Project: Pillowcase Gift Bag with Pocket

AMERICAN PATCHWORK & QUILTING

1 MILLION PILLOWCASE CHALLENGE

Pattern 84

FABRICS are from the A Festival of Roses collection by Jackie Robinson for Benartex *(benartex.com)*.

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Materials

For one pillowcase:

- ½ yard cream print (pocket, ruffle, drawstring)
- ⅜ yard green print (band)
- ⅞ yard black floral (pillowcase body)
- Large safety pin

Finished pillowcase: 30×20" plus ruffle (fits a standard-size bed pillow)

Quantities are for 44/45"-wide, 100% cotton fabrics.
Measurements include seam allowances (¼" for drawstring, pocket, and band construction; ½" for pillowcase construction). Sew with right sides together unless otherwise stated.

Cut Fabrics

From cream print, cut:

- 1—2½×42" strip
- 1—6"×44" strip (this may need to be pieced depending on your fabric length)
- 2 of Pocket Pattern

From green print, cut:

- 1—10×41" strip

From black floral, cut:

- 1—26½×41" rectangle

Assemble Pocket, Ruffle, and Drawstring

Use ¼" seam allowances for the following steps.

1. Sew together cream print pocket pieces, leaving a 3" opening in one edge for turning **(Diagram 1).**
2. Trim corners. Turn right side out through opening. Press flat. Slip-stitch opening closed.
3. Fold pocket flap over pocket body (see Pocket Pattern fold line). Press flat to make a pocket.
4. Referring to **Diagram 2** for location, place pocket on right side of black floral 26½×41" rectangle. Topstitch pocket side and bottom edges through all layers.
5. Fold cream print 6×44" strip in half lengthwise with right side inside. Sew across both short ends. Turn right side out. Press flat.
6. Using a long machine stitch (5 mm), sew two rows of basting stitches ¼" and ⅜" from raw edge of folded strip. Gently pull bobbin threads of basting stitches to gather folded strip into a 19½"-long ruffle **(Diagram 3).**
7. Fold cream print 2½×42" strip in half lengthwise with right side inside. Sew long edges together. Turn right side out. Press flat to make drawstring.

Assemble Pillowcase

Use ½" seam allowances for the following steps.

1. Fold green print 10×41" strip in half crosswise. Sew short ends together, leaving a 1½" opening in seam for drawstring, to make a tube **(Diagram 4).**
2. Fold tube in half with wrong side inside; press to make pillowcase band.
3. Fold black floral print 26½×41" rectangle in half to form a 26½×20½" rectangle. Press to create a centerline; unfold. Center ruffle on half the rectangle, starting at centerline and ending ½" from raw edge **(Diagram 5);** baste.
4. Refold rectangle on centerline; sew together long edges and the short end with ruffle to make pillowcase body. Turn right side out; press flat.
5. Matching raw edges, slide pillowcase band over pillowcase body with opening in band seam toward pillowcase body; pin. Sew together through all layers.
6. Press pillowcase band open, pressing seams toward pillowcase body. Referring to **Diagram 6**, topstitch on pillowcase body ¼" from band seam to secure seam allowances. Topstitch on band 1½" from band seam to make casing for drawstring.
7. Pin large safety pin to one end of drawstring. Thread drawstring pin first through casing, keeping drawstring flat.
8. To complete pillowcase gift bag, turn drawstring ends under ¼" twice; machine-stitch through layers to hem. Even hemmed ends in casing; machine-stitch at casing midpoint (opposite casing opening) through all layers to prevent drawstring from being pulled out.

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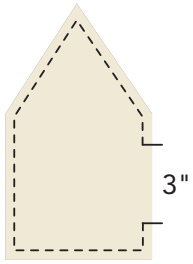

