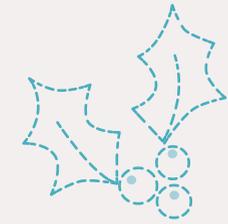




read between the lines pillow



Comprised of simple strips and squares, this pillow is ingenious in its design; customize it easily with personalized messages, children's names, or for other holidays throughout the year.

handmade by **KELLY LAUTENBACH**

fabric & such

- Assorted fabric scraps, including some solid white scraps (see Fabric Note)
- 1 yard (.9 m) of tan fabric (for sides and back)
- 1 piece of fabric (for backing the quilted strips), 18 x 22 inches (45.7 x 55.9 cm)
- 1 piece of batting, 18 x 22 inches (45.7 x 55.9 cm)
- 6 decorative buttons
- Pillow form, 16 x 26 inches (40.6 x 66 cm)

tools

Basic Patchwork Kit (page 9)

finished size

29 x 15½ inches (73.6 x 39.4 cm)

seam allowance

¼ inch (6 mm) unless otherwise indicated

fabric note

Pick out a variety of patterned fabrics to use for the 23 pieced "lines" of your pillow. While you do not have to use 23 different fabrics, a good variety will yield a more colorful and fun pillow.

get started

- 1 Cut out the following pieces from the fabrics:
 - From fabric scraps: 23 strips, each measuring 1½ x 20 inches (3.8 x 50.8 cm).
 - From white fabric scraps: 1 strip measuring 1½ x 44 inches (3.8 x 111.8 cm) or cut and piece together scraps as needed.
- 2 Lay out the strips in a pleasing order. You might want to take a quick picture of this order to help you remember it. A few of the pieces (the strips between letters in a word) will be trimmed down later to a slimmer width. You will make and assemble the pillow in three blocks, with each HO as a block.
- 3 Make the first H:
 - From the white strip(s), cut two segments that each measure 5½ inches (14 cm) long, and one segment that measures 1½ inches square (3.8 cm).
 - Fold the first strip of the patterned fabric in half and cut it into two pieces of equal length. Stitch them to both short ends of one white 5½-inch (14 cm) segment to make the first leg of your H (**A**).

- Repeat with your second planned colored strip, stitching each half to the 1½-inch (3.8 cm) white segment, to make the center of the H.
- Fold, cut, and stitch your third colored strip to the remaining white segment.
- Do not worry that the three pieces are not the same length. Stitch the strips together so the sides of the H match up. (You will trim off the excess from the top and bottom later.)

4 Make the first O:

- From the white strip(s), cut two segments that each measure 5½ inches (14 cm) long and two segments that measure 2 inches (5.1 cm) long.
- Set the fourth colored strip aside for now (it will later become the space between the H and O), and cut the fifth colored strip in half as before to make two pieces of equal length.

Stitch them to both short ends of a long white segment at 45° angles to form the edges of the O **(B)**.

- For the center of the O, cut a 2½-inch (6.4 cm) segment off the end of the fifth colored strip, then cut what remains of that strip in half. Piece this strip together as shown **(C)**.
- Stitch the right side of the O in the same way as the left side, but with the 45° angles going in the opposite directions.
- Stitch the strips together so the sides of the O match up.

5 Take the colored strip set aside in step 4, and trim off ½ inch (1.3 cm) to make it 1 inch (2.5 cm) wide. Position it between the H and the O strips and stitch in place. Stitch the eighth strip to the right of the O to complete the first HO block.

6 Repeat steps 3 through 5 to make two more HO blocks, using the colored strips in order according to your plan. The third HO block will not have a strip to the right of the O.

7 Attach the three blocks together to form one unit that reads HO HO HO. Take care to match up the tops of the letters and do not worry about the varying lengths of the strips. The finished width of this pieced strip should be approximately 19½ inches (49.5 cm).

8 Now you can trim off the ends! Measure 5½ inches (14 cm) up from the top of the letters and measure the same amount down from the bottom of the letters; use a rotary cutter, mat, and clear ruler to make straight cuts and trim away excess fabric.

