

Slipcover a Loose Cushion



Many people are fearful of slipcovering loose chair cushions because of the zipper along the back. I have to agree. Zippers can be tough, but stitch in enough and they become second nature. However, ever since Velcro was developed, I don't think I've added a zipper to...anything! Why not give it a try, we'll go step by step here and I promise to give you all the help I can with tricks and cheats. If you are ready to try it, here's what you'll need.

Materials List:

- Old cushion
- Fabric of your choice
- Scissors
- Measuring tape
- Pins
- Velcro

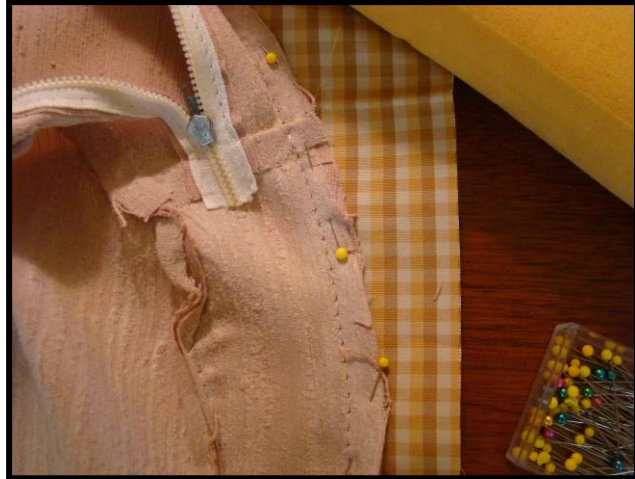


Instructions:



1 Start your new slipcover by removing the old cover from the foam cushion so it can be used as a template.

2 Place it on the new fabric and pin it down flat along the selvages.



3 Cut right along the outer edge of the pinned selvages to recreate the top of the cushion.

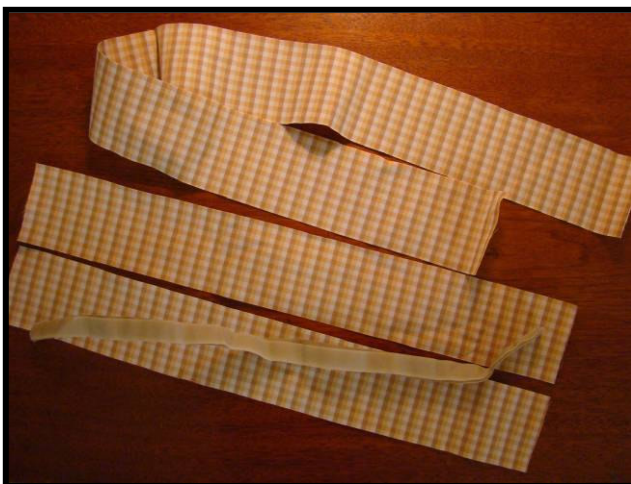
4 Double check your new pattern piece by setting the foam on top and making sure you have $\frac{1}{2}$ " seam allowance all the way around.





4 If your top piece looks good, cut out a duplicate for the bottom of the new cover. I do this by pinning the top piece to the fabric, matching any pattern if necessary.

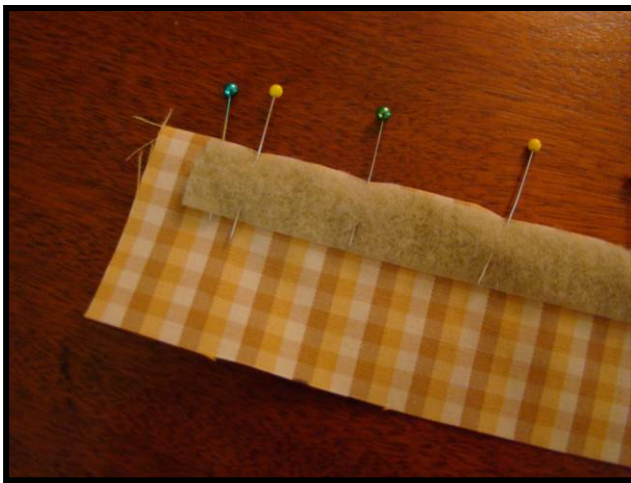
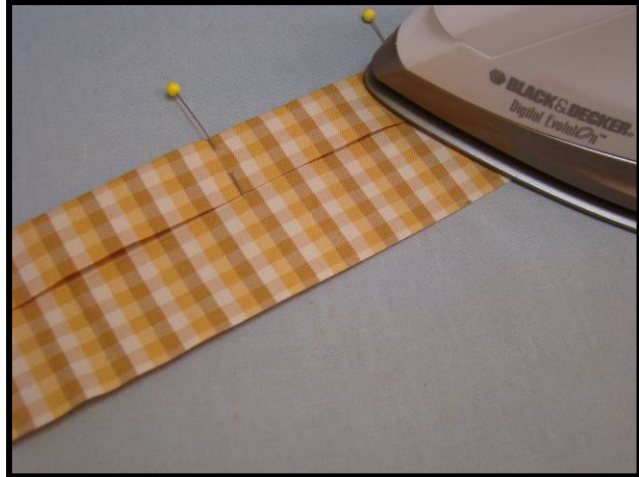
5 Next, measure the width of the original cushion's boxing as well as the length of it all around the cushion. You'll notice that the zipper portion is a separate piece of boxing made up of two pieces with a zipper in the middle.



