space from boring to colorful and inventive. From decorative throw pillows to revamped lamp shades, you will discover that the projects in this eBook are fun and inspiring. Please enjoy these special projects created by our blogger friends and designers. It's time to spruce up your living space with beautiful sewn projects.

Happy Sewing!

You can find additional home décor ideas and more at www.AllFreeSewing.com.

Our eBooks, like all our sewing projects, are absolutely FREE to members of our sewing community. Please feel free to share with family and friends and ask them to sign up at our website for our free e-mail newsletter.

Happy Sewing,

The Editors of All Free Sewing

www.AllFreeSewing.com



8 Easy Sewing Projects for the Home: Free Sewing Patterns for Home Decor

Peek a Boo Lampshade Makeover5	DIY Waves of Ruffles Shower Curtain2
Applique Initial Pillow13	Embellished Thread Bowl3
DIY Bathmat16	Recycled Rug Poufs3
Shabby Chic Pleated Shade21	
Beachy Blue Pin Tuck Pillow25	

Peek a Boo Lampshade Makeover

By: Jamie from Pretty Ditty

You won't find a lampshade like this in stores. You can truly put your own spin on this lampshade by carefully selecting the fabric to make your home décor. Take your lampshade from plain to fabulous with a few easy steps.



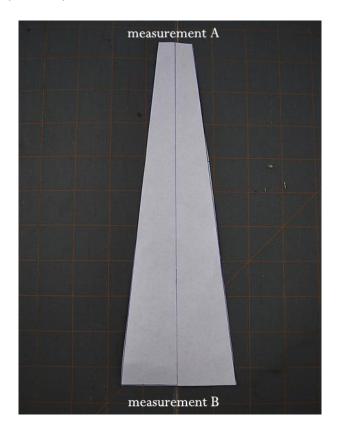


Materials:

- Scrap fabrics (how much depends on your measurements)
- Bias tape or make bias tape
- Muslin or some sort of beige fabric
- NON FLAMMABLE fabric glue
- Ruler

Directions:

- 1. First, make your template. Measure the circumference of both the top and bottom of the lamp shade. Record both measurements. Next, measure the length of the lamp shade (Referred to hereafter as the length line).
- 2. Determine how many strips of fabric you want on the lamp shade. Divide the top circumference number by the amount of strips you desire. This is measurement A. Apply the same math equation for the bottom circumference (bottom circumference divided by desired strips). This is measurement B.
- 3. On a piece of paper, draw a straight line that measures the length of the shade (use your length line measurement). Using measurement A, draw a straight line across the top of the length line (making a T). The length line should begin at the midpoint of measurement A. Next, do the same with measurement B, but instead of drawing it at the top of the length line, you will draw the straight line at the bottom of the length line. Again, make sure the bottom of the length line is centered at the midpoint of measurement B. Cut out your template, which should look like this:





4. Using your template, cut out the desired amount of fabric strips (not the muslin).



- 5. Arrange the strips on the lamp shade. Find a fabric sequence that is pleasing to your eyes.
- 6. One by one, peel off the strips and apply fabric glue to the wrong side of the fabric. It is very important that the glue is water based and nonflammable.



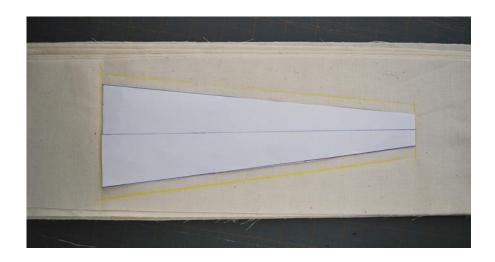


7. Lay the fabric strip on to the lamp shade. Smooth out any bumps or bubbles. Repeat with the remaining strips of fabric. If you find that the strips don't line up perfectly, don't fret, the muslin strips will hide a multitude of sins.



8. For the muslin strips, lay your template on top of your muslin. Add a 1/4" seam allowance to each side of the muslin (see pic below).

