



On-the-Go Travel Pillowcase Lesson Plan

Step-by-step guide to offering this project as a class

Suitable for a 3 hour class depending on experience level of students

The On-the-Go Travel Pillowcase teaches foundational skills of rotary cutting simple shapes, accurate seam allowances and top stitching. Make a set so everyone has one for the next road trip. And make one for yourself to support your back while you sew!

Make a Sample:

This pillowcase can be easily cut & sewn in a couple of hours by an experienced sewist. Make a sample or two to market the class.

Get Organized: Order notions and review schedule provided in Marketing Plan. Adjust as needed for your students and schedule.

Day of Class:

- Welcome students to class. Either individually as they arrive or in the group setting, poll students to determine experience level.
- Highlight that this is EASY sewing. The goal of the class is to ensure people are comfortable understanding how to set up a seam allowance and adjust stitch length on their machine; how to accurately rotary cut simple shapes; how to cut large shapes; how to top stitch; how to understand assembly/construction steps in a pattern.
- Start by covering fabric selection.
 - The pillowcase is perfect for using a main, focal print, a contrast print for the narrow strip and an accent fabric for the band. Use this project to talk about how to pick fabrics that go together and simply color theory.
 - Talk about thread selection—a thread color that matches the fabrics can hide any wobbles or imperfections. A contrasting color of thread adds an additional design element.
- All seams in this pillowcase are ½". Work with students to set up an accurate ½" seam allowance on their machine. Seam tape can be used to set a guide to the right of the presser foot.

- Demonstrate how to cut the pieces for the pillowcase. Since many quilters do not have large rulers, demonstrate how to fold the fabric, ensure there are no creases and selvages are aligned and cut the pieces using the fold as a guide.
- Demonstrate how to sew the band together and then press seams open to reduce bulk. Then fold the band in half, right sides together and press again to form the band.
- Make the piping as shown in the pattern.
- Stitch the body of the pillowcase as shown. Note that the short edge with piping is not stitched during this step.
- Step 8 is where students can become confused, trying to visualize how to layer the pieces. Have a sample ready to illustrate or use a student's pieces to show this step in class.
- Finish by topstitching the piping if desired.