
Sew a Color Wheel Pillow with Leslie Schucker

Chapter 1 - Sew a Color Wheel Pillow

Overview

(machine vibrating) (upbeat music) - Hi, I'm Leslie Schucker and because I love textiles so much, I have quite a fabric stash. (upbeat music) This color wheel pillow is a great way to use up some of that stash. (upbeat music) We're gonna use the EZ Quilting Fat Cat template to cut your fabric. We'll also do some sewing, some piecing, and a little light quilting. (upbeat music) I'll show you a little technique to transfer a quilting design from paper to fabric, and we'll make an envelope back for your pillow. (upbeat music) This pillow is an easy way to brighten up your living space. (upbeat music).

Materials

- This is a great stash-busting project. You will need 12 pieces of fabric at least five inches by five inches. You also need a piece of white fabric that's at least 4 3/4 inches wide. You'll cut 12 pieces out of that. And the backing fabric is 13 by 18. You'll need two pieces of that along with a 16-inch pillow form. You'll need two pieces of white and a piece of batting that are all 18 by 18 inches. Pins and clips, double face fusible web, a water bottle, an iron and an ironing surface, your sewing machine, a small ruler, a water soluble marking pen, a pinking shears, a rotary cutter, a regular scissors, the EZ Quilting Fat Cats ruler, a quilting ruler, a cutting mat and your class PDF.

Cutting and layout

- Grab your Fat Cats template and your rotary cutter. The easiest way to cut the pieces is to have a 4 1/2-inch strip ready to go. So we'll pre-trim this scrap down to 4 1/2. Then we'll take the piece and cut a 4 1/2-inch Fat Cat. Line the bottom line up with the 4 1/2-inch mark on the template and cut up one side and cut up the other side. And that is your Fat Cat. You'll do this with the rest of your 11 colors of scraps. Now grab your smaller white piece. We'll need 12 one by 4 3/4-inch pieces. So first let's cut this to 4 3/4. (cutter whooshing) And then we'll cut these into one-inch strips. (cutter whooshing) When you're done cutting, you should have 12 Fat Cats in 12 colors and 12 one by 4 3/4-inch white strips. Now we'll need another scrap of white at least 5 1/2 by 5 1/2 and your fusible web. You'll just use your long straight ruler and cut a piece. And it just has to be at least 5 1/2 by 5 1/2. It can be a little bigger. (cutter whooshing) You also want a piece of fusible web about the same size. (scissors clicking) Your fusible web is two-sided. You have a paper side and you have the adhesive side. The adhesive side is kind of rough. You wanna make sure that's facing towards your fabric. As you're pressing it, you wanna follow the manufacturer's instructions for the setting on your iron. And just press in place. You'll want your circle template from your class PDF and a pencil. You'll lay that down on your surface and you'll want the paper side up. And you're just gonna simply trace that circle on the paper side. And then from there, we'll trim it with the pinking shears. (scissors clicking) As I'm trimming with the pinking shears, I just kinda go right along the outside of the line. (scissors clicking continues) Just like that. Now clear off your table and let's lay out our color wheel pieces. This is a fun place where you can be creative and lay them out to your liking. I'm gonna kind of go by light to dark. And I'll lay out my colored pieces first and then I will add the white strips in between. We're ready to begin sewing.

Sew the color wheel

- Grab your sewing machine and your iron and ironing surface. Take a colored piece and a white strip and we're gonna put right sides together. You'll sew with 1/4 inch seam allowance. (sewing machine whirring) Press each seam towards the colored strip. You'll continue doing that around your color wheel. Keep sewing a white strip to a colored strip until you get all the way around the color wheel. (sewing machine whirring) Once you've done that, you're gonna begin sewing your color wheel together. I've already done most of it. So let's finish it up. You'll wanna join your colored piece to the next white piece and just continue completing your circle. (sewing machine whirring) You'll want to continue pressing your seams away from the white piece. And now you can join your circle. (sewing machine whirring) When you're finished with that, you just trim your threads and you're ready for your next step. We're gonna add some fusible web to the back of your color wheel now. A little tip, if you don't wanna get adhesive on your ironing surface, grab a piece of baking parchment paper. Spread your parchment paper over your ironing surface. Then we're going to lay out your wheel on your fusible web and we're gonna trim it. You can pin this if you don't want it to move around. So just put a few straight pins through your color wheel. The rough side of the fusible web should be facing the back of your fabric. And just using your straight scissors, trim all the way around the edge. Now you'll need to trim out the center circle, because if you don't, when you fuse this on, this adhesive will stick to your cutting mat. Easy way to do that is fold it in half, make a slit, and then it gives you a place to cut from. Make sure your edges are nice and even. I'm gonna remove the pins to press this on. And I like to, I like to press with the fabric side down and the fusible web on the top. Just continue all the way around your circle until the whole wheel is fused to the web. Turn it over and you can see if there's any places you need to press. Grab your pinking shears and we'll pink around the edges. You'll wanna just make a gentle turn as you get to each white piece. Don't worry about making a circle. You're gonna want your colored edges to be straight and you're just gonna round off on the white edges. Now flip it over and we'll peel the paper off. The back of the fabric will feel a little tacky. That's how you can tell the adhesive is adhered to it. Take one of your 18 by 18 inch white squares of fabric and lay it out on your ironing surface. We're gonna layer your color wheel in the direct center of your 18 by 18 inch piece of fabric. You wanna make sure your wheel is equal distance to all four sides. Mine is approximately two inches. Yours might be a little different in order to center it. We're gonna press this to the center of your white pillow front. To prepare your center circle, you'll need your water soluble pen, your class PDF with the quilting template on it, and the circle you prepared with the pinked edges. With the straight pin, poke holes all along the design. You'll want your holes to be about quarter inch or so apart. Then you'll place that on top of your circle and with your water soluble pen you're just gonna put a dot in each of the pin holes. And this basically transfers your design to the fabric. And that's how your design is transferred onto your center circle. Flip your circle over and remove the paper. And now we'll fuse this to the center of your pillow front. It's really important here to not have steam on your iron as this is a water soluble pen. And if you have steam, it will make your design disappear. You'll just wanna center it in the middle of this circle and press in place. And now your front is ready for layering.

