

Simple Pillowcase Sewing Pattern

Start to finish. Two seams, no zipper, no buttonholes. A free beginner pattern from Sewing.com.

This pattern uses the burrito method: you roll the fabric, sew one seam, and pull the whole pillowcase right side out through the gap. It hides the raw edges without any hand-finishing, so the inside looks as clean as the outside. Read every step once before you cut.

What You Need

Item	Amount	Notes
Main fabric	1 yard (36" x 44"/45" wide)	Quilting cotton or cotton-blend. Pre-wash and press.
Cuff fabric	1/4 yard (9" x 44"/45" wide)	Coordinating print or solid.
Thread	1 spool, all-purpose	Match to fabric, or use a neutral like white or gray.
Pins or clips	A dozen or so	Clips work well on tightly rolled fabric.
Sewing machine	Straight stitch + zigzag	Test tension on a scrap first.
Iron and board	-	Pressing between steps is not optional.

One yard of main fabric makes one pillowcase with almost no waste. Buy a second yard if you want a matching pair.

Cutting Chart

Pillow size	Main body piece	Cuff piece
Standard / Queen (finished 20" x 30")	27" x 44/45" (full fabric width)	9" x 44/45" (full fabric width)
King (finished 20" x 36")	33" x 44/45" (full fabric width)	9" x 44/45" (full fabric width)

Cutting note: both pieces run the full width of the fabric, so you only need two straight cuts. No pattern pieces to trace or pin down.

Sew It: Start to Finish

Step 1: Press and lay out your fabric

Press both pieces flat. Lay the cuff fabric right side up on your table. Place the main body fabric right side down on top of it, lining up one long raw edge with one long raw edge of the cuff. Pin along that matched edge.

Step 2: Roll the burrito

Starting from the pinned edge, roll the main body fabric up like a burrito. Roll it all the way toward the opposite edge and stop. You will have a tight tube of fabric sitting on top of the cuff piece.

Tip: Roll snugly but do not stretch the fabric. A loose roll makes Step 3 harder.

Step 3: Wrap and pin

Take the bottom edge of the cuff fabric and fold it up and over the rolled burrito, so the cuff wraps around the roll like a taco shell. Match the raw edge of the cuff to the pinned edge from Step 1. Re-pin through all the layers.

Step 4: Sew the wrapped seam

Sew a 1/2 inch seam allowance along the pinned edge, through all layers. Backstitch three or four stitches at the start and end to lock the seam.

Step 5: Pull it through

Reach into the tube from one open end and gently pull the rolled fabric out through the gap between the cuff and the body. The bundle will turn itself right side out as you pull.

Tip: If it feels stuck, check that you did not accidentally catch the roll in the seam. A seam ripper opens a few stitches if you need to free it.

Step 6: Press the seam

Once everything is pulled through, press the seam flat, then press it to one side, away from the main body. This one seam now hides all three raw edges inside it.

Step 7: Fold and sew the side and bottom

Fold the whole pillowcase in half lengthwise, right sides together, matching the cuff seams and the raw edges. Pin along the open side and across the bottom. Sew a 1/2 inch seam allowance in one continuous line, pivoting at the corner with your needle down. Backstitch at both ends.

Step 8: Finish the raw edge

Set your machine to a zigzag stitch and finish the raw edge you just sewed, or run it through a serger if you have one. This keeps the inside from fraying after washing.

Step 9: Turn, press, done

Turn the pillowcase right side out through the open top. Push out the bottom corner with a point turner or a closed pair of scissors, then give the whole thing a final press.

Tip: Wash and dry your finished pillowcase before gifting it. This softens the fabric and shows if any seam needs a second pass.

Quick Fixes If Something Goes Wrong

What you see	Likely cause	Fix
Loops of thread on the underside	Top tension too loose, or top mis-threaded	Re-thread the top from scratch, machine off.
Loops of thread on top	Top tension too tight, or bobbin mis-threaded	Re-thread the bobbin and check it seats correctly.
Seam puckers or bunches	Tension too tight for this fabric weight	Loosen tension slightly and test on a scrap first.
Fabric will not feed evenly	Lint in the feed dogs or bobbin case	Brush out lint, then re-test the scrap.

Ready for the next project? A pillowcase is rung one on a beginner pattern ladder. Once this one is finished, an elastic-waist skirt or a simple tote uses the same straight-seam skills you just practiced.