

Arrow drops Cushion

Fabric requirements and cutting

Background fabric - 9 strips 20 ¾" x 2 ½" (can be one fabric or a mixture)

Printed fabric - 18 triangles using template (use up to 6 different fabrics)

1 piece of wadding 18" x 18"

Printed fabric - 2 pieces 18" x 13" for the cushion back

Choosing the layout.

- Lay all the background strips face up on a flat surface. Arrange them with long edges touching and short edges aligned as if you are putting them back into a single rectangular piece.
- Take your triangles and arrange them face up on top of the strips, aligning them with the strip edges. Keep to a random layout with two triangles per strip. Try to keep the placement of different prints even. Ensure all the triangles are facing the same way with point down. Imagine how random raindrops might fall with some close together and some further apart.
- When you are happy with the arrangement pin the triangles to the background strips.
- Starting at the top, label each strip 1 – 9. I did this by pinning a numbered scrap of paper to the left edge of each one.

Piecing the triangles.

- Take the first strip and lay it face up on a cutting mat. Remove the pin in the 1st triangle taking care not to move it from its position. Ensure the triangle is straight. Cut the triangle out of the background strip by cutting the background exactly next to each side of the triangle. You can use scissors or a rotary cutter for this.
- Remove the triangle of background fabric and sew the printed triangle in it's place using ¼" seams.
- Finger press the seams and trim the excess fabric sticking out over the edge of the strip.
- Repeat for the second triangle in the strip.
- And then repeat for each of the strips.
- Press with an iron

Completing the cushion top.

- Sew the strips together according to the labelled numbers.
- Feed through the machine with the triangle points on top for accuracy.
- Press the seams open

Quilting the cushion top

- Place the completed cushion top face up on top of the wadding and pin in place around the outside. Quilt the cushion top with equally spaced lines across the width of the cushion. Note: you could choose an alternative design depending on your preference and quilting ability. The more quilting you do the more texture the cushion top will have.
- Square the completed cushion top up to a neat 18" x 18". If yours is not exactly 18 x 18 trim to a square as large as possible. If you have ended up with a smaller square, trim your cushion back pieces according.

Preparing the cushion back

- Take the first of the cushion back pieces. Fold over one of the long (18") edges ¼" to the wrong side. Press the fold.
- Fold over again, this time an inch, and press again.
- Stich a line 1/8" from the first fold so secure the hem.
- Repeat this for the second cushion back piece.

Complete the cushion

- Take the cushion front and lay it face up on a flat surface.
- Take the first cushion back piece and lay it face down on top of the cushion front. Line up the raw edges on the 3 sides with the hemmed edge across the middle of the cushion.
- Take the 2nd cushion back piece and place it in the same way on the opposite side of the cushion front.
- Pin around the edges
- Sew together all the way around the edge of the cushion using a ¼" seam
- Zig zag stich around the edges to strengthen and stop it from fraying.
- Turn the cushion right sides out through the gaps of the cushion back pieces. Adjust with your fingertips so the corners and edges of the cushion sit neatly.
- Press and sew around the cushion, a final time, ¼" from the edge. This will give the edges of the cushion strength to hold the shape and give the appearance of a piped finish.
- To bring out the texture of the quilting wash the cushion before stuffing it.

Variations and other projects

This method of piecing allows many variations.

- You could change the shape of the triangle template to thinner one or to a different shape entirely like a trapezoid or rectangle.
- You could add more triangles so there are 3 or 4 in each strip. Just ensure if you do this to keep the same amount in each strip or the strips will finish up different lengths.
- You can start with whatever strip size or number of strips you like to alter the finished size of the quilt
- You could choose a printed fabric or range of printed fabrics for the background instead of a plain for a totally different look.

