



Margaret Moorehead's

## Virtual Sewing Guild Video Series

# Wonderful Whimsical Winter Cushion



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## What You'll Learn

- ❖ Seminole Piecing Technique
- ❖ Topstitched Zipper Technique

## Supplies You'll Need

- ❖ Fabric (See Fabric Preparation below)
  - Fabric 1: Light-color print
  - Fabric 2: Medium-color print
  - Fabric 3: Dark-color solid
- ❖ Zipper: 22"
- ❖ Pillow form: 14" x 28"
- ❖ Thread:
  - Embroidery thread
  - Regular sewing thread
- ❖ Pins
- ❖ General sewing supplies
- ❖ Fiberfill
- ❖ Stabilizers:
  - Fusible no-show mesh stabilizer
  - Fusible knit interfacing
  - Tear-away stabilizer
  - Sticky tear-away stabilizer
- ❖ Painter's tape
- ❖ Embroidery designs: Hat and Mitten, Ice Skate

## Equipment You'll Need

- ❖ Equipment in good working order
- ❖ Presser feet:
  - Regular sewing foot
  - ¼" foot
  - "Stitch in the Ditch" foot
  - Decorative stitch, or open toe foot
- ❖ Empty bobbins
- ❖ Sharp pair of scissors
- ❖ Thread snips
- ❖ Rotary cutter, mat, ruler
- ❖ Pens to mark fabric (see following hint)
- ❖ Iron

### Note:

In the video, the outer strips for the Seminole Piecing and the Outer Strips for the Bottom Band were cut different widths. The difference in the width was very minor. To make your life easier, these directions have been modified so that the width of the outer strips for the seminole piecing and the bottom band are all the same.

## Fabric Preparation

Prepare the following fabric pieces before beginning:

Fabric	Purpose	Size	Quantity	Stabilizer / Notes
#1	Seminole piecing and bottom band	2½" x WOF <sup>1</sup>	3	
#1	Sashing	2" x 6½" 4 x 6½"	2 2	
#1	Back of cushion	15" x 30"	1	Fusible knit interfacing
#2	Seminole piecing and bottom band	2½" x WOF	3	
#2	End pieces on cushion back	15" x 10"	2	Fold in half so they are 15" x 5"
#3	Seminole piecing and bottom band	¾" x WOF	3	
#3	Piece just below seminole piecing	1½" x 28½"	1	
#3	Embroidery squares	9"	3	Fusible no-show mesh stabilizer

Use ¼" seam allowance unless otherwise instructed.

### *Margaret's Hint:*

*Be sure to test your fabric marking pens to be sure that you can remove them after ironing over them.*

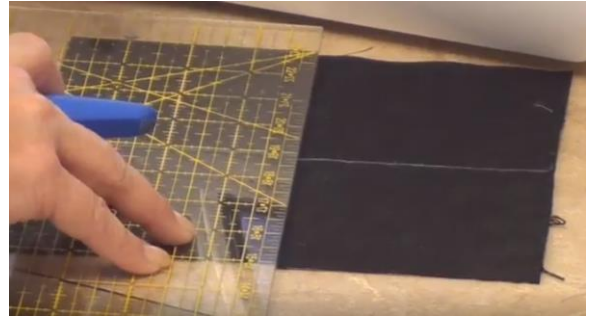
Design license purchased by MKKB Enterprises, Inc.

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<sup>1</sup> WOF = Width of Fabric

## Section 1—Machine Embroidery

Mark the vertical and horizontal centers for the prepared 9” square fabrics. Choose a marking utensil that will show on your fabric.



Hoop tear-away stabilizer, and insert hoop into the machine.



“Float” fabric on top of the hooped stabilizer, and center it under the needle.



Baste fabric in place, using the method appropriate for your machine.



Stitch out the following designs: one with the hat and mittens, and one of ice skate, and one mirror of the ice skate.



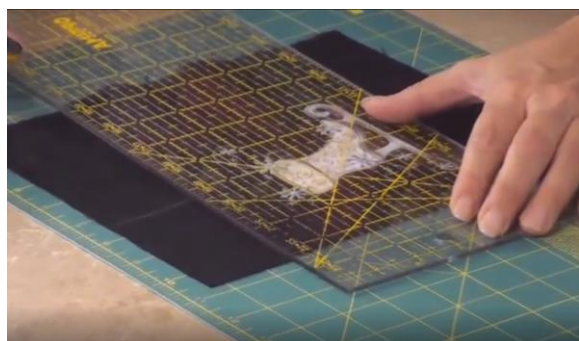
Once you have completed the embroidery, remove the tear-away stabilizer.



