

The One-Hour Simple Pillowcase

A zero-waste, beginner-friendly guide to clean, enclosed seams. Master the “Burrito Method” and sew a fully finished pillowcase in just 60 minutes.



Why This Pattern Works for Beginners



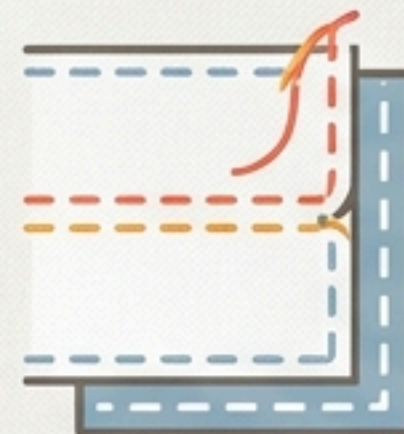
Lightning Fast

Construct the entire project from cut to final press in approximately 60 minutes.



Zero Waste

Uses exactly one yard of main fabric with almost no leftover scrap.



Pro Finish

No serger or complicated French seams required. Every raw edge is hidden.

"The perfect antidote to tons of links-to-other-links-to-other-links."
— *PatternReview.com* Sewist

The Essential Maker's Toolkit

Main Fabric:
1 yard (36" x 44/45")

Basic Sewing Machine:
Needs only straight
and zigzag stitches.
No serger required.

Cuff Fabric:
1/4 yard (9" x 44/45")

Cutting Tools:
Scissors or a
rotary cutter.


**Pressing between
steps is not optional!**

The Beginner's Fabric Selection Matrix

Ideal



Quilting Cotton

Presses crisp, does not slip under the presser foot, and holds a seam without stretching.

Proceed with Caution



Flannel

Cozy and soft, but shrinks significantly. Must pre-wash and dry before cutting.

