

PATCHWORK SHEEP PILLOW

STEP-BY-STEP TUTORIAL



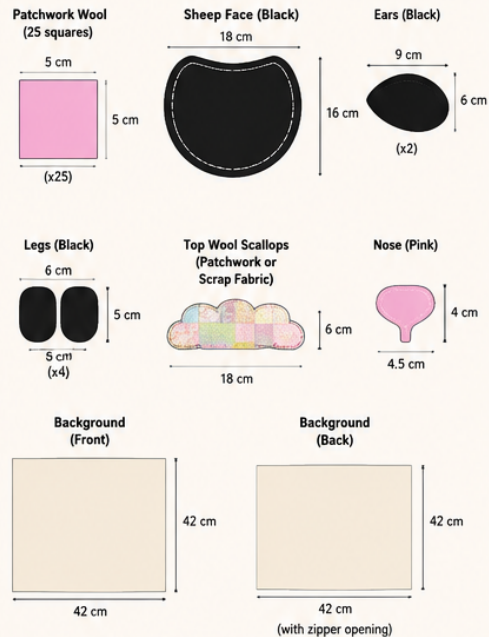
FINISHED SIZE

40 cm x 40 cm
(16" x 16")

MATERIALS (from the USA)

- Assorted 100% Cotton Fabric (Quilting Cotton) – for patchwork and appliqué
- Solid Black Cotton – for face, ears, and legs
- Pink Cotton – for nose
- Beige or Cream Cotton Fabric – for pillow background and back
- Fusible Web (Heat n Bond Lite)
- Batting (Pellon® or Quilter's Dream Cotton)
- Thread (Coats & Clark All Purpose Thread)
- Pillow Insert 40 cm x 40 cm
- Embroidery Floss (DMC)
- Fabric Marker or Chalk
- Zipper 40 cm (16")
- Sewing Machine
- Hand Sewing Needle
- Iron and Ironing Board
- Scissors / Rotary Cutter

1. FABRIC CUTTING



2. MAKE THE PATCHWORK WOOL



1. Arrange 25 fabric squares (5 cm x 5 cm) in 5 rows of 5 squares.



2. Sew the squares together with 1 cm seam allowance. Press seams open.



3. Trim into a cloud shape as shown. This will be the sheep's body.

3. APPLIQUÉ THE SHEEP



1. Place the black face on the background fabric.



2. Add the ears on each side of the face.



3. Appliqué the eyes (you can stitch or use fabric with fusible web for the white part). Add the pink nose.



4. Appliqué the patchwork body below the face.



5. Add the top scalloped wool piece on the head. Appliqué.



6. Appliqué the 4 legs at the bottom. Add the flower decoration on the head.

4. ASSEMBLE THE PILLOW TOP



1. Make sure all appliqué pieces are secure.
2. Press the pillow front well.
3. Layer the front with batting behind it. (Do not add batting to the back.)

5. SEW THE ZIPPER BACK



1. Fold the back fabric in half, wrong sides together. Press.
2. Place the zipper face down along the folded edge. Pin and sew.
3. Open the zipper halfway. Sew the other side.
4. Press seams open. This is the pillow back. The zipper will be hidden.

6. SEW THE PILLOW



APPLIQUÉ TIPS

- Use fusible web to temporarily hold pieces in place.
- Appliqué with a zigzag stitch or blanket stitch around the edges.
- Use matching or contrasting thread for a decorative look.

EMBROIDERY DETAILS

- Use white embroidery floss to add a highlight on the eyes.
- Use black floss to outline if desired (backstitch around pieces).
- Add stitched details to the ears and legs.



