



APPLIQUÉ MOUSE PILLOW SEWING & QUILT TUTORIAL

FINISHED SIZE

Pillow: 40 cm x 40 cm
(16" x 16")

SEAM ALLOWANCE

All seams: 0.7 cm
(1/4") unless otherwise noted.

Create this cute appliqué mouse pillow using simple sewing and quilting techniques!



MATERIALS

- Denim or cotton for pillow front: 45 cm x 45 cm
- Denim or cotton for pillow back: 45 cm x 45 cm
- Assorted cotton fabrics for appliqué pieces
- Fusible web (lightweight)
- Black safety eye (12 mm) or black button
- Polyester fiberfill
- Coordinating thread
- Fabric marker or chalk

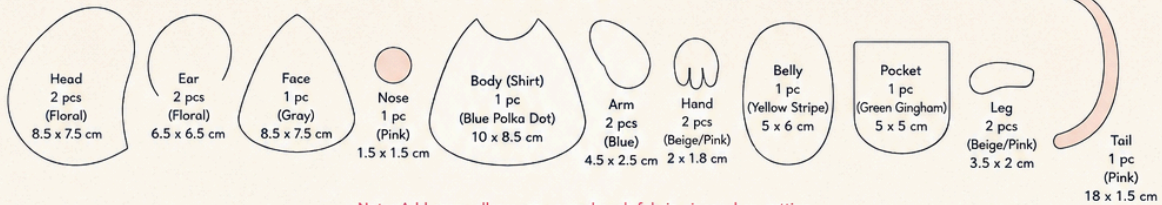
TOOLS

- Sewing machine
- Iron and ironing board
- Scissors and fabric shears
- Pins or clips
- Needle for hand sewing
- Appliqué/embroidery needle
- Ruler and cutting mat

MAIN SEWING & QUILTING METHODS

- — — — • Appliqué (fusible web + blanket stitch)
- — — — • Piecing
- — — — • Topstitching
- — — — • Turning and stuffing
- — — — • Ladder stitch (for closing)

APPLIQUÉ PATTERN PIECES (ACTUAL SIZE)



Note: Add seam allowance around each fabric piece when cutting.

STEP-BY-STEP TUTORIAL

1 PREPARE FABRICS



Cut all appliqué pieces from pattern using fabric and fusible web. Iron fusible web to the wrong side of each piece and cut again on the lines.

2 APPLIQUÉ THE MOUSE



Arrange all pieces on the pillow front (45 x 45 cm). Fuse in place with iron. Appliqué each piece with blanket stitch using matching thread.

3 ADD DETAILS



Sew on the black safety eye (or button). Embroider whiskers with black thread. Add any extra topstitching around pieces if desired.

4 PREPARE THE BACK



Cut the back fabric 45 x 45 cm. Fold one side of the back pieces 1 cm to the wrong side and press, then another 1 cm and topstitch to create an envelope closure.

5 ASSEMBLE PILLOW TOP



(Optional) Add decorative quilting lines on the denim background. Place pillow front and back right sides together. Pin around all edges.

6 SEW AROUND EDGES



Sew around all edges, leaving an opening of about 12 cm (5") on the back envelope area for turning.

7 TRIM CORNERS



Trim corners diagonally to reduce bulk. Turn the pillow right side out through the opening.

8 STUFF THE PILLOW



Fill with polyester fiberfill until firm and even.

9 CLOSE THE OPENING



Fold the raw edges inside and close the opening with ladder stitch.

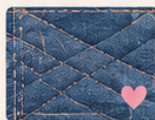
10 FINISHED!



Your Appliqué Mouse Pillow is complete! Enjoy your handmade creation. ❤️

QUILTING TIP (USA STYLE)

Free-motion quilt straight lines or meander around the background for extra texture and durability.