Avoid for Now

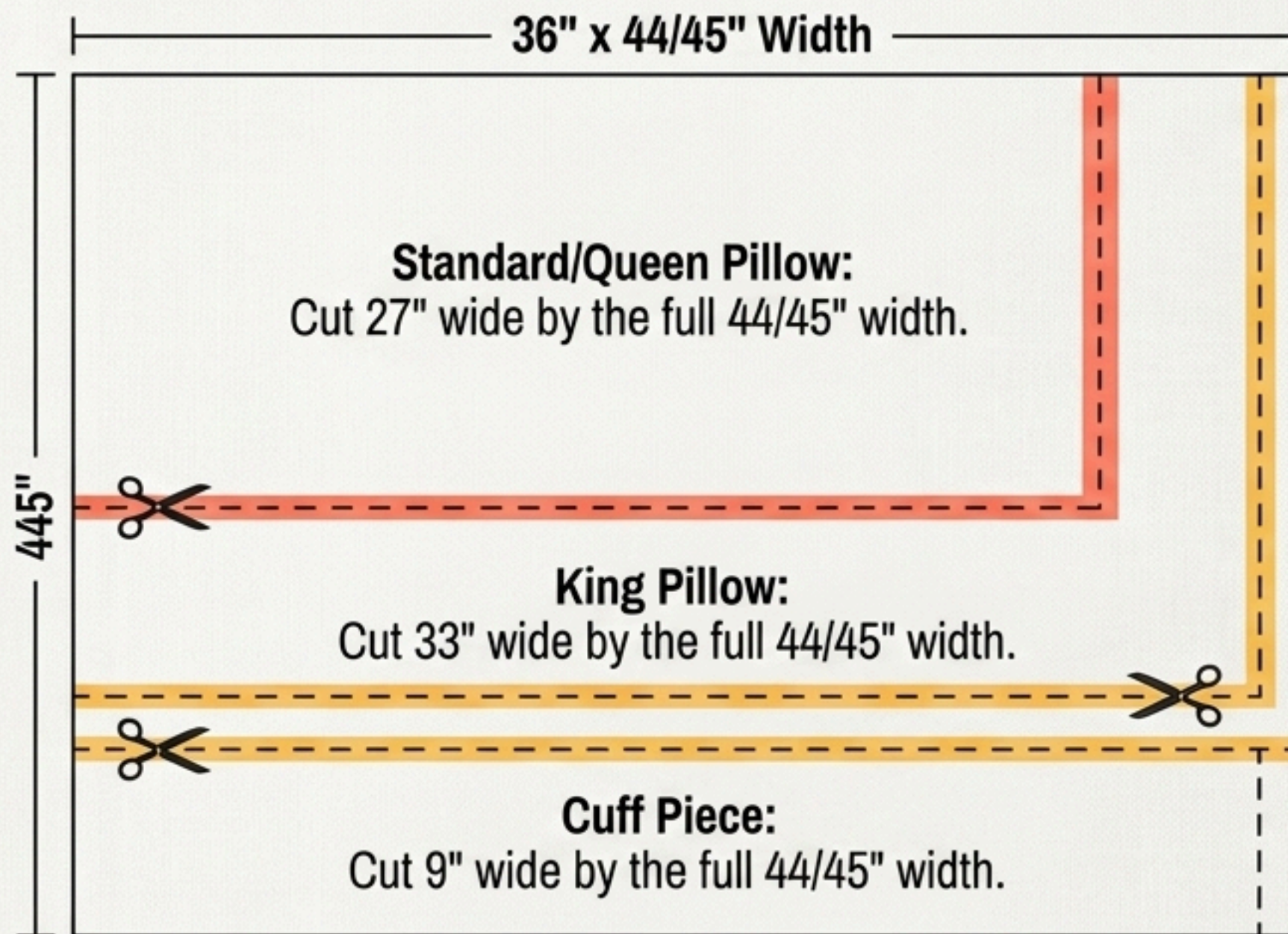


Satin & Silk

Highly slippery and frustrating for a first project. Save these for later.

Note: Both the main body and cuff can be cut from the