MAIN SEWING METHODS USED

- Patchwork (piecing small squares)
- Appliqué (fusible web + stitching)
- Machine Sewing (straight stitch, zigzag stitch)
- Hand Embroidery (backstitch, satin stitch)
- Sewing a Zipper

FABRIC RECOMMENDATIONS (USA)

- 100% Quilting Cotton – Ideal for patchwork and appliqué
- Kona Cotton (Robert Kaufman), Moda Fabrics, Riley Blake Designs, or Timeless Treasures
- Lightweight Fusible Web – HeatBond Lite (for appliqué)
- Batting – Pellon® or Quilter's Dream Cotton (Thin)
- Thread – Coats & Clark All Purpose

CARE INSTRUCTIONS

- Spot clean or hand wash
- Do not bleach
- Iron on low heat
- Do not tumble dry

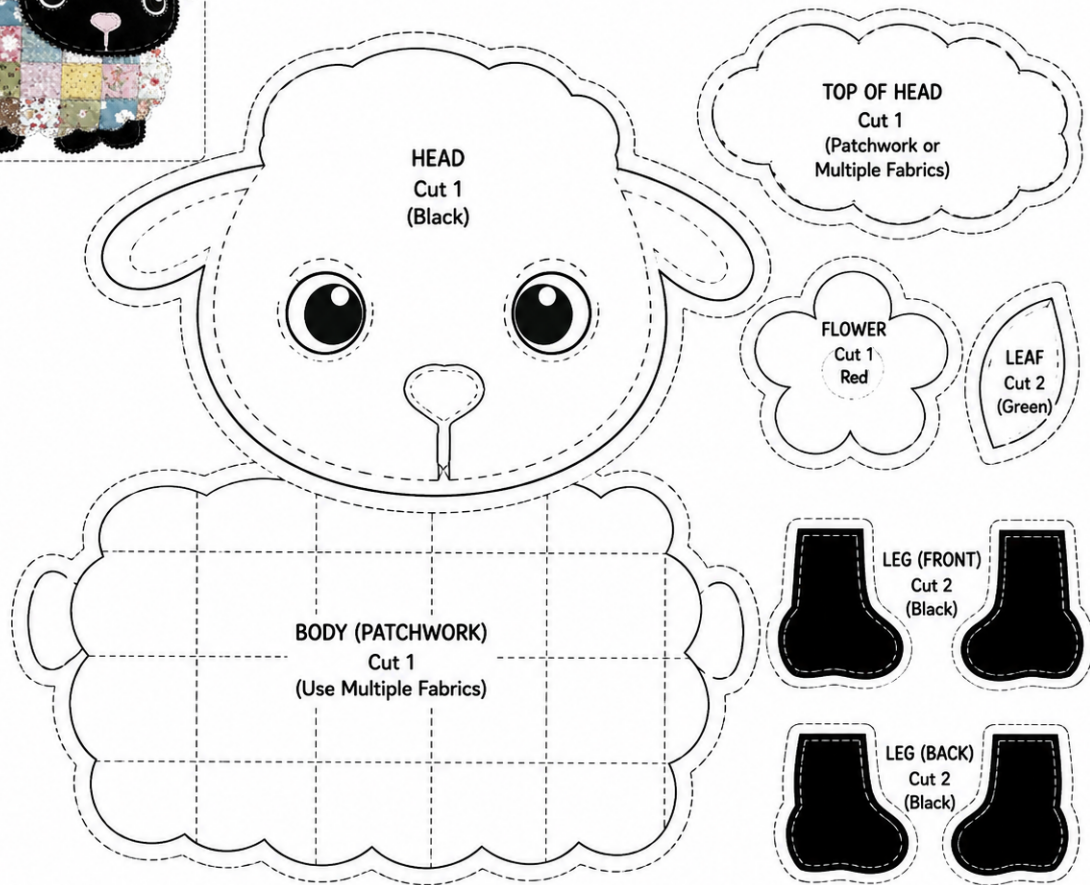
MADE WITH LOVE

ENJOY MAKING YOUR PATCHWORK SHEEP PILLOW!



PATCHWORK SHEEP PILLOW – SEWING PATTERN

Includes 1/4" (6 mm) seam allowance



IMPORTANT:

Add 1/4" (6 mm) seam allowance around all pieces (already included in the pattern).

