

Celebrate a DIY

4th of July

6 Holiday Sewing Ideas



ALLFREESEWING 

6 Holiday Sewing Ideas: Celebrate a DIY 4th of July

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Letter from the Editors

Hi Sewers,

Holiday specific projects are some of the most fun to sew. When 4th of July rolls around it's time to kick-back and relax with family and friends. Dress up the kids in red, white and blue and prepare for the party by making festive decorations. We've put together this eBook with patriotic ideas for you to try. You can celebrate a fun and inexpensive 4th of July with these DIY holiday sewing projects!

Happy Sewing!

You can find more kids sewing patterns, sewing tips, and decorating ideas 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 AllFreeSewing

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Stars and Stripes Tote

By: Dorinda Dombrowski

Show up to barbeques and family gatherings with this adorable tote and you'll be the hit of the party! It's easy to make and can be reused for several patriotic events.



Finished Size Approximately 16" h x 11" w-Straps have a 13" drop, 4 inside pockets

Requirements:

- ½ -yard outside fabric
- ½ -yard lining fabric
- ½ -yard pocket fabric
- 5/8-yard stars & straps fabric
- 1/8-yard of each, red, white & blue
- 1-yard Fusible Fleece Interfacing
- 1-yard Lite Heat-n-Bond Iron-On Adhesive

Supplies Needed:

- All-purpose thread to match fabric
- Scissors & Rotary Cutter Pins
- Ruler
- Sewing Machine
- Iron

Note: Read through entire pattern before starting to sew. Remove all pins before sewing over them. All seams are a ¼".

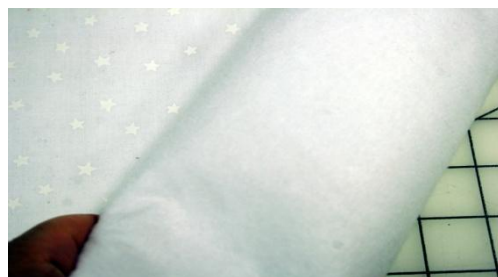
Cutting Fabric:

- Cut 2- 15" w x 18" h- outside fabric
- Cut 2- 15" w x 18" h- lining fabric
- Cut 2-14" x 15" fabric for pockets
- Cut 2- 2" x 15" red strips of fabric
- Cut 2- 3" x 15" white strips of fabric
- Cut 2- 4" x 15" blue strips of fabric
- Cut 2- 4" x 28" strips of fabric for straps
- Cut 4- 6" x 6" fabric for #1 stars
- Cut 4- 5" x 5" fabric for #2 stars
- Cut 4- 4" x 4" fabric for #3 stars
- Cut 4- 3" x 3" fabric for #4 stars
- Cut 4- 15" x 18" fusible fleece

Instructions:

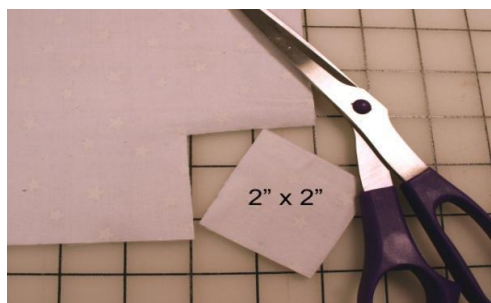
Ironing on Fusible Fleece & Cutting Corners:

- 1) Take the 4- 15" x 18" fabric cuts and iron on fusible fleece following manufactures directions.



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2) Cut a 2" x 2" square off two corners on a 15" side, on all 4- 15" x 18" fabric cuts.



3) All 4 corners on the 15" bottom, of all 15" x 18" fabric cuts should look like this picture.



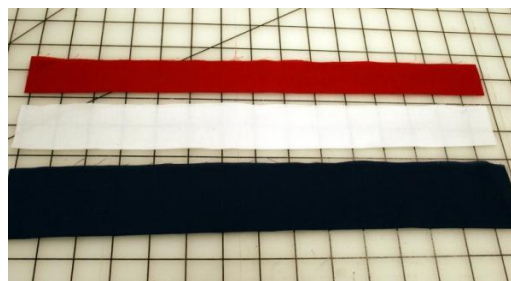
Ironing on Lite Heat-n-Bond, Cutting Stars & Sewing on Stripes:

1) Iron on Lite Heat-n-Bond following manufactures directions to all-star cuts of fabric, place the template on them and cut out. Take paper backing off and set aside for now.