9 Make a quilt sandwich with the pillow top, batting, and backing fabric, and quilt as desired (page 14–15). The sample shown uses the stitch in the ditch approach along the sides of each letter strip and around each letter.

10 Cut a piece of the tan fabric to the same dimensions as the pillow front. With right sides facing, stitch the two pieces together along the top and bottom edges only. This creates the central sleeve for the pillow.

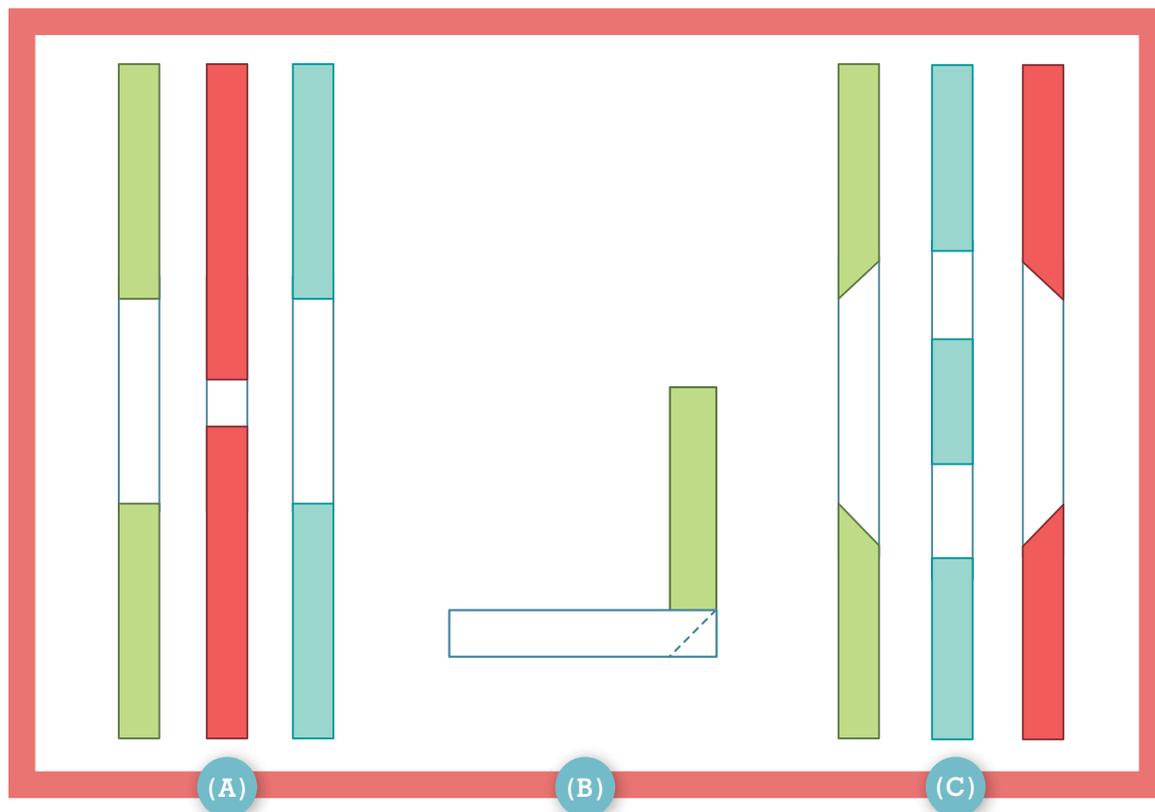
11 Make the side flanges:

- From the tan fabric, cut two pieces that each measure 10½ x 31½ inches (26.7 x 80 cm).
- Form two tubes by stitching the short sides of each rectangle together with right sides facing. Turn the tubes right side out and press the seams.
- Lay each tube flat with the seam centered in the back of the tube, rather than at the top or bottom edge. Press.
- Make a double-fold hem on one side of both tubes.
- Use a disappearing fabric marker to measure and mark a buttonhole location on the front

of each flange, 2½ inches (6.4 cm) in from the hemmed edge and at the following points from the top edge: 3½ inches (8.9 cm), 7½ inches (18.4 cm), and 12 inches (30.5 cm).

