

Chair Cushions

By ANN BROWN

These detachable chair cushions are both comfortable and beautiful. Select several fabrics that coordinate and create the perfect finishing touch for your dining chairs. A designer look that will impress family and friends!



FINISHED SIZE

Customized to fit chair.

MATERIALS FOR ONE CUSHION

- 54-inch-wide decorator fabrics:
 - $\frac{5}{8}$ yard of floral print
 - $\frac{1}{3}$ yard of coordinating tiny check print
 - 1 yard of coordinating medium check print
- 3 yards of $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch flat trim
- 2 yards of $\frac{5}{8}$ -inch decorative cording
- Sewing threads to match fabrics
- Craft paper for cushion template (see Snip-It)
- 2-inch thick custom-cut foam cushion with knife edge (see Snip-It)
- Tailor's chalk or fabric marking pen

INSTRUCTIONS

Cutting

- From medium check fabric, cut four pieces each 5 inches x 24 inches for ties; cut two pieces each 7½ inches x 54 inches for bottom pleated skirt.
- From tiny check fabric, cut one piece 4½ inches x 52½ inches and cut one piece 4½ inches x 22½ inches.
- For cushion side pattern, trace foam cushion template onto craft paper and add ½ inch for seam allowance. Using pattern, cut two pieces from floral print fabric for cushion top and bottom pieces.

Ties

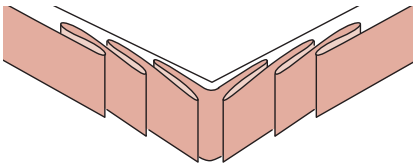
For each tie, fold one fabric piece wrong sides together and cut at 45-degree angle across one end. With $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch seam allowance, stitch along long edge and angled edge. Turn right side out and press. Pleat straight end of tie and baste across pleated edge.

Top Pleated Skirt

1. Stitch skirt pieces together end-to-end with $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch seam allowance.

Finish seams with a zigzag stitch or serge seams. Press. Turn up $\frac{1}{4}$ inch along long edge and press. Turn up $\frac{1}{4}$ inch again, creating hem and stitch in place. Fold in $\frac{1}{2}$ inch along both short edges, press. Turn in $\frac{1}{2}$ inch again and stitch in place, creating a finished edge.

2. Mark center of skirt. Pin this mark to center of front edge on cushion. Fold and pin 1-inch pleats (see Illustration) at each corner.



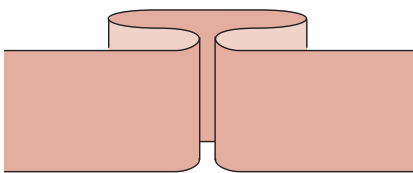
3. Baste across top edge of pleated skirt.

Bottom Pleated Skirt

1. Stitch skirt pieces together end-to-end with $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch seam allowance. Finish seam with a zigzag stitch or serge seam. Press. Trim length of joined strips down to the length needed to fit across sides and front of cushion plus 22 inches. Turn up $\frac{1}{4}$ inch along one long edge of strip and press. Turn up $\frac{1}{4}$ inch again, creating hem and stitch in place. Fold under $\frac{1}{2}$ inch along both short edges, press. Turn under $\frac{1}{2}$ inch again and stitch in place, creating a finished edge.

2. Stitch flat trim along hemmed edge of skirt. The type of trim will determine if this needs to be placed on the top side or underneath.

3. Mark center of skirt. Pin this mark to center of front edge on cushion. Fold and pin one 5-inch pleat (see Illustration) at each side edge.



4. Baste across top edge of pleated skirt.



Cushion Assembly

1. Serge across back edge of the top cushion piece and the bottom cushion piece. This will help prevent raveling while inserting foam or fiberfill.

2. Baste top skirt over bottom skirt matching raw edges.

3. Baste cording in place around side and front edges of cushion top piece. Angle ends of the cording into seam allowance to hide raw edges.

4. Pin assembled skirts along side and front edges of bottom cushion piece, right sides together. Stitch in place. Clip corners. Position pleated ends of two ties close to each corner on back edge and pin in place. Stitch in place.

5. With $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch seam allowance and leaving a 9-inch opening at center of back edge, stitch top and bottom cushion pieces right sides together. Clip corners. Turn.

6. Insert foam into cushion. Hand stitch opening closed. >

Snip-It

For foam cushion template, place craft paper over chair seat. Trace shape onto paper. Cut out template along drawn lines.

Using template, cut cushion from foam.

Stores with decorator fabrics often offer a foam cutting service. If this is not available, use polyester fiberfill to stuff the finished cushion.