2) Take the red, white and blue strips of fabric, fold all in half the long way and press. Making

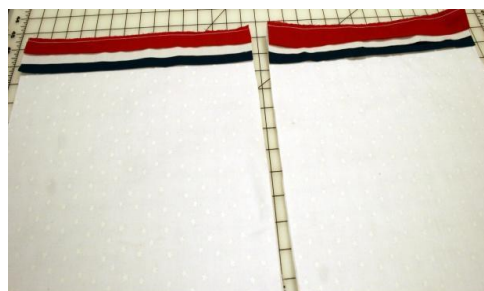
the red stripes 1" x 15, white stripes 1 1/2" x 15" and blue stripes 2" x 15".



3) Take 1 of the outside cuts of fabric and place the stripes at the top, raw edges meeting raw edges of the outside fabric cut. First the blue, then the white and last the red on top of each other, pin and sew close to the edge.



4) Now do the same for the other outside fabric cut.



5) Take 2 of each star sizes and place them wherever you like, between the stripes and the 2" cuts at the bottom and on one of the outside fabric cuts. Press in place.

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6) Next take the other outside fabric cut, place and press your stars anywhere, then zigzag an appliqué stitch around each star on both cuts of fabric.

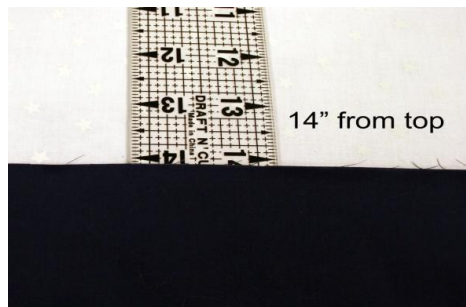


Pockets:

1) Take the pocket cuts; fold them in half the long way and press, making 2- 7" x 15" pockets. Topstitch the folded edge on both pockets.



2) Take a lining fabric cut and place a pocket raw edge up and 14" from the top, pin in place and sew.



3) Fold the pocket up and topstitch the bottom seam.



4) Fold the cut in half to find the middle, at the middle sew from the bottom of the pocket to the top (backstitch at the top to make the pockets more secure), this will make 2 pockets. Now, take the other lining cut and sew the other pocket the same way.



Making the Straps:

1) Take the 2- 4" x 28" strips of fabric for straps, fold raw edges to meet in the middle and press.

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2) Fold again and press, making a 1" strap. Sew close on both long edges of the strap.



3) Measure in 2" from one end of an outside fabric cut, place and pin raw edge of the strap to the raw edge of the fabric, zigzag in place. Make sure the strap is straight, pin and sew the other end of the strap 2" in, to the other side and zigzag in place. Now, take the other outside fabric cut and sew the other strap the same way.

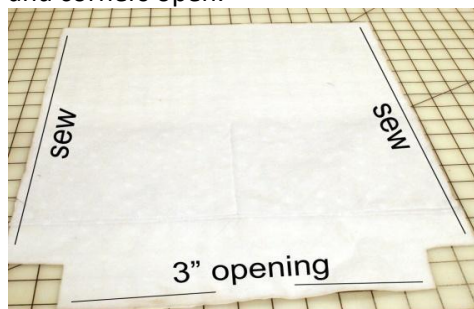


Finishing:

1) Place the lining cuts right sides together.



2) Pin and sew the sides, at the bottom sew and leave a 3" opening for turning. Leave the top and corners open.



3) At the corners match side and bottom seams.



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4) Pin and sew.



5) Leave tote wrong sides out.



6) Place the outside fabric cuts right sides together, pin and sew the sides and the bottom. Leave the top and the corners open. Then, sew the corners the same as the lining of the tote.



7) Turn right sides out.