FABRIC & THREAD SUGGESTIONS

- Denim, quilting cotton, or canvas for durability
- 100% cotton thread for piecing and appliqué
- Use contrasting thread for topstitching
- Pre-wash fabrics to avoid shrinkage

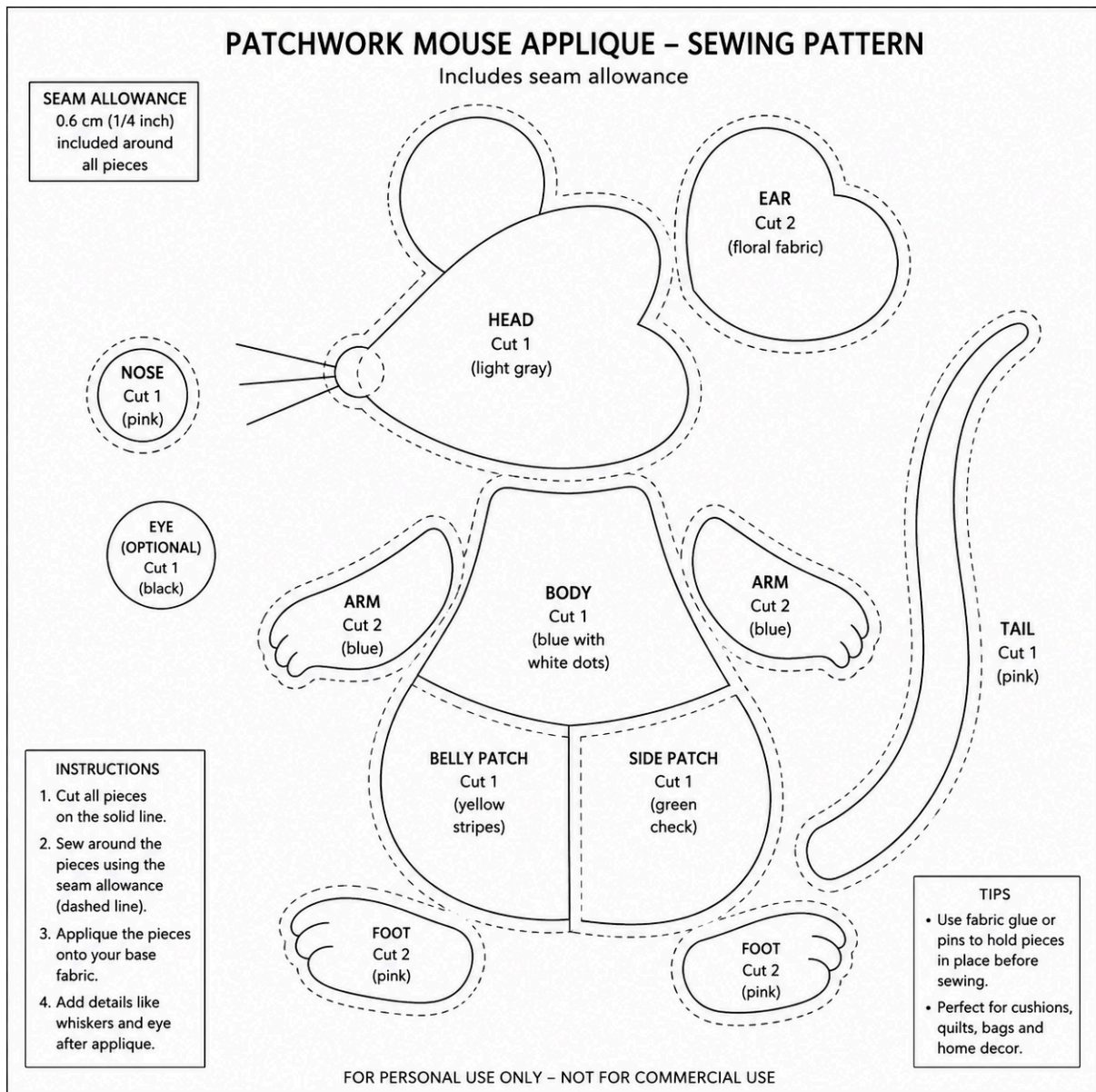


CARE INSTRUCTIONS

- Spot clean or hand wash
- Do not bleach
- Air dry flat
- Iron on medium if needed



Sew with love, quilt with joy, and create something beautiful! ❤️



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Appliqué Mouse Pillow Sewing and Quilt Tutorial

Create a charming Appliqué Mouse Pillow using simple sewing, appliqué, and quilting techniques. This project combines a denim-style pillow cover with a cheerful fabric

mouse made from floral prints, polka dots, stripes, and gingham.

The finished pillow measures approximately 16 × 16 inches (40 × 40 cm). A standard ¼-inch seam allowance is used unless another measurement is specifically mentioned.

This tutorial is suitable for confident beginners and experienced sewists. Read all instructions before cutting, and arrange the appliqué pieces on the pillow front before permanently attaching them.