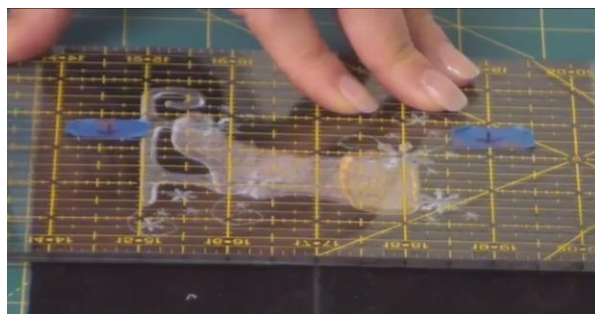
Press each design. Make sure the center markings are still visible.



Cut each square to size. Each one should be 6½” wide, or 3¼” wide to the left and right of each center line. Using a quilter’s ruler, line up the 3¼” line to the center marking, and cut each side.



To make it easier to line up each time, you may want to mark the 3¼” line on your ruler with blue tape so that it's easier to find each time.



## Section 2—Stitching the Strips of Fabric Together for the Seminole Piecing and Bottom Band

You will be creating three bands of fabric, each using three strips of fabric. The narrow strip of fabric will be in the center of each band:

- Fabric #1: 2½” x WOF
- Fabric #2: 2½” x WOF
- Fabric #3: ¾” x WOF

Line up the raw edge of Fabric #3 (¾” strip) with the raw edge of Fabric #1 (2½” strip) and stitch together using the ¼” foot.

Press the seam allowance away from the center strip.

Line up the other raw edge of Fabric #3 (¾” strip) with the raw edge of Fabric #2. (Fabric #3 will be in the center of Fabric #1 and Fabric #2 after they are stitched together.)

Normally, you would stitch the pieces together with the lighter-colored strip on top, like this...

...However, you may want to try this way. Turn the fabric over, with the lighter-colored fabric underneath, and line up the stitching from the previous step to the “fence” on the presser foot. You’ll have an even more accurate ¼” seam. Stitch the length of the fabric.



Press the seam allowances away from the center strip.  
Repeat this process for the next two bands.



You should see a perfect 1/4" dark strip down the center.  
Two of these bands will be used for the seminole pieces.  
One band is the "bottom band." Set the "bottom band"  
aside to be used later.



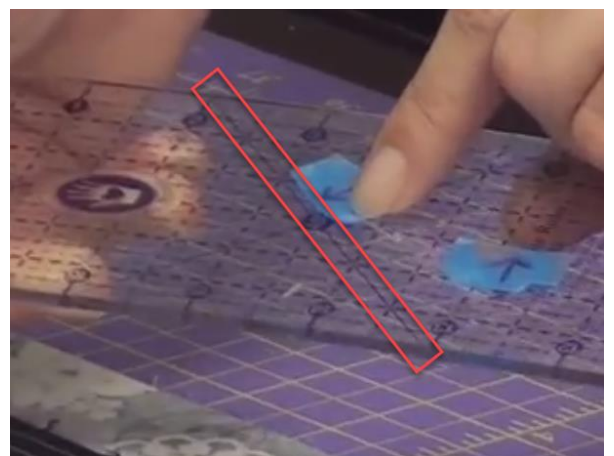
Use two of the bands you just stitched to create the  
seminole piecing band at the top of the pillow.

Work with one band at a time.

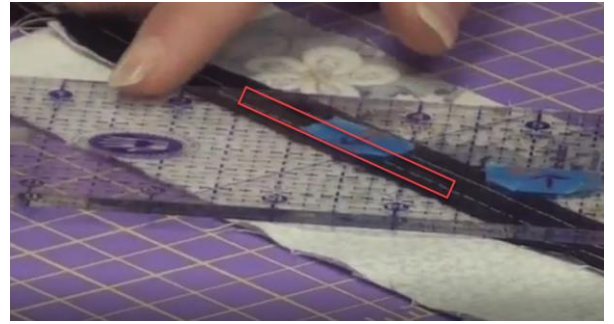
Fold the band in half, RST.