exact same fabric if desired—two contrasting prints are just for visual appeal.

The Zero-Waste Cutting Blueprint



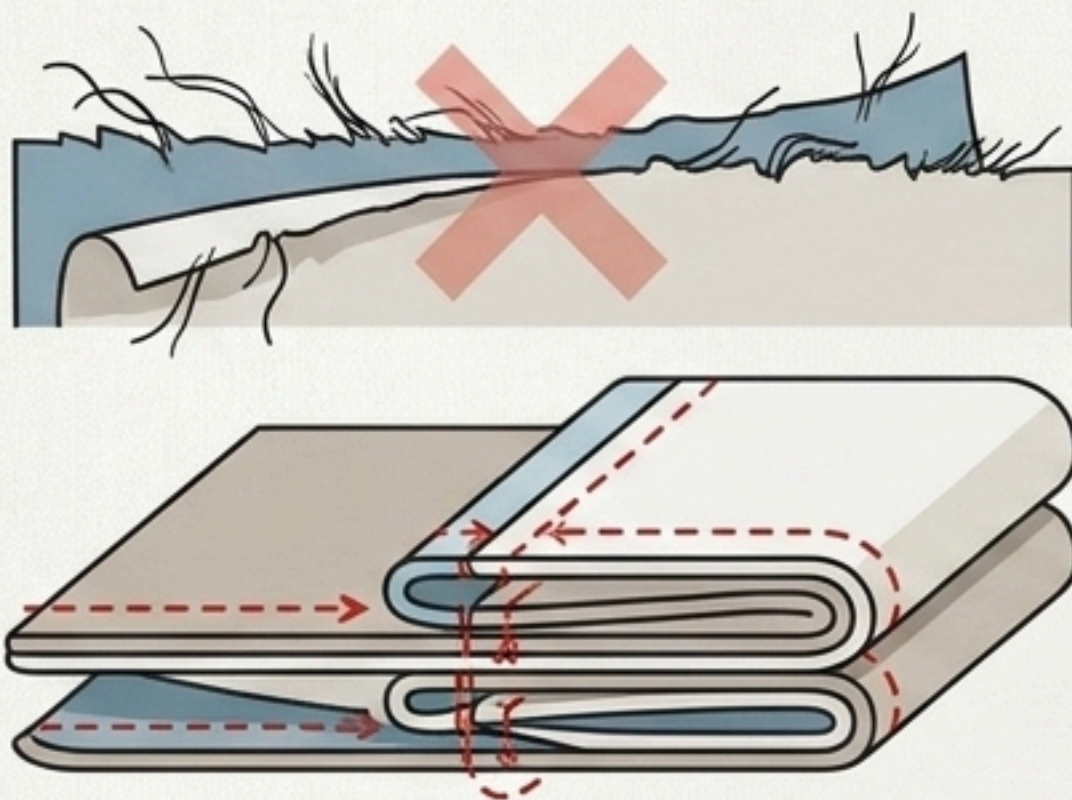
Custom Size Formula:
Measure your pillow.