Finished Size and Seam Allowance

The completed pillow should measure:

16 × 16 inches

or

40 × 40 cm

Use a ¼-inch seam allowance for regular seams.

The appliqué templates represent the finished visible shapes. Add a small cutting allowance around each fabric shape when necessary, particularly when using traditional turned-edge appliqué. When using fusible web and raw-edge appliqué, follow the fusible web manufacturer's instructions.

The envelope-style pillow back requires overlapping fabric panels, so the folded edges of the back pieces will use a larger fold than the regular seam allowance.

Materials

You will need the following materials:

- One 18 × 18-inch piece of denim, quilting cotton, or canvas for the pillow front
- Enough denim or coordinating fabric to create two overlapping pillow-back panels
- Assorted cotton fabric scraps for the mouse appliqué
- Lightweight fusible web
- One 16-inch square pillow insert or polyester fiberfill
- One black ½-inch safety eye or a black button
- Coordinating sewing thread
- Contrasting thread for decorative topstitching
- Black embroidery thread for the whiskers
- Fabric marker, tailor's chalk, or removable fabric pen
- Optional batting or lightweight fleece for quilting the pillow front
- Optional backing fabric for the quilted pillow-front panel

The original project uses a denim background, but quilting cotton, canvas, linen-blend fabric, or another medium-weight woven fabric can also be used.

Recommended Fabrics for the Mouse

To reproduce the appearance shown in the tutorial, use the following fabric combinations:

- Floral cotton for the head and ears
- Gray cotton for the face or muzzle section
- Blue polka-dot fabric for the shirt
- Yellow striped fabric for one belly section
- Green gingham fabric for the second belly section or pocket
- Beige or pink fabric for the arms, hands, and legs
- Pink fabric for the nose and tail
- Black fabric, felt, a safety eye, or a button for the eye

Choose fabrics with good contrast so that each part of the mouse remains visible after assembly.

Prewash and press cotton fabrics before cutting to reduce the possibility of shrinking or color bleeding later.

Tools

Prepare the following tools before beginning:

- **Sewing machine**
- **Iron and ironing board**
- **Fabric scissors or rotary cutter**
- **Paper scissors**
- **Cutting mat**
- **Quilting ruler**
- **Straight pins or sewing clips**
- **Hand-sewing needle**
- **Appliqué or embroidery needle**
- **Point turner or blunt knitting needle**
- **Printer for the pattern templates**
- **Optional free-motion quilting foot**
- **Optional walking foot**

Never use fabric scissors to cut paper templates because paper can dull the blades.

Understanding the Main Sewing Techniques

This pillow uses several basic sewing and quilting techniques.

Fusible appliqué attaches fabric shapes to the pillow front with an iron and lightweight fusible web. The edges are then secured with a blanket stitch, zigzag stitch, or narrow satin stitch.

Piecing joins separate fabric sections, such as the two colored belly pieces.

Topstitching adds visible decorative stitching and helps define the clothing, pockets, limbs, and other details.

Turning and stuffing are used if you construct the pillow as a filled cushion rather than using a removable insert.

Ladder stitch is an almost invisible hand stitch used to close an opening after stuffing.

For a removable pillow cover, an envelope back can be used instead of permanently closing a stuffing opening.

Mouse Appliqué Pattern Pieces

Prepare the following pattern shapes. The dimensions are approximate finished dimensions based on the tutorial graphic.

Head

Cut two floral pieces.

Approximate size: $3\frac{3}{8} \times 3$ inches

Ears

Cut two floral pieces.

Approximate size: $2\frac{1}{2} \times 2\frac{1}{2}$ inches

Face or Muzzle

Cut one gray piece.

Approximate size: $3\frac{3}{8} \times 3$ inches

Nose

Cut one pink piece.

Approximate size: $\frac{5}{8} \times \frac{5}{8}$ inch

Shirt Body

Cut one blue polka-dot piece.

Approximate size: $4 \times 3\frac{3}{8}$ inches

Arms

Cut two blue pieces.

Approximate size: $1\frac{3}{4} \times 1$ inch

Hands

Cut two beige or pink pieces.

Approximate size: $\frac{3}{4} \times \frac{5}{8}$ inch

Belly Sections

Cut two pieces, one yellow striped and one green gingham.

Approximate size of each section: $2 \times 2\frac{3}{8}$ inches

Pocket

Cut one green gingham piece.

Approximate size: 2×2 inches

Legs

Cut two beige or pink pieces.

