



Floor cushion



Floor cushions are a good answer to any temporary seating shortage, whether in a TV den or a teenager's bedroom. This one does double-duty as a storage container—it's cleverly stuffed with an extra bed comforter, which can be pulled out for an impromptu sleepover. The floor cushion needs to be made from an upholstery-weight fabric. The quantities in the materials list allow for using a directionally patterned fabric; if your choice is plain, or has a nondirectional pattern, such as a polka dot, you may need slightly less.

You will need

- ✕ Templates on page 37
- ✕ Tracing paper and paper for templates
- ✕ Pencil
- ✕ 2½ yards (2.3 m) of fabric 43 inches (110 cm) wide or 1¾ yards (1.6 m) of fabric 59 inches (150 cm) wide
- ✕ Thread to match your fabric
- ✕ 18-inch (46-cm) closed-end general-purpose zipper to match your fabric
- ✕ Single bed comforter for stuffing
- ✕ Basic sewing kit (see page 4)
- ✕ Fabric marking pen
- ✕ Ruler
- ✕ Stitch ripper

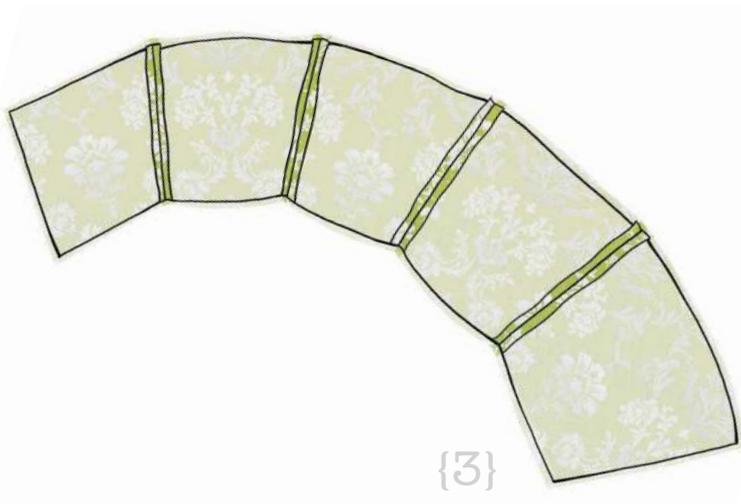
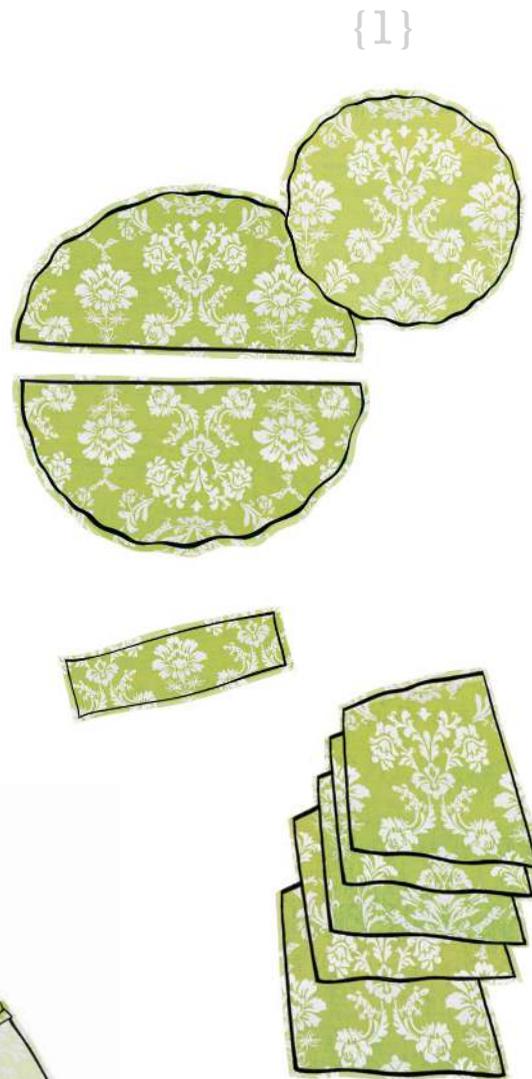


How to make the floor cushion

{1} Using the templates on page 37, cut out one top piece, two bottom pieces, and five side pieces. If your fabric is directional like ours, when cutting the bottom pieces, remember to cut one semicircle with the template the right way up and one semicircle with the template face down. You must also make sure that your pattern is the right way up on the side pieces, with the bottom of the pattern at the wider, lower end of the shape. For the handle, cut out a rectangle measuring $3\frac{1}{4} \times 9$ inches (8 x 23 cm).