*Note you don't have to add a 1/4" seam allowance to the top or bottom of the template, just the sides. Cut double the amount of muslin strips as you did for the print strips. For example, if you cut 12 print strips then you should cut 24 muslin strips.



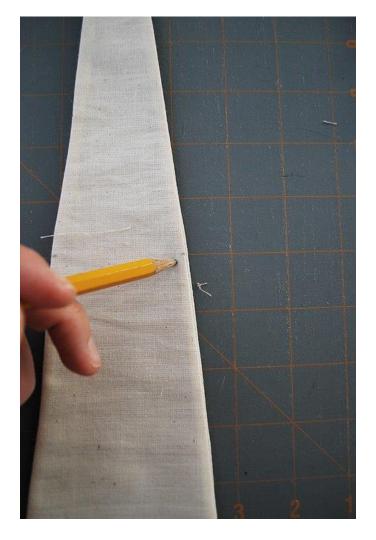


- 9. Once all of the muslin pieces are cut you may begin to sew them together. Place two muslin pieces together, one on top of the other. If you are working with fabric that has a right and a wrong side then you will want right sides together. With a 1/4" seam allowance, sew the lengthwise seams on both sides of your muslin strip. * Note Do not sew the top or bottom of the strip, just the sides.
- 10. Turn your strip right side out and press.

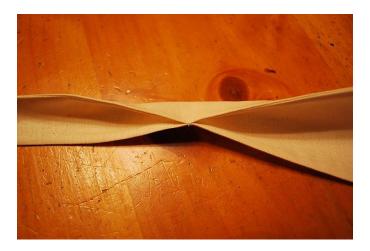


11. Find the mid-point of your muslin strip and make a mark on the side. This mark should be light and will serve as a reference for where the fold should be.





12. Fold the muslin strip in half lengthwise. With matching thread, hand sew the fold close by making a little tack where the mark is.





13. Place your muslin strip between two printed strips. With a needle and thread, baste the top of the muslin piece to the shade. Do not cut the thread. Place another muslin piece between the next two printed pieces and baste with the same thread. Repeat with all muslin pieces.



14. Repeat step 13 for the bottom portion of the muslin strips. However, this time fold the bottom corners in a 1/4" (see pic).





15. Hand stitch the bias tape to the top and bottom of the shade. Be sure to place the edge of the shade in the bias tape and poke through both the fabric and shade (use a thimble) when sewing. You can use a beige thread and a blind hem stitch. However, you can have fun with this part if you want. One idea could be the use of embroidery thread in a popping color and a blanket stitch to show it off.







Applique Initial Pillow

By: Michelle from Cloud 9 Fabrics

Personalize your child's bedroom with this Applique Initial Pillow. Learn how to sew a pillow with this easy sewing project. This accent pillow project can be adapted to any size pillow form.



Note:

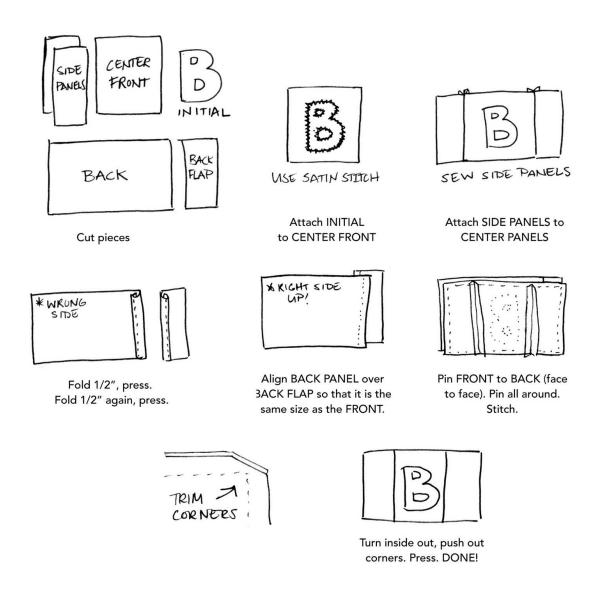
This tiny accent pillow project can be easily adapted to any size pillow form. This form is 10×16 , but it is not a common size, so there will be no exact measurements, rather approximates and proportions. Before starting, you should consider the overall dimensions of your final product. It's recommended to give a little wiggle room to your pillow case, so add an inch to the pillow form's dimension. For example, if your pillow form is 12x12, plan for a 13x13 finished case.