Approximate size: $1\frac{3}{8} \times \frac{3}{4}$ inch

Tail

Cut one pink piece.

Approximate size: 7 × $\frac{5}{8}$ inches

The exact shape of each piece is more important than the listed dimensions. Print or trace the pattern at full size and verify the overall arrangement on the pillow front before cutting the final fabrics.

Step 1: Prepare the Pillow Fabrics

Cut the pillow-front fabric into an 18 × 18-inch square. Although the finished pillow measures 16 inches square, the larger piece provides room for quilting, trimming, and seam allowances.

Press the fabric thoroughly to remove wrinkles.

For a quilted pillow front, layer the materials in this order:

- 1. Backing fabric with the wrong side facing up**
- 2. Batting or lightweight fleece**
- 3. Pillow-front fabric with the right side facing up**

Smooth all three layers and secure them with safety pins, basting spray, or temporary hand-basting stitches.

Quilt the background before adding the mouse appliqué, or quilt around the completed appliqué after it has been attached. Quilting first is usually easier for beginners.

After quilting, square the panel and trim it to 16½ × 16½ inches. This size includes a ¼-inch seam allowance on every side and produces a finished cover of approximately 16 inches square.

Step 2: Prepare the Appliqué Fabrics

Trace every mouse pattern piece onto the paper side of the lightweight fusible web.

When a piece is directional or asymmetrical, such as the face, tail, arms, or pocket, reverse the template before tracing it. Fusible appliqué creates a mirror image after the fabric is turned right side up.

Leave approximately ½ inch between the traced shapes.

Rough-cut around each shape, leaving a small border outside the drawn line.

Place the rough side of the fusible web against the wrong side of the selected fabric. The paper side should face upward.

Follow the manufacturer's heat settings. Press rather than sliding the iron, because sliding can distort small pieces or move the adhesive.

Allow the fabric to cool completely.

Cut each shape precisely along the traced line using sharp fabric scissors.

Peel away the paper backing only when you are ready to arrange the mouse.

Step 3: Arrange the Mouse on the Pillow Front

Place the pillow-front panel on a flat work surface.

Arrange the mouse slightly left of center, leaving enough room for the curved tail on the right side.

Begin with the shapes that sit behind the others:

- Tail
- Back ear
- Back section of the head
- Legs
- Belly pieces

- **Shirt body**
- **Arms**
- **Front head and face**
- **Front ear**
- **Hands**
- **Pocket**
- **Nose**

Do not fuse the pieces immediately. First, check the complete arrangement.

Make sure the mouse is centered visually and that no piece is too close to the pillow seam. Keep the appliqué at least ½ inch away from the trimmed outer edge.

Take a photograph of the arrangement before moving the pieces. The photograph can be used as a placement reference during the fusing process.

Step 4: Fuse and Appliqué the Tail

The tail should be attached early because part of it may sit behind the mouse's body.

Position the tail so that it begins near the lower back of the mouse, curves outward, and rises gently toward the upper-right side.

Fuse it according to the adhesive manufacturer's directions.

Use pink, beige, or coordinating thread to sew around the tail. A narrow zigzag stitch works well for this thin shape.

Another option is to use a blanket stitch with a short stitch length. Sew slowly around the curves and stop with the needle down whenever you need to rotate the fabric.

Avoid pulling or stretching the tail while stitching.

Step 5: Appliqué the Head and Ears

Position the back ear first, followed by the main head section.

Add the second ear so it overlaps the head naturally. The front ear may partially cover the rear ear to create dimension.

Place the gray face or muzzle section over the floral head. The wider portion should cover the lower-front area of the head and taper toward the nose.

Once the arrangement looks balanced, fuse the pieces in layers.

Allow each fused layer to cool before placing another fabric piece over it.

Stitch around the head and ears using a blanket stitch, narrow zigzag stitch, or satin stitch. Use matching thread for a soft finish or contrasting thread for a handmade decorative appearance.

When sewing tight curves, reduce the stitch length slightly and pivot frequently.

Step 6: Construct the Shirt and Belly

The mouse's clothing is made from a blue shirt and two contrasting belly sections.

Place the yellow striped and green gingham belly pieces side by side. Slightly overlap their inner edges or join them with a narrow appliqué seam.

Position the blue polka-dot shirt above the belly sections. The bottom of the shirt should overlap the upper part of the belly so that no background fabric shows through.

Fuse the belly pieces first and then fuse the shirt.

