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## Ring Cushion



By Becky Hanson

### Shopping List:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Large silk hydrangea flower (or other silk flower with small petals) | <input type="checkbox"/> ¼ Yard of ¼" wide ribbon   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2 10" x 10" Squares of satin fabric                                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Fabric marking pen/pencil  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 10" x 10" Square of tulle  | <input type="checkbox"/> Ruler  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2 10" x 10" Squares of low loft batting                                | <input type="checkbox"/> Scissors   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fiber-fill (for pillow stuffing)                                       | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Clear plastic sleeve to make template (available from office supply store) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fabric spray adhesive  | <input type="checkbox"/> Darning/embroidery foot  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Monofilament nylon thread  | <input type="checkbox"/> Feed Dog cover plate (if machine does not have drop feed feature)            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> All-purpose thread to match color of flower petals                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Optional: Shank button and tapestry needle (if making tufted style)          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Approximately 1 dozen 4mm beads  |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hand sewing needle   |   |

**Note:** The pillow can be made with tufting (gathered in at the center) or without tufting. These directions explain how to make the pillow in either style. Finished size of this pillow is 8" x 8." If a larger pillow is desired, the fabric requirements will need to be adjusted accordingly.

### Sewing Directions:

1. Lightly spray the low loft batting square with the fabric spray adhesive, and then lay one satin fabric square on batting square. Repeat for the other batting and satin squares, but set this one aside.
2. Remove several petals from the silk hydrangea flower stem. Remove any plastic centers, etc., so that only the silk petals remain. Lightly press the loose petals with a cool iron.
3. On one satin square, arrange the flower petals so that they appear randomly distributed on the fabric, according to your personal taste.
4. Lay the tulle square on top of the satin flowers, then pin the tulle in place over the flowers.
5. Set the sewing machine for free-motion sewing by first lowering the feed dogs (if machine does not have a drop feed feature, place the feed dog cover plate onto the machine). Next, remove the standard foot and shank, and replace with the Darning/embroidery foot.
6. Thread the bobbin with all-purpose thread, and thread the needle with the monofilament nylon thread.
7. Free-motion stitch around the flower petals, enclosing them between the tulle and the satin. Be sure to remove any pins before stitching over them.
8. Make an 8" x 8" template from the clear plastic sleeve. Lay the 8" x 8" clear template over the stitched area, then lay the ruler ½" away from the sides of the template to draw ½" seam allowances. The finished square drawn on the fabric should be 9" x 9".
9. On the flowered piece, now arrange some of the leftover flower petals on top of the tulle, giving a 3-dimensional effect to your work. Secure in place by hand-sewing a bead in the center of each flower. Place as many flowers as desired onto the pillow top surface.  

If making the non-tufted version, fold the ribbon length in ½ and anchor the center fold of the ribbon in the center of the pillow front with a few hand stitches. Add more flower petals on top of the ribbon, creating a small flower cluster in the center.

If making the tufted version, skip this step for now and proceed to Step 10 – the ribbon and flowers will be added in a different manner.
10. Take the other satin/batting square, which had been set aside earlier, and trim to the 9" x 9" size. This will be the pillow back.
11. Lay the right side of the pillow back onto the right side of the pillow front, then pin.
12. Remove the monofilament nylon thread and thread the needle with the all-purpose thread. Remove the darning/embroidery foot and replace the standard presser foot and shank. Raise the feed dogs (or uncover them if the feed dog cover plate was used for free-motion sewing).
13. Stitch together, leaving about 3" open on one side for turning right side out.
14. Trim the corners after stitching, to reduce bulk.
15. Turn right side out, then stuff the pillow moderately with the polyester fiber fill.
16. Hand-sew the opening closed.

If making the non-tufted version, the pillow is finished.

If making the tufted version, now take the ribbon and thread it through the eye of the tapestry needle. From the center front of the pillow, push the needle through to the back side. When the needle comes through to the back, put the needle through the shank button, then push the tapestry needle from the pillow back to the pillow front. Pull the ribbon through so that the lengths are even. Lightly pull them, then tie in a knot on the pillow front. Now hand-stitch some additional flower petals on the pillow top, creating a small cluster of petals to finish.