As a measuring guide, here are proportions in blue and an example for a 13x13 case in red:

- Initial is about 1/3 the width of the finished pillow case.
- If your case will measure 13" w, then make the letter approx. 4.5" w. Use your judgment on height/width depending on the font and shape of the letter.
- Center Panel is about twice as wide as the side panels. Add 1/2" seam allowance to ALL sides of all panels, which equals 1" total to height and width.
- For 13" w (finished), the center panel may measure 6.5" w x 13" h (finished), therefore cut pieces would be plus 1" seam allowance = 7.5" w x 14" h.
- Side Panels (cut 2) would be 1/4" of the width each.
- That would make them 3.25" w x 13" h (finished), the cut pieces would be 4.25" w x 14" h.
- Back Panel is the exact width of the final pillow case, only add 1/2" seam allowance to ALL sides.
- 14" w x 14" h.



- Back Flap is 5" wide and as high as the Back Panel piece.
- 5" w x 14" h.
- 1. To create the Initial itself, type and print out a big letter B from your design program. Even if you don't have a design program, it's possible to use Word, too. Maybe even your email program. Just make the font as large as you can, then print it out to the scale you want. This font is Aachen Bold. Bold letters will be easier to work with.
- 2. If you're going to use fusible webbing, you should attach that to the back of the Initial Fabric before cutting it out. Cut out the letter from the paper and trace the letter to the backside of the fabric. Be sure to reverse the direction of the letter so it's correct on the front.





3. Attach the letter to the center of the Center Panel. Fuse or pin well. Using a zig-zag stitch at its widest setting and tightest stitch*, make a satin stitch the entire perimeter of the letter.

(*It would be best to test this on two thickness of scrap flannel before doing it on your project. Tensions, stitch width, etc. can all vary, so test it with your machine first until you're satisfied with the results).

- 4. Next, attach the Side Panels to the Center Panel one on each side. Press the seams out flat.
- 5. On the large Back Panel, take the right edge on the wrong side, fold 1/2". Press. Fold over another 1/2" again. Press. Pin. Topstitch through all thicknesses a scant 1/2" from edge.
- 6. Do the same to the Back Flap, only do it on the left edge.
- 7. Facing up, overlap the Back Panel's sewn edge over the Back Flap's sewn edge and adjust until the combined width is the same as the width on the pillow Front.
- 8. Place pillow Front face down on the back pieces (so facing sides together). Pin through all thickness around the perimeter.
- 9. Starting in the middle of any side, stitch 1/2" from edge all the way around the pillow, pivoting at each corner.
- 10. Trim the corners.
- 11. Turn inside out and using a boning tool or something pointy but not sharp, push out the corners making them neat.
- 12. Press the whole thing neat at the edges, then slip your pillow form in.



DIY Bathmat

By: Michelle from Cloud 9 Fabrics

Liven up your bathroom with this 20" x 30" oval DIY Bathmat. Not only is it a practical and easy sewing project but it looks great as well! It's one of those simple patterns that are really useful in your home.



Materials:

- 2/3 yd of fabric
- 1 old terry towel (one that coordinates well would be best as it can peek thru from below) or 2/3 yd of terry cloth
- 2 1/2 yds of jumbo ric-rac
- <u>Template</u>
- Tape
- Marker

*This <u>pdf template</u> will print on a single sheet of 11x17 tabloid paper. If you cannot print that size, you can print it in sections and piece it together. Essentially, the piece is a 1/4 slice of a 20" circle (so it is only 10" wide) plus, the addition of a 5" piece to create width of mat.