Quilt the top

- We'll layer the pillow from the bottom up. You'll first need your 18 by 18 plain piece of white fabric, an 18 by 18 piece of batting, and your piece top. Once you have 'em layered, smooth them out, and trim any excess fabric or batting. (scissors snipping) You'll clip around the edges, and you'll hold all

three layers together. Again, you can baste with needle and thread if you'd like. Now we're ready to quilt your pillow top. We're gonna start by sewing a circle around your inner circle, about a quarter inch in from your pinked edges. (machine whirring) I'm gonna overlap the edges, and just do a couple back stitches. Then you'll wanna pull that out of the machine. We'll quilt the center design just following the dots you made with your template. (machine whirring) To turn the corner, just drop your needle, lift your presser foot, and turn your pillow top. (machine whirring) And we're gonna go to the next point. You're gonna do all points the same way. I'll drop my needle, and then follow the lines. (machine whirring) I'm gonna pull it out and trim the threads, so you don't end up with a lot of threads in the middle that you're fighting with. Go to another point, drop your needle on the top dot. (machine whirring) A couple back stitches to finish it off, and pull it out of the machine. Trim your threads before we go any farther. (scissors snipping) And now we're gonna quilt the outside color wheel. We're gonna stitch in the ditch, which means you're gonna sew right along the seam mark. And we're gonna start from the center of the color wheel, work our way out, go around a quarter inch from the top, and then back down the other side. So drop your needle right on the seam, and just sew directly up the seam. (machine whirring) When you get about a quarter inches from the top, make sure your needle is down, lift your presser foot, turn, and stitch across the colored panel. (machine whirring) 'Til you get to the next seam. Lift your presser foot and turn, and back down the seam. (machine whirring) Just a couple back stitches to tack it. And you can start on the next color. Sometimes it's easier to pull it out of the machine totally, trim your threads, and go to the next color. You'll drop your needle, and go up the seam. (machine whirring) This time, I'm not gonna pull it outta the machine. I'm just gonna leave the threads attached, and start the next panel. (machine whirring) Once you're finished stitching your color blocks, you're gonna wanna trim all your threads, and then we'll stitch around the outer circle of your color wheel. Take it back to the machine, and we're gonna stitch about a quarter inch from the outside edge of your color wheel. A couple little back stitches to start, and you'll just follow the line of the color wheel. (machine whirring) When you get to the, where you started, you'll wanna just overlap your stitches a couple stitches, and back stitch. And your quilting is finished. Now grab your spray bottle, and spray your blue dots. You should see them disappear rather quickly. (water spritzing) You'll wanna set this aside, and let it dry. Once your pillow top is completely dry, you may notice the edges got a little uneven, so we'll trim them to make them nice and straight. (roter cutting)

Sew the pillow back

- Creating an envelope back for your pillow is super easy. Take your two pillow back pieces, and you're going to want to fold over twice along one of the long edges. You wanna fold it over and press it in place. The fold over is about a quarter inch, and then take that fold and fold it over again about another quarter inch. Then you'll wanna take it to your machine and sew that in place. Sew down the middle of your pressed fold. (machine rumbles) Repeat on your other pillow back piece. To assemble this, you want your pillow top right side up, and then you're gonna take your two pillow back pieces and you wanna put them right sides down. So the seam that you sewed will be facing up. You'll wanna place one with the seam in the middle here with your edges lined up at the bottom, and then you're going to flip the other piece. Your seam side up again, lining up the bottom edge with the top of the pillow. Now we'll pin or clip in place. I'm gonna use clips, and you're just gonna clip all the way around to secure all your layers. Sew a quarter-inch seam around the edge of your pillow. (machine rumbles) You'll wanna use a couple back stitches to tack it in place. When you get to the corner, make sure your needle is down, lift your presser foot up, and turn the corner. Put

your presser foot back down and continue sewing. You'll wanna be careful where the seams overlap that you keep your seams flat. Just back stitch over the stitches that you started with and remove from the machine. Turn your pillow right side out. If you have a corner turner, that works great. If not, you can use a chopstick, and you'll just use it to go in and point your corners out. Just push it from inside to give your corners a nice clean point. I like to finish my pillow with a decorative flange. This is just gonna be a half-inch seam you're gonna sew around the whole pillow. It's just a little decorative border that goes around the edge. Start it by doing just a couple little back stitches, and you're basically just sewing a half-inch seam all the way around the outside of the pillow. One more stitch. When you get to the corner, you're gonna wanna do the same thing you've done. Just put the needle down, lift the feed dogs, and turn the pillow top, and continue sewing your half-inch seam. We're gonna just join the seams where we started, do a couple back stitches to anchor, and remove it from the sewing machine. This turned out beautiful. The last step is to add your pillow form. You just wanna tuck it in and pull your envelope fold over it. Isn't it great how you took fabric from your stash and turned it into a colorful accent for your home?