DIAGRAM 1

DIAGRAM 2

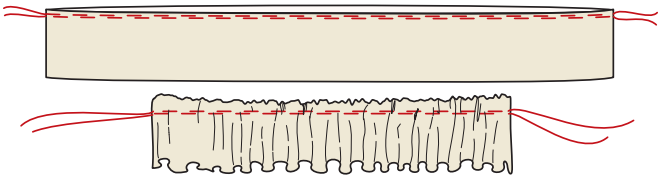

DIAGRAM 3

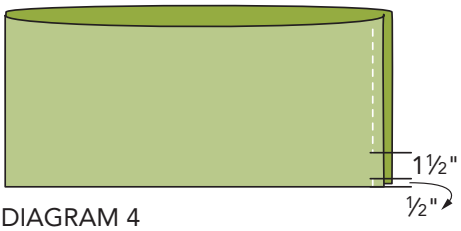

DIAGRAM 4

DIAGRAM 5

DIAGRAM 6

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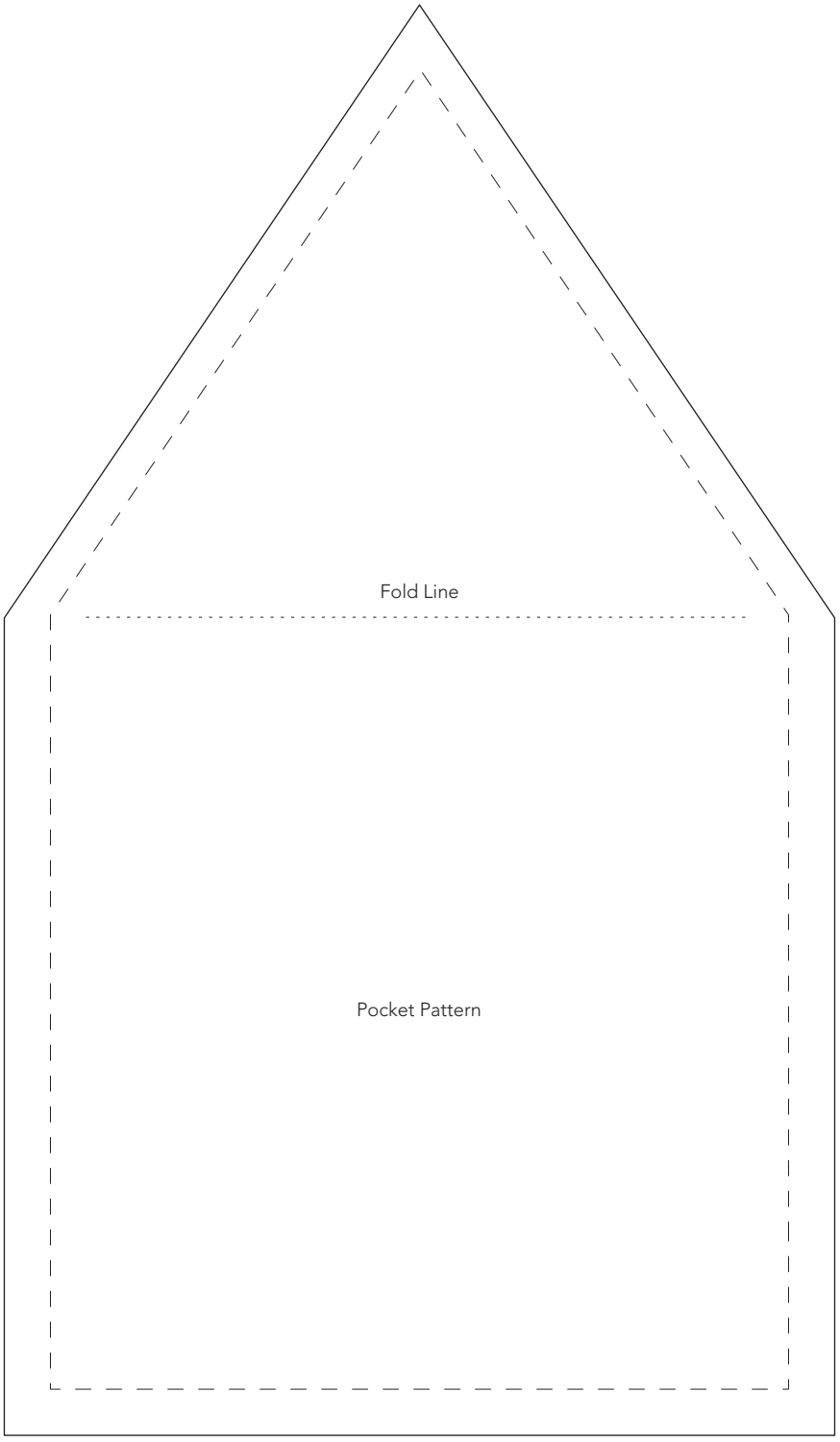

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