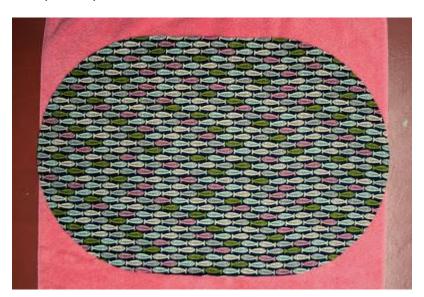
Directions:

1. Make your pattern piece. Print 2 of your pattern piece. Cut along the long edge of a single piece and then align it to the dotted line of another. Tape in place. Trim the completed pattern piece on the line.





2. Cut your fabric. Place pattern piece on fold as directed. Pin and cut. Press.



3. Cut your terry. Lay the fabric over a freshly pressed terry. With a marker, outline the fabric with the addition of anywhere to 1/4" or 1/2" extra. It is not important to be too accurate here, but you definitely want the terry piece a little larger than the fabric piece. Give yourself a little more wiggle room than the photo shows below.





4. Finish the edge of the terry. If you have a serger it will be much easier, but it can still be done with a regular machine. This will save lots of little loopy fray fragments from getting all over your project.

4a: Serger: trim the terry leaving up to 1" excess around. Your serger will trim as you go. Serge right on the line you drew allowing your machine to trim the excess. Press when finished.

4b: Sewing machine: trim on the line you drew. Using a zig-zag stitch on the widest settings edge the entire terry piece. Press when finished.



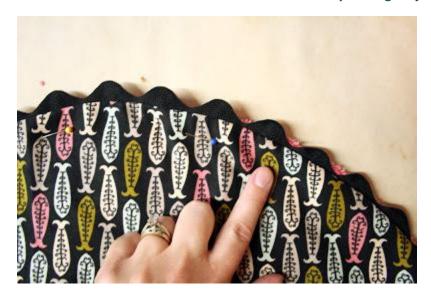


- 5. Attach the ric-rac to the top fabric. Pinning the ric-rac well in place and using a basting stitch to secure it is a great way to keep it looking neat.
 - 5a. Ric-rac can pucker your fabric edges, so when you're done, expect it to be a little bumpy along the edge. Pin the ric-rac in a place so that when you sew your 1/4" seam, it will be in the position you want it. In this project it left about 1/8" at minimum exposed.
 - 5b. Make sure to tuck under edges of ric-rac and make it tidy at the ends. Be sure to place this seam in a rather inconspicuous area. Here it was placed about 1" into the straight edge of the mat; this way it was not on the curve, nor was it in the center of the mat which could be distracting.
 - 5c. After you pin, baste 1/8" from edge of fabric. Press to flatten ric-rac, but be careful if it is polyester, as the iron might make the puckering worse. You just want to give it a decent pressing to smooth it out a bit.
- 6. Pin the pieces together. Layer the top fabric to the terry, right sides facing. Make sure your front fabric is centered within the terry oval. Pin in the center of the oval. From there, smooth out the fabric to the top- pin. Smooth to the bottom and pin. Smooth to the left and pin (this curved edge is where the ric-rac curls up the most, so be sure to flatten it down well and secure with a pin). Do the same to right side. Now, while continuing to smooth, keep pinning all around the circumference of the oval, be sure to keep the fabric edges from curling by pinning well. This should do the trick as the terry will pull it back into place once pinned.



7. Sew the mat pieces. Sew 1/4" from the fabric edge all along the circumference leaving a 6-8" section open for turning inside out. It is imperative that you do this along the straight edge. It makes sense to do it in the same location as your ric-rac seam as well.





- 8. Turn inside out. Turn the mat inside out and smooth out the edges. You will need to fuss a bit at this point. Working from the top of the mat, use your fingers to push the seam flat along the ric-rac and fabric, while simultaneously, pushing the terry under the mat so you can't see it. Pin well as you go along and if you see the terry peeking through, just go back and roll it under some more.
- 9. Secure the opening. In the area where the opening is, you'll note that the ric-rac is not stitched as deep as where it's been sewn into the terry. So, using your fingers, press the fabric into the ric-rac at the same distance to make the seam look continuous from the front. Give a little press with the iron to keep the crease.
 - 9a. Roll the terry under and inside the mat in much the same way, so that it look continuous from the back. Pin well.
- 10. Topstitch. Topstitch about 3/4" from the seam where the fabric meets the ric-rac. It is easiest to topstitch here first as the terry creates a bit of thickness. Once you go all the way around the circumference, give it a press.
- 10a. Next, topstitch a scant 1/16" from the seam where the fabric meets the ric-rac this will give it a nice clean flatness as well as seal up the opening. Press.