Cut width = Pillow Width $\times$ 2
+ 1" (seam allowance).

Cut length = Pillow Length + 5".

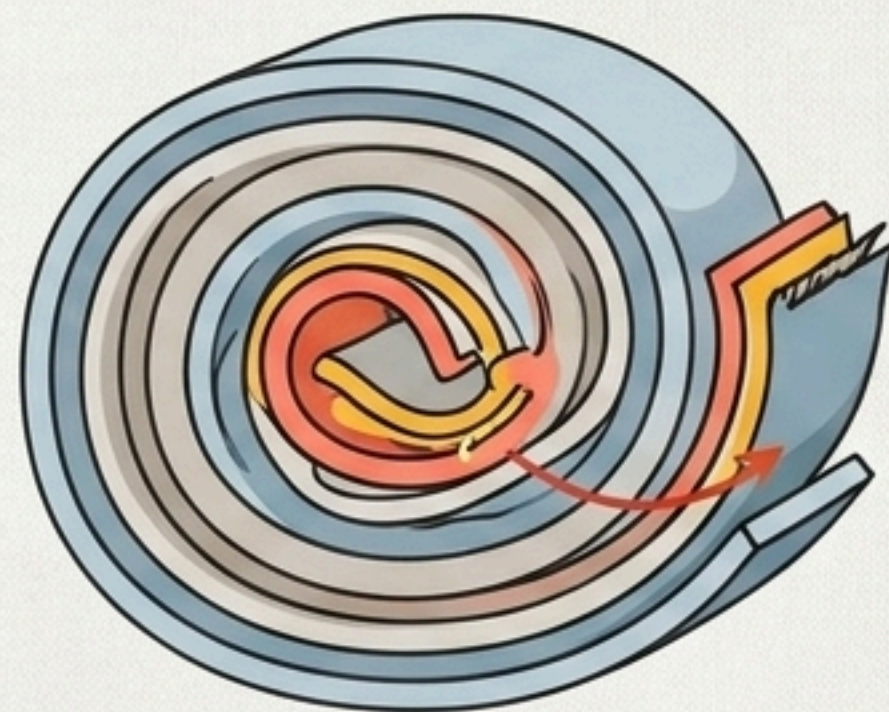
Conceptualizing the Burrito Method

The Old Way



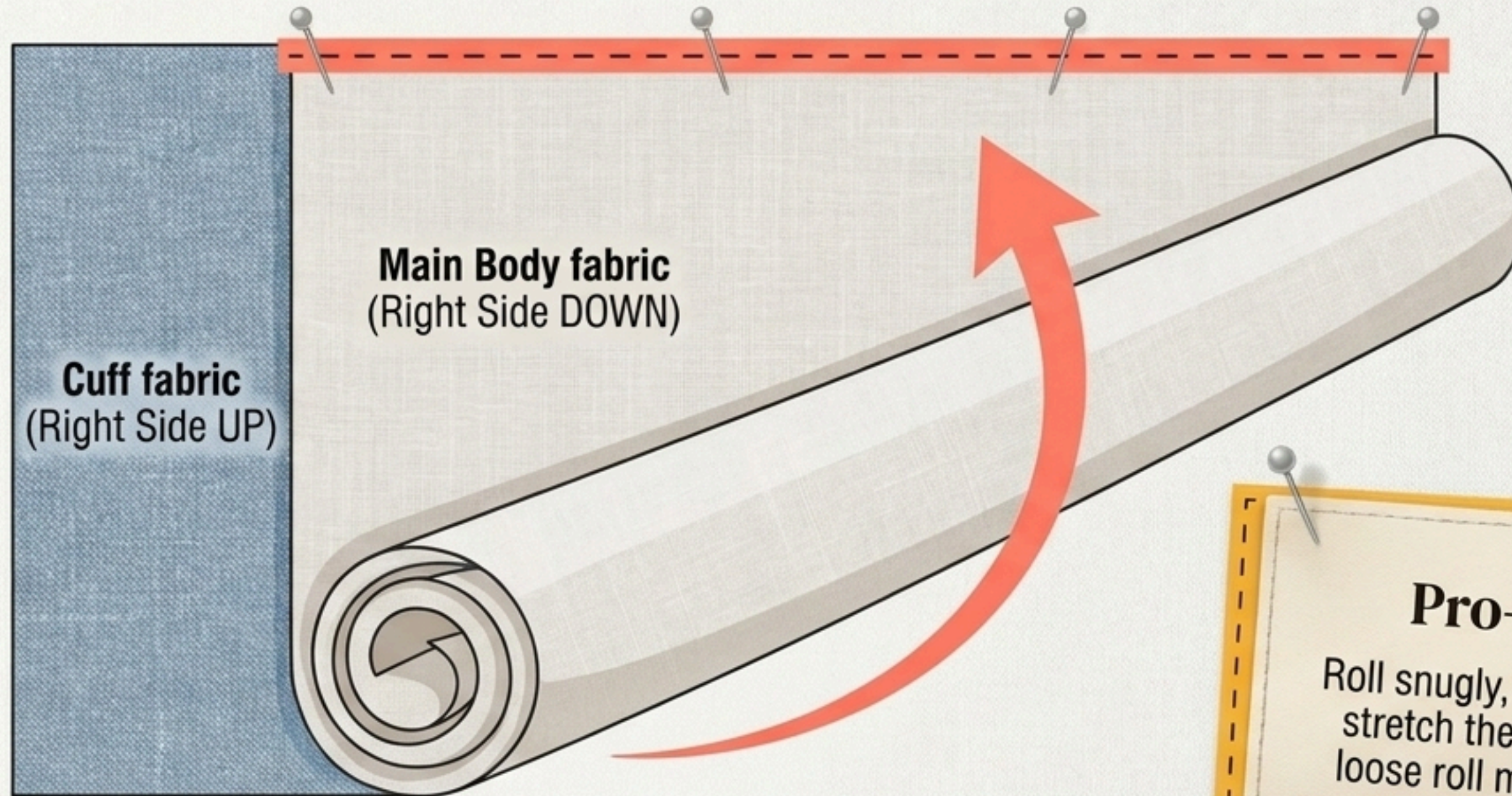
French seams require multiple stitching passes and exact trimming. As one Quilting Forum sewist noted, this traditional method was “hard for the child I had coached.”

The Burrito Way



The Burrito Method relies on rolling the fabric to hide all raw edges inside one continuous seam. No trimming, no double-stitching. Just a roll and a pull.