Use applique stitch or zigzag stitch to attach the pieces.

LEGEND

— Cutting Line
--- Seam Allowance (1/4" / 6 mm)

SUGGESTED FABRICS:

- Cotton fabric
- Felt for small details (optional)
- Fusible web for applique

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Patchwork Sheep Pillow – Complete Step-by-Step Sewing Tutorial

This cheerful **Patchwork Sheep Pillow** combines traditional patchwork, raw-edge appliqué, simple embroidery, and a concealed zipper back. The finished pillow measures approximately **16 × 16 inches (40 × 40 cm)**.

The sheep's colorful body is made from twenty-five small quilting-cotton squares. Its face, ears, and legs are cut from solid black cotton, while the pink nose and embroidered details give it a sweet, handmade personality.

The instructions below follow the measurements and construction order shown in the original tutorial graphic, with additional explanations to help beginners complete the project successfully.

Finished Size

The completed pillow cover is approximately:

16 × 16 inches (40 × 40 cm)

The front and back panels are initially cut at:

16½ × 16½ inches (42 × 42 cm)

The extra fabric provides room for the seam allowances and final trimming.

Materials and Supplies

You will need:

- Assorted **100% quilting cotton scraps** for the patchwork body and head decoration
- Solid black cotton for the sheep's face, ears, and legs
- Pink cotton for the nose
- Beige, cream, or off-white cotton for the pillow front and back
- Lightweight fusible web, such as **HeatnBond Lite**
- Thin cotton batting, such as Pellon or Quilter's Dream Cotton
- Coordinating all-purpose sewing thread
- Black, white, pink, green, and yellow embroidery floss
- Fabric marker, removable pen, or tailor's chalk
- A **16-inch (40 cm) zipper**
- Sewing machine
- Hand-sewing needle
- Iron and ironing board
- Fabric scissors
- Rotary cutter, ruler, and cutting mat
- Pins or sewing clips
- Optional free-motion quilting foot
- Optional appliqué or open-toe presser foot
- A **16-inch pillow insert**

Use quilting cotton whenever possible. It is easy to cut, press, and sew, and it gives the patchwork body a neat structure without making the appliqué too bulky.

Cutting the Fabric Pieces

Cut all pieces carefully before beginning the assembly.

From assorted quilting cotton, cut:

- **25 squares**, each measuring **2 × 2 inches (5 × 5 cm)**

From solid black cotton, cut:

- One sheep face approximately **7¹/₈ inches wide × 6¹/₄ inches high (18 × 16 cm)**
- Two ears approximately **3¹/₂ × 2³/₈ inches (9 × 6 cm)**
- Four rounded leg pieces approximately **2 inches (5 cm)** in size, following the shape shown in the template

From assorted patchwork or scrap fabric, prepare:

- One scalloped top-wool piece approximately **7¹/₈ inches wide × 2³/₈ inches high (18 × 6 cm)**

From pink cotton, cut:

- One nose approximately **1³/₄ inches wide × 1⁵/₈ inches high (4.5 × 4 cm)**

From beige or cream cotton, cut:

- One pillow-front square measuring **16¹/₂ × 16¹/₂ inches (42 × 42 cm)**
- One pillow-back square measuring **16¹/₂ × 16¹/₂ inches (42 × 42 cm)**

From thin batting, cut:

- One square slightly larger than the pillow front, approximately **17 × 17 inches**

You may also cut a lightweight backing fabric the same size as the batting when quilting the front panel. The original project uses batting behind the front only, not behind the back.

Prepare the Fusible Appliqué Pieces

Trace the sheep face, ears, legs, nose, and scalloped wool shapes onto the paper side of the fusible web.

Remember that traced shapes will be reversed after fusing. For this design, reversing the face, ears, and legs will not cause a problem because the shapes are mostly symmetrical.

Roughly cut around each traced shape, leaving a small margin outside the drawn line.

Place the textured adhesive side of the fusible web against the wrong side of the corresponding fabric.

