

Sprocket Pillow

Hi it's Jenny from the Missouri Star Quilt Company. Sometimes when you make a quilt like one behind me, you end up with extra pieces and I always love to find projects to do with those extra pieces. So we're going to show you how to make a "Sprocket Pillow." And this is what a "Sprockets Pillow" is right here. It's where you use the Dresden blade and you keep it flat and open and make a pillow out of it. So we're going to show you how to do that.

So here's our extra pieces right here and what we're going to do with these is we're, we are going to sew them together with the wide ends all towards the outside and that's going to make a circle and you're going to have to sew twenty of these together. This is really an easy scrap project, because you can do it really with leftovers.

So let's sew a couple of these together and show you how, how quickly this goes. Again we're going to chain piece these. Let me scoot these. These pillows are so cute and no matter what fabric you use they're just darling. So let's go ahead and chain piece a couple of these so both of the wide ends are together, remember. So we're sewing from wide to narrow. Then I'm going to lay two more in and we'll sew from wide to narrow. And you'll just do this and you're going to do this ten times, because it only takes twenty blades to make a "Sprocket Pillow."

So when you get all your little set's together, you're little ten sets, then you're going to cut these apart and you're going to sew them through sets of two's, now you're going to do, you'll do sets of two's like this and it will end up being four's. You know and pretty soon, I mean it doesn't take very long at all until you have twenty sewn together and it makes a pillow really fast. So let me just go ahead and sew these together.

There we go. When you get them all together, you're going to iron them. You don't really need to iron before that unless you want to. Some people are crazy about their ironing. So here's, here's four of these together and you're going to do that five times and you will end up with a sprocket that looks like this.

So this is our, the basis for our big pillow right here. It does have a hole in the center. So we need to cover that up and how I do that is I look around my house to find the size of the circle that I want. You know I, I use, I use everything from saucer to cups to platters, depending upon the size of the circle. So right now I actually used my drink cup lid, cause it was handy, haha, close at hand. So I took the lid and I drew it, traced it on some heat n' bond, just like this and then ironed that heat n' bond onto the fabric and then I'm just going to cut this out and I'm going to cut it right on the line. If I can. Got to be so careful, hahaha, like scaring myself to death here, ha. Stay on the lines, stay on the line. Alright, pretty close. Finished is better than perfect I always say.

So then we have this piece right here. I'm going to peel this back off. You can roll it like this or you can slash it and, and it off too. It comes off really easy. So then I'm going to put that over the middle right here. Covers up our middle center and I'm going to iron that down. Now you want to be a little careful, because there is, there is, this hole is open to you don't want to glue this to your ironing board. So stick a little paper or something under there. And then I just kind of eyeball it. Make sure that I'm pretty even and I go ahead and press that on there and it will just stick on there. What I do

then is I, I just use a decorative stitch and sew around it. So that it, you know it just gives it, gives it a little, little bit of staying power and so then see I have this little circle, which I can now peel off.

So then I'm just going to go and sew a blanket stitch around this edge here and you can see that I've done that on these over here. I've just sewn a little blanket stitch around this edge and it just, you know, just a little bit extra. So once you get that done, what you're going to do is you are going to take a back, a piece of backing and this top is going to be your pattern for cutting out your backing. And you're going to cut it out identical. So it's just exactly the same as the top. You're going to put right sides together, just like this. And I'd probably stick a few pins in here and you're going to sew all the way around the outside of this and you're going to leave about a four, about a six inch opening, cause you got to stuff this baby.

So let's go over and sew this, once I've got this all pinned down here. Alright so we're over here at the sewing machine. I'm going to move those pillows out of the way. And I am just going to start sewing in a circle like this and just sew all the way around it. You want to remove your pins as you get to them. So just keep a watch as you're going around so that you know where began, so that you can leave about a, a six inch, you know four to six inch opening. And I see them coming up on mine right here, so I'm just going to stop right there so that I have room to turn. And that's for, that's so that you can, you have enough room to get your stuffing in.