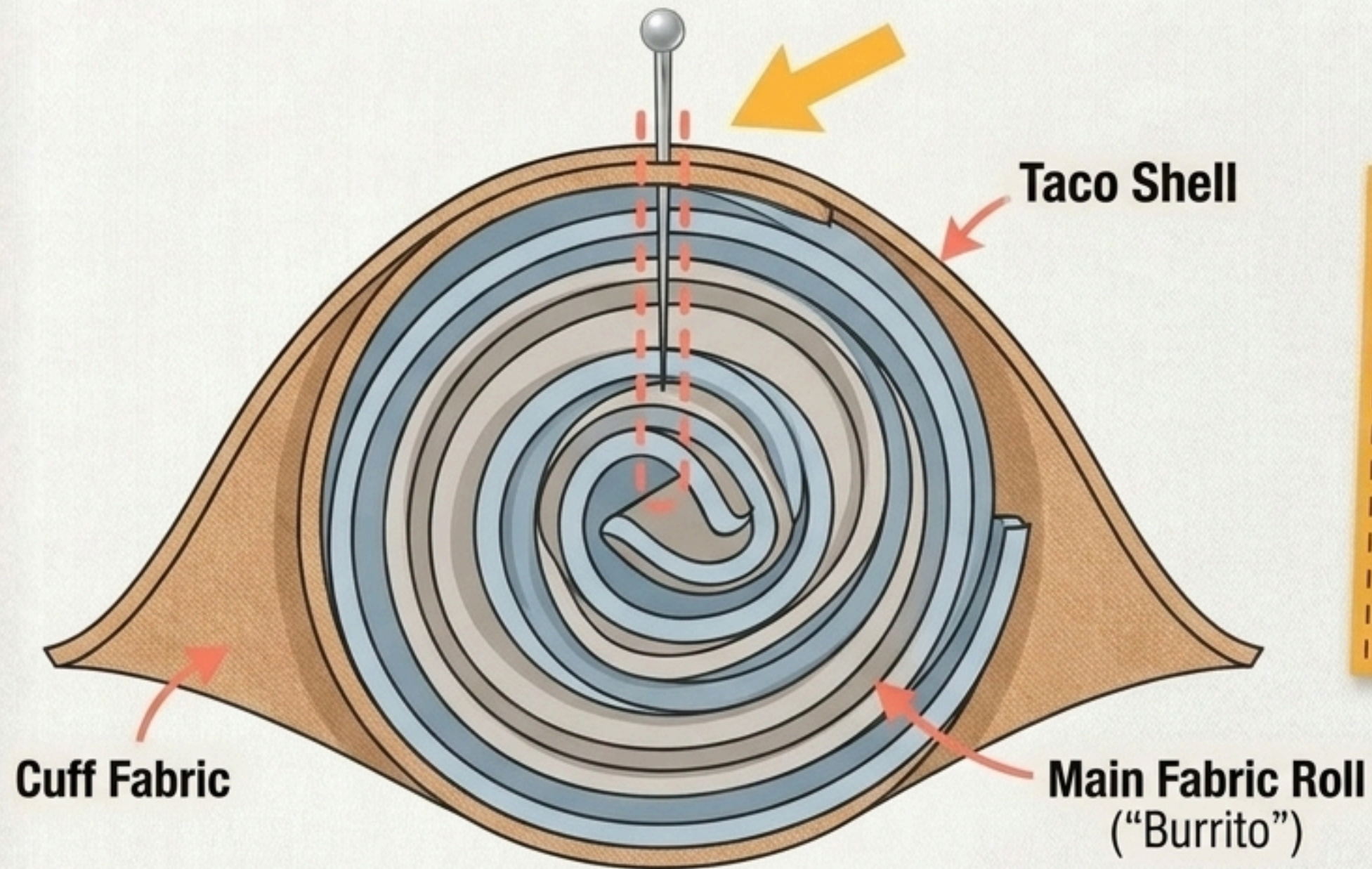
Step 1 & 2: The Stack and the Roll



Pro-Tip

Roll snugly, but do not stretch the fabric. A loose roll makes the next step harder.

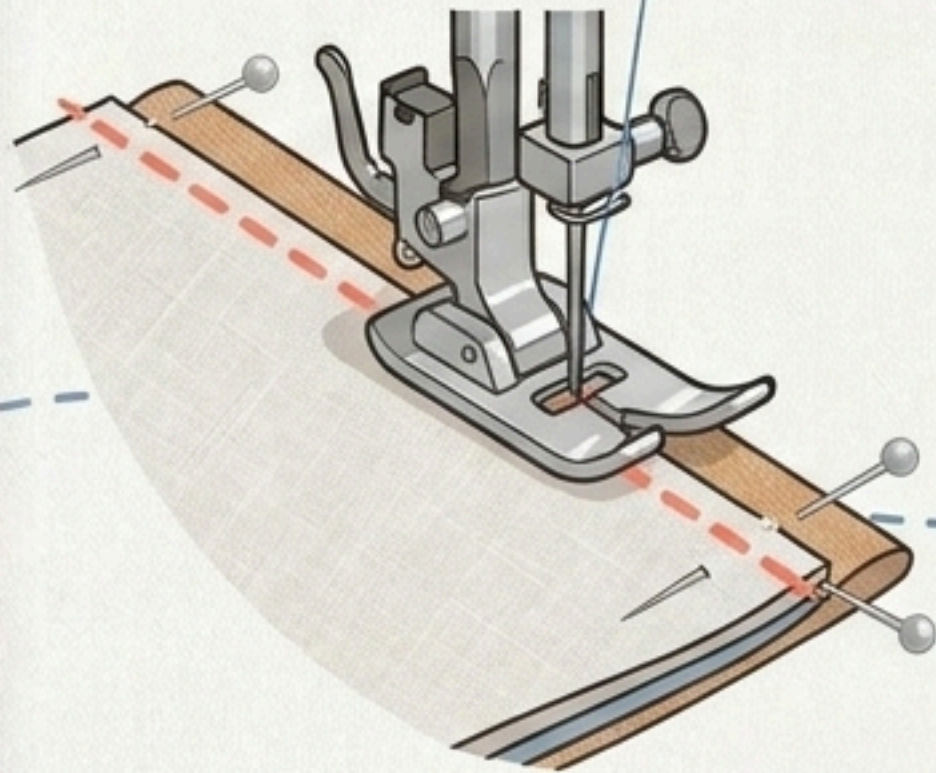
Step 3: Wrap and Pin (The “Taco”)



