

Santa's Bolster Pillow



This bolster pillow has been made with red velvet and faux fur -- just like Santa's suit! The bolster pillow form displays the festive embroidery on this pillow, and the ends feature buckles and leather for the ties.

Project Needs & Notes

- 9" x 20" bolster pillow form
- 1 yard velvet for center and ends
- 1/3 yard faux fur for side pieces (the fur should be no longer than 1/4")
- 1 1/4 yards quilter's cotton for back
- Medium-weight (2.5 - 3 ounce) cutaway stabilizer
- Water-soluble stabilizer for topping
- Air-erase pen for marking
- Two 1 1/2" x 9" pieces of leather or faux leather
- Two 1 5/8" buckles
- Three large 1" buttons
- Hot glue and gun
- Masking tape
- Needle and thread for some hand sewing

Designs used in this project include [D8628, Christmas Magic](#) and [D9397, Festive Filigree Reindeer](#). Browse through the [Christmas department](#) to find something that matches your preference and decor.

This project was featured in the following:

[Pillow Party Trunk Show Christmas Edition](#)

To begin, measure the pillow's circumference. The 9" x 20" bolster pillow in this example has a 29" circumference.

Add 4" to that measurement. This is the height of the fabric



pieces (33").

The bolster cover has a center piece that is 10" wide, and two side pieces that are 5" each. Add 1" to each dimension for a seam allowance.

Cut a piece of velvet for the center piece that is 11" wide x 33" high.



A template, or printout of a design, is an excellent tool to help with placement.

Print a template of the design from your embroidery software. If you do not have embroidery software, [Wilcom's TrueSizer](#) is a free program to use.

Place the template in the center of the fabric. Tape the template to the fabric with masking tape.

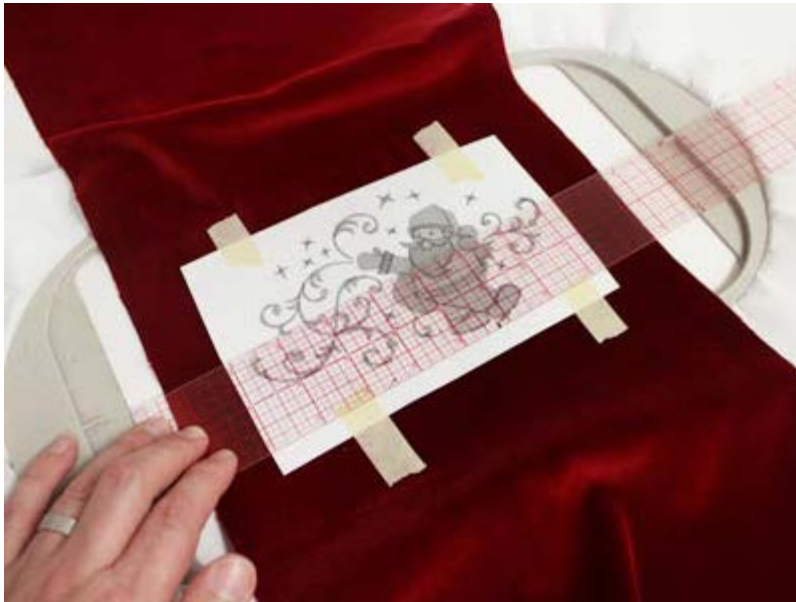


Velvet has a nap that is easily crushed, so do not hoop it.

Instead, cut a piece of cutaway stabilizer larger than your hoop.

Draw axis lines on the stabilizer; where the lines meet will be the center point on the stabilizer. These marks will be used to position the fabric on the stabilizer.

Spray the stabilizer with temporary spray adhesive.



Smooth the velvet on top, lining up the center point on the template with the center point marked on the stabilizer.

Attach the hoop to the machine and load the design. Move the hoop so that the needle is directly over the center point on the template. Remove the template.

Add a piece of water-soluble stabilizer to the velvet. This keeps the stitches from sinking down into the fabric.

Embroider the design.



After embroidering, trim the excess stabilizer away from the back.

