

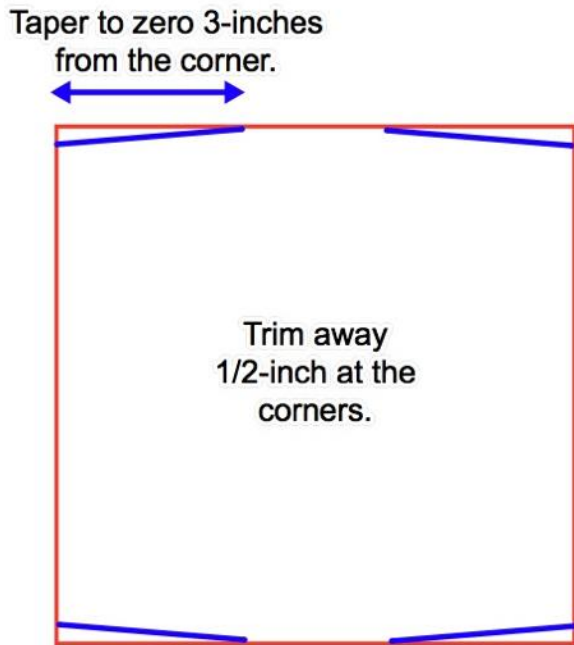


with Joanne Banko
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Let's Go Sew Pillow Pointers

- Pillow forms and stuffing make or break a pillow design. Some styles call for a pillow that can be formed and shaped. For example, pillows that look as if they have been pushed down at the top are currently popular in Home Dec. These are often called "karate chop" pillows. This style is accomplished with a loosely stuffed pillow.
- For a finished pillow that's full and plump you may need to add more stuffing, especially when using a pre-purchased pillow form. This is easier to do if your ready-made pillow form includes a zippered opening. For another option, you can make your pillow slightly smaller than your form, so it fills in the pillow nicely. Oftentimes, I will make the decorative pillow the same size as the pillow form, and then use ½-inch seam allowances when constructing the pillow. This results in a finished pillow that's one inch smaller than the measurements of the actual pillow form. Even when using this method, I find that the corners usually require extra stuffing.
- For stuffing pillows, or for adding stuffing to existing pillows, I prefer a "cluster" fiberfill. This type of filling is made up of small pieces of fiberfill making it easy to create a lump free pillow form. The brand I use most often is [Morning Glory Cluster Stuff](#).
- Instead of sewing sharp corners you can sew a modified point by taking a few stitches across the corners, or by rounding the corners with a small round object. Rounding corners makes it easier to apply piping as well.
- I like to re-enforce the corners with a second line of stitching. Be sure to trim and grade the corners of your pillows so they turn nicely.

- Consider embellishing your pillows with added trim, machine embroidery, or appliqués. When adding piping you can easily join the ends at the center of your panel by crisscrossing the two ends, catching the excess in the seam allowance.
- You can taper the corners of knife edge pillows to create a softer look. See below:



I encourage you to try some of these techniques on your future pillow projects! Enjoy!

B Joanne