Stitch around each section. Add a vertical line of topstitching between the two belly fabrics to make them appear like separate garment panels.

For additional detail, stitch one or two curved lines across the shirt to suggest folds or seams.

Keep decorative stitching light so the small pieces do not become stiff.

Step 7: Add the Arms, Hands, Legs, and Pocket

Place one arm across the front of the mouse's body and the other slightly behind or beside it.

The hands should overlap the ends of the sleeves.

Position the legs beneath the belly sections so that the feet extend outward naturally.

Fuse the legs before the belly if they are meant to appear behind the body. Fuse the arms before adding the hands.

Stitch around each piece using thread that matches the fabric.

To define the fingers, add two or three short straight stitches to each hand. These can be sewn by machine or embroidered by hand.

Position the gingham pocket on the front of the shirt or belly section. Fuse it in place and stitch around the sides and lower edge, leaving the upper edge without heavy stitching if you want it to look like a functional pocket.

Add a short line of topstitching across the pocket opening.

Step 8: Add the Eye, Nose, Whiskers, and Facial Details

Place the eye on the floral head, just above the gray face section.

A black safety eye can be used only when the back of the appliqué is still accessible. Follow the safety-eye manufacturer's instructions and secure the washer firmly.

A black button is another option. Sew it on securely with strong thread.

For a pillow intended for a baby or small child, avoid loose buttons or plastic safety eyes. Use a small circle of black fabric or securely embroidered satin stitches instead.

Position the pink nose at the pointed end of the gray face section. Fuse and stitch around it.

Thread a hand-sewing or embroidery needle with black embroidery floss.

Sew three whiskers extending from each side of the muzzle. Use long, controlled straight stitches. Do not pull the thread too tightly because this can pucker the fabric.

Add a small curved mouth beneath the nose if desired.

You can also embroider a tiny highlight in the eye with one small white stitch.

Step 9: Add Decorative Quilting

Decorative quilting gives the pillow texture and helps secure all layers.

Use straight-line quilting, a diamond grid, gentle curves, or free-motion meandering.

On a denim background, contrasting topstitching thread creates a traditional jeans-inspired finish. Rust, gold, tan, navy, or cream thread can work especially well.

Quilt around the outside of the mouse approximately $\frac{1}{8}$ to $\frac{1}{4}$ inch away from the appliqué edges. This echo quilting helps the character stand out.

Avoid quilting directly across the facial features unless that effect is intentional.

A walking foot is useful for straight-line quilting, while a free-motion foot is suitable for curves and meandering designs.

After quilting, press the panel carefully from the wrong side and trim it to $16\frac{1}{2} \times 16\frac{1}{2}$ inches.

Step 10: Prepare the Envelope-Style Pillow Back

For a removable pillow cover, prepare two back panels.

A practical size for each panel is approximately:

$16\frac{1}{2}$ inches wide \times 12 inches high

Cut two pieces using these measurements.

The panels will overlap at the center back to create an envelope opening.

On one long edge of each back panel, fold the raw edge $\frac{1}{2}$ inch toward the wrong side and press.

Fold it another $\frac{1}{2}$ inch and press again.

Topstitch close to the inner folded edge. Add a second row of stitching near the outer edge for extra strength and a decorative denim-style finish.

Place the pillow front right side up.

Position the first back panel over it with the right side facing down. Align its raw edges with the upper and side edges of the front.

Place the second panel over the lower portion, also with the right side facing down. Align its raw edges with the lower and side edges.

The two finished edges should overlap across the center.

Pin or clip around all four sides.

Step 11: Assemble the Pillow Cover

Sew around all four sides using a ¼-inch seam allowance.

Backstitch at the beginning and end.

Because the envelope opening creates extra thickness at the overlap points, sew slowly across those areas.

For additional durability, sew a second line of stitching just inside the first seam.

Trim the corners diagonally without cutting through the stitching. Removing the corner bulk will help create sharper corners after turning.

Finish the raw seam allowances with a zigzag stitch, overlock stitch, or serger to prevent fraying.

Turn the pillow cover right side out through the envelope opening.

Use a point turner or blunt tool to gently shape the corners.

Press the outer seams carefully.

Insert a 16-inch square pillow form through the back opening. Adjust the filling into all four corners and smooth the front.

Step 12: Create a Permanently Stuffed Pillow Instead

The original tutorial also shows a pillow that is sewn around the edges and filled directly with polyester fiberfill.

