

the

BOW

PILLOW TUTORIAL

by *laurie matthews*



Ann Kelle



Bow Pillow Tutorial
By Laurie Matthews at dresdenlane.com

This fun and easy tutorial is a great home decoration project that will take you no more than two hours to make. It looks great in juvenile, holiday, and solid fabrics. It makes a bold statement and is quite easy to sew together. Hopefully you will find this tutorial easy to understand and follow, but if you encounter any confusion, please feel free to email me directly at LaurieEMatthews@gmail.com

Special thanks to my friend Annee, whose creativity inspired this tutorial. Thanks to Sarah, Tina and Rachel for testing the pattern. Finally, a big thanks to Kelle, whose gorgeous fabric makes everything extra special.

Yardage needed:

Bow: $\frac{3}{4}$ yd
Pillow front and back: $\frac{3}{4}$ yd

Other materials needed:

Coordinating thread
Hand-sewing needle
18" pillow form

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Cutting directions:

Pillow front: Cut one 17.5" square

Pillow back: Cut two 17.5 x 12" rectangles for envelope back (be careful to orient the fabric correctly if using a directional fabric)

Bow fabric: Cut one 16" x 24" for the bow, one 3"x9" for the tie, and one 16" x 28" sash*.

(*The sashing piece is extra long and you will have some waste at the end of the project- I chose to build in some extra fabric for this piece because you want to have some flexibility and not end up stuck with a sashing piece that is too short to cover the pillow front. You can afford to cut the sashing shorter than 28" long, but I recommend trying this measurement for the first time making the pillow. This issue is also effected by the firmness of your pillow form, which varies by brand).



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To assemble the bow pieces:

Sew each cut of bow fabric, right sides together, on the long side with a $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam.



You will have three “tubes” of fabric:



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Center the seam within the middle of each strip and press open the seam for all three pieces.



Turn all pieces right side out. Press again so that the seam is in the middle and the folds on both sides of the seam are pressed as well. Set aside the sashing and tie for now.

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For the bow piece (16 x 24 piece), sew along the short and raw edges of the tube (four layers of fabric):



Turn the bow so that the seam you just sewed is within the middle of the “loop.”

Assemble the bow with the sashing:

Thread a hand sewing needle with thread and make sure it is knotted and ready to be used. Set aside.

Pinch the middle of the bow and place it on top of the middle of the sashing- pinch the middle of the sashing too. Wrap the tie around the bow and sashing- put the raw edge of the tie in the back of the sashing and wind it around the bow and sashing 1-2 times. Don't wrap it too tightly, allow a little wiggle room.

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When you only have a little bit of the tie left, fold the raw edge over and hand sew it to itself, securing all of the pieces.



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Center the bow in the middle of the pillow front. Lay the sashing pieces flatly against the right and left of the pillow front. There should be about 5” on top and below of the sashing on each side. Make the sashing pieces as flat as possible – if they are a little cinched, it will still be okay. Pin in place.



Sew or baste the sashing to the pillow front with a $\frac{1}{4}$ ” seam allowance- I recommend that you do this from the back- this may mean a bit of awkwardness with the pins you have placed on the front, but it requires no guesswork.

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This picture shows what it will look after the bow is sewn to the pillow top:



Remove the pins. I recommend not cutting the excess sashing fabric off yet- you may want to wait until the back is attached and you can test how it looks with a pillow form. (Pillow forms have varying degrees of firmness and you do not want your bow to be too loose or tight as it drapes over the top.)

Pillow back (envelope style):

For each pillow back piece, iron one long edge over about a ¼” inch. Fold that edge over again to encase the raw edge, pin. Sew the fold over with coordinating thread.



Place the back pieces, right sides down, on top of the pillow front piece with one back piece overlapping the other* (with bow attached). Sew a ½” all around the four sides. Reinforce the corners with an extra layer of stitching for extra durability. Trim the seam allowance near the corners.

*If you are using a directional fabric on the front or back, you will want to have the bottom back piece overlap the front back piece so that when it’s all turned right side out, the top piece will overlap the back.

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Turn the pillow right side out. Place the pillow form within the pillow cover. If the bow is too droopy, you may want to undo some of the stitching and pull the bow tighter over the top. If it is too tight, you also have the option of doing some seam ripping to ease some more of the bow onto the top. If you like how the bow is situated on top of the pillow top, cut the excess sashing off.

Enjoy your new bow pillow!