

SANDY'S PILLOW



SANDY SCRIVNER

Sandy is a friend of Jenny's who is trying to find time to sew and make a quilt, and this pillow is her trial for making the *Marjen for Error* quilt (available from www.pridepublishing.com.au), a *CE Special* (see Simon's version on pages 26 and 27). Working mostly on her old Bernina, Sandy had such fun cutting and piecing the Dresden Plate using Marti Michell's templates. However, her real joy was using a computerised machine – playing with the stitches and generally having fun. This is what sewing is all about, and boy did Sandy do a great job – look how precise her piecing is.





MATERIALS

- Sewing machine with decorative foot
- 45.7cm (18in) cream fabric square (backed with Quilt Mags lightweight fusible batting available from www.maidietextiles.com/ for pillow top)
- Two 6.4cm (2 1/2in) strips across the width of a striped green fabric for pillow borders, also backed with Quilt Mags
- Three fat quarters of coordinating fabric for Dresden Plate – one petite print, one medium print and one large print (if you are fussy cutting, you may need more – depending on the pattern repeat)
- One 75.5cm x 49.5cm (29 1/2in x 19 1/2in) cream fabric for backing
- One 12.7cm (5in) square of double-sided fusible web to back the centre circle (optional)
- One 19cm (7 1/2in) strip across the width of lightweight cream fusible interfacing to face the Dresden Plate fabric segments
- Machine feet: open-toe foot, bias patchwork/quilting foot, blind hem foot and clearview freehand foot
- Machine needles: Mettler #9
- Thread: Robinson-Armen (extra 40) embroidery threads: Parachute (No. 225), Darky Marry (No. 242) and Passion Rose (No. 249) for the embroidery, Loops (No. 255) for the quilting
- Fine pre-scoured cotton (white)
- Construction thread (cream) for visible and hidden
- Manufacturer's brand for fusible applique
- Dresden Plate Project Patchwork Templates by Marti Mitchell (see www.fransmart.com/)
- One 36cm (14in) yellow strip
- Water-soluble fabric-marking pen
- Rotary cutter, self-healing cutting mat and quilting ruler
- Glass-headed quilting pen
- Kit Sewing Meters
- General sewing requirements



Finished size of pillow: 46cm (18in) square

PREPARATION

Use the rotary cutter, self-healing cutting mat and quilting ruler to cut from:

Cream fabric and lightweight fusible batting:

- one 45.7cm (18in) square.

Fuse the batting to the back of the cream fabric to be used for the pillow top.

Cream backing fabric:

- one 33cm x 48cm (13in x 19in) strip
 - one 40.6cm x 48cm (16in x 19in) strip.
- To be joined together for the pillow back.
- Striped green border fabric and lightweight fusible batting:

- two 6.4cm (2 1/2in) strips across the width of the fabric.

Fuse the batting to the back of the striped green fabric, then cut:

- two 6.4cm x 39.4cm (2 1/2in x 15 1/2in) strips for the top and bottom of the pillow
- two 6.4cm x 49.5cm (2 1/2in x 19 1/2in) strips for the sides of the pillow.

Use the fabric-marking pen and quilting ruler to mark vertical, horizontal and diagonal lines that intersect at the centre of the 45.7cm (18in) cream fabric square backed with fusible batting.

DRESDEN PLATE CIRCULAR PATCHWORK

Use the Dresden Plate perspex templates.

1 The instructions that come with Marti's Dresden Plate templates are very detailed but easy to follow, so read these several times until you are satisfied that you understand how to use them. It is a good idea to practise on some scrap fabric first, and as a picture is worth a thousand words, we are including detailed step-by-step pictures to help introduce you to this fabulous technique.

2 You will note that the templates are made of clear perspex, making placement and cutting easy (especially for 'fussy cutting', which we will deal with later).



3 For this pillow, you will use the 10 1/2in curved template to cut 12 fabric segments and the 10 1/2in mark on the Pointed Dresden Plate to cut four fabric segments, making up the 16-piece Plate.

