A decorative scene featuring a heart-shaped pillow with a key, a dragonfly brooch, a ruffled ribbon, and a candle in a lantern. The heart-shaped pillow is olive green with a silver key attached to it by a braided cord. The pillow is placed on a patterned fabric with a fringed edge. A dragonfly brooch is pinned to the fabric. A ruffled ribbon is also visible. In the background, there is a candle in a lantern and a glass.

# Romantic PILLOWS

Jenny Haskins



*These romantic little pillows are a perfect gift for Valentine's Day (especially the small Key to My Heart Pillow) or any day for that matter. Not only are these pillows beautiful to look at and decorative, they also teach wonderful techniques such as decorative stitch building to create ribbons and braids along with tassel and fringe making using Jenny's Magic Tassel/Fringe Maker and yes, it is all by machine! Both these little pillows can be achieved on any machine that has decorative stitching.*



## MATERIALS

- ◆ Sewing machine with decorative stitches, optional embroidery machine
- ◆ 30cm (12in) across the width of the olive green silk for the pillow front and backing
- ◆ 25cm (10in) across the width of the purple floral fabric for borders
- ◆ 25cm x 6mm (10in x 1/4in) pale pink ribbon for stitching over
- ◆ *Quilt Magic* lightweight fusible batting
- ◆ *Sheer Magic* to back silk
- ◆ *Tear-away Magic* to back stitching
- ◆ Threads: variegated soft mauve/pink rayon thread for stitching
- ◆ Pre-wound bobbins
- ◆ Machine feet: open-toe, 1/4in patchwork/quilting, beading foot
- ◆ Microtex 80 needle
- ◆ Couching thread and ribbon yarn for fringe
- ◆ 1m x 6mm (1yd x 1/4in) ribbon to attach fringe yarn to
- ◆ *Jenny's Magic Tassel Maker* to make the fringe
- ◆ Optional pin or embroidered butterfly such as **bc02** from *Jenny's Butterflies for Catherine* design CD
- ◆ Optional heat activated crystals and heating wand
- ◆ Rotary cutter, self-healing cutting mat and quilting ruler
- ◆ Pins
- ◆ Cotton/Q tip
- ◆ 15cm x 30cm (6in x 12in) pillow insert
- ◆ General sewing requirements

**NOTE: The finished size of the pillows is not important; they can be any size you want. Jenny's rectangular pillow has a finished size of 38cm x 23cm (15in x 9in) and the smaller square one is 15cm (6in). Use these measurements as a guide to make your own. The materials listed are for the rectangular pillow only.**



## PREPARATION

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

### The olive green silk, *Sheer Magic* and *Quilt Magic*:

– one, 8in x 14in rectangle for pillow front/stitching.

Fuse the *Sheer Magic* to the back of the silk and then the *Quilt Magic*.

### The olive green silk only:

– two, 10in squares for pillow backing.

### The purple floral fabric and *Quilt Magic*:

– two, 2in x 12 1/2in strips for top and bottom borders

– two, 2in x 9 1/2in strips for the side borders.

Fuse the *Quilt Magic* to the back of the purple floral fabric strips.

**2** On the 8in x 14in rectangle of olive green silk backed with *Quilt Magic*, use the quilting ruler and fabric-marking pen to mark:

- the top and bottom of the fabric
- vertical and horizontal lines that intersect through the centre of the fabric
- on the bottom edge of the fabric, measure out from the centre vertical line to the left 1in and to the right 2in
- on the top edge of the fabric, measure out from the centre vertical line to the left 4in and to the right 4 1/2in
- connect the marks on both sides of the centre of the fabric rectangle with a diagonal line from the top to the bottom of the rectangle
- on the left of the fabric, mark two more lines (to the left of the marked diagonal line) that are 1in apart and parallel to the first line
- on the right of the fabric, mark one more line (to the right of the marked diagonal line) that is 3/4in from and parallel to the first line.

These marked lines are used as guides for the decorative stitching. Label the lines left to right (a)-(e).