Fuse according to the manufacturer's instructions. HeatnBond Lite normally requires a dry iron and only a few seconds of pressure. Avoid sliding the iron because this can distort small pieces.

Allow the fabric to cool completely.

Cut each shape precisely on the traced line.

Do not remove the paper backing until you are ready to position the appliqué.

Make the Patchwork Wool Body

Arrange the twenty-five **2-inch fabric squares** into five horizontal rows, with five squares in each row.

Mix the colors and prints so that similar fabrics are not concentrated in one area. A combination of florals, dots, tiny geometric patterns, and solid colors will create the lively patchwork appearance shown in the graphic.

Once you are satisfied with the arrangement, take a quick reference photo before sewing.

Sew the squares in each row together using a **$\frac{3}{8}$ -inch seam allowance**, approximately **1 cm**.

Press the seams in alternating directions:

- Press the seams in rows one, three, and five to the right.
- Press the seams in rows two and four to the left.

Alternating the seam direction helps the intersections nest together neatly.

Pin the rows together, matching every vertical seam.

Sew the five rows together using the same **$\frac{3}{8}$ -inch seam allowance**.

Press the horizontal seams open or to one side.

The completed patchwork panel should now form a square grid.

Shape the Patchwork Body

The finished body has a soft cloud-like outline with rounded wool scallops.

Place the completed patchwork panel right side up.

Use the body template or draw a rounded sheep-body shape over the patchwork. Keep the center section wide enough to support the large black face.

Create several gentle curves around the upper, side, and lower edges. The curves should resemble puffy wool rather than sharp points.

Before trimming, check that the sheep face fits comfortably over the upper center of the body.

Cut the patchwork panel into the cloud shape.

Be careful not to cut too close to the outer patchwork seams. Leave enough fabric around the perimeter to keep all squares securely joined.

If any seam ends become loose during trimming, reinforce them with a few machine stitches.

Make the Scalloped Wool for the Head

The colorful wool on top of the sheep's head can be made from patchwork fabric or individual scraps.

For a simple version, use one colorful printed fabric.

For a patchwork version, join several small scraps together until the piece is at least **7 $\frac{1}{8}$ × 2 $\frac{3}{8}$ inches (18 × 6 cm)**.

Trace the scalloped top-wool template onto fusible web and fuse it to the wrong side of the prepared fabric.

Cut the shape with several rounded scallops across the top and a slightly curved lower edge.

The final piece should sit across the upper section of the sheep's black face, with some of the colorful wool extending slightly beyond each side.

Prepare the Pillow Front

Place the **16 $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch beige or cream front panel** on a flat surface with the right side facing up.

Fold the panel in half vertically and lightly press a crease. Fold it in half horizontally and press again.

Open the fabric. The crossed creases indicate the center of the pillow.

Arrange the sheep approximately in the center, leaving enough open background around the design for the outer seams.

The sheep's legs should sit above the lower seam allowance, and the head wool should remain below the upper seam allowance.

Do not fuse anything yet. First, complete a full placement test with every appliqué piece.

Appliqué the Sheep Face

Remove the paper backing from the large black face piece.

Place the face on the upper center of the background panel.

The lower portion of the face will eventually overlap the upper section of the patchwork body.

Check that the face is straight and centered.

Fuse it in place according to the fusible-web instructions.

Allow it to cool before sewing.

Stitch around the face using one of the following methods:

- A narrow zigzag stitch
- A blanket stitch
- A satin stitch
- A straight stitch approximately $\frac{1}{8}$ inch from the raw edge

Use black thread for an unobtrusive finish or contrasting white thread for the handmade appearance shown in the original pillow.

When stitching curves, sew slowly and stop occasionally with the needle down. Lift the presser foot, pivot the fabric slightly, lower the foot, and continue.

Attach the Ears

Position one black ear on each side of the face.

The inner ends should tuck slightly beneath the face or sit closely against its outer edge.