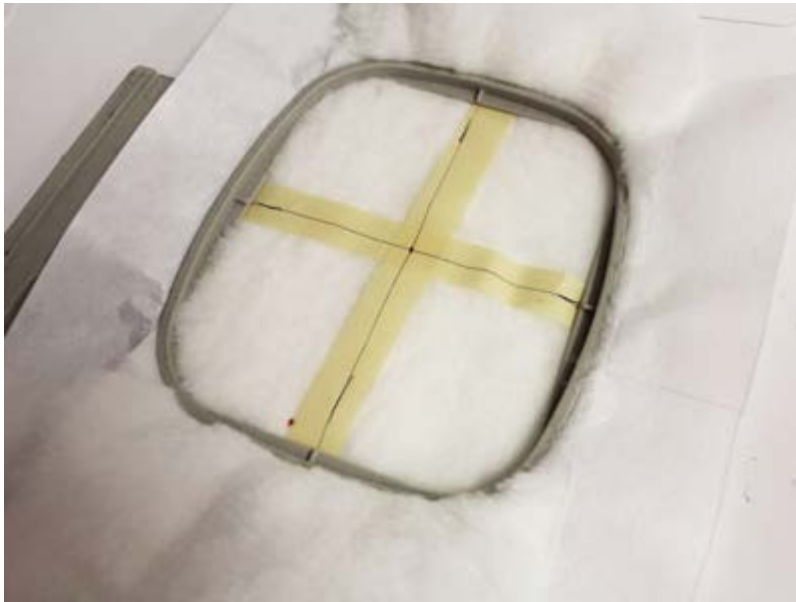
Tear the excess water-soluble away from the front.



Next, cut two side pieces from the faux fur. Cut the pieces to 6" x 33".

Print a template of the design. Rub the fur the "wrong" way to make it stand up, then place the template on the fur.

Use masking tape to mark the horizontal and vertical axis lines.



Hoop the fur with a piece of cutaway stabilizer on the back, lining up the axis lines with the marks on the hoop. Add water-soluble stabilizer to the top.

Attach the hoop to the machine and load the design. Move the hoop so that the needle is directly over the center point on the tape. Remove the tape.

Embroider the design. Repeat this process for the remaining side trim piece.



Now that the center and side pieces are embroidered and ready, it is time to assemble the cover.

Lay the center piece flat with the right side facing up. Align the side fur pieces with the side edges of the center piece, right sides together.

Pin in place and sew a 1/2" seam along the outer raw edges only.



To prepare the end pieces, cut two pieces of the velvet to 10 1/2" x 33".

Lay the assembled center/side trim piece flat with the right side facing up.

Place the end pieces on top, right sides together, with the side edges of the end pieces aligned with the side edges of the side trim pieces.

Pin in place and sew a 1/2" seam along the outer raw edges only.

For the back fabric, lay the assembled front panel on top of the quilter's cotton, right sides together.



Pin in place. Cut out the shape.

Sew a 1/2" seam around the outer edge of the shape, leaving at least 5" open along one of the edges for turning.

Turn the fabric right side out and press the seams along the back side (cotton fabric side) using a pressing cloth and an iron set on a low setting.

Be careful not to touch the velvet with the iron as it will melt the fabric.

Also, turn the fabric of the opening in 1/2", press, pin in 1/4" seam along the entire outer edge of the fabric.



To add the button holes, measure and mark in 1 1/4" in the center of each of the three panels along the top edge of the fabric.

Stitch a button hole at each mark.

Wrap the fabric around the pillow. Overlap the top edge over the bottom edge, keeping the fabric tight around the pillow.

Mark the bottom edge fabric through the button holes and then add a button at each mark.



Button the pillow cover in place.



Next, to create the "belts" for the ends of the pillow, cut two pieces of leather or faux leather to the width of the inside of the buckles (mine are 1 1/2" wide) by 8" long.

Add a few drops of hot glue to the wrong side of one end of the leather strap and attach it to the center post of the buckle (right side facing up).



Next, pinch the strap together in the center about 2" from the opposite end of the strap and cut a small hole in the leather.

Gather the fabric together at the ends of the pillow, wrap the "belts" around the fabric, and strap in place.



This festive bolster pillow is a festive decoration for the Christmas season.

It's a fa-la-la fabulous way to bring the magic of Santa Claus to your home.

Questions or comments? Let us know! Send an email to us; the address is stitch@emblibrary.com.