

Pyramid cushion

A comfy, convenient holder for tablets, books, and more



Manage reading material with a soft, easy-to-sew pillow with pockets.

Fabric: cotton upholstery, Marimekko.com.

Rest a book, tablet, e-reader, or favorite sewing magazine at the perfect angle on this pyramid-shaped pillow. This easy-to-sew project is the smart way to achieve comfort while reading or watching videos—in bed, next to your sewing machine, or anywhere you need a prop for a book or device.

This pillow features two side pockets: a self-fabric option

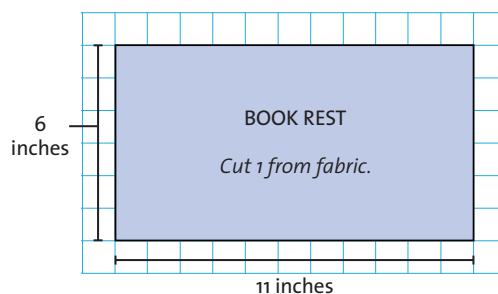
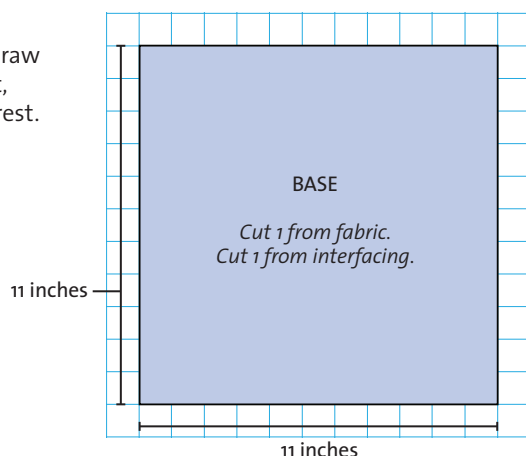
and a mesh version made with cargo netting (JoAnn.com). Both pockets are great for storing a phone, glasses, a flashlight, pens, or a sketchbook. A small ribbon handle at the top makes the pillow easy to carry from room to room. This pattern works best in an upholstery fabric or a soft faux suede.

Dana Finkle is assistant editor.

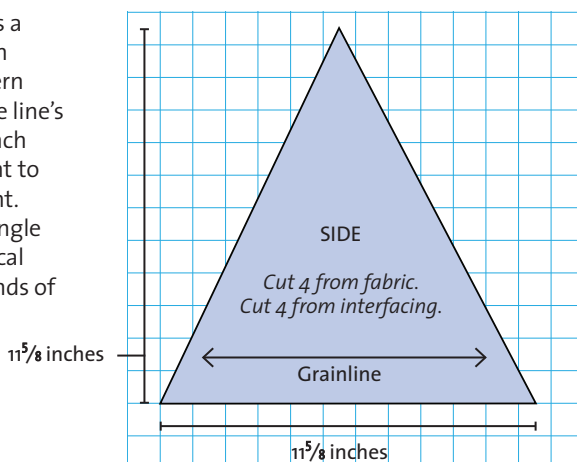
Draft the pattern

This pattern is composed of four pieces: a base, book rest, side, and pocket. Begin by drawing the pattern on pattern paper. Then, label the pieces as shown. Note: $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch-wide seam allowances are included on all pattern pieces.

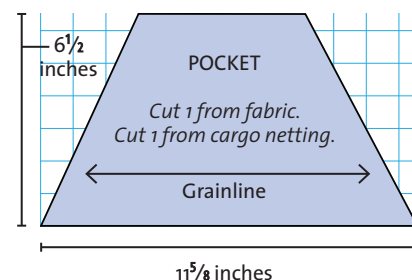
1 Start with the rectangles. Draw an 11-inch square base. Next, draw a 6-inch by 11-inch book rest.



2 Draw the side. Each side is a triangle. Draw an $11\frac{5}{8}$ -inch horizontal line near the pattern paper's bottom edge. Find the line's midpoint and draw an $11\frac{5}{8}$ -inch vertical line up from this point to represent the triangle's height. Draw the remaining two triangle sides by connecting the vertical line's topmost point to the ends of the horizontal line.