You're going to be cutting the fabric strip at a 45° angle.  
To prepare for that, mark your ruler with a piece of  
painter's tape so that it's easy to find the angle line.



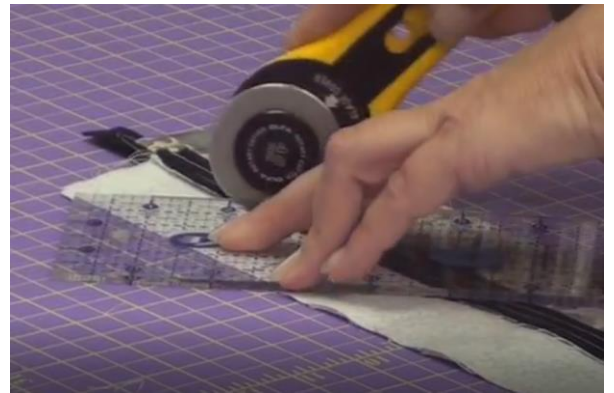
Align the 45° angle line with one of the straight lines of the fabric strip, such as the stitching line on the dark strip.



Move the ruler as close to the edge of the fabric edge as you can, so that you'll be cutting the angle close to the corner of the fabric.



Cut the fabric along the ruler's edge.

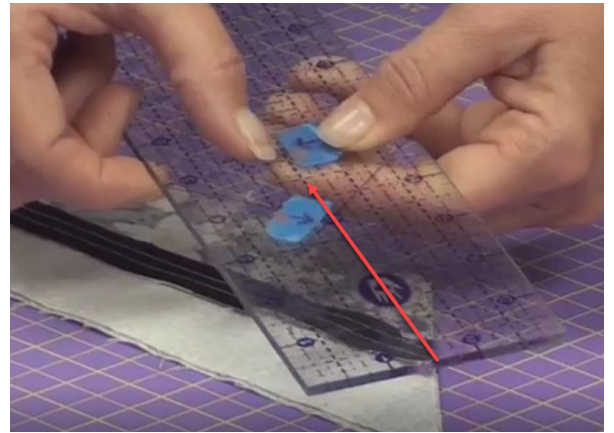


Flip the fabric over to make cutting easier.

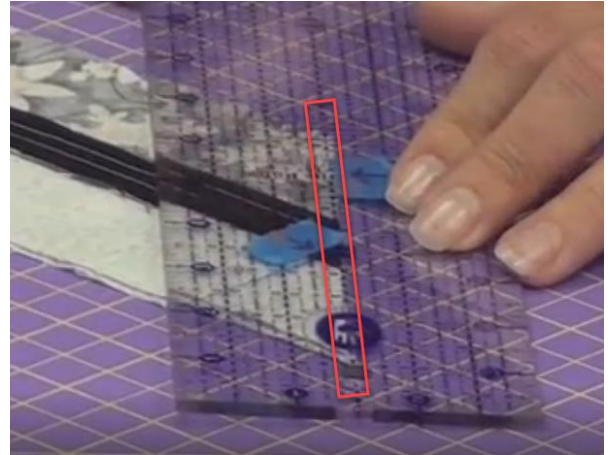




Add another piece of painter's tape to your ruler to mark the 1½" mark. You'll be cutting the long fabric strip into smaller strips that are 1½" wide.



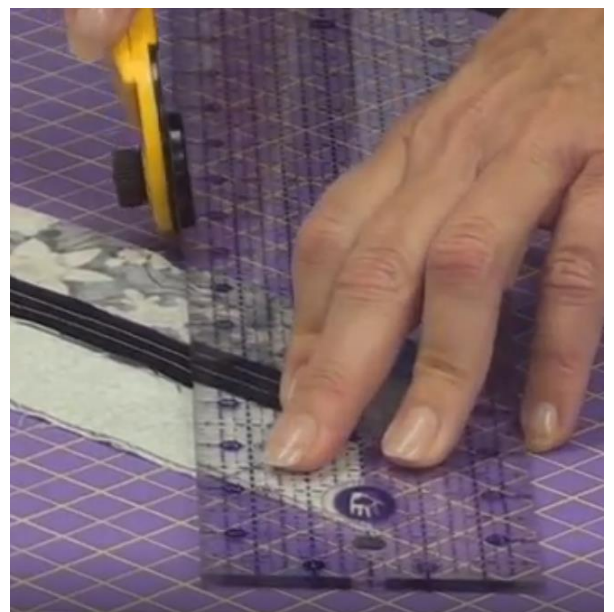
Line up your ruler's 1½" mark with the edge of the fabric. Make sure that the fabric is straight along that line.