Angle the ears gently downward to create the relaxed sheep expression shown in the design.

Fuse the ears in place.

Stitch around each ear using black thread or contrasting light thread.

For added texture, sew a second line of straight stitching just inside the outer edge.

Create the Eyes

The eyes may be made with fabric appliqué, felt, embroidery, or a combination of these methods.

For each eye, prepare:

- One larger white circle
- One smaller dark pupil
- One tiny white highlight

Position the two eyes evenly on the face. They should sit at the same height and be spaced widely enough to create the sheep's friendly expression.

Fuse or stitch the white eye circles to the face.

Add the dark centers.

Finish each eye with a small white embroidered highlight.

Use black embroidery floss to outline the white eye areas, if desired. You can also add short embroidered eyelashes around the upper outer edge of each eye.

Secure all embroidery knots on the wrong side of the pillow front.

Add the Pink Nose and Mouth

Remove the backing from the pink nose piece.

Place it in the lower center of the black face.

The rounded upper part should point upward, with the narrow extension pointing down.

Fuse and appliqué around the nose with pink thread or a small blanket stitch.

Thread a hand-sewing needle with pink or light-colored embroidery floss.

Beginning at the lower tip of the nose, embroider one short vertical line downward.

At the bottom of that line, stitch two gentle curves extending to the left and right to form the mouth.

Use a removable fabric marker to draw the mouth before stitching if necessary.

Appliqué the Patchwork Body

Position the patchwork wool body below the face.

Slide the upper edge slightly beneath the lower part of the face so there is no visible gap between the pieces.

The face should overlap the body, making the sheep appear dimensional.

Check that the patchwork grid is straight.

Remove the fusible-web paper and fuse the body to the pillow front.

Stitch around the entire cloud-shaped edge.

A blanket stitch, zigzag stitch, or narrow satin stitch will prevent fraying. A straight stitch can also be used for a softer raw-edge appliqué finish.

Because the patchwork body contains many seam intersections, sew slowly over thick areas.

Add the Scalloped Head Wool

Place the colorful scalloped wool piece across the top of the sheep's head.

The lower edge should overlap the upper portion of the black face.

Center it between the ears.

Fuse the piece in place.

Appliqué around the entire shape.

You may add a second row of decorative stitching inside the edge to emphasize the individual scallops.

Attach the Legs

Place two legs beneath the left side of the body and two beneath the right side.

The upper section of each leg should extend slightly under the patchwork body.

The lower rounded ends should remain visible.

Adjust the positions so the sheep appears balanced and can "stand" evenly.

Fuse the legs in place before permanently stitching the body's lower edge, or carefully tuck them beneath the already fused body and secure them with stitching.

Appliqué around the exposed portion of each leg.

Add small curved or straight embroidery lines to suggest hooves if desired.

Add the Flower Decoration

The original sheep has a bright flower near the top-right side of its head.

Cut five small rounded petals from red or pink fabric.

Cut one small circle from yellow fabric for the flower center.

Cut one or two small leaf shapes from green fabric.

Arrange the flower beside the colorful wool, slightly overlapping the black face and the top-wool section.

Fuse the leaves first.

Add the flower petals.

Place the yellow center over the inner ends of the petals.

Appliqué around each piece with matching thread.

For an easier version, the flower can be embroidered or made from felt.

Add Embroidery and Decorative Details

Use white embroidery floss to add highlights to the eyes.

Use black floss to outline the eyes or create eyelashes.

Add extra backstitching around the mouth and facial features when more definition is needed.

Small decorative stitches may also be added to the flower petals and leaves.

The original pillow uses visible white stitching around many black pieces. This creates a charming handmade look and helps the dark shapes stand out against the lighter background.

Keep the stitches reasonably even, but do not worry about making them perfectly identical. Slight irregularity adds to the folk-art character of the design.

Add Optional Background Embroidery

The background of the original pillow contains small embroidered flowers and decorative motifs.

Use a removable fabric marker to sketch several tiny flowers around the sheep.