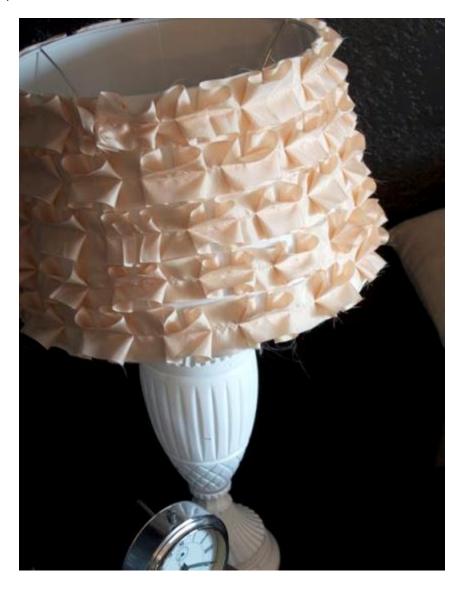
Enjoy!



Shabby Chic Pleated Shade

By: Disney from Ruffles and Stuff

This lampshade is a little bit shabby and a lot chic! Use this free sewing project to make your own shabby chic pleated shade. With loose ruffles encircling the entire piece you'll enjoy the romantic effect of this DIY lampshade.



Materials:

- Plain lampshade
- Lightweight fabric



Directions:

1. Start with a plain lampshade (which ever shape you like).



2. Cut out enough strips to cover the shade. You'll want about 3x the measurement of your shade. For example, if your shade is 40" around the top, make the first strip about 120".





3. Fold the strips over to make pleats all the way down, and pin each pleat. Wrap the strips around the shade, to make sure they fit, and then sew strait down the strip, to hold the pleats together.



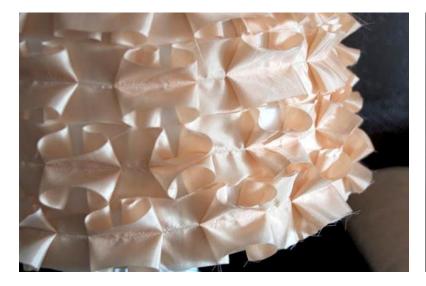


4. Pin the start of each strip to the lampshade to see where they will need to go, and use a glue gun to attach them. Try to glue along the stitching, so it doesn't show through lighter fabric when the lamp is turned on.





All done! Turn on the light, and admire your handiwork!







Beachy Blue Pin Tuck Pillow

By: Dora from **Untrendy Life**

Keep summer in season all year long with the handmade pillow that echoes hues from the big blue sea. Easy sewing projects that teach you how to sew throw pillows are well worth studying. You'll no doubt refer back to this project whenever you feel like adding a little color to a room in your home.



Materials:

- ½ yard of 3 colors of your choosing (works well to choose one color in different shades; this will make more than one pillow)
- Sewing Machine



Directions:

- 1. After washing and ironing the fabric, start making pin tucks. Use pins to secure them, then iron.
- 2. Make a small fold, about $\frac{1}{4}$ $\frac{1}{2}$ inch. Make sure the folds are wavy.







3. Don't be concerend about getting perfect distance from the edge of the pin tucks; this will give you larger waves.



4. When you're done, cut a strip from each color (these are 7.5 inches) and sew them together. Cut the sides to make them straight. As you can see, the sides are not even.



5. Measure it and cut the same size square from extra fabric you have for the backing. Sew the pieces together, right sides facing each other; make sure you leave an opening for the stuffing.