8) Place the outside of the tote inside the lining with the 3" opening (right sides together). Make sure the straps stay inside the bag, match side seams, pin and sew all around the top. Backstitch over the straps to make them more secure.



9) Turn right sides out through the 3" opening, hand stitch the opening closed and press around the top and the rest of the tote.



10) Your Stars & Stripes Tote is done and ready for fun at the park!



Patriotic Pillowcase Dresses

By: [Aesthetic Nest](#)

Use our holiday craft ideas to make your own clothes! These patriotic pillowcase dresses are quick and easy, and they're perfect to wear to a 4th of July barbecue.



Here's the tutorial for making these dresses in a size 4 and a size 2, with and without ruffle.

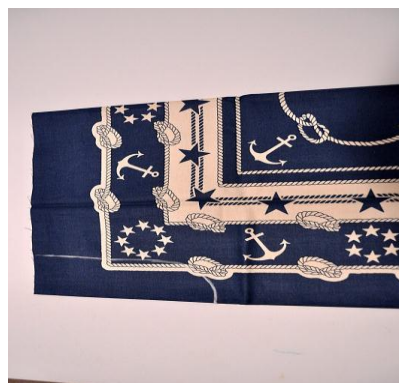
Supplies for one dress:

- 1 [Bar Harbor Scarf panel](#)
- 1 package seam binding in off white or oyster
- 1/2 yard red cotton fabric for ruffle and tie (54" wide or wider)
- Off white/oyster thread and red thread

Start with a Bar Harbor Anchor Scarf panel (these measure 23" x 44"), which includes a set of two "scarves," which will be the front and the back of the dress. Trim the selvage so the pattern is centered on the fabric.



Then you'll need to cut out the arm holes. Do this by folding the panel (the two "scarves") in half lengthwise so you can cut perfectly symmetrical arm holes. For size 4, you'll need to cut down 6 inches from the top of the fabric and two inches from the sides--round the corner as shown in the chalk markings below. For size 2, cut down 4 inches from the top and two inches from the side, rounding the corner.



Then use French seams to join the front and the back "scarves" by first pinning and seaming with wrong sides together (I stitch this first seam with the fabric aligned with the edge of my sewing foot), then pressing the seam to one side, turning the garment inside out and seaming right sides together. This second seam should be slightly wider than the first so you encase the first seam inside it. (You'll want to seam the folded edge of this panel just as you do the raw/cut edge to keep the dress symmetrical.)



I love French seams because they produce such a nicely finished garment--no need to zigzag or serge the seam allowances inside.



Now use the seam binding to finish the arm holes. Do this by opening out the fold and lining up the edge of the seam binding with the edge of the fabric, right sides together. Pin carefully, especially around the curve, to avoid puckering and pleating in the fabric. Stitch in the fold line of the seam binding. Trim seam and fold seam binding to the inside/wrong side of the dress. Pin carefully and top stitch on the right side of the arm hole being careful to catch both halves of the seam binding.

Next is the casing at the neck for the ties. Fold down 1/4" from the top of the front and the back sides of the dress and stitch a small hem. Then fold the tops down 1 and 1/2" and stitch in place to form the casing in the front and the back.



You can now hem the bottom of the dress by folding under the fabric 1/4" twice and top stitching. (I cut off about 1 1/2 inches from the bottom first before hemming for my two-year-old to make it a bit shorter.)

There it is: your finished pillow case dress. You could now use ribbon to cinch the neck and form the ties, but I love the look of a wider fabric tie.



To make the tie and ruffle, cut strips the width of your 54" cotton fabric: two six inch, for the ruffle, and one four inch for the tie. I cut mine with the fabric folded selvages together (just as it comes off the bolt). (You may certainly use 45" wide fabric, the ruffle just won't be as full and you will need to measure your child--use a piece of ribbon in place of the tie perhaps--and see if you need to cut an extra strip to lengthen the tie.)



Hem the edges of the tie by folding under twice, as narrowly as possible--I'm always aiming for 1/4" or less. To save time, I fold under twice and stitch as I go, which is what my mom taught me, but you could certainly fold once, pin and stitch and then do it again. Finish the ends similarly. You can miter the corners if you would like. The tie is now ready to thread through the casing. I found using a large safety pin as a guide was helpful.