Wrap the bottom of the cuff around your fabric roll. Match all three raw edges at the top and pin securely.

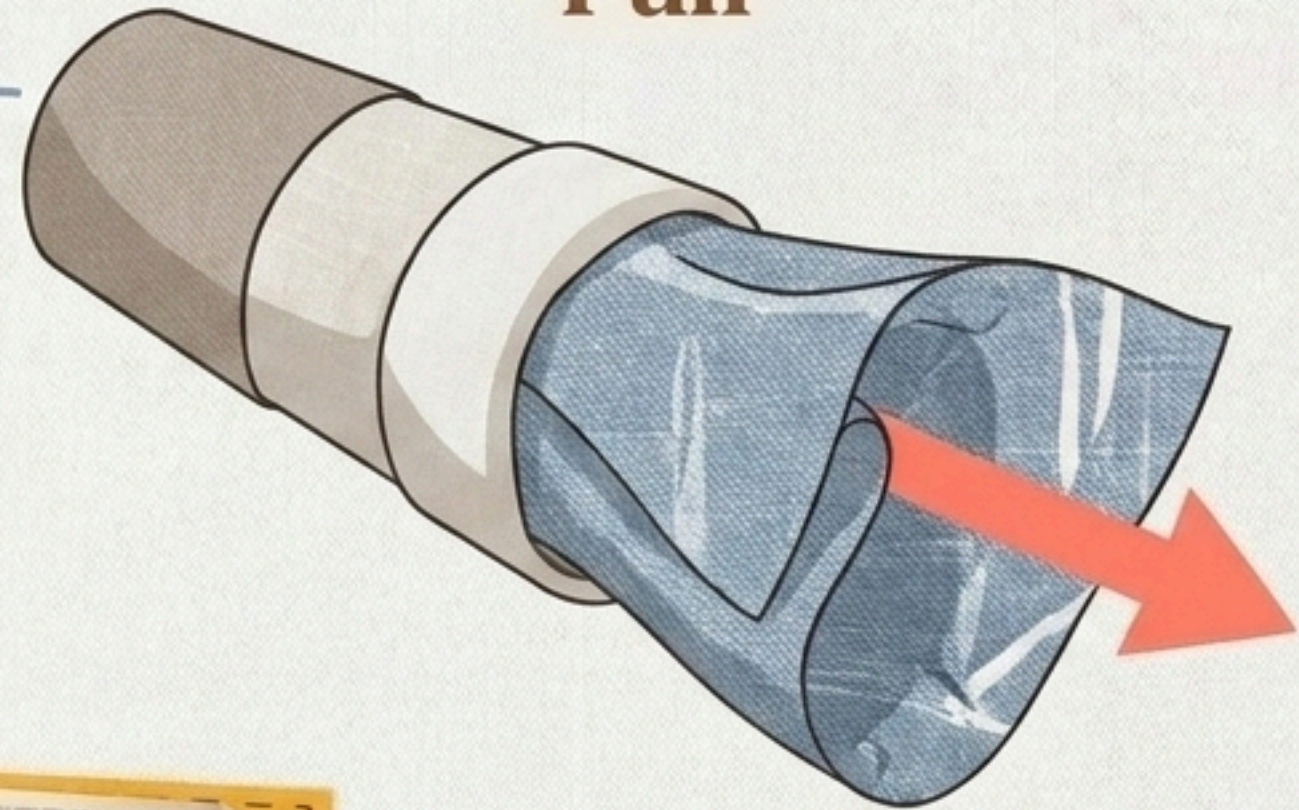
Steps 4 & 5: Sew and Reveal the “Magic”

Sew



Sew a 1/2-inch seam through all layers. Backstitch at the start and end.