12 Finish the pillow:

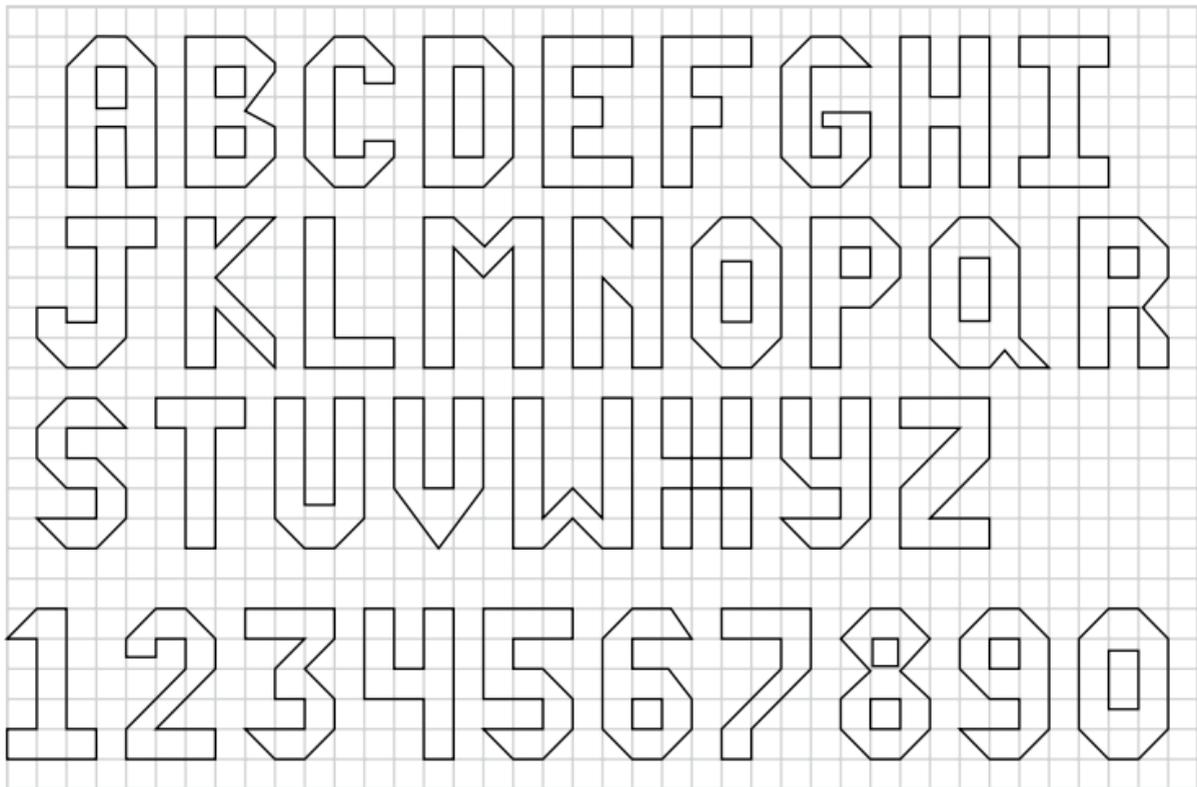
- Pin the flanges to both ends of the pillow. Make sure that the buttonholes are on the front of the pillow and the seam of the flange is on the back. Use the creases from when you pressed the tubes as a guide for pinning.
- Stitch both flanges in place. Turn the pillow right side out and press firmly.
- Hand sew the buttons to the flange, centering them behind the buttonholes.
- Insert the pillow form and button the sides closed.



spell it out

For a specific holiday or for a specific person, part of the fun of this design is that you can personalize it in so many ways. See page 122 for a construction chart for the rest of the letters of the alphabet.





Read Between the Lines Pillow Letter Templates

Graph paper squares = 1"/2.5 cm