To make the ruffle, sew the two 6-inch strips of fabric right sides together on the short ends to form a ring. Press and finish the seams with a zigzag stitch or serger. Now hem the bottom edge by folding under 1/4" twice and top stitching (similar to the finishing of the tie). Then finish the top edge with a zigzag stitch or serger. You're ready for the gathering.

I think the easiest way to gather a long piece of fabric such as this is to use the zigzag-dental floss method! Do this by laying the dental floss under the middle of your sewing foot and

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sewing over it with a wide, long zigzag as shown below:



This will allow you to pull the dental floss through the zigzag stitching to gather the fabric. It works really well, no risk of broken thread, and I find it gathers more evenly.



Because the dress is already hemmed, pin the right side of the ruffle to the wrong side of the bottom edge of the dress (so you are pinning the ruffle inside the dress as it will look when it's finished). Match side seams and centers of front and back and pull dental floss to gather evening around. Pin carefully. Top stitch along the top stitching on the right side of the hemmed edge of the dress and the ruffle is attached.

If you haven't already, thread the tie through the casing at the top of the dress. It's finished!

The Patriotic Pillowcase dress with, and without, contrasting ruffle:



4th of July Outdoor Pillows

By: [Amy for Positively Splendid](#)

Make these 4th of July outdoor pillows to decorate for your 4th of July festivities and honor our founding fathers. This holiday craft idea will show you just how easy it is to make throw pillows.



To make a set of pillows, you will need:

- 3 pillow forms (I used 2 squares and 1 rectangle)
- 1 5' x 5' canvas drop cloth **with leak-proof backing**
- Freezer paper
- Rotary cutter and mat
- Cricut and Sure Cuts A Lot software (optional, but recommended)
- Iron
- Red spray paint
- Navy and white marine vinyl
- White upholstery thread
- Sewing machine needle for leather
- Wash-Away Wonder Tape
- Jeans sewing machine needle
- All-purpose thread
- Standard sewing notions: measuring tape, shears, pins, etc.

To start, measure your pillow forms, length and width. Now, add 1 to each of these measurements, and cut out a piece according to those values.

Example: My rectangular pillow is 15 inches long and 20 inches wide, so I need to cut a piece that is 16" x 21".

Now you will need to cut two pieces for the back that has the same **width** as the piece you just cut, but are only 2/3 (.67) as long.

Example: For the pillow above, I will multiply 16 (my length) x .67, which gives me 10.72. Rounding this value up to the nearest inch gives me 11. Thus, my two back pieces will each be 11" x 21".

I know math can be daunting, but bear with me. You can do it!

1) Open your drop cloth and spread it out on a large work surface. Take note of each of the hemmed edges.



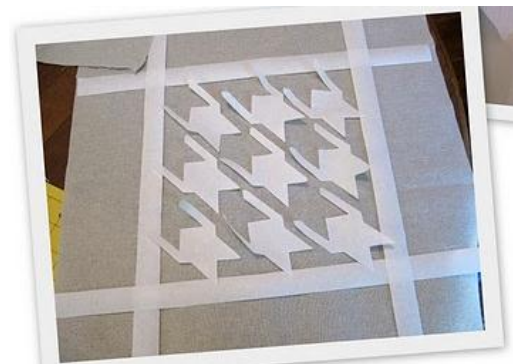
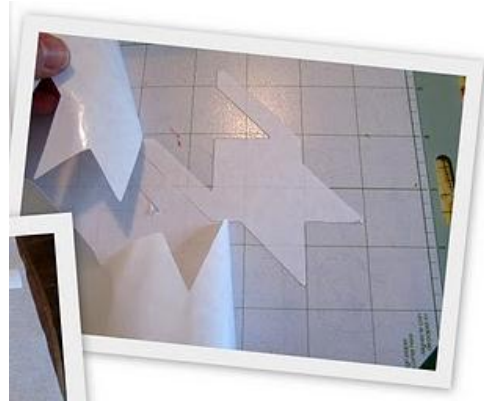
2) Cut your pieces according to the dimensions specified above.