Keep the decorations away from the outer seam allowance.

Simple flowers can be made with:

- Lazy-daisy stitches for petals
- French knots for flower centers
- Straight stitches for stems
- Small detached-chain stitches for leaves

Choose colors that coordinate with the patchwork squares.

Do not overcrowd the background. A few scattered motifs will frame the sheep without competing with it.

Secure Every Appliqué Piece

Before quilting the pillow front, inspect the entire sheep.

Check that:

- Every patchwork edge is stitched
- The face is secure
- Both ears are secure
- The eyes and nose are firmly attached
- The scalloped head wool is secure
- All four legs are stitched
- The flower and leaves are attached
- Embroidery threads are knotted or woven in
- No fusible-web paper remains

Trim loose threads.

Press the completed pillow front carefully from the wrong side. Use a pressing cloth to protect the appliqué and embroidery.

Layer and Quilt the Pillow Front

Place the batting on a flat surface.

Position the completed pillow front over the batting with the right side facing up.

Smooth both layers from the center toward the edges.

Pin or spray-baste the layers together.

Do not add batting to the back panel. The original tutorial specifies batting behind the front only.

Quilt around the sheep using a straight stitch approximately $\frac{1}{8}$ inch outside the appliqué edges.

You can also quilt:

- Around the sheep's face
- Around the patchwork body
- Around the head wool
- Around the flower
- Along selected patchwork seams
- Across open background areas

The quilting should secure the front to the batting without flattening the appliqué excessively.

Avoid dense quilting over the sheep unless you prefer a flatter finish.

After quilting, press the front lightly and trim the batting even with the outer fabric edges.

The panel should still measure approximately **16½ × 16½ inches**.

Prepare the Zipper Back

Take the **16½ × 16½-inch back panel**.

Fold it in half horizontally with wrong sides together and press the fold firmly.

Open the fabric and cut along the pressed fold. You will now have two rectangular back pieces.

Finish the two newly cut raw edges with a zigzag stitch or serger to reduce fraying.

Place the two rectangles right sides together along the finished horizontal edges.

Mark a centered opening slightly shorter than the **16-inch zipper**.

Using a regular stitch length, sew from one side edge to the first zipper mark with a **⅜-inch seam allowance**.

Backstitch securely.

Change to a long basting stitch and sew across the zipper opening.

Return to a regular stitch length at the second mark, backstitch, and sew to the opposite side edge.

Press the seam open.

Install the Zipper

Place the back panel wrong side up.

Center the closed zipper face down over the basted seam.

The zipper teeth should align directly over the seam line.

Pin or tape the zipper in place.

Attach a zipper foot to the sewing machine.

Starting near one lower end, sew along the first side of the zipper tape.

Stop before reaching the zipper pull.

Lower the needle into the fabric, raise the presser foot, and open the zipper slightly so the pull moves behind the foot.

Lower the presser foot and continue sewing.

Stitch across the end of the zipper, sew along the second side, and stitch across the opposite end.

Use a seam ripper to carefully remove the basting stitches covering the zipper teeth.

Open the zipper halfway.

Check that it opens and closes smoothly and that no fabric is caught in the teeth.

Press the zipper area from the wrong side.

The zipper should be concealed beneath the folded seam allowances.

Assemble the Pillow Cover

Place the quilted pillow front right side up.

Place the zipper back on top with the right side facing down.

The right sides of the front and back should be touching.

Make sure the zipper is at least halfway open. This opening is essential because it will allow you to turn the pillow right side out later.

Match all four corners and edges.

Pin or clip the layers together.

If the front panel has shifted slightly during quilting, trim the front and back so they are exactly the same size before sewing.

Sew Around the Pillow

Using a **$\frac{3}{8}$ -inch seam allowance**, sew around all four sides.

Begin on one side and backstitch.

Continue around each corner, stopping with the needle down before pivoting.

