

SINGER® PROJECTS

Decorative Pillow with Holly Applique Embellishment



This decorative pillow is easy to make because the appliques are all made from felt! The branches and berries are attached with a simple straight stitch. The holly leaves are embellished with free-motion stitching to add dimension. The finished size of the pillow shown is 14" x 28" (35.5cm x 71cm) but you can modify these instructions to make a pillow any size you want. In fact, these techniques can be used to make table runners, placemats and much more. The pattern templates for the leaves and stem are included at the end of these instructions.

PROJECT SKILL LEVEL: ■■■□

Shopping List

Everything you need to complete this project in one place. Use this convenient checklist to ensure you have all required materials in your sewing room, or take it with you when you shop for supplies.

- One 14" x 28" pillow form (approximately 35.5cm x 71cm)
- One yard (1 meter) of home décor weight cotton fabric for pillow
- ¼ yard (¼ meter) green felt for holly leaves
- ⅛ yard (approximately ⅛ meter) – or 1 craft felt square - red felt for holly berries
- ¼ yard (¼ meter) brown felt for branches
- 1 yard (1 meter) of tear-away stabilizer
- All-purpose thread for constructing pillow
- ¼ yard (¼ meter) fusible web
- Fabric glue stick
- Brown thread to match felt for branches
- Red thread to match felt for berries
- Green thread for free-motion stitching on holly leaves (two shades lighter than the green felt color)
- One 18" zipper (approximately 46cm)
- Darning/Embroidery Foot
- Open Toe Foot
- Zipper Foot
- Pattern templates for main branch, smaller branches and holly leaves (see end of these instructions)

Sewing Directions

Note: Seam allowances are ½”.

1. From the main pillow fabric, cut 2 pieces each measuring 15” x 29” (38cm x 74cm). Set the pieces aside for now.
2. Use the pattern templates (provided at the end of these instructions) to cut out the felt leaves and branches.
Note: The “main branch” pattern template is provided in two pieces. These two pieces should be taped together to form the one long “branch pattern” before placing on the felt for cutting the felt. Berries are made by simply cutting small circles of felt in desired sizes, so there is no template is needed.
 - To prepare leaves, first apply fusible web to the felt, following the fusible web manufacturer’s recommendations. Trace the leaf pattern template onto the fusible web, then cut the desired number of leaves (our pillow has 16 leaves). Set the leaves aside for now.
 - Cut the desired number of holly berries (in assorted sizes) from the red felt. Our pillow has 13 large berries and 18 small berries. Set aside for now.
 - Cut one main branch from the brown felt. Cut smaller branches from the brown felt. Our pillow has 1 main branch and 5 smaller branch elements.
3. Use a fabric glue stick to attach the main branch felt and smaller branch elements to the pillow front section. The ‘ends’ of the smaller branch pieces should tuck under the main branch. Arrange as desired.
4. Thread the top of the machine and bobbin with brown thread. Set the machine for straight stitch. Attach the Open Toe Foot. Sew around the small branches and the main branch to secure them in place.



5. Thread the machine with green thread on top and in the bobbin. Remove the presser foot and presser foot holder. Attach the Darning/Embroidery Foot. Disengage the feed teeth of the machine (if machine has drop feed, lower the feed teeth using the Drop Feed Lever; if machine does not have drop feed, cover the feed teeth with a Darning Plate).
6. Remove the 'paper' from the back side of the leaves that have been cut out. Fuse in place on the pillow front, as desired. Some of the leaves should slightly overlap the branch.
7. With the machine set for straight stitch in center needle position, sew free-motion stitches over all the leaves to create "veins".

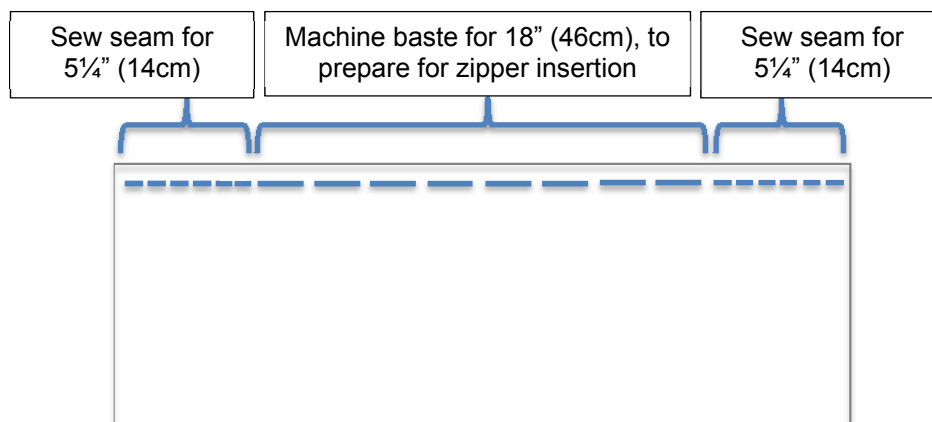


8. When finished free-motion stitching on all the leaves, remove the Darning/Embroidery Foot and attach the Open Toe Foot and presser foot holder once again. Remove the green thread from the top and bobbin. Thread the top of the machine and bobbin with the red thread. Re-engage the feed teeth.
Note: If machine uses a Darning Plate, remove it to resume regular sewing. If machine has Drop Feed, move the lever back to normal position, then turn the hand wheel toward you one full revolution to re-engage the feed teeth for sewing.

9. Use a fabric glue stick to set the berries in position as desired. Sew around each berry with a straight stitch, to secure in place.



10. Remove the red thread and rethread the machine on top and in the bobbin with thread that matches the pillow fabric. Remove the Open Toe Foot and attach the All-Purpose Foot.
11. Place the pillow front and pillow back section together with right sides facing one another. To prepare for installing the zipper, pin along one long side only. Sew the beginning and end of the seam, but machine baste the area where the zipper will be inserted. Press the seam open.



12. Remove the All-Purpose Foot and attach the Zipper Foot. Install the zipper with the center zipper insertion method.

Note: For basic tips on zipper insertion, a video is available on the SINGER YouTube Channel at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u78mq6OiYBw>



13. After sewing around the zipper, remove the basting stitches. Remove the Zipper Foot and attach the All-Purpose Foot.
14. Open the zipper about 5 or 6 inches (about 12-15cm). Pin the pillow front and back together. Sew the remaining 3 sides of the pillow. Trim the corners to reduce fabric bulk in corners after pillow is turned right side out. Use a zigzag stitch or multi-stitch zigzag to finish the seams to help prevent unraveling of the fabric.
15. Turn the pillow right side out. Insert the pillow form.

Pattern Templates (see next 2 pages)

Note: The “main branch” pattern template is provided on 2 pages. Print each page, then tape them together at the dotted lines (appearing at the end of each of the 2 branch templates), creating one long pattern piece for the branch. The smaller branches and holly leaf templates are also included.

