

# Sewing

## In No Time

50 step-by-step weekend projects made easy

EMMA HARDY

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**EMMA HARDY**

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This book is dedicated to my Mum, who taught me to sew.

# Introduction

I've enjoyed sewing ever since I was a child. My mother taught me the basic stitches, which I used to make doll's clothes, blankets and costumes by hand, progressing to making my own clothes as I got older and had mastered the sewing machine. I loved being able to create designs that were unique, individual and allowed me to express myself.

I still very much delight in this process – but these days, the demands of modern life mean that I am short of time. With this in mind, I have put together 50 projects that are quick and easy to make. From bed linen and cushions to window treatments, storage ideas and table linen, the projects are both practical and decorative and most can be made in a matter of hours. A basic sewing kit and sewing machine are all that you need, and most of the projects are ideal for a novice – although I hope that the designs will appeal to the experienced stitcher as well as the beginner.

Each beautifully photographed design is accompanied by charmingly illustrated instructions that lead you step by step through the projects. Each project also includes an estimated timing, although this is only a guide: the actual time will vary depending on your experience and expertise. The techniques section at the back of the book gives a simple guide to basic skills and the book also contains all the templates that you need to complete the projects.

Choose fabrics that will complement and coordinate with your décor and home furnishings, or tailor-make projects to create special gifts for friends and family. Experiment with colours, patterns and trimmings, collecting ribbons, braids and vintage buttons to give your creations the perfect finishing touches. With such a wide selection of wonderful fabrics currently on sale from craft and sewing shops and online companies, I hope you will be inspired to use this book as a starting point to create your own designs.

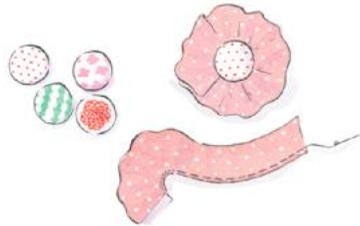


NOTE:

Unless otherwise stated, all fabric quantities given in the projects are based on fabric that is 135 cm/54 in. wide.

CHAPTER 1

# Relaxation spaces



## Floral cushion cover with ties



Add a pretty, country feel to your sofa with these lovely floral cushions. I used the same fabric throughout, but you could choose a coordinating fabric for the back, so that you can turn the cushion over and change the look to suit your mood.

The covers are very easy to make, as they have no zips or buttons but are fastened with neat little fabric ties. To make them even simpler, you could replace the ties with ribbon.

## YOU WILL NEED

75 cm/30 in. floral fabric

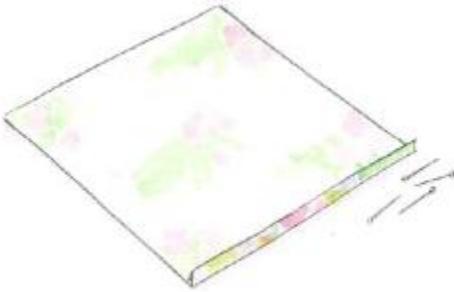
Sewing machine and matching sewing thread

45-cm/18-in. square cushion pad

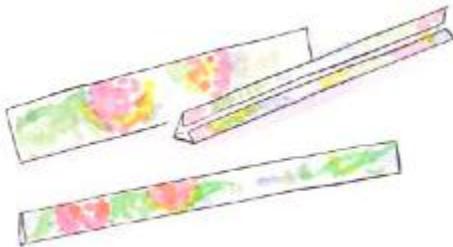
Take 1.5-cm/ $\frac{1}{2}$ -in. seam allowances throughout unless otherwise stated.

each cover 1½ hours

1. Cut a piece of fabric measuring 48 x 49 cm/19 x 19¼ in. Along one short edge, fold over 1 cm/ $\frac{3}{8}$  in. and then another 1.5 cm/ $\frac{1}{2}$  in. to the wrong side. Machine stitch in place.



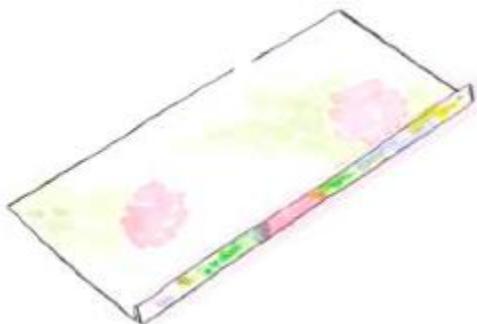
2. Cut four 7 x 25-cm/3 x 10-in. strips of fabric. Fold each one in half, wrong sides together, and press. Open out. Along both long sides, fold over 1.5 cm/½ in. to the wrong side and press. At one short end, fold over 1.5 cm/½ in. and press.



3. Fold the whole strip in half along the centre fold line. Machine stitch along the strip, stitching as close to the unfolded edge as possible, and across the folded end. Press.