Cut the fabric along the edge of the ruler. It will be cut at a 45° angle, 1½" wide.

Using both strips, cut until you have twenty-six 1½"-wide pieces (13 pairs) for the seminole band on the pillow.

Keep all the cut 1½" pieces going the same direction to make things easier when you begin to pin them together.



Prepare each pair by rotating the upper 1½” cut piece so that instead of having two light-colored pieces together, you will have a light-colored piece and a medium-colored piece right sides together.



Line the pieces up so the seams match up exactly.  
Be sure to always pin and stitch the same side of the pairs so they will be identical.



Pin the pieces together.



Stack the pinned pieces together so that they are all facing the same direction.



Stitch each pair of pieces together, using a ¼” seam allowance. Be sure to remove each pin as you sew.



Continue stitching until all the pairs are stitched together. You should have 13 pairs.



***Margaret's Hint:***

*You can “chain stitch” the pieces, one right after the other. This will make it easier, but will also ensure consistent stitching.*

If you have chain pieced, cut all your pairs apart from each other.



Press each pair twice: once as stitched...



...and once to press the seam allowance to one side.

*Be sure to press all the seam allowances in the same direction.*



### *Margaret's Hint:*

*Hold the fabric away from the seam line, slightly taut, as you press. You'll get sharp edges and better results.*

Lay two pieces next to each other.



Turn one piece over on top of the other, and stitch them together on one side. You'll have one set of four pieces sewn together. Repeat until you have stitched all the pairs together.



Then start stitching sets of four to each other, until all the pieces are sewn together, and you have one complete strip. Make sure the pieces are positioned so that the pattern forms correctly.



When connecting each set of four pieces, make sure the seams are lined up, just as you did before when you were sewing two pieces together.

After connecting sets of four, connect sets of eight until you have one long piece that measures 28½” long.



### Note:

Because there are so many seams in this long piece, the length of this piece can fluctuate quite a bit. *Gently* “persuade” your fabric to be the correct length (28½”) by ironing it again if necessary.

The finished strip needs to be 3½” tall, from top to bottom. Line up your ruler so that the edge is one inch from the top of each peak, and cut all the way across. You may want to use a large cutting surface to do this.



Now, to make sure that the strip is 3 ½” tall, lay out the cut edge of the strip on a straight line, preferably on a large cutting table. Then line up the ruler 3½” from the cut edge, and cut the strip across.



## Section 3—Cushion Back

On the back of the 15” x 30” piece of fabric, draw a line down the center, both vertically and horizontally, right side up.



Find the center of your 22” zipper, and lay it on top of the back of the cushion fabric, with the zipper pull facing up and to the left. Make sure that the coil of the zipper is right on top of the line that you drew.



Simply pin the zipper in place, from each side of the zipper.



Attach the stitch in the ditch foot and move the needle so that it will stitch in the zipper tape.

To make stitching more accurate, move the zipper pull down a bit, out of the way, before beginning to stitch.



Once you have stitched a few inches, stop the machine, move the needle down, and move the zipper pull back up to the top.



Be sure to remove pins as you are sewing, just before you get to them. If you come to a pin that is inserted from the opposite side, but would still come into your path, just move the pin a bit out of the way so that you're not stitching on top of pins.

Once you're past the pin you moved out of the way, push it back in place.



Stitch the zipper down the entire length of the zipper. When you get to the zipper stop (a tiny bar) at the end, stitch across the bottom. Just stitch a bit past the zipper stop, move the needle down into the zipper and fabric, lift the presser foot, and pivot the fabric. Stitch across the bottom of the zipper, and pivot to go back the other direction.



When you get back to the top of the zipper, stop with the needle down, and move the zipper pull back out of the way.



Stitch up to the edge. Pivot across the top the same way you pivoted across the bottom, stitch across, and back tack.



Press the zipper from the back.



