



*Margaret Moorehead's*  
**Virtual Sewing Guild  
Video Series**

**Fancy Band Silk  
Pillow Case**



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## What You'll Learn

- ❖ Pillowcase with flap
- ❖ Appliqué

## Supplies You'll Need

- ❖ Fabric (Recommended: Silk satin)
- ❖ Lace Appliqué
- ❖ Thread:
  - Embroidery thread and bobbin
  - Regular sewing thread and bobbin
  - Serger thread
- ❖ Pins
- ❖ General sewing supplies
- ❖ Tear-away stabilizer 11" x 23"
- ❖ Spray starch or Mary Ellen's Best Press®

## Equipment You'll Need

- ❖ Equipment in good working order
- ❖ Presser feet:
  - Regular sewing foot
  - "Stitch in the Ditch" or edge stitch foot
  - Decorative stitch, or open toe foot
- ❖ Empty bobbins
- ❖ Sharp pair of scissors
- ❖ Iron

Pillow slip designed by Laura Haney

## Section 1—Preparation

Measure your pillow to make sure the recommended sizes will work for your project.



Cut fabric to size, and serge the edges. Pre-wash the fabric.

Starch and press the Band piece so that it feels as stiff as a piece of copy paper.



## Section 2—Fancy Band

Fold the Band piece in half lengthwise, and press. That will be the first line for your stitching.



Using a scrap of the same fabric, test some decorative stitches from your machine. Be sure to use the same fabric, thread, and stabilizer that you will be using on the project. Choose any stitches that you like, lining them up as desired.



Try different stitch combinations from your machine until you are happy with the combination.



### *Margaret's Hint:*

*Note the stitch settings (stitch number, length, and width) for each of the decorative stitches that you'll be using, so that you'll be consistent throughout the project.*

Be sure that the lengthwise center is marked on the band fabric—either by using the line you've already pressed down the center, or by drawing on top of that line using a fabric marker. This will be the line you use for your first row of stitching.



Pin stabilizer to the back of your fabric. On your machine, choose the decorative stitch that will go down the center line. Use embroidery thread in the needle, and embroidery bobbin thread in the bobbin. Also, use the decorative stitch foot recommended by your sewing machine manufacturer.



Stitch the design down the center of entire length of the Fancy Band fabric.

Now, add rows of stitching on the right and left of the center stitching line, spacing them as desired. If your machine has a mirror function, you can easily use it to stitch a mirror image of one stitch on the other side of the center line.

Your presser foot may have markings that will help ensure you are stitching the same distance from the center every time.



### *Margaret's Hint:*

*Find a line or specific area on your presser foot to use to line up your stitches. You may need to use a different line-up point for each row of stitches to get the results you desire.*

Use the same method to stitch the last two rows to the left and right of the stitches. You will have a “Fancy Band”!

Leave the stabilizer attached to the band as you continue.



## Section 3—Lace Appliqué

Find the center of the Fancy Band by folding the fabric in half with the stabilizer folded away from the edges. Mark the center of the band with a pin.



Prepare the lace insert by spraying with starch, both sides. Press dry, without using steam. You may have to starch it a few times, until the appliqué lace is stiff.

For best results, spray with starch and iron right side down on a fluffy towel. Make sure the appliqué is dry before moving ahead.

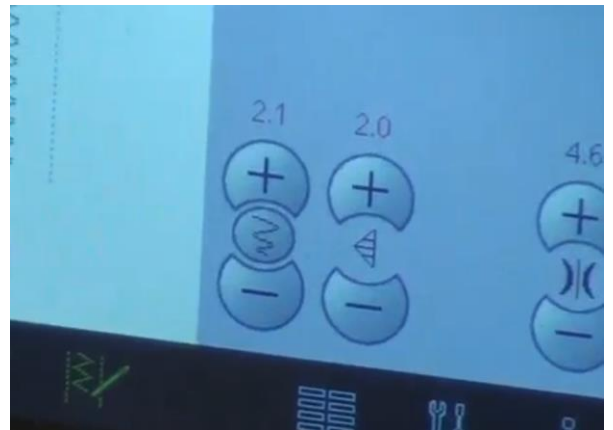


Center the appliqué over the band. If the designs on your fancy band have a top and bottom, be sure to align the lace appliqué properly, top and bottom. Pin in place.

If you are making two pillow slips, be sure that the second band matches the first.



Use the open toe presser foot so that you can more easily see what you're stitching. Begin with a small zigzag stitch, such as width of 2.1 and length of 2.0. You may have to experiment with your stitch settings to get the best results.



### *Margaret's Hint:*

*To make it easier to cut away the Fancy Band from behind the appliqué, use a slightly different color of thread in the bobbin when stitching the appliqué to the Fancy Band. You could also use a fabric marking pen to trace over the bobbin stitches to make them easier to see.*

Align the center of your foot with the edge of the appliqué. Experiment with the width of the stitch so that one stitch penetrates the edge of the appliqué, and the other penetrates just off the edge of the appliqué. The stitching should not show on the fabric. If you prefer, you can zigzag the appliqué edges just inside the edges.

Stitch the appliqué down slowly, around all the edges, pivoting and turning as needed.



Once you have stitched around the entire edge of the appliqué, you can remove the back fabric. With your finger, hold the lace appliqué away from the back of the fabric, and cut into the fabric behind the appliqué to get started.

Using very sharp scissors, cut the back away from the appliqué, close to the zigzag stitches. Be sure not to cut into the appliqué or the zig zag stitches.



Remove the pins from the stabilizer, and as much of the stabilizer as you wish from the Fancy Band.



## Section 4—Construction of Pillow Slip

Hem the lower edge of the band. First fold the fabric  $\frac{1}{4}$ " and press, then fold the fabric again 1" and press.

Using regular sewing thread in both the needle and bobbin, topstitch the hem. You can use a normal presser foot, or use an edgestitch foot with the needle position moved into position.

Using the presser foot you would normally use for sewing and your needle in center position, attach the unhemmed edge of the Fancy Band to one edge of the pillowslip fabric, right sides together. Use a  $\frac{1}{2}$ " seam allowance.

Press the seam toward the Fancy Band, and topstitch.

Fold the pillowslip in half, right sides together with hemmed edge of the Fancy Band even with the opposite serged edge of the pillowslip.

Locate the seam of the Fancy Band and pillowslip, and pin the pillowslip fabric (not the Fancy Band) on *both* the left and right sides of the pillowslip. (You could also measure the distance from the seam of the Fancy Band to the hemmed edge of the Fancy Band.)





Fold the pillowslip again, so that the hemmed edge of the Fancy Band ends right where the pins are. Ensure that the distance from the folded edge of the Fancy Band to the serged edge of the pillowslip is even all the way across.



Fold the serged edge of the fabric up over the Fancy Band. The serged edge should align with the edge of the seam allowance.



Be sure that the Fancy Band lays perfectly flat, and that the edges of the Fancy Band are snug inside the pillowslip fabric.

Align the side edges of the fabrics together, and pin. Sew edges with a 1/2" seam allowance.



Press. Turn pillowslip right side out. Be sure the edge of the Fancy Band has been stitched properly to the pillowslip.



Press again to finish.



Stuff pillow into pillowslip, folding the flap over the end of the pillow.



There is always more than one way to do things.

Here is the same pillowslip; but instead of using a lace appliqué and cutting away the fabric from behind, you might want to use an appliqué that is simply stitched on top of the Fancy Band with the fabric left in place behind it.

Use your creativity and have fun!



*From my sewing machine to yours,  
Happy Creating!*