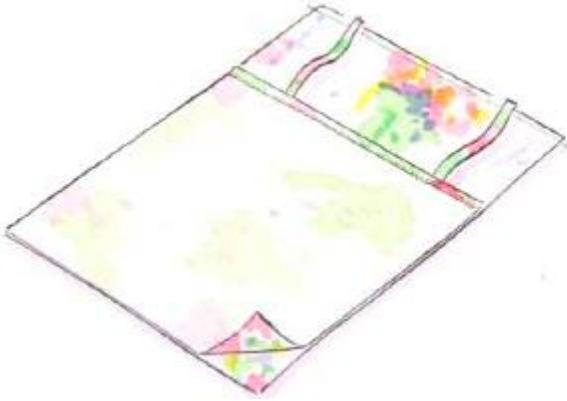
4. Cut a 48 x 19-cm/19 x 7½-in. rectangle of fabric. Along one long edge, fold over 1 cm/¾ in. and then another 1.5 cm/½ in. to the wrong side. Pin and machine stitch.



5. Cut a 48-cm/19-in. square of fabric. With right sides together, pin the raw edge of the rectangle from Step 4 to one side of the square, inserting one tie into the seam 12 cm/4½ in. from one corner and another one 12 cm/4½ in. from the other corner. Machine stitch in place. Press the seam open.



6. Lay this piece wrong side down on your work surface. With right sides together, place the other piece of fabric from Step 1 on top, aligning the hemmed side with the seam on the bottom piece.



7. Fold the flap over the top and pin and machine stitch around the three sides of the square. Turn the cover right side out.



8. Take the remaining two ties, fold under 1.5 cm/½ in. at the raw ends and machine stitch them onto the cushion cover, aligning them

with the ties already in place. Press the cover. Insert the cushion pad and tie the ties in a neat bow to close.



## Dotty patchwork cushion



Stitch large circles of patterned fabric onto plain linen to make this delightfully dotty cushion cover. Choose scraps of your favourite fabrics for the dots and edge them with a small zigzag stitch to prevent them from fraying.

## YOU WILL NEED

Compass, pencil and paper for pattern  
25 cm/10 in. each of a selection of patterned fabrics  
50 cm/20 in. natural-coloured linen  
45-cm/18-in. square cushion pad  
35-cm/14-in. zip  
Sewing machine and matching sewing thread

2 hours

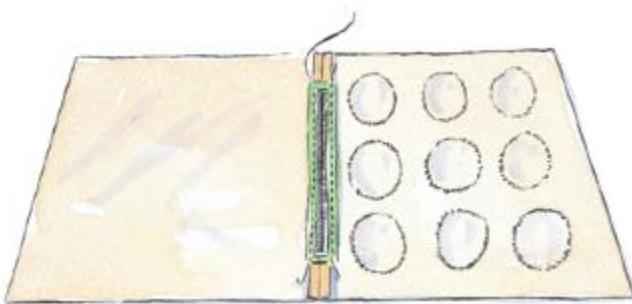
1. Using a compass, draw a circle 13 cm/5 in. in diameter on paper. Cut out and use as a paper pattern. Pin to the fabrics and cut out nine fabric circles.



2. Cut two 48-cm/19-in. squares of linen. Lay one piece right side up on your work surface and arrange the fabric circles on top, leaving 1 cm/ $\frac{3}{8}$  in. between each one and 3.5 cm/ $1\frac{1}{2}$  in. all the way around the edge. Using a small zigzag stitch on the sewing machine, stitch all around the fabric circles staying as close to the edge as you can.



3. With right sides together, tack the two linen squares together along one side using the seam allowance. Machine stitch from each corner for 5 cm/2 in. Press the seam open and lay the zip right side down on the wrong side of the seam. Tack and then machine stitch the zip in place. Remove the tacking stitches.



4. With right sides together, pin and machine stitch the remaining three sides of the fabric squares together. Snip the corners, open the zip and turn the cushion cover right side out. Press. Insert the cushion pad.



# Scatter cushion with ribbon stripes



This is the perfect way to use up all those leftover bits of ribbon that never seem to be quite long enough to be useful. Collect together ribbons and braids in similar colours and stitch them onto plain

fabric to make a stylish cushion cover that no one would guess was made from scraps.

## YOU WILL NEED

50 cm/20 in. plain fabric

Selection of ribbons in toning colours and various widths

Sewing machine

Matching sewing thread

35 x 50-cm/13¾ x 20-in. cushion pad

3 buttons

Take 1.5-cm/½-in. seam allowances throughout unless otherwise stated.

2 hours

1. Cut two 40 x 39-cm/15¾ x 15¼-in. rectangles of plain fabric. Fold over and press 1 cm/⅜ in. to the wrong side along one 40-cm/15¾-in. edge of each piece. Fold over another 1.5 cm/½ in. on one piece and 5 cm/2 in. on the other and machine stitch close to the edge.