

How to Make a Box Cushion with a Zipper

MATERIALS

- Decor fabric
- Upholstery foam
- Upholstery zipper
- Padding
- Scissors
- Ruler
- Fabric marker
- Seam ripper
- Foam spray adhesive
- Thread
- Serrated or electric knife
- Zipper foot



Step 1: Cut the foam & padding

The first step is cutting the foam to size. Mark the foam to your dimensions. This cushion will be 16 x 20". Turn the foam over and mark the other side too. Use an electric or serrated knife to cut about half way through the foam. Then flip it over and finish cutting through. Cutting from both sides will help keep the cut square, especially on thicker foam.

Lay the foam on the Dacron padding and cut it out. Repeat for the other side. Padding softens the edges and creates a fuller look. Trim off any excess padding. Use a spray adhesive designed for foam to attach the padding. Spray it onto the foam and lay the padding on top. Repeat for the other side. You'll have time to reposition it.



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Step 2: Measure & cut the fabric

Measure and cut two pieces for the top and bottom. Take the dimensions of your foam and add 1" to both sides to account for a $\frac{1}{2}$ " seam allowance. So I'm cutting two pieces that are 21" x 17". If you're working with a patterned fabric, you'll want to pay attention to how the pattern is aligned on your panels.

Then measure and cut the boxing, which is the piece that will wrap around the sides of the cushion. Take the measurements of the perimeter and subtract the length of the zipper. The width of this fabric, 54", is just enough for the boxing on this cushion, but you can sew two pieces together if needed. The height of the boxing is the height of the foam plus 1".

Finally cut a panel for the zipper, which is going on the back of the cushion. This piece should be 2" longer than the length of the zipper. The height of the panel is the height of the foam plus 1" for the seam allowance, plus the width of the zipper, which is a total of $5 \frac{1}{8}$ " for this cushion.



Step 3: Sew the zipper panel

Next I'm going to sew the zipper panel. Fold the zipper panel in half lengthwise with the right sides facing. On the folded side, sew down the length using a seam allowance that is half the width of the zipper. For this zipper, the width divided by 2 is $\frac{9}{16}$ of an inch. If it isn't a normal allowance, you can measure out from the needle and mark a piece of tape.



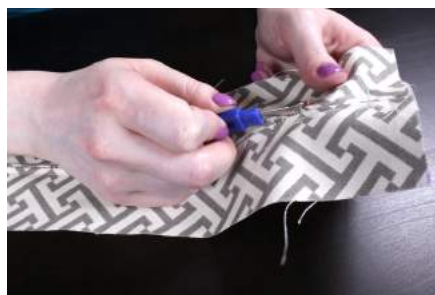
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Cut down the middle of the fold. Open the seam and lay the zipper on top, facing down, so the center of the zipper is right on top of the center of the seam.



Change the foot on the sewing machine to the zipper foot. With the zipper foot close to the zipper, sew down the length making sure the center of the zipper remains in line with the seam. You may have to stop and move the pull tab so it's not in the way. Repeat on the other side.

Sew back and forth a couple of times at both ends of the zipper. Rip open the seam with a seam ripper.



Step 4: Sew the pieces together

Sew together one end of the zipper panel and one of the ends of the side boxing. Center the zipper on the back edge of the top panel with the right sides facing. Start sewing ½" from the end of the zipper panel.

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Continue to sew around the entire panel. Just before you get to the corners, stop and snip into the edge of the boxing to help it stretch around the curve. Lift the foot and re-position the fabric as you go to create a smooth curve.



If there's boxing left over, trim it off. Join the end of the boxing to the zipper panel.



With right sides facing, line up each edge of the bottom piece with the boxing. Make marks on both pieces to line up later when sewing. This will ensure that the top and bottom are aligned. Make sure to open the zipper. Sew all the way around, lining up the marks as you go.

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Turn the cushion cover right side out. And finally insert the foam. If the corners need to be filled out more, tear apart some padding and push it into the corners.

Zip it up, and the cushion's done!