To use this method, cut one pillow front and one full pillow back, each measuring $16\frac{1}{2} \times 16\frac{1}{2}$ inches after quilting and trimming.

Place the pillow front and back right sides together.

Pin around all four sides.

Sew around the edges with a $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch seam allowance, leaving an opening of approximately 5 inches along the lower or back edge.

Backstitch securely on both sides of the opening.

Trim the corners diagonally to reduce bulk.

Turn the pillow right side out through the opening.

Push out the corners carefully and press the seams.

Add polyester fiberfill in small amounts. Push the filling into the corners first and gradually fill the center.

Continue adding fiberfill until the pillow feels firm and even. Avoid adding large clumps because they can create lumps.

Step 13: Close the Stuffing Opening with Ladder Stitch

Fold the raw edges of the opening toward the inside by approximately $\frac{1}{4}$ inch.

Press or finger-press the folds so they align with the sewn seam.

Thread a hand-sewing needle with strong matching thread and knot the end.

Insert the needle from inside the opening so the knot is hidden.

Take a small horizontal stitch through the folded edge on one side.

Move directly across the opening and take another small horizontal stitch through the opposite folded edge.

Continue alternating from side to side.

Every few stitches, pull the thread gently. The opening should close neatly, and the stitches should disappear between the folded edges.

At the end, make a secure hidden knot. Insert the needle beside the knot, bring it out approximately 1 inch away, and trim the thread. The thread end will retract inside the pillow.

Step 14: Final Pressing and Inspection

Examine the entire pillow before considering the project complete.

Check that all appliqué edges are securely stitched.

Inspect the eye, button, or embroidered details.

Trim loose thread ends.

Check the back opening to make sure the fabric panels overlap completely and hide the pillow insert.

Gently steam the cover if needed, but avoid placing a hot iron directly over a plastic safety eye.

Shape the corners and distribute the stuffing evenly.

Your Appliqué Mouse Pillow is now complete. 🐭💕

Quilting Suggestions

For a traditional quilted appearance, create a diamond grid behind the mouse.

Mark diagonal lines approximately 1½ to 2 inches apart using a removable fabric marker.

Stitch all lines in one direction first.

Rotate the panel and stitch crossing diagonal lines to form diamonds.

For a softer, handmade look, use free-motion quilting around the mouse with gentle curves or meandering lines.

Keep the quilting density consistent. Areas with very heavy quilting can become flatter than areas with little quilting.

The appliqué mouse should remain the focal point, so avoid overly complicated quilting near the face and clothing.

Fabric and Thread Suggestions

Denim, canvas, and sturdy cotton create a durable pillow suitable for everyday use.

Use 100% quilting cotton for the appliqué because it fuses well and is easy to stitch.

High-contrast fabrics help separate the mouse's body sections. For example, use a light floral print for the head, a medium blue shirt, and bright belly fabrics.

Cotton or polyester all-purpose thread works well for construction.

Use embroidery floss or a heavier decorative thread for whiskers and hand-sewn details.

For topstitching on denim, use a denim needle and slightly longer stitches. A stitch length between 2.8 and 3.2 mm usually creates an attractive finish.

Test the thread and stitch settings on fabric scraps before sewing the main pillow.

Care Instructions

Spot-clean the pillow for small marks.

For a removable cover, take out the pillow insert before washing.

Hand-wash the cover in cool or lukewarm water using a mild detergent.

Do not use bleach because it may damage the appliqué fabrics and cause colors to fade.

Air-dry the cover flat.

Press from the wrong side using medium heat when needed.

Place a pressing cloth over appliqué details to protect the stitching, eye, and fusible adhesive.

Helpful Tips for Success

Always test fusible web on a fabric scrap before using it on the final project.

Use a pressing cloth when working with fusible adhesive. This prevents glue from transferring to the iron.

Change the machine needle when sewing through denim, batting, and multiple appliqué layers.

Select a smaller stitch length when sewing around tight curves.

Keep the needle down when turning corners or changing direction.

Use matching bobbin thread when the back of the stitching will be visible.

Do not stretch the fabric while appliquéing. Let the feed dogs move the fabric naturally.

Take time to arrange the face carefully. Small changes in the eye, nose, and ear positions can significantly change the mouse's expression.

Most importantly, enjoy combining fabrics and personalizing the design. Every handmade mouse pillow can have its own colors, personality, and character. Sew with love, quilt with joy, and create something beautiful! 🧵💕