At each corner:

1. Stop approximately $\frac{3}{8}$ inch from the edge.
2. Lower the needle.
3. Raise the presser foot.

4. Rotate the pillow 90 degrees.
5. Lower the foot and continue sewing.

Backstitch when you reach the starting point.

For additional strength, sew a second line of stitching inside the first seam, especially near the zipper ends.

Clip the Corners

Trim the seam allowance at all four corners.

Cut diagonally across each corner without cutting through the stitching.

This removes bulk and allows the finished corners to look sharper.

You may also trim uneven seam allowances or finish them with a zigzag stitch.

Do not trim too closely near the zipper ends.

Turn and Press the Pillow Cover

Reach through the open zipper and gently turn the pillow cover right side out.

Use a blunt point turner, chopstick, or capped pen to push out the corners.

Do not use sharp scissors because they may puncture the fabric.

Smooth the outer seams between your fingers.

Press the pillow cover carefully.

Press from the back whenever possible, especially around the appliqué and embroidered details.

Make sure the zipper remains flat and functional.

Insert the Pillow Form

Open the zipper fully.

Fold or compress the **16-inch pillow insert** and guide it through the zipper opening.

Push the insert into all four corners.

Adjust the filling until the front looks smooth and the sheep design is centered.

Close the zipper slowly, keeping the fabric and pillow insert away from the teeth.

Your **Patchwork Sheep Pillow** is now complete.

Main Sewing Methods Used

This project uses several useful sewing and quilting techniques:

- Patchwork piecing with small fabric squares
- Raw-edge or finished-edge appliqué
- Fusible-web appliqué
- Straight machine stitching
- Zigzag or blanket stitching
- Hand embroidery
- Simple machine quilting
- Centered zipper installation
- Pillow-cover construction

Beginners may practice the appliqué stitches on scrap fabric before stitching the final sheep.

Appliqué Tips

Use lightweight fusible web so the appliqué does not become stiff.

Press rather than slide the iron.

Let fused pieces cool completely before moving them.

Use a matching or contrasting thread depending on the desired appearance.

A narrow zigzag stitch gives good protection against fraying.

A blanket stitch creates a decorative handmade edge.

A straight stitch produces a softer raw-edge look that may fray slightly over time.

Reduce the sewing-machine speed when working around small curves.

Always stop with the needle down before pivoting the fabric.

Fabric Recommendations for Makers in the USA

For the patchwork and appliqué, use **100% quilting cotton**.

Suitable fabric brands include:

- Kona Cotton by Robert Kaufman
- Moda Fabrics
- Riley Blake Designs
- Timeless Treasures

- Art Gallery Fabrics
- Michael Miller Fabrics
- FreeSpirit Fabrics

For fusible appliqué, use a lightweight product such as:

- HeatnBond Lite
- Pellon Wonder-Under
- Steam-A-Seam 2 Lite

For batting, choose a thin cotton or cotton-blend product. Pellon and Quilter's Dream Cotton are both suitable options.

Use an all-purpose polyester thread such as Coats & Clark for general construction.

DMC embroidery floss works well for the facial details and small flowers.

Care Instructions

Spot-clean the pillow whenever possible.

The removable cover may be gently hand-washed in cool water.

Use a mild detergent.

Do not use bleach.

Do not wring or twist the pillow cover.

Lay it flat or hang it to air-dry.

Press on low heat from the wrong side.

Use a pressing cloth over the appliqué.

Do not tumble-dry unless all fabrics, batting, fusible web, and embroidery threads have been tested for machine drying.

Final Sewing Checklist

Before using or gifting the pillow, confirm that:

- All appliqué edges are secure
- The eyes, nose, and mouth are firmly stitched
- No pins remain inside the cover
- All loose threads have been trimmed
- The zipper opens and closes smoothly
- The outer seams are complete
- The four corners are fully turned

- The pillow insert fills the cover evenly

Enjoy making your colorful **Patchwork Sheep Pillow** and using your favorite fabric scraps to give every sheep its own unique personality.  

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