## DECORATIVE STITCHING

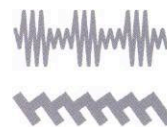
**JENNY'S TIP: All stitches have a pattern width and length – this should not be confused with a stitch length which is how close one stitch in the pattern is to another, usually in satin stitching. The pattern length and width can be changed as can the actual stitch width (this will be the same width as the pattern) with the stitch length being the distance between two stitches. If your pattern isn't satin stitch based then altering the pattern width and length will automatically change the stitch length of your pattern. The number of options available when altering stitches depends on your particular model and brand of machine.**

**3** Use strips of *Tear-away Magic* stabiliser at the back of the fabric, rayon variegated thread in the Microtex 80 needle, pre-wound bobbin and the open-toe foot for all decorative stitching.

**NOTE: All satin stitching is closed up to 0.25 for the stitch length.**

### 4 Line (a):

- centred over the line
- one each side of the first row of stitching aligned with and parallel to the edge of the previous row of stitching
- on the left side only of the previous row of stitching.



### 5 Line (b):

- centred over the line
- centred over the satin stitching 9mm wide or same width as the satin stitching
- on each side of the satin stitching aligned with and parallel to the edge of the satin stitching



- on both sides of the previous row of stitching so the point of the scallop is aligned with and parallel with the edge of the previous row of stitching and the scallops match on each side
- centred over the scallop outline stitch and following it using a single pattern option reduced to the lowest stitch width and length (around 3mm).



#### 6 Line (c):

- centred over the line a 3mm wide satin stitch
- centred over the 3mm wide satin stitch, a 4.5mm wide ladder stitch
- on the right side only of the ladder stitch, clip the long horizontal jump stitch between the patterns once the stitch row is complete.



#### 7 Line (d):

- centre the 10in x 1/4in pink ribbon over the line and use a straight stitch to sew down each side of the ribbon close to the edge
- centred over the ribbon in a contrasting thread colour, sew reduced to 3mm width and length
- on each side of the ribbon reduced in width 4mm and length to 6mm so the straight edge of the scallop is aligned with and parallel to the edge of the ribbon.



#### 8 Line (e):

- centred over the line a 9mm lattice stitch
- down each side of the lattice a 1.5mm satin stitch that is aligned with and parallel to the edge of the lattice stitch
- on each side of the satin stitching a



hemstitch scallop with a width of 7mm and a length of 12mm so the point of the scallop is aligned with and parallel to the edge of the satin stitching.

9 Remove the *Tear-away Magic* from the back of the stitching. This product is made of part plant and part synthetic fibre. By using a cotton/Q tip dipped in water along the edges of the stitch rows, the stabiliser will pull away easily from the back of the stitching without the fear of distorting the stitches.

10 Press the embroidered pillow top and trim it to piecing size of 6<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>in x 12<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>in.

#### PUTTING IT TOGETHER

11 Use the 1/4in patchwork/quilting foot to attach the purple floral fabric border strips to the top and bottom then the sides of the embroidered pillow top.

12 Turn under a hem on one 10in side of both the 10in squares of olive green silk for pillow packing. Overlap the two backing pieces so they now measure 10in x 15<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>in and attach the pillow backing to the pillow top; right sides together stitching around all four sides.

13 Turn the pillow to the right side and press firmly.

14 Use a triple stitch length 2.5mm and needle positions to sew a row of topstitching

along both the outside and inside edge of the pillow borders close to the edges through the pillow top and backing.

15 Attach the heat activated crystals to the centre of stitching in rows (b) and (e) at regular intervals.

#### MAKING THE FRINGE

16 Refer to *CE No 21* or the step-by-step directions that come with *Jenny's Magic Tassel Maker* to make an 18in length of designer fringe. Use the beading foot, the couching cords and ribbon yarn to make your fringe in the exact shade to match your pillow.

17 Attach a 9in length of designer fringe to each 9in end of the pillow over the fabric border/flange.

18 Place the pillow insert in the pillow and attach either an embroidered butterfly such as Jenny's one or a decorative pin to complete this stunning little pillow.

**You may also choose to make the *Key to my Heart pillow*. This pillow is trimmed with designer fringe, (made by machine using *Jenny's Magic Tassel/Fringe Maker*) and has an appliqué velvet heart in the centre. The old discarded key in the centre of the heart has a machine-made matching twisted cord and tassel (again using the *Magic Tassel Maker*) attached to the key to complete this magic little pillow.**