6. Clip the corners, turn it right-side-out, stuff it, and sewed up the hole. Done.





DIY Waves of Ruffles Shower Curtain

By: Suzannah from Create/Enjoy

Learn how to sew curtains for your shower with a free sewing pattern. These DIY Waves of Ruffles shower curtains are inspired by Anthropologie and other designer styles.





Materials:

- Standard shower curtains are 72"x72", square-shaped, with 12 buttonholes or grommets at the top. You'll need extra-wide fabric so that your curtain doesn't have a long seam down the center. Quilt backing fabrics come in extra-wide widths. It's a good idea to buy 2.5 yards of 90" wide muslin. You could also use a large sheet and make it over!
- Start by tearing your muslin into the right size. You won't need the full 2.5 yards in width, but you'll need 72" tall plus hems.
- Add 1" on both vertical sides for the little hems, so tear your big piece at 74" wide, along the length: you'll have one edge with selvage and one without.
- You'll need 2.5" at the top for a 2" hem, and 1.5" at the bottom for a 1" hem; that means, tear your fabric at 76" long. Keep the extra!

Directions:

1. On your vertical edges (one is selvage, one is torn), press under just under 1/2" and then another 1/2". Sew.









2. At the top, press under 1/2" and then 2". Sew. If you have very thin fabric you may want to add a 2" wide strip of interfacing here, since you'll be adding buttonholes and it needs to take the stress of hanging.



- 3. At the bottom, press under 1/2" and then 1". Sew.
- 4. At the top, you'll need 12 buttonholes or grommets ____ apart. These are 1" long buttonholes, but do whatever you like. Make them start at least 3/8" from the top so that your curtain liner is covered at the very top.
- 5. Now for the ruffles. You had 9" extra after tearing off the 76" length for the curtain. Cut this 90" wide piece into three 3" long pieces.





6. Use some of the extra from the selvage lengths of the fabric. It's a little weird to use some fabric on the grain, some against, but for ruffles it'll be okay. You wouldn't do this with clothing or anything. Cut three 3" wide pieces the length of the fabric (2.5 yards).



7. Sew one 90" long piece to one 2.5 yard long piece. Repeat three times to make three equally long pieces. Press open.



8. Now it gets a little tedious. Zig-zag along the raw edges of all three long pieces, top and bottom. You could turn under 1/4" and then again 1/4" to make small hems, but gosh, that would be a LOT of pressing and sewing, and you'd want to make wider ruffle pieces to begin with. Zig-zagging is easier.





9. Gather 1/4" (the width of the presser foot) from one side of the ruffle pieces, all three. To gather, use the largest stitch on your machine and a very high tension.



10. Place the ruffles. Depending on the pattern you want, you can sew your ruffles on wherever and it will look pretty! This tutorial follows the wavy ruffle pattern like Anthro's curtain. Fold your curtain into thirds so you can mark off, with pins or fabric pen, the bottom third of your curtain. That's where most of the pattern will be.







11. Note the fabric pen dashed line. To create six peaks mark six evenly distributed points on the curtain by folding it in half, then thirds and marking.





12. Use the lines that mark six evenly spaced points on the curtain and mark the peaks and valleys of the waves with dots. Use an angle that you think looks good. Measure about 6.5" up from the first row, putting it with enough space from the bottom so the waves aren't on the hem, and make the next two rows. From the points, you can improvise curves. It's meant to be ruffly and organic-looking.



13. From there, you'll need to pin on and then sew down your ruffles. Find the approximate center of each ruffle, and pin it to the center of the curtain. Pin the outsides down, and continue this half way technique at other points: 1/4, 1/8. If your gathering stitch is even throughout, you should have evenly distributed ruffles. But, all machines are different, so you may have to stretch out or gather up more to get your ruffles spread out evenly on the waves. Then, sew down.





All done! Hang over a light-colored or clear shower curtain liner.





Embellished Thread Bowl

By: Lynn Koolish for **C&T Publishing**

Using water-soluble stabilizer as in the project for fiber scarves, you can create beautiful, translucent thread bowls and vases. This bowl from C&T Publishing, embellished with Perle cotton thread, is inspired by Wendy Hill's Fast, Fun & Easy (R) Incredible Thread-a-Bowls.