Pull

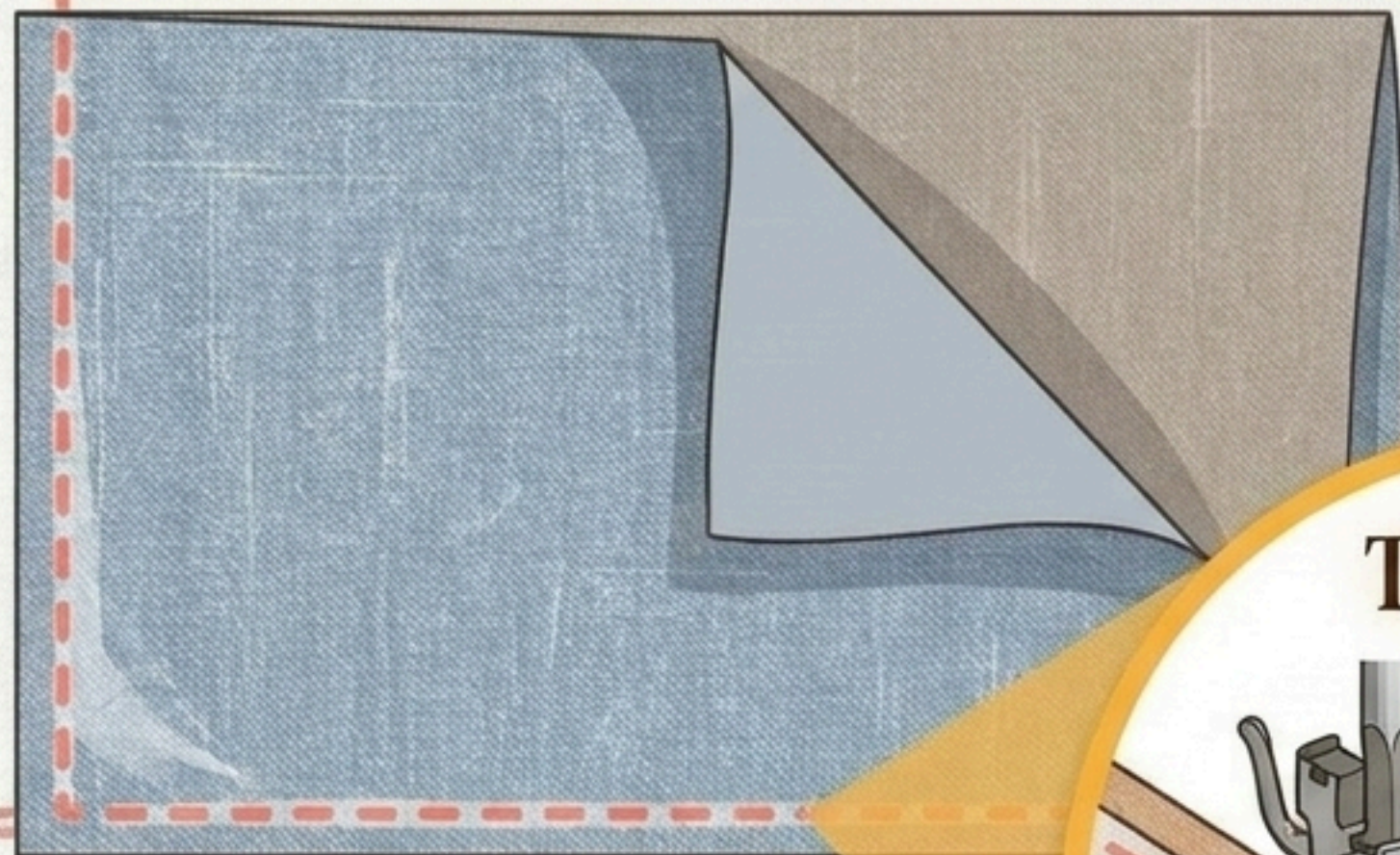


Reach into the tube and gently pull the rolled fabric out. It turns itself right-side out as you pull.

