

pellon[®]

*The Magic
in the Middle*

Pixel Pillow

Skill Level: Beginner

Designed By
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Sewn By
Kati Spencer

www.fromthebluechair.com



This pillow is the perfect introduction to pixel piecing using very small squares. Sample use Essex Natural, Sand, and Yard Dyed in Flax for the background and pillow.

Fabrics Needed

Neutral fabric	1 yard
Neutral lining fabric	1 yard
Solid fabric scraps in bright colors and neutrals	Thirty different fabrics

Materials Needed

Pellon [®] 542 Stick-N-Washaway™	1/2 yard
Legacy™ by Pellon [®] 100% natural cotton batting	One 24" square
Pellon [®] 20" x 20" Pillow Form	
Thread	

Tools Needed

Sewing machine and related supplies	
Rotary cutter and related supplies	
Clover Wonder Clips	One box of 50
Clothespins	

<http://www.pellonprojects.com>

Graphic Artist Alexandra Henry

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Instructions

Cut two 15" x 22" rectangles of main fabric.

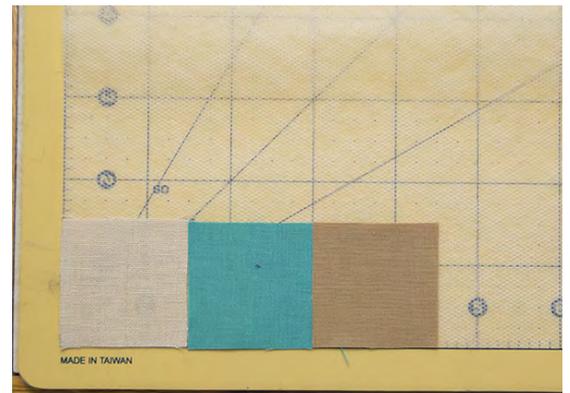
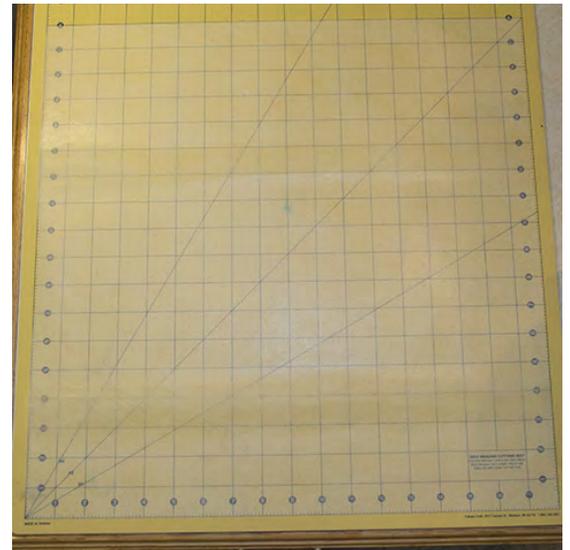
Cut two 15" x 22" rectangles of lining. Cut one 24" square for the pillow front backing.

Cut one 18" square of Stick-N-Washaway™.

From scraps and main fabric cut one hundred sixty-eight (168) 1-1/2" squares.

Peel the backing from the Stick-N-Washaway™. Place it sticky side up on the cutting mat, lining it up with the 0" and 18" lines. Clip the four corners in place with clothespins.

Begin arranging one hundred forty-four 1-1/2" squares on the sticky side of the Stick-N-Washaway™. Align the squares with the marks on the cutting mat.



Continue placing squares until all 144 squares are place. Block will finish with 12 squares x 12 squares.



To begin sewing the seams, carefully fold over the first row of squares. Clip in place with the Wonder Clips. Stitch using a scant 1/4" seam along this line. Backstitch at the beginning and end of all seams.



Continue stitching lines until all rows are completed in one direction.

Run scissors through the seam edge on each completed seam to open the seam.



To begin sewing the perpendicular rows, fold the first row over, finger pressing all seams open. Clip in place with the Wonder Clips. Ensure that all squares, particularly the end squares, are lying flat before stitching.



Continue sewing rows in this manner, until all perpendicular rows are complete.

Run the scissors along the edge of the completed seams, allowing rows to be finger pressed open.



To wash away the interfacing, fill a clean sink with 2" of warm water. Place completed block in water and allow to soak 1-2 minutes. Agitate very carefully. Drain water and repeat the process. Repeat 2-3 times until Stick-N-Washaway™ is completely removed. Place on a clean towel. Gently roll the block in the towel pressing out excess water. Do not twist or squeeze.