{2} Use your sewing machine to zigzag stitch around all the pieces except for the handle.

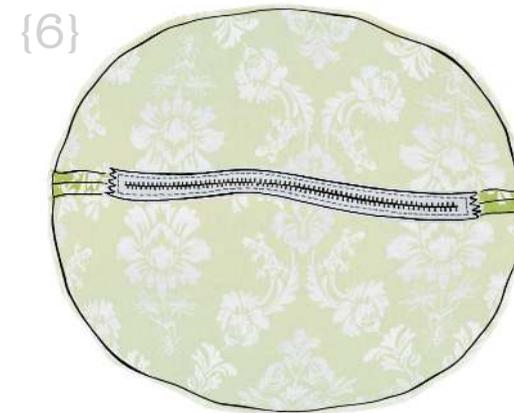
{3} Pin the five side pieces right sides together and machine stitch, using a $\frac{5}{8}$ -inch (1.5-cm) seam allowance. Then stitch the first and fifth side pieces together, again using a $\frac{5}{8}$ -inch (1.5-cm) seam allowance. Press all the seams open.



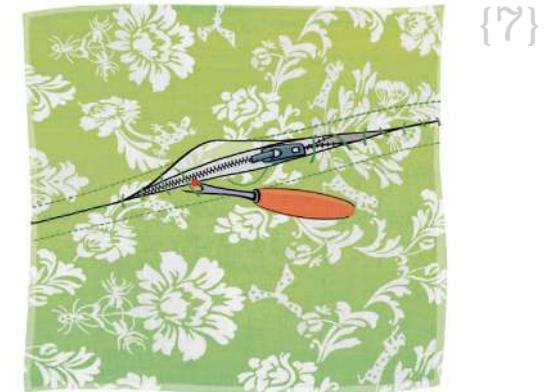
{4} Pin the two bottom pieces right sides together and measure $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches (11 cm) in from each end of the straight edge. Mark these points with the fabric marking pen.



{5} Using a $\frac{5}{8}$ -inch (1.5-cm) seam allowance and a standard-length straight stitch, sew from one outer edge to the first mark, securing the stitching at the beginning and end by working a few stitches back and forth (see page 7). Change your machine to the longest stitch setting possible and sew to the second mark. Secure your thread by working a few stitches back and forth at the second mark and sew to the end using a standard-length straight stitch. Press the seam open.



{6} Lay the zipper face down over the center part of the seam (where you have sewn the large stitches) on the wrong side of your work and pin in place. Machine stitch the zipper in place by working a thin rectangle all around it. You will need to move the zipper mechanism as you sew to make sure that your stitching is smooth.

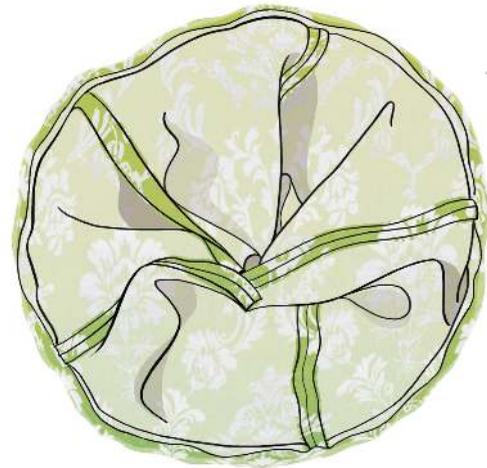


{7} With the right side of your work facing, use your stitch ripper to undo the large stitches running down the center of the zipper, between the markers.

{8} Fold the handle piece in half lengthwise, right sides together, and machine stitch along the long edges, using a $\frac{3}{8}$ -inch (1-cm) seam allowance. Turn the handle right side out. Fold in $\frac{3}{8}$ inch (1 cm) along each of the short edges and press the handle so that the long seam runs along the middle of the handle. Sew a line of stitching close to the edge around the entire handle.



{9} Pin the handle right side up in the center of the top piece of the floor cushion. Measure up 1 inch (2.5 cm) from each end of the stitching on the short edges of the handle and, using the fabric marking pen, draw a line across the handle. Use these lines as a guide to secure the handle by machine stitching a square with a box stitch inside at each end.



{10} With right sides together, pin the sides to the bottom. Machine stitch, using a $\frac{5}{8}$ -inch (1.5-cm) seam allowance.

{11} Open the zipper in the bottom piece. With right sides together, pin the top to the sides. Machine stitch, using a $\frac{5}{8}$ -inch (1.5-cm) seam allowance.

{12} Turn the cushion cover right side out through the open zipper and press. Insert the comforter into the cover and close the zipper.

Templates

Shown at 20%; enlarge by 500% for actual size.