Troubleshooting:

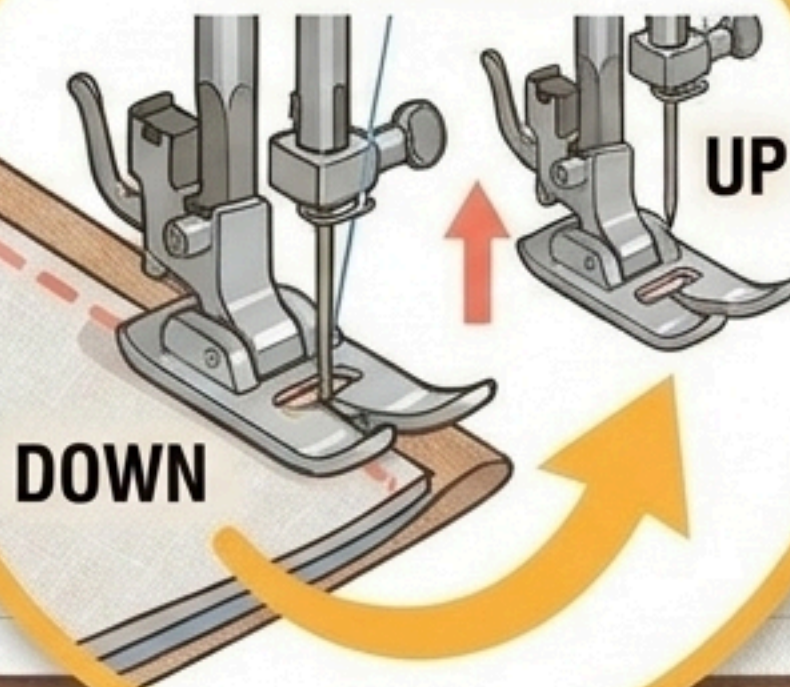
If it feels stuck, use a seam ripper! You likely caught the inner roll in your straight seam.

Steps 6 & 7: The Final Seam and Corner Pivot



Sew a continuous 1/2-inch line down the side and across the bottom.

The Pivot



To get the corners to look crisp (a common Reddit struggle):
Slow down! Stop at the corner, pivot with your needle down, and then proceed.

Step 8: Finishing the Raw Edges

Unfinished



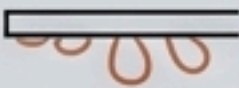
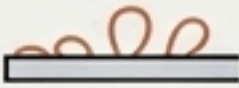
Without finishing, your seam will unravel in the wash.

Finished



Set your machine to a zigzag stitch (or use a serger) and run it along the raw edge you just sewed. This locks the threads permanently.

The Stitch Diagnostic Matrix

Symptom	Machine Adjustment
 Loops of thread underneath the fabric.	Re-thread the TOP thread from scratch (with the machine off).
 Loops of thread on top of the fabric.	Re-thread the BOBBIN and check that it seats correctly.
 Seam puckers or bunches up.	Top tension is too tight. Loosen it slightly and test on a scrap piece.
 Fabric will not feed evenly.	Built-up lint! Brush out the feed dogs and bobbin case.

Turn, Point, and Press



1. Turn right side out through the open top.
2. Push out the bottom corners using a point turner or closed scissors.
3. Give it a final hot press so the pillowcase lies completely flat with zero visible raw edges inside or out.

Final Note: Wash and dry the pillowcase before gifting to soften the fabric and ensure all seams are secure.

You Didn't Just Make a Pillowcase; You Levelled Up

Skill 1:
Straight Cuts
& Seams

Simple Tote Bags

Simple tote bags with a simple boshes and easy to precommomize toteatees.



Skill 2:
Corner Pivots

Quilt Binding & Collars

Quilt binding and collars corners with quilt, cornerss, and shirt collars.



Skill 3: Enclosed Seams
& Zigzag Finishes

Elastic-Waist Skirts & Apparel

Elastic-waist skirts & apparel – slighti mates.trons ura and skirts.



Keep this reference next to your machine. Download the free printable Pillowcase Pattern PDF at [Sewing.com](https://www.sewing.com).