3 Trace the pocket. Cut a piece of pattern paper $6\frac{1}{2}$ inches high by $11\frac{5}{8}$ inches wide. Place the paper over the side pattern piece, aligning lower edges. Trace the side angles on the short ends.



continued >>>

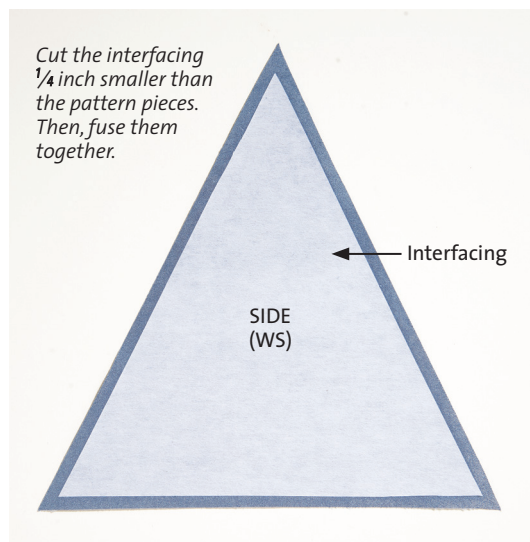
Sew the pillow

The pyramid construction process is simple, as long as you've chosen the right materials. To make sure the pillow has enough structure, use stiff interfacing for medium-weight fabrics and medium-weight interfacing for stiffer fabrics. Sew all seams with $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch-wide seam allowances, unless otherwise noted.

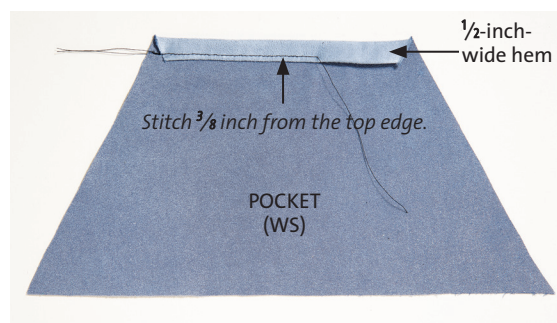
PREPARE THE PIECES

1 Cut the pattern. Pin the pattern pieces to the fabric and cut. If the fabric is napped, be sure to orient the pattern pieces accordingly.

2 Fuse the interfacing. Cut the interfacing $\frac{1}{4}$ inch smaller than the pattern pieces on all sides to reduce bulk. Then, fuse the interfacing to the corresponding fabric pieces' wrong sides, according to the manufacturer's instructions.

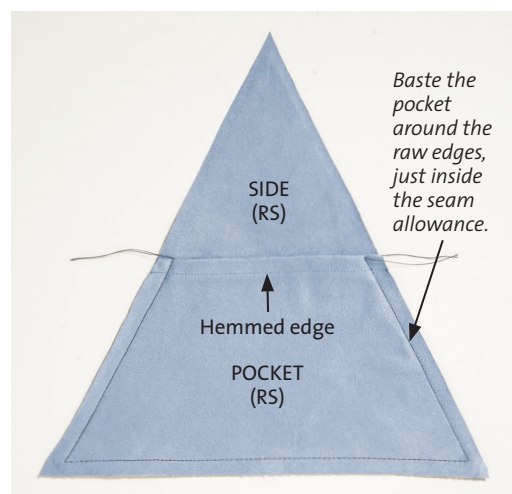


3 Hem the pocket. Fold the self-fabric pocket's top edge $\frac{3}{8}$ inch to the wrong side, and press. Then, fold the same edge $\frac{1}{2}$ inch to the wrong side and press. Stitch $\frac{3}{8}$ inch from the top edge, catching the first fold in the seam. Repeat with the cargo netting pocket, only insert a 7-inch-long piece of round elastic cord before folding the top edge a second time.



4 Baste the pockets.

Align the self-fabric pocket with one side piece along the lower edge. Baste around the three unfinished edges, just inside the seam allowance. Repeat with the cargo netting pocket, making sure to stretch the elastic cord slightly as you sew over it. This enables the pocket opening to stretch.

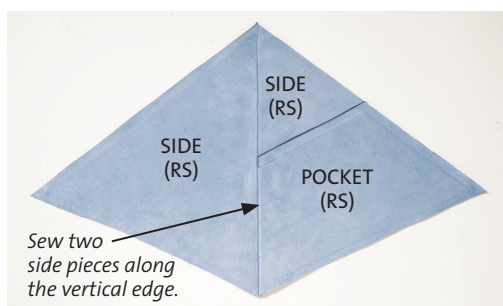


tip

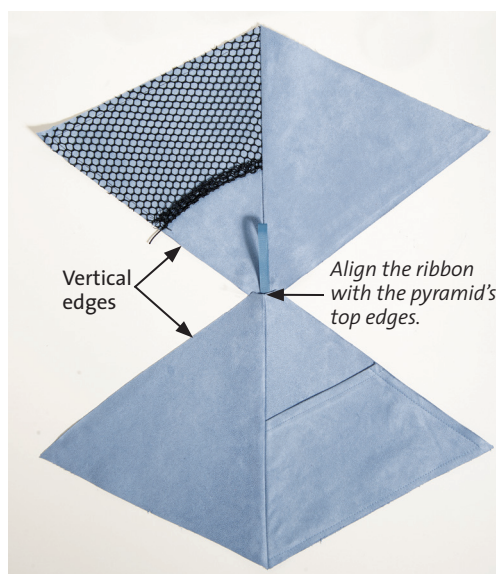
Give the pillow a professional look. After sewing and trimming the seams, and as needed during construction, press them with wrong sides together to create and maintain strong structural creases.

