

Hand Woven Biscornu Pincushion for MAFA 2015



Side view of 8 sided pincushion
(Biscornu)

Have Fun!

This particular shape is called a biscornu, meaning "irregular, quirky, complicated, bizarre". And quirky it is... Originally, they were made with linen or other embroidered fabrics. The trick to this pincushion is that the two squares are sewn together, not directly on top of each other as usual, but with a relative 45 degrees rotation. That's it! Sounds easy enough, right?

Here is a link to see a good video of the sewing process:

A simple biscornu cushion for you to sew by Debbie Shore http://youtu.be/179t_Q1NJiA

Instructions:

First: Cut 2 squares 4 1/2" x 4 1/2" of handwoven fabric (matching fabric or contrasting fabrics. Be creative!). Stabilize handwoven fabrics with fusible interfacing if necessary.

Use 1/4" seam allowances throughout this project.

1. fold each square in half lengthwise and widthwise and finger press, then make a small clip or notch at the edges to mark the half-way point on each edge
2. With right sides together, place one square on top of the other so that the top square's side edge is positioned 1/4" to the left of the half-way mark on the top edge of the lower square. Make sure the parallel raw edges are aligned.
3. Using a 1/4" seam allowance, begin stitching at the half-way point of the lower square, moving towards the corner. Stop 1/4" before you reach the corner of the lower square.

4. Here comes the tricky part. You need to pivot your lower square while keeping the upper square in position, so that the remaining unsewn edge of the top square lines up with the perpendicular edge of the lower square. It helps to think of yourself as holding the top square in position and only pivoting the lower square.

5. When you have lined up your squares, lower your presser foot and continue stitching until you are 1/4" away from the edge of the top square.

6. Now do step 4 in reverse. Holding the lower square in place, pivot the top square so that the edges of the two squares line up. Lower the presser foot and continue stitching until you are 1/4" from the edge of the lower square.

7. Repeat steps 3-6 until you have traveled all the way around the squares—you will pivot six times. Leave one length (1/2 of the width of the squares) unsewn for turning and stuffing.

8. Turn the biscornu inside out, using your finger to gently poke out the corners.

Stuff the cushion with thrums or polyfill. Hand sew the remaining seam closed.



Find the midpoint of the pincushion and mark with a dot or a pin and sew two buttons on, one on the top and one on the bottom. You will need a long needle and strong thread such as quilting thread. Pull on the thread as you sew the buttons down to create the indentation in the middle. You can make this biscornu with or without the buttons. You could also sew a bead onto each of the 8 corners..... Be as creative as you would like!