Materials:

- Water-soluble stabilizer
- Perle cotton thread from Valdani thread- size 12
- Large glass bowl
- UV resistant clear acrylic coating

Directions:

- 1. Find the largest glass bowl you have and measure across the outside of the bowl.
- 2. Use that measurement to draw a circle on heavyweight water-soluble stabilizer.





- 3. Using regular weight thread, free-motione stitch a grid, then go back and free-motion fairly densely all over.
- 4. Draw the design that you want to use on another piece of water-soluble stabilizer and pinn it to the stitched stabilizer.



- 5. Stitch out your design in size 12 Perle cotton, wash out most of the stabilizer, and drape it over your glass bowl to dry.
- 6. After the bowl is dry, take it off the glass bowl and spray the thread bowl with a few coats of UV resistant clear Acrylic coating.

Done! Fast, Fun, and Easy!





Recycled Rug Poufs

By: Heather of **Dollar Store Crafts**

Want to know how to make a bean bag chair from some inexpensive rugs? Check out these recycled rug poufs from Heather Mann and you can make chic poufs for your home using materials from the dollar store!



Materials:

- 3 nylon throw rugs
- Acrylic yarn
- Crochet hook
- Sewing machine & thread
- Something to stuff it with

Notes: First of all, some nylon throw rug discussion. If you don't like these cheap rugs, you can use slightly more expensive rag rugs (from Ikea or Target, about \$3-5 each). When working with the rugs, avoid cutting them up at all costs, as they won't hold together when the nylon strings that hold them together are cut up. Likewise, be gentle when working with the long edges of the rugs.



Directions:

- 1. Sew the rugs together. Sew two rugs, right side together, along the fringed side. Make sure they are sewn securely.
- 2. Add the third rug to the other side of one of the rugs, sewing right sides together along the fringed side. Make sure the seams are all on the same side of your long rug.
- 3. Sew the two ends of the two outside rugs together, sewing right sides together along the fringed side.
- 4. You now have a tube. It's a very short tube with very large openings.



5. Crochet/gather the top of the tube. Using a medium-large crochet hook and regular acrylic yarn, insert hook in top edge of rug tube and slip stitch around the top of the tube, with a stitch about every half inch. On your second row, decrease by the following method. Draw up a loop in next stitch. Again, draw up a loop in the next stitch. (There should now be 3 loops on the hook.) Yarn over hook. Draw yarn through all 3 loops on the hook. (One decrease made). Draw string as tight as possible between each decrease stitch. Continue around the rug until it's gathered all up. This might take four or five rows around.





- 6. If you don't crochet, use yarn and a large plastic needle to weave in and out of the edge of the tube, drawing as tightly as possible. Cut a cover for the puckered area out of complimentary-colored circle of felt, wool felt, or a felted sweater and sew over pucker.
- 7. Gather the bottom of the tube. You can gather the bottom of the pouf in the same way as above, but stuff the pouf before the hole gets too small. Here a drawstring effect was created on the bottom of the pouf so you can stuff and un-stuff it at will. Instead of gathering all the way to the center of the circle, leave it open and thread a string through the edges so you can tie it closed.



9. For the sample, this pouf is stuffed with a large fleece blanket and towels, but you can buy a body pillow and use the stuffing inside it for a cheap alternative to fiberfill. You can also stuff it with recycled packing peanuts, or your large collection of plastic grocery sacks (if you don't mind the plastic crinkly sound effect!).





8 Easy Sewing Projects for the Home: Free Sewing Patterns for Home Decor









A special thanks to our contributors:

Disney from Ruffles and Stuff
Dora from Untrendy Life
Heather from Dollar Store Crafts
Jamie from Pretty Ditty
Lynn Koolish for C&T Publishing
Michelle from Cloud 9 Fabrics
Suzannah from Create/Enjoy

Sign up for our <u>free sewing newsletter</u> and receive more low-cost collections, free sewing projects, quick tips, home décor ideas and more right in your inbox every week.