6 Cut your first piece of boxing to match the original, however add a couple inches to the length as a buffer...just believe me on this one.

For the width of the 2 pieces for the Velcro, consider that each piece has a $\frac{1}{2}$ " seam allowance, 1" turn over to stitch the $\frac{3}{4}$ " velcro to, and the fabric must cross the middle of the boxing by half the width of the turn over, or plus $\frac{1}{2}$ ". My regular boxing was $2\frac{1}{4}$ " plus seam allowance. My 2 velcro pieces were $\frac{1}{2}$ " plus 1" plus $1\frac{1}{8}$ " plus $\frac{1}{2}$ " so $3\frac{1}{8}$ ". Draw it, you'll see it more clearly.

7 Iron the 1" turnover across both of the Velcro pieces.



8 On the lower piece add the soft side of the Velcro to the right side of the fabric at the fold. Cut the Velcro 1/2" shorter on both ends to leave room for a 1/2" seam allowance where the bands of boxing will meet.

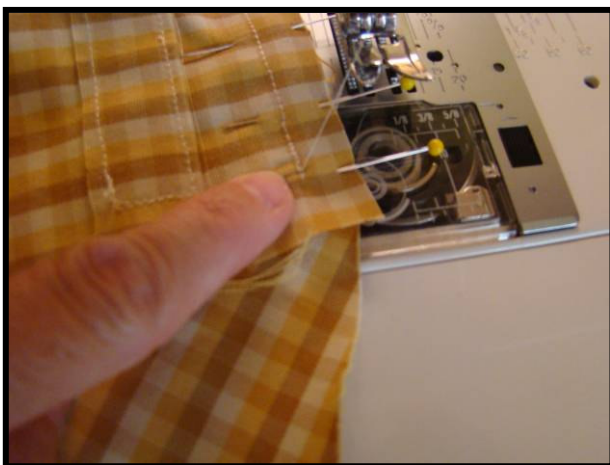
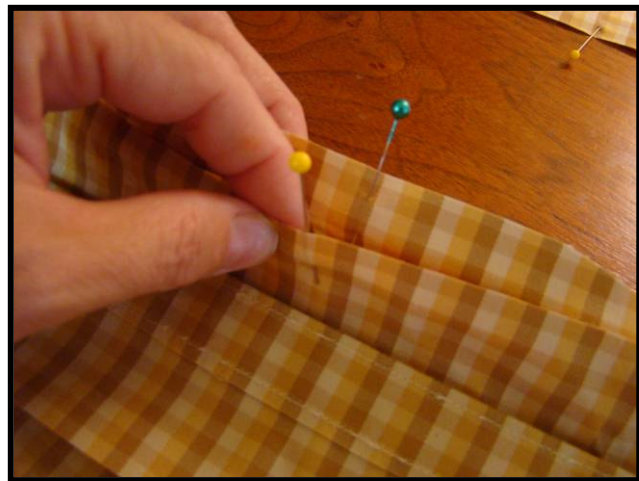
9 Stitch the Velcro in place.





10 Stitch the rough side of the Velcro to the wrong side of the top piece directly on the 1" turn over. Squeeze the pieces together and make sure they measure the same width as the rest of your boxing.

11 Attach the Velcro piece to the back edge of the bottom and top of the cushion, matching center marks.



12 IMPORTANT – When you are adding the Velcro pieces, start and stop stitching $\frac{1}{2}$ " in from the ends. This $\frac{1}{2}$ " is the seam allowance when you attach the rest of the boxing.

13 Next, attach the rest of the boxing to the bottom of the cushion, easing in the corners. But, notice where the Velcro boxing is meeting the rest of the boxing. Can you see that there will be a ½" seam allowance there where they meet? Make sure it is there on yours.



14 Here I'm trying to show you the stitching together of the two boxing pieces. Notice that the regular boxing piece on the bottom has a larger seam allowance? Remember I told you to cut it a couple inches larger than you measured? Well, with easing in the corners and measuring error, it's always

good to have a little extra here. All that needs to be done is to trim it off once the seam is sewn. No big deal.

15 After the boxing pieces are sewn together, sew the boxing to the bottom of the cushion. Then, pin it to the top and sew it on. Trim the seams, clip the corners, and turn the slipcover right side out. Insert the foam and relax...you did it!

Shari

