



### **Basic Pillowcase** *(No Pattern Required)*

It is a wonderful "first project!" There are endless possibilities when it comes to making your cases uniquely your own. Add appliqués, lace, ribbon, embroidery, fabric paints or other embellishment of your choice. Add skills with each new project.

#### **Approximate Finished Measurements**

**Standard Case:** 21" wide x 32" long

**Queen:** 21" wide x 36" long

**King Case:** 21" wide x 42" long

These will cover pillows nicely, with plenty of room. We are assuming the following **pillow measurements: Standard: 20" x 26"; Queen: 20" x 30"; King: 20" x 36"**.

#### **A Note About Pillow Size & Fabric Width**

We make the finished size 1" wider than the pillow and 6" longer, plus we add 4" to the length for the hem.

**Note:** A cotton-polyester blend is nice because it won't shrink as much or does not require much ironing however, if you choose a 100% cotton fabric, be sure to pre-shrink!

#### **Supplies Required:**

2 yards of 44" fabric (*for 1 pair of Standard Cases*)

2.25 yards of 44" fabric (*for 1 pair of Queen Cases*)

2.5 yards of 44" fabric (*for 1 pair of King Cases*)

Thread

Ribbon *or* lace, etc. for trim

Sewing Supplies: *scissors, quilting pins, large sewing ruler, fabric marking pencils, seam ripper*

***Hint:*** *quilting pins are easier to use than regular pins.*

## Preparing Your Fabric

### **Step 1. Prewash Fabric**

This is important - otherwise your finished pillowcase will shrink when it is first washed and might not fit your pillow. This is one of the bonuses of sewing items yourself - no worry about shrinking.

Remember that your fabric, after shrinking, may no longer be the full 44" wide. That is ok as long as it is still 1" larger than the circumference of your pillow.

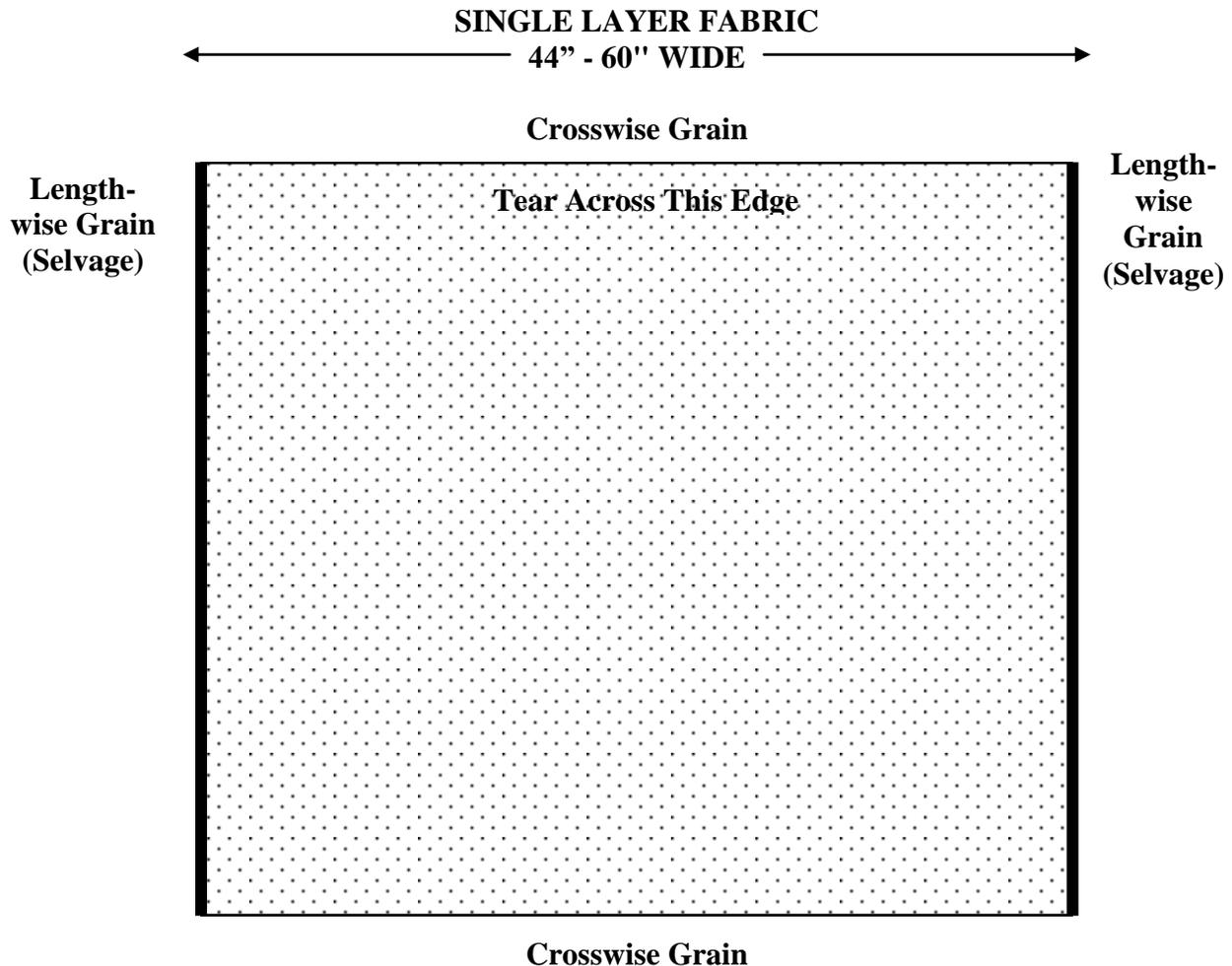
### **Step 2. Measure & Tear Fabric**

*(Remember fabric always tears on grain!) This will ensure that your finished pillowcase will not twist. For each piece measure along the lengthwise (selvage) edge and tear along the crosswise grain.*

**Standard Case:** (2) pieces 44" wide x 36-1/2" long *(lengthwise measurement)*

**Queen Case:** (2) pieces 44" wide x 40-1/2" long *(lengthwise measurement)*

**King Case:** (2) pieces 44" wide x 46-1/2" long *(lengthwise measurement)*



## Sewing Your Pillowcase

*Note: Always iron between steps!*

### **Step 1. Sewing the Edges**

With right sides together, fold the single fabric piece in half lengthwise. Stitch down the long side of the pillowcase using a 1/4" seam allowance. When you have reached the seam allowance at the shorter end of the pillowcase, leave the needle in, lift the presser foot and pivot. Lower the presser foot and stitch the short end closed. The photo below shows a serged seam however, you may want to finish your seam with a zigzag stitch as a finishing touch.



### **Step 2. Prepare Hem**

With pillowcase still wrong side out, turn the hem under 1/2". Press. Turn hem under 4". Press and pin. Use a ruler to make sure the hem is an even 4" all the way around. After you're sure the hem is straight, pin it into place all the way around.

### **Step 3. Stitch Hem**

Stitch hem in place using a straight stitch (*this is called top-stitching*). Stitch on the wrong side, close to the edge of the hem. This is best because if you stitch on the right side, you cannot see the edge of the hem. If you have a free arm machine, stitching will be easier. If you do not have a free arm, take care to not stitch through both layers of your pillowcase.

At this point, you can sew a satin ribbon or lace over the hem stitch line. Appliqué or embroidery adds a nice touch, as well.

**Congratulations--  
You've completed your pillowcase!**