



The Project

This pillow is a wonderful example for a „Think Green!“ project re-using discarded clothing. (Denim) Shirts are great for making very cool pillow covers since the button-facing does very nicely as closure and makes the inserting of a zipper unnecessary.

The other side of the pillow - the side which is cut from the back of the shirt - is embellished with machine-appliquéd flowers. Continuing with the „green“ theme, the flowers were cut from vintage blue and white bed linen from old Bavarian farmhouses.

Go to www.quilt-around-the-world.com for information on resources!



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The flowers were cut using an AccuCut! GO fabric cutter and one of the many available dies.

Difficulty:

Easy

Technique and Layout

The Easy Denim pillow is a simple affair which hardly involves any technique. Just straight sewing and a little care with thick layers of denim fabric.

For the front, we used an Accuquilt GO! fabric cutter and the die called “Funky Flowers”. We applied double sided fusible interfacing to the back of the appliqué fabrics and cut the shapes with the interfacing already attached. The shapes were then fused to the denim fabric with the help of a hot iron. The raw edges of the appliqué shapes were secured with a dense zigzag stitch.

Options:

Depending on what you consider the front or the back of the pillow, the machine appliqué could be optional in your project. If you don't have access to an Accuquilt GO! fabric cutter, you could easily replace the “Funky Flowers” with hearts, circles, triangles etc.

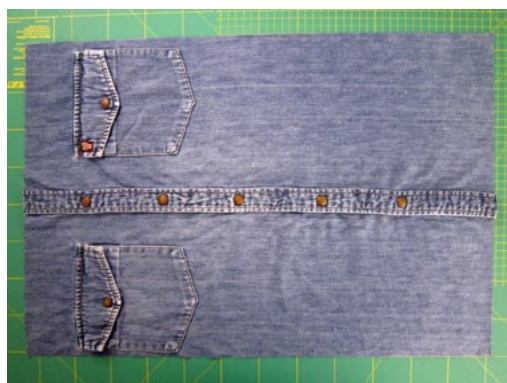
Cutting

With the fabric scissors, cut away the parts of the denim shirt you don't want for this projects (sleeves, collar, epaulettes). Don't throw them away though – they might come in very handy for future Easy Denim projects!.



You should now have two pieces of denim fabric: the back of the shirt and the front with the button-facing. If the shirt has any tucks, unpick them to get a flat surface.

Using your rotary cutter and ruler, cut out a rectangle from each piece of denim. Add ½” (1.5 cm) seam allowance to the desired finished size of your pillow. In our case, we cut the rectangles 16 ½” x 24 ½” (ca. 41.5 cm x 61.5 cm).



Press both rectangles carefully.

TIP:

In the pockets, hide whatever mustn't lie around openly on your sofa (e. g. an SOS handkerchief, treats for your children when they refuse to go to bed voluntarily, your lottery ticket etc.).

Appliqué

If you are using conventional methods for creating the appliqué shapes:

Cut out squares from the interfacing roughly as big as the appliqué shape should be. Draw the desired shape on the backing paper of the interface.

Attach the interfacing to the back of your appliqué fabric(s) as described in the manufacturer's instructions. Cut out along the drawn outlines of your appliqué shapes.

If you are using an Accuquilt GO! fabric cutter and the "Funky Flower" die:

Attach the fusible interfacing to the back of your scrap fabrics as described in the manufacturer's instructions.

Cut out as many flowers as you would like to appliqué to your pillow. Read the instructions for the Accuquilt GO! fabric cutter if you have never before worked with this tool!



Process continues for both methods:

Place the flowers or your own appliqué shapes on the denim rectangle without the button-facing. Rearrange until you are happy with the layout.

Fuse the flowers to the denim. Secure the raw edges of the shapes using a small zigzag stitch. (This is actually the single most time-consuming step in making our pillow version! Without the appliqué part, the cushion could be finished in less than an hour.)

Sewing

Place the two rectangles on top of each other, right sides facing.

Make sure that the button-facing is properly closed. This makes a neater finish.

Sew around the edges with a seam allowance of $\frac{1}{4}$ " (0.75 cm). Secure the open edges with a zigzag or overlock stitch.



Your Easy Denim pillow is finished!

TIP:

If your sewing machine refuses to sew over the button-facing, skip this part and either sew by hand or ask someone with an industrial sewing machine (or an old-fashioned, cast-iron, "I sew through everything" treadle machine) to close these last bits for you.

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Free Pattern

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About Quilt around the World

Quilt around the World is an innovative, interactive and international online magazine for patchwork and quilting.

Here you will find all kinds of patterns: quilts, cushions, bags, textile jewellery and much more. Moreover, there are rivetting (quilt) travel reports, interesting interviews, book and product reviews and a calendar of events. As a member, you can interact with other members through a commentary function.

All articles are available in English and German. Many articles are accessible for everyone without having to create a login!

Participate in our first INTERNATIONAL BLOCK SWAP! Details and lots of inspiration (free block patterns!) available at

www.quilt-around-the-world.com

Materials, Tools, Notions

- A pillow inlay
- An old denim shirt

Optional:

- Scraps for appliqué

We used a rectangular pillow measuring 16" x 24" or 40 cm x 60 cm. The denim shirt should be large enough to cover the cushion inlay.

- Rotary cutter
- Cutting mat
- Ruler
- Fabric scissors
- Pins
- Matching sewing thread
- Iron and ironing board
- Sewing machine

Optional:

- fusible interfacing
- Paper scissors
- AccuCut GO! fabric cutter
- Die „Funky Flowers“
- Machine embroidery thread

If you don't have access to an Accuquilt GO! fabric cutter, you could easily replace the "Funky Flowers" with hearts, circles, triangles, your own flower design, or...

Go to www.quilt-around-the-world.com for optional flower designs!