Place block on a 12-1/2" square acrylic ruler. To ensure the block dries correctly, square it up using the ruler. Using Wonder Clips, gently stretch and clip block even with the edges and markings on the ruler. Use as many clips as necessary to correctly line up the block. Allow to dry in a warm, well-ventilated area.

Once dry, press block well. Press all seams open.



Add borders as desired to pixel block from various strips of fabric to bring pillow to 21". Consider piecing a 1-1/2" strip with a few extra 1-1/2" squares as shown in the example. Press all seams out from pixel block. Piece pillow front such that pixel block will not be centered in the design.

Once pillow front is the correct size, sandwich with batting and the 24" square lining fabric. Baste and quilt as desired. Example was done with matchstick quilting approximately 1/8" apart. When quilting is completed, trim to 20-1/2" (or 20" for more snug fit).

Place one lining and one fabric rectangle (15" x 22") right sides together. Stitch using a 1/4" seam along one long side. Press seam open. Flip right sides out and press in half along seam. Topstitch the folded edge.

Piece 22 remaining 1-1/2" squares into a long strip for accent strip on the back of the pillow. Press seams open. Subcut remaining 15" x 22" fabric rectangle into one 13" x 22" rectangle and one 2" x 22" rectangle. Place the 13" x 22" rectangle and pieced strip right sides together. Stitch using a 1/4" seam allowance. Press seam toward the rectangle. Place the 2" x 22" rectangle and the pieced strip right sides together. Stitch using a 1/4" seam allowance. Press toward the rectangle.



Place this unit right sides together with the remaining 15" x 22" lining rectangle. Stitch the long edge on the opposite side of the pieced fabric strip using a 1/4" seam allowance. Press seam open. Flip right sides out and press in half along seam. Topstitch the folded edge.

Add additional stitching as desired.

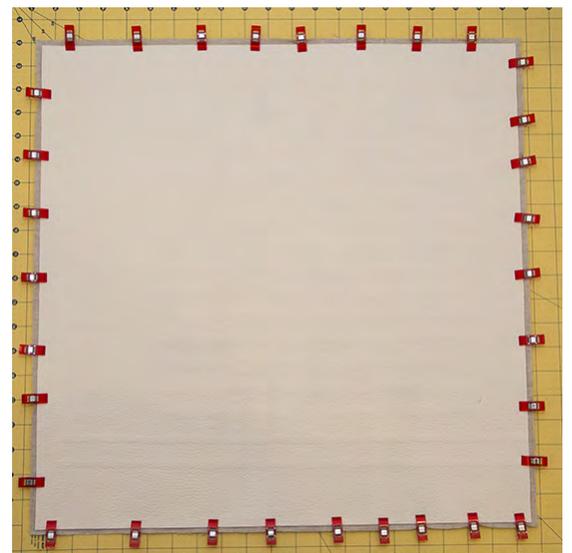
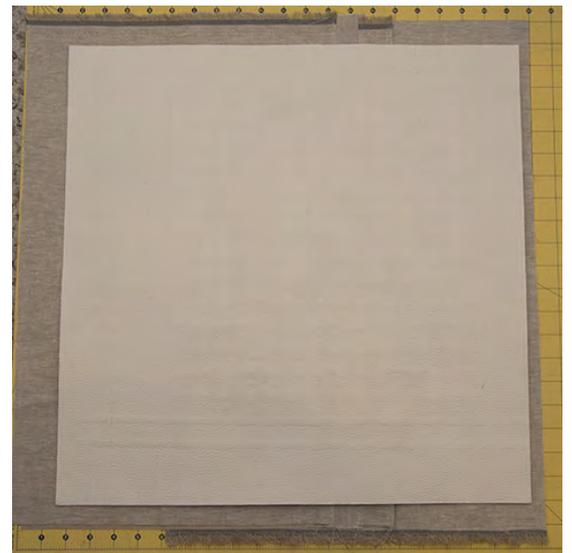


Place the two completed halves of the envelope back right sides up. Smooth pieces flat. Overlap the finished edges 10" with accent strip on top.

Place the pillow front face down, centering over the backing pieces.

Trim backing pieces 1/4" larger than pillow front.

Clip or pin perimeter of project, ensuring all pieces are held together.



Sew around the perimeter with a 1/4" seam allowance. Zig zag raw edges to reinforce the seams. Trim excess backing.

Flip pillow right side out and push out corners with a chopstick.

Insert pillow form.