Next, you'll cut the fabric from the underside, but not the full length of the zipper. Measure 1" from the end of the zipper stop at the bottom, and mark the position with a pin.



Measure 1" from the top of the zipper where the teeth begin, and mark the position with a pin.



Open the zipper and start your cut, right on top of the line you drew, starting at the top pin.





Turn the fabric over, and cut down the center, until you reach the second pin.



Turn the fabric a bit, and cut each end to the stitching line so that you can fold the fabric away from the zipper coils.



Once you've cut the zipper opening, fold and press the fabric away from the zipper coils.



Use sticky stabilizer to hold down the fabric folds away from the zipper pull, all the way down the zipper.



Change the presser foot on your sewing machine to an open toe foot. Change the thread to an embroidery thread and the bobbin thread to embroidery bobbin thread. Select a decorative stitch and test it on a scrap of fabric to be sure that it will work and look good with your fabric.

Center the foot over the edge of the zipper tape if you want the decorative stitching centered over the edge of the zipper tape. You can, of course, stitch the design wherever you'd like, as long as the stitching secures the zipper to the fabric, and the folded edges underneath.



Stitch down both sides of the zipper tape.  
Turn the fabric over, and tear away the sticky stabilizer.  
Be sure to press it to make sure everything lays properly.



## Section 4—Cushion Front

Rethread the machine with sewing thread, and matching bobbin. Attach the  $\frac{1}{4}$ " foot.

Lay out the three embroidered squares with the sashing pieces that go between the squares.



Stitch the sashing to the embroidered squares, using a  $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance.



As you stitch each seam, press first as sewn. Then press the seam allowance toward the sashing.



Continue stitching the pieces together until you have one long piece, pressing as you go.



***Margaret's Hint:***

*As you're pressing, pull the pieces slightly taut so that the edges are sharp, and you get the best results.*

Add the two end pieces to the long piece you've just finished, using a  $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam.



You should now have the center piece finished ( $28\frac{1}{2}$ " long), the seminole piece ( $28\frac{1}{2}$ " ), and the long dark strip ( $28\frac{1}{2}$ " ) that will go between the two.



Attach the strip of Fabric #3 ( $1\frac{1}{2}$ " x  $28\frac{1}{2}$ " ) to the seminole piece using a  $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam, pinning at the beginning, middle, and end for accuracy.



When you're stitching this, be sure the seams on the seminole piece are facing down. It will be easier to stitch.



Press as stitched, then press the seam allowance away from the seminole piecing.



Find the center of the piece you just stitched, and mark it with a pin. Align it with the center of the embroidered piece (which should already be marked).



Stitch the two pieces together, lining up the ends and centers. Press the seam allowance away from the strip with the embroidery.

Attach the "bottom band" (we created this at the same time we created the bands that we used for the seminole piecing) to the bottom of the embroidered piece.



Be sure to press the entire piece once it's sewn together.



## Section 5—Finishing the Cushion

Measure the height of the front piece to be sure that it's 14½" tall...



...and 28½" wide.



Center the front piece over the back piece, ensuring that both pieces are centered over each other. Since the back piece is intentionally larger, cut it to the same size as the front piece.



Now that the back is the same size as the front, you can add the end pieces to the back. They should now be folded pieces, 15" x 5". Cut the 15" side to match the height of the back, which should be 14½".



Lay one piece down on top of the pillow back, aligning raw edges. The folded edge should be laying on top of the end of the zipper tape. You can leave a little opening for the zipper pull, or move the zipper pull away from the edge so that it's outside the edge of the end piece.

Pin the end pieces in place.



Stitch the end pieces down to the pillow back, along the folded edge using the narrow edge foot and adjusting your needle position.



Open the zipper before stitching the front to the back!  
Sew the front of the pillow to the back, using ½” seam allowance.



Turn the pillow right side out, first opening the zipper all the way.



To prepare the corners for turning, put your thumb inside the pillow, with your thumbnail facing you and your fingers out of the pillow. Fold on the stitching line, holding it with your index finger. Fold on the next stitching line, and hold with your index finger.



All the fabric is laying exactly as it should. Turn the corner right side out and work the fabric a bit so that the corner is nice and sharp.

Repeat for each corner.



Remove all the markings from the fabric and press.



Put a small amount of fiberfill in each of the corners.



Insert pillow form.







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