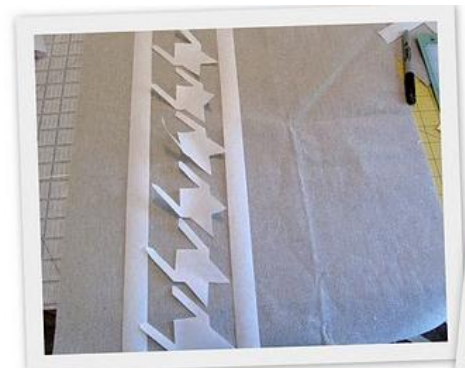
3) Important: Cut your pillow back pieces so one of the long edges of each falls on one of the hemmed edges of your cloth. This will save you time later when you don't have to hem them yourself!



4) Now grab your freezer paper and rotary cutter. For the star pillow, cut 1-inch strips that are the length of your pillow. Use your SCAL software and your Cricut to cut out houndstooth pieces. (Or, alternatively, trace and cut them out by hand.)



5) For this pillow, I used four 1-inch strips and 9 houndstooth pieces. Arrange them as shown. Once you are happy with your design, carefully iron them into place.



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6) For the silhouette pillow cut two 1-inch strips and 6 houndstooth pieces. Arrange as shown and iron.

For the date pillow, cut four 2-inch strips and arrange in a rectangle, using a ruler to ensure all pieces are straight. Iron into place.



7) Now, head out to do your painting. I recommend visiting Vanessa's site ([linked here](#)) to check out her detailed tips for exactly how to do this.



8) Allow paint to dry completely. Then peel off your stencils.



9) Allow yourself to squeal with delight when you see how terrific things are looking already! Set your painted pillow front pieces aside.



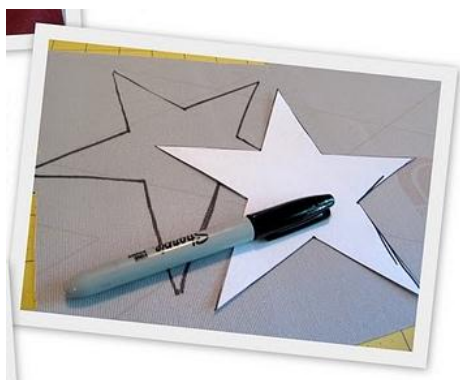
10) Use your word processing software to print off your number and star templates. Print as a mirror image (unlike I did) to

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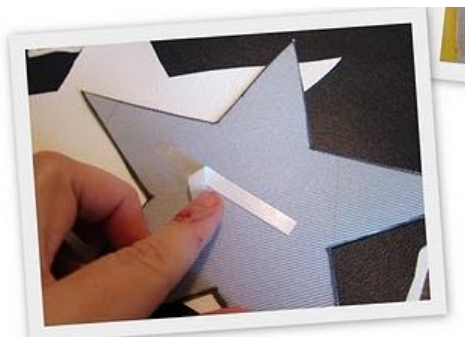
ensure your shape is oriented correctly when you trace onto the back of your vinyl.



11) Trace your templates onto the back of your vinyl. (I used the navy vinyl for my main design and the white for the background.) Cut out your pieces.



12) Layer your main pieces onto your background pieces, adhering with Wonder Tape as you go.



13) Use your upholstery thread and leather needle to carefully stitch the top and

bottom layers together as shown.



14) Use Wonder Tape to secure your layered pieces to your painted pillow front. Stitch into place. You are done embellishing! All that's left now is to assemble your pillow.



15) Place one of your back panel pieces on top of your finished front piece, right sides facing, aligning edges and top corners. Make sure the hemmed edge of your back piece runs through the middle of your front panel.

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18) Now, fit your completed covers onto your pillow forms. You are finished!



16) Now, take your second back panel pieces and place it on the lower half, aligning lower edges and corners, with the hemmed edge in the center.



17) Secure with pins. With a jeans needle and all-purpose thread, stitch all the way around with a 1/2" seam allowance. Clip corners and turn right-side out.



