

## Color Blocked Bolster Pillows

Follow along step-by-step how to fabricate color blocked bolster pillows with a unique zipper closure to give your bedding a serene spirit.



### Materials & Supplies

#### Rowley Products

Waxed Silamide Skeins

Item #

[TWS23/](#)

R-TEX High Quality Polyester Cluster  
Pillow Inserts

[PJ55](#)

Crimp Button Forms

[FCA45](#)

R-TEX Iron-On Fabric Stabilizer

[FB](#)

Zippers by the Roll #4.5

[ENR25/](#)

Zipper Slides #4.5

[ENP2/](#)

## Color Blocked Bolster Pillows: Step-By-Step Instructions

### Color Blocked Bolster Pillows

- For the main pillow body, measure the circumference of the bolster insert and add 3" to allow for the zipper flap and Seam Allowances (SA).
- For the color blocked side sections, measure the circumference of the bolster insert and add 1" for SAs.



This color blocked bolster pillow has a 2" zipper flap as a decorative element.

1 Determine the proportion for the color blocked sections and cut these adding SAs.

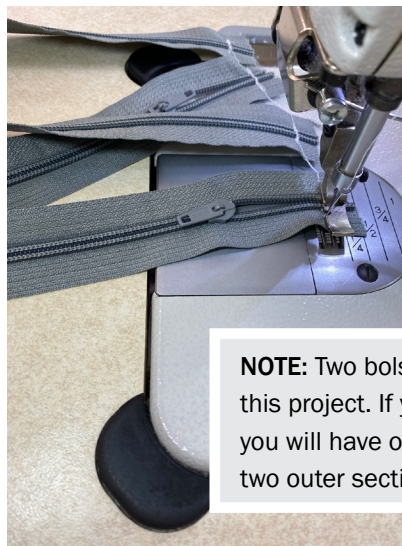
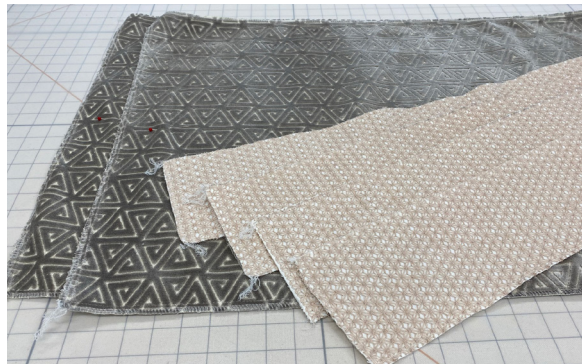
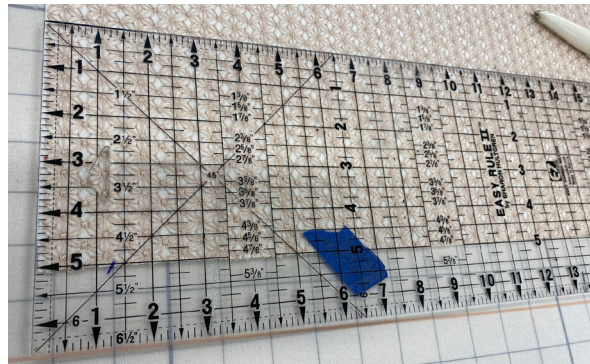
Watch this Recorded Webinar where we talk about proportions in soft furnishings: [Modernize Window Treatments](#)



## Prepare the Fabric & Zipper for the Bolster Pillow

2 After cutting the color blocked pillow sections, serge around all four sides of each section.

3 The zipper is cut 2" smaller than the center section. Cut and prepare the zipper.



**NOTE:** Two bolsters were made for this project. If you are making one, you will have one center section and two outer sections.

- 4 Insert your zipper pull onto the zipper chain.

Watch this YouTube video: [How to insert a zipper pull onto regular zipper chain](#)



## Sew the Zipper to the Bolster Pillow & Create the Zipper Flap

If your fabric has a nap or directional pattern, you will want to sew the first step of the zipper to the fabric which is the top of the pattern.

- 5 Place the zipper on the fabric right sides together, matching the edge of the fabric to the edge of the zipper tape. Pin & stitch.
- 6 The zipper will start and stop about 1" from each edge, creating less bulk in the seam when the color block section is added.
- 7 Fold the stitched zipper to the back of the fabric, creating a 2" flap. Pin.
- 8 Stitch the flap close to the zipper teeth.



## Complete the Bolster Body

- 9 Fold the bolster and match the second side of the zipper, right side down to the other side of the bolster fabric. Pin and stitch close to the zipper teeth.
- 10 For the color block bands, fold in half matching short ends. Stitch a ½" seam.
- 11 Press seam open.
- 12 Place the color block bands on the bolster body, right sides together.
- 13 Pin the bands to the bolster body and stitch a ½" seam.

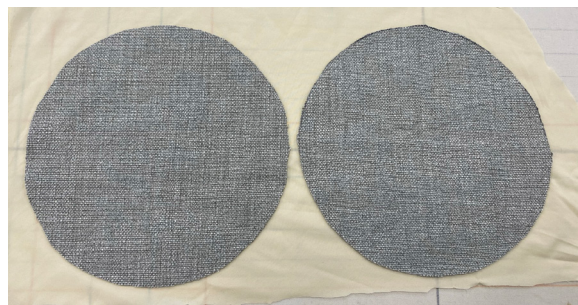


- 14 Depending on the weight of your fabric, press the seams open or to one side.



## Make & Sew the Ends of the Bolster

- 15 Cut two circle ends to fit your bolster insert.



- 16 Press fusible stabilizer if your fabric needs more body.
- 17 Cut bias strips and make enough welt cord for the ends of the bolster.

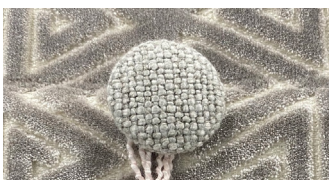


- 18 Notch the circle ends and the bolster body fabric.
- 19 Pin and stitch the welt to the bolster. Create a clean finish while joining the ends.
- 20 Pin and stitch the circle ends to the bolster matching notches.



## Add an Embellishment to the Bolster

- 21 Make a fabric covered button for the zipper flap embellishment.



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Make a small tassel using a thread or yarn of your choice.

- A. Take several strands of yarn or fabric fiber and fold in half.
- B. Take a few more strands to loop inside the first set of folded strands.
- C. Take the ends of this second set through the loop and pull tight.
- D. Tie a square knot, leaving a loop large enough to place over the fabric covered button.
- E. Take several more strands of yarn or fiber and wrap around the top of the tassel and tie off.
- F. Clip the ends of the tassel.
- G. Stitch the button to the zipper flap.
- H. Slip the loop at the top of the tassel over the button.