CONSTRUCT THE PYRAMID

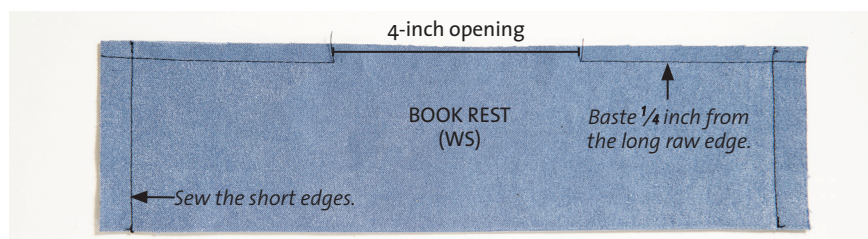
1 Sew the sides. With right sides together, sew one side piece with an attached pocket to one plain side piece along the vertical edge. The pocket piece should be on the right. Press the seam allowances open, and trim them to $\frac{1}{4}$ inch wide. Repeat for the remaining two sides.



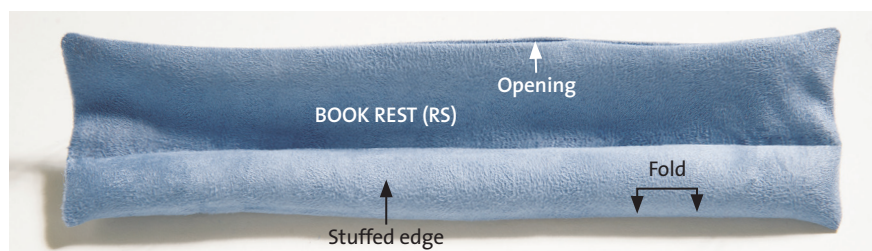
2 Finish the top. Cut a piece of $\frac{3}{8}$ -inch-wide ribbon approximately 7 inches long. Fold the ribbon in half with wrong sides together and press. Next, orient the sewn side pieces with right sides together. Insert the ribbon between the two layers so the ribbon's raw edges align with the pyramid's peak. Make sure the intersecting peak seams align as closely as possible before sewing the layers together along the vertical edges only. Once sewn, press and trim the seam allowances, especially at the peak's top.



3 Start the book rest. Fold the book rest in half, right sides together, aligning the long edges. Sew the short edges. Baste a $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch seam along the long raw edge, leaving a 4-inch-long opening in the center. Trim the edges and corners close to the stitching. Turn the book rest right side out, and press.

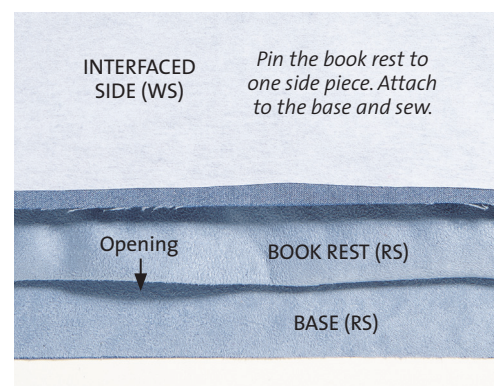


4 Lightly stuff the book rest. Use polyester fiberfill to stuff about half of the book rest. Push the filling primarily against the fold. Press the opening closed.



5 Secure the stuffing. The book rest's stuffing should reside along the fold. Sew a straight stitch about 1 inch from the fold for your reading materials to rest against. Adjust this measurement depending on your typical book or electronic device's depth.

6 Attach the base. Pin the book rest's long, partially opened edge to either of the pocketless sides' bottom edges with right sides together. Next, pin the base to all four side-piece bottom edges with right sides together. Sew the layers, leaving a 5-inch opening in the final pocketless side's center. Trim the seam allowances and corners, turn the pyramid right side out, and press.



7 Add some structure. Lightly stuff the pillow with polyester fiberfill to complete the shape. Do not overstuff. Otherwise, the pockets won't accommodate many items and the incline won't be steep enough to rest reading materials against.

8 Complete the pillow. Hand-sew the 5-inch opening closed.