Fussy cutting

NOTE: Fussy cutting means cutting the fabric in such a way that the same design element on the fabric is in exactly the same position in each fabric template. The effect is that the joined fabric pieces look like one fabric piece with a pre-determined design, rather than scraps of fabric cut at random and then pieced.



4 This is easy to do as the Dresden Plate templates are transparent and can be placed over the right side of the fabric in the exact position of your chosen design element, and then cut out. The fabric looks like Swiss cheese when all the same design elements have been cut from it! This is very time consuming but the results are worth the extra fabric (and thus costs), time, effort and patience.

Cutting and facing the curved fabric segments



5 Use the 10½in curved template to fussy cut eight fabric segments from the petite print fabric and four from the large print. Four fabric segments are cut from the medium print using the matching pointed template – a total of 16 segments. Use the fabric-marking pen to mark the fabric with 6mm (¼in) seam position dots through the holes provided on the templates.



6 Cut a 5cm (2in) strip across the width of cream fusible woven interfacing and lay it on a flat surface, right side up.



7 Arrange the 12 curved fabric segments along the edge of the interfacing, right side of fabric to right side of interfacing, with a 6mm (¼in) spacing. Align the marked dots

with the bottom edge of the interfacing. Pin each fabric segment (with one pin) to hold the templates straight and aligned with the edge of the interfacing.



8 Use cream construction thread in the needle and bobbin, a 6mm (¼in) foot and a straight stitch with a 0.7mm length (to achieve a more accurate curve) and sew around the curved edge of each template. Use the tailoring shears to separate each fabric template by cutting the interfacing between each one, then the interfacing around the curved edge of the fabric segments to a matching 6mm (¼in) seam width; clip into the curve.



9 Turn the facing to the wrong side of the curved fabric segment and finger-press it using a curved/rounded object (what you use to push down your cuticles is perfect). The fusible side of the facing is now to the back of the template. Do not press the seam as the interfacing will stick to the iron and the ironing board.

Cutting and facing the pointed segments



10 Use the pointed template, selecting the 10½in marks on the top and bottom of the template to cut four pointed fabric segments from the medium printed fabric. Use a fabric-marking pen to mark 6mm (¼in) seam positions as you did for the curved templates. These act as seam accuracy guides when you are piecing the fabric segments.



11 Fold each pointed fabric segment in half vertically, right sides together, and then use cream thread in the needle and bobbin and a ¼in foot to chain-seam along the top (the widest part of the segment).



12 Separate the folded fabric segments from the outside edge of the seam, cut the folded corner of the fabric segment above and close to the 6mm (¼in) seam, then open out the segment and press the seam flat.



13 Turn the pointed segment to the right side and press it; you now have a self-faced pointed template.

Joining faced fabric segments together

14 Arrange the faced segments (curved and pointed) together in a circle using the photo on page 20 as a guide to the fabric



sequence. Use construction thread in the needle and bobbin and the $\frac{1}{4}$ in foot to chain-seam the fabric segments into pairs, matching dots. Next, join the pairs into quarters, the quarters into halves and the halves into a circle. Remember to press the seams flat as you go, being careful not to let the iron touch the fusible interfacing.

Cutting and facing the circular centre

There are many ways to face a circle or cover the raw fabric edges, and we offer you a choice.

15 Lay the pieced Dresden Plate on a flat surface to determine the size of circle that is needed to cover the raw fabric edges of the templates around the centre of the plate (a graduated circle is included in the instructions that come with the templates). If you are going to face the fabric circle, you will need to add a 6mm ($\frac{1}{4}$ in) seam allowance around the edge of the circle. If you are going to finish the circle off with an antique decorative stitch from your sewing machine (as Sandy has done), you will only cut the circle to the size needed to cover the raw fabric edges of the circular Dresden Plate.