So then we're just going to open this up and pull the whole thing through this middle. I like to stick my hand in and kind of run it around that seam so that it, it'll lay nice and flat. And there's your "Sprocket Pillow." Now you just need to stuff it full of fluff. You can buy bags of fluff, but we don't have a bag of fluff store close to us so we, I just go down to the little variety store and I actually used pillows. So you can get pillows for about two bucks a pop. I just open up the pillow and I use that to stuff my pillows and it just works great.

So once you get your pillow all done and stuffed and it's the thickness that you like, then you need to sew your little opening closed. And to do that, what I do, let me scoot this back here, what I do is I just fold these edges under like this and I just go a little bit at a time and I do what I just call a slip stitch and so I take my thread and I'm going to start back here and I'm going to come out through the fold right here. And I'm using orange thread, which I wouldn't normally use, but I want you to be able to see this. And so then I just come down and I just catch, catch this, the bottom fold like this and then you try to keep your thread like, underneath the fabric.

So then you're going to kind of go down inside and come out through the fold and it's kind of like that little binding stitch we use. I call it a ladder stitch. Golly my threads not it terrible. There we go and so then you know you want to hide that, you want to hide that thread, but you want to come out the fold also. So you're just going to go along until you get that all, all sewn up, all across there, so that it, no fluff can escape. We don't want any fluff escaping and you want to keep that kind of round, make sure you keep your roundish look on there as you're going along. So you just fold a little more and fold it a little more and just keep stitching it closed.

So then it's time to put your button on and I love, I love old buttons. So I have these great old antique buttons I've, button jars everywhere. I love buttons. So you could use one of these buttons or you could cover your own button and you know a fussy cut where you want your, your, you what pattern you want to see on your button, like on this one. I did it so the little starfish shows, you know so you can see that little starfish, but I have a real easy way for putting these buttons on. So let me show you

that. What I do is I take a piece of thread and I, and I double it. Let me see here. Let me trim this. I double it and I stitch two pieces through my needle. So I'm going to lay my two pieces here and my little thread, my little needle threader, which I love by the way. This is like one of my favorite tools. Cause I know there's a hole in that needle, but I really can't see it very well anymore, haha, so I love this little needle threader. You stick your needle in this slot. You lay your thread across it. You make sure your needle is all the way down. You push the button and it threads it. So that's like a little gift, right there a little present.

So then I make sure this is even, because normally what people do is, well and then I'm going to tie a knot in the end and when I tie a knot I just cross it over my finger like this, wrap it around, hang on I got a, I got a loose end there. Ok so I wrap it around like this and cross it so it's crossed and then I just roll it and then pull it with my fingers so it just makes a nice little, nice little knot. What a lot of times what people try to do when they're putting on a button is they, they, they try to do it on string at a time. This way I have four strings going through at a time.

So then what you're going to with your stuffed pillow and you'll do it with stuffing in it, is you'll come in from the back like this and you'll find the middle where you want your button to be and your button will come through and you'll put your button on here. So let me get one of these fun, old, I'll do this yellow one. It has a shank on it, on the back there. I can just put my thread through and then when you're doing yours it'll be stuffed. So you're going to like push that sucker down and you're going to put your thread and come right back through.

Then the cool thing is the way I do this, is I just pull out my two threads and tie a knot on the back. You know I shove it down and then tie this knot in there and then you don't have to go through and through and through. I hope that made sense to you. So like on this one right here, you can see way down in here. See there's a little knot of thread and I just, you know push my needle down in there and you can push it hard enough so that, you know you can get, even a little short needle can go through there. And then, you know how when you do Christmas presents and you put your finger on there and somebody ties the knot? I usually have somebody help me with that so I can tie my knot nice and tight. And then you have a darling little sprocket pillow to use that was just out of your scraps. So we hope you enjoyed on the "Sprocket Pillow," from the Missouri Star Quilt Company.