4th of July Halter

By: [Gillian for All the Small Things](#)

For Independence Day, make this special 4th of July Halter for your daughter to wear. It's a cute outfit that's perfect for the holiday.



How did I do it?

- I bought a boys Old Navy tank top (it was the only thing I really liked there this year for the 4th of July and it wasn't even for girls!) for \$4.99
- I then cut the shoulder straps off of it
- I sewed 2 long strips of blue polka dot material (right sides together) so the raw edges weren't exposed
- Sew one end of each strip closed
- I then sewed those 2 strips to the neck/shoulder part of the tank (right sides together)
- Now you have the halter part done and you simply have to tie a big bow around your girl's neck
- Next, fold under the cut part of the tank top and topstitch that in place (the inside of this tank isn't a pretty sight, but the outside is adorable!)
- Because this was a boys tank top, I had to "dart" the sides, but normally this isn't required (I figured this out 2 minutes before we left for the

breakfast, so my darting job is beyond primitive, but a perfectionist I am not!)

- Now with wrong sides together, sew a gathering stitch along the top of a long folded piece of fabric (a good rule to follow is the length should be double the length of the whole bottom of the tank) to make the ruffle
- Gather the ruffle and with right side together, sew to the bottom of the tank
- Cost \$4.99 + \$1.50 = \$6.49 for a dang cute top!



4th of July Shirts

By: [Ashley for Make it and Love it](#)

Use this simple holiday craft idea to make 4th of July shirts for yourself or your kids. This free sewing pattern shows you how to embellish a plain shirt to look like the flag.



First, to make the little ruffled girly flag. I cut up an old red t-shirt and made strips out of the knit that were 1/2 x 12 inches.



Then I decided how wide I wanted to make the flag (about 6 1/2 inches wide) and placed pins at each side. Then I laid the strips down, just how I wanted them from the left side, and let the tails hang over the right side for now.



Then I made a pencil mark at the left side of each strip and the right side of each strip, 1/4 inch down from the top of the strip (so the line would be centered down the center of each strip). And then I made a straight line with my pencil.



I did that for each strip so I would know exactly where to lay each strip after I ruffled them. Make sure your pencil lines are exactly as long and spaced exactly how you'd like it.....so that placing the ruffles will be easier.



Then make a basting stitch down the center of

each 13 inch strips and gather them so that they are only 6 1/2 inches wide (because that's how wide my flag is). Pin each ruffle in place, directly over top each pencil mark. (And I ended up trimming about 2 inches off the ends of the top two ruffles because they were more ruffy from being gathered more to fit a smaller space. Make sense? If not, just ignore.)



Then sew each ruffle in place.



Then I cut a blue knit square (again, from an old t-shirt scrap) and sewed it right to the shirt. Then I sewed five little buttons onto the square.



The more girly flag is now done.

On to the more plain flag. (Remember to adjust the measurements below for smaller or bigger shirts. This sizing was made for a 2T boy's shirt from Target. And I just picked off the little pocket with a seam ripper.)

I first ironed on some Heat 'n Bond (double sided adhesive) to a big chunk of the red knit. (From the old red t-shirt I used above, remember?) From that, I cut strips of red that were 1/2 x 6 inches. (See the paper backing of the adhesive on one side and the knit on the other side?)



Then I peeled off all of the paper backing and laid each strip on the front of the shirt.

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Nice and quick. And pretty inexpensive. And yes, I know you can buy little flag shirts everywhere for about \$5.....but they aren't nearly as cute/fun as making your own.

Perfect for the 4th of July weekend.

I added some Heat 'n Bond iron on adhesive to a little blue square as well, and placed everything just where I wanted it.



I also attached some of the same Heat 'n Bond to the back of a white square of fabric (it was actually the pocket that I picked off the shirt), then traced some stars onto the paper backing of the adhesive, cut them out, then added them to the blue square. Then I ironed everything in place.

Then I stitched around everything...



And that was it.

