

patchwork doorstop

DESIGNER

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For the friend who has everything else: a quilted doorstop. Once you create its nine-block design, it might even be too pretty to hide on the floor.

WHAT YOU NEED

Basic sewing tools

Scraps of wool suiting: 2 strips, each $5\frac{1}{2} \times 3\frac{1}{4}$ inches (14 x 8.3 cm); 2 strips, each $10 \times 3\frac{1}{4}$ inches (25.4 x 8.3 cm); and 1 strip, $2\frac{1}{2} \times 9$ inches (6.4 x 22.9 cm)

Strip of lightweight fusible interfacing, $2\frac{1}{2} \times 9$ inches (6.4 x 22.9 cm)

Scraps of printed cotton: one 10-inch (25.4 cm) square; one strip, $2\frac{1}{2} \times 9$ inches (6.4 x 22.9 cm); and nine $2\frac{1}{2}$ -inch (6.4 cm) squares

Two 10-inch (25.4 cm) squares of fusible fleece

Zipper, 7 inches (17.8 cm) in length

Decorative plastic button

4–5 pounds of dried beans

SEAM ALLOWANCE

$\frac{1}{2}$ inch (1.3 cm)

WHAT YOU DO

1 Fuse the interfacing to the matching strip of wool suiting. Fold and press the long sides of the strip into the center, wrong sides together. Repeat with the $2\frac{1}{2} \times 9$ -inch (6.4 x 22.9 cm) scrap of cotton. Layer the two strips, wrong sides together, and stitch close to both long edges. Set the handle aside.

2 Iron one square of fusible fleece to the wrong side of the 10-inch (25.4 cm) cotton square. Machine-quilt in any pattern you want. Then pick one edge as the bottom and press it under $\frac{1}{2}$ inch (1.3 cm), wrong sides together.



3 Arrange the nine $2\frac{1}{2}$ -inch (6.4 cm) cotton squares on a work surface. Stitch the squares together into three rows of three. Press the seams open and pin the rows together, lining up the seams, and then stitch the three rows into a nine-patch block. Press the seams open again.



4 Sew the $5\frac{1}{2} \times 3\frac{1}{4}$ -inch (14 x 8.3 cm) wool suiting strips to the top and bottom of the patch block. Press the seams open. Then sew the $10 \times 3\frac{1}{4}$ -inch (25.4 x 8.3 cm) wool suiting strips to the left and right sides of the block. Again, press the seams open. Trim any uneven edges so the block is 10 inches (25.4 cm) square.

5 Iron the last square of fusible fleece to the wrong side of the block. Machine-quilt as desired. Press the bottom edge under $\frac{1}{2}$ inch (1.3 cm), wrong sides together.

6 Pin the zipper to the center of the folded bottom edge of the front panel. Using a zipper foot, slowly stitch the zipper to the panel, removing pins as you go. Pin the other side of the zipper to the folded bottom edge of the back panel and sew it in place

the same way. Open the zipper about 7 inches (17.8 cm) and keep it open for now.

7 With right sides together, pin the front and back panels along the top edge. Sew the two panels together. Press open the seam. Pin and sew the side seams, clipping the corners and pressing open the seams.

8 Measure and mark a $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch (1.3 cm) square at each corner. Trim the corners along these lines.

9 Starting at the bottom corner with the zipper's metal base (not the pull), open up the corner and stack the right side of the bottom seam on the right side of the side seam. Pin and stitch them together. If you've centered the zipper, the seam falls just outside the zipper base. Repeat at the opposite bottom corner.

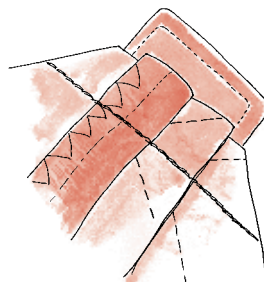


figure 1

10 Thread the whole handle through the top corner openings with the printed side facing the right side. Press one corner as you did the bottom corners, but keep the handle end threaded through. Stitch the corner closed, catching the handle (figure 1).

11 Repeat with the other top corner, making sure the handle isn't pulled too tight or left too loose. Trim the handle ends so they are even with the corner seams. Reinforce all four corner seams with several rows of zigzag stitching.

12 Turn the doorstep right side out. Sew the button on the center square of the patch block. Then fill the doorstep with the dried beans.

QUILT MARKS

You can use any quilt pattern you like, but the designer sewed a $1\frac{1}{4}$ -inch (3.2 cm) diamond pattern. She measured it out with a quilting ruler and used a disappearing ink marker on the fabric as a guide (although masking tape also works well).