16 Cut a circle from the large floral print fabric backed with the double-sided fusible web. Refer to page 26 of *Marjen for Error*



(*CE Special*) for details on how to interface the circle.

Applying the pieced Dresden Plate to the pillow top

17 Lay the circular pieced Dresden Plate segments centred over the pillow top, matching the segments to the marked divide lines (wrong side of segments to right side of pillow top). Make sure it is straight and centred, then lay the circle fabric over the laid-out segments to check that it covers the centre raw fabric edges. When you are satisfied this has been done, use the glass-headed pins to hold the segments in place, then use a hot steam iron to iron them down.

18 Use monofilament thread  in the Microtex 80 needle, construction thread in the bobbin and the blind-hem foot to invisibly appliqué the Dresden plate segments to the pillow top.


19 Select a narrow blind-hem stitch, length 1 and width 0.5-1.0, to stitch around the outside edge of the faced Dresden Plate segments. The straight stitch should follow the edge of the Plate on the cream fabric with the small swing stitch, just catching down the patch work segments.

20 Use a straight stitch to hold the centre circular raw fabric edges of the Plate to the pillow top. Centre the fabric circle backed with double-sided fusible web (with the paper backing removed) over the centre of the plate. Once you are satisfied that it is exactly centred and covers all the raw fabric edges of the Plate, iron it in place.

ADDING DECORATIVE STITCHING TO THE DRESDEN PLATE

All embroidery uses an open-toe foot, rayon 40 embroidery thread in the Microtex 80 needle, a pre-wound bobbin and an antique embroidery stitch (sewn starting at the outside edge of the Plate and finishing at the centre). Use the Tie Off function at the beginning and end of each row of stitching.

NOTE: All the embroidery stitches were triple-stitched. If you do not have this function on your sewing machine, use an 80 top-stitch needle with two matching threads through the needle.

21  Daisy stitch, width and length 6.0, using Ducky Mauve thread down the seam on either side of the pointed template.

22  Triangle stitch, default width and length, using Passion Rose thread down the seam on either side of the centre curved single rose template.

23  Heirloom stitch, default setting, using Pistachio thread. Remember to use the needle down function, pivoting if necessary after each stitch to ensure an exact circle.

QUILTING

Use the clearview freehand foot (or a stitch regulator foot or option such as the Bernina BSR or the Husqvarna Viking Fabric Mover), Ivory thread in the needle and a pre-wound bobbin.

24 Use your favourite quilting design to quilt the cream fabric that surrounds the Dresden Plate patchwork, for example outlining, echo or McTavishing. See page 75 of the Techniques section for more information on machine-quilting.

CONSTRUCTION

Use construction thread in the needle and bobbin and the $\frac{1}{4}$ in patchwork foot to construct the pillow.

25 Use the rotary cutter, self-healing cutting mat and quilting ruler to square up the pillow top to 39.4cm (15 $\frac{1}{2}$ in), making sure the Dresden Plate is centred.

26 Join the striped green border strips to the sides of the pillow, and then the top and bottom.

27 Turn under a double 2.5cm (1in) hem on the narrow side of both pieces of backing fabric, then overlap them (right side of under-piece to wrong side of over-piece) until they measure 49.5cm (19½in) square. Seam down the overlapping sides.

28 Place the right sides of the pillow top and the backing together, pin them and then seam around all four outside edges. Turn it to the right side and press it.

29 Stitch in the ditch, from the right side of the pillow, using monofilament thread and a straight stitch in the seam line around the edge of the centre cream square – this gives a 5cm (2in) flange.

30 Place the 38cm (15in) insert in the pillow. How easy was that? You now have a beautiful pillow and are equipped to take on the challenge of the *Marfen for Error* quilt!

Thank you Sandy. This is Sandy's first project for *CE* and, as she says: "If I can do it anyone can. I felt so special when it was completed – I now look forward with confidence to making my first quilt." We wait with great anticipation Sandy, and look forward to seeing your first quilt in a future issue of *CE*.