All Americana Stars Pillow Tutorial

By: [Angel for Fleece Fun](#)

Feeling patriotic? Want to make something decorative for the American holidays? Let the All Americana Stars Pillow Tutorial and video show you how to make a pillow with the ragging technique.



For the Pillow:

- Printed and assembled pdf pattern
- 1/4 yard of five different fabrics (cotton and flannel work best)
- 1/3 to 2/3 yard of fabric for backing, center star and side pieces (again cotton or flannel)
- stuffing (batting for fill)
- button (optional)
- needle and thread
- Washer and dryer for ragging

1. Cut out the pattern.

Print up the pattern (you can get assembly instructions [here](#)). Cut out 1 of each of the pattern pieces.

In addition to the pattern you will need to cut a 3.5 by 78 inch long strip for the five point star (you will need to sew a couple pieces together). A 3.5 by 64 strip for the star in star pattern. Tip: Be sure to leave the pattern pieces pinned to the cloth until you are ready to sew - that way you can tell which piece is

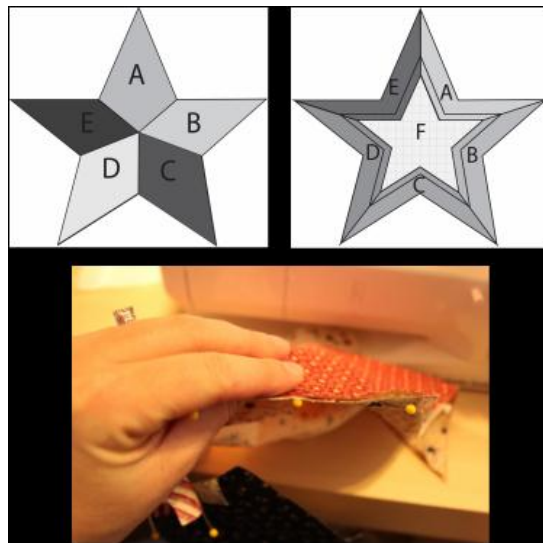
which.



2. Begin to sew.

Because we're going to rag the cloth you will pin wrong sides together and sew using a .5 seam allowance

For the 5 point pillow: be sure that the very center of the star is closed after sewing the pieces together. (Click on gallery pictures below for more visual detail).



Star in Star: Sew the outer pieces together and then sew the star in the center (Click on gallery pictures below for more visual detail).

Both stars: Once the front is assembled pin the side piece on to the front (again

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wrong sides together). Then sew around the star.

Tip: while you can sew one continuous line around the star - I recommend sewing from point to point rather than trying to turn at the top of each point. So basically you will sew 5 lines instead on long continuous one.

3. Pin and sew back of the star.

Both Pillows: Sew a short section 3-4 inches at a .4 seam allowance on the side cloths t=and then on the backing - this is to preserve the fabric at the baking when you rag the pillow.

With wrong sides together pin the back of the star onto the pillow - but this time be sure to leave a 3 inch gap for turning and stuffing. Sew together using the same seam allowance that you used on the front of the pillow. Trim threads.



4. Ragging.

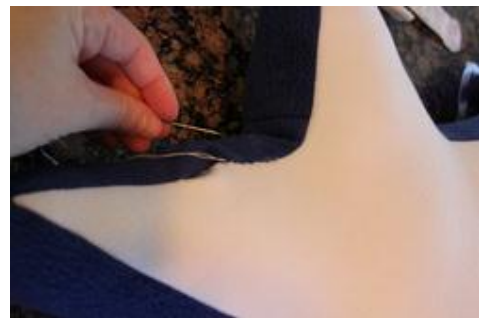
Both pillows: Go along each of the

seams and cut little slits along all of the seams, about .25 inch (or less) apart Then toss into the washer, once maybe two times to get the fabric to fray - then dry in the dryer to finish the ragging process.



5. Final steps.

Stuff to desired firmness (I like it to be a little more firm so it can stand better without sagging.) Hand-sew or machine sew the opening shut. If desired sew a button onto the center.



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Free Patterns To Keep You In Stitches

Included in this eBook:

- 4th of July decorations
- Kids Shirts
- Festive clothing ideas



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