

**Skill level 2  
Stacked Pillow Ottoman**

*Courtesy of America  
Sews*

**Supplies:**

- 3/4 yd each of 3 coordinating fabrics
- 6 “sew-through” buttons (7/8” diameter)
- 16-1/5” x 14-1/2” x 3/4” piece of plywood
- 2, 18” zippers to coordinate with fabrics for top 2 pillows
- 4 wooden balls (2-1/2” diameter)
- 4, 1-1/2” wood screws
- 10 chair pads – 17” x 15” x 2”

**Tools:**

- Sewing thread
- Spray adhesive
- Staple gun and staples
- Drill

**Directions:**

**Making the tabs:**

Cut 2 pieces of fabric on-grain 8” x 8” for the base tab. Cut 2 pieces of fabric on-grain 8” x 10” for the top pillow tab. Sew the long side of each tab (stitch along the lengthwise grain for the 8” x 8” pieces). Press the seams open. Position the seam line in the center back of the tab then stitch one end closed. Turn each tab right side out. Insert two buttonholes in the finished end of each tab spacing 1-3/4” apart and 3/4” from the top and side edges. Adjusting the length of the buttonhole for the size button you choose. (We used 7/8” buttons.)

**Making the Box Pillows:**

**Top Pillow – dimensions 17” x 15” x 3”** Cut 1 piece of fabric on-grain, 17” x 15” for the pillow top. Cut 2 pieces of fabric on grain, 17” x 8” for the bottom. (The bottom of the pillow has a zipper.) Cut 2 pieces of fabric on-grain, 17” x 3” for the pillow sides. Cut 2 pieces of fabric on-grain, 15” x 3” for the pillow sides. With right sides together join the 3” length of one of the 15” side pieces to the 3” length of one of the 17” sides, begin stitching 1/4” from the top and 1/4” from the side. Stitch the length of the side stopping 1/4” from the bottom. This will create a “side section” Repeat Step 5 for the two remaining side pieces to create a second side section. Now join the side sections together just like you did in Step 5. Attach the cube top piece to the cylinder by joining the edges of the top piece to the top edge of each side square. To achieve great 3-d corners start and stop your stitching where the stitches started and stopped when the sides were joined. You will complete this step 4 times. With right sides together sew 1/2” seam to join the 17” sides of the bottom pieces. Insert a zipper into the seam following the instructions for a “centered” zipper application on the zipper package. (Putting a zipper in the bottom creates an opening so the foam can be “stuffed” into the pillow.) Center the wrong sides of the long pillow tabs over the right side of the pillow bottom, positioning over the zipper and matching the unfinished edge of the tab with the unfinished edge of the pillow bottom. Stitch tabs to pillow bottom. Stitch two buttons to the pillow bottom positioning the buttons under the tabs. (The tabs should overlap each other to button in place. When the pillow is separate from the ottoman.) To join the pillow bottom to the sides, attach the cube top piece to the cylinder by joining the edges of the top piece to the top edge of each side square. To achieve great 3-d corners start and stop your stitching where the stitches started and stopped when the sides were joined. You will complete this step 4 times. Turn pillow right side out and insert 2, 17” x 15” x 2” pieces of chair pad into the pillow “shell” to “stuff” the pillow.

**Middle Pillow – dimensions 17” x 15” x 6”**

Cut 1 piece of fabric on-grain, 17” x 15” for the pillow top. Cut 2 pieces of fabric on grain, 17” x 8” for the bottom. (The bottom of the pillow has a zipper.) Cut 2 pieces of fabric on-grain, 17” x 6” for the pillow sides. Cut 2 pieces of fabric on-grain, 15” x 6” for the pillow sides. With right sides together join the 6” length of one of the 15” side pieces to the 6” length of one of the 17” sides, begin stitching 1/4” from the top and 1/4” from the side. Stitch the length of the side stopping 1/4” from the bottom. This will create a “side section” Repeat Step 4 for the two remaining side pieces to create a second side section. Now join the side sections together just like you did in Step 4.



## Stacked Pillow Ottoman



### Directions continued:

To join the pillow top to the sides, attach the cube top piece to the cylinder by joining the edges of the top piece to the top edge of each side square. To achieve great 3-d corners start and stop your stitching where the stitches started and stopped when the sides were joined. You will complete this step 4 times. With right sides together sew 1/2" seam to join the 17" sides of the bottom pieces.

Insert a zipper into the seam following the instructions for a "centered" zipper application on the zipper package. (Putting a zipper in the bottom creates an opening so the foam can be "stuffed" into the pillow.) To join the pillow bottom to the sides, attach the cube top piece to the cylinder by joining the edges of the top piece to the top edge of each side square.

To achieve great 3-d corners start and stop your stitching where the stitches started and stopped when the sides were joined. You will complete this step 4 times. Turn pillow right side out and insert 3, 17" x 15" x 2" pieces of chair pad into the pillow "shell" to "stuff" the pillow.

**Bottom Box Pillow** – dimensions 17" x 15" x 9" This pillow is stapled to a base of plywood that is 16-1/2" x 14-1/2" Cut 1 piece of fabric on-grain, 17" x 15" for the pillow top. Cut 2 pieces of fabric on-grain, 17" x 10" for the pillow sides. Cut 2 pieces of fabric on-grain, 15" x 10" for the pillow sides. With right sides together join the 6" length of one of the 15" side pieces to the 6" length of one of the 17" sides, begin stitching 1/4" from the top and 1/4" from the side. Stitch the length of the side stopping 1/4" from the bottom. This will create a "side section" Repeat Step 4 for the two remaining side pieces to create a second side section. Now join the side sections together just like you did in Step 4. To join the pillow top to the sides, attach the cube top piece to the cylinder by joining the edges of the top piece to the top edge of each side square. To achieve great 3-d corners start and stop your stitching where the stitches started and stopped when the sides were joined. You will complete this step 4 times. Stuff 5, 17" x 15" pieces of foam into the "bottomless" pillow to achieve a height of 10". (The extra 1" of height is needed to ensure a snug fit on the base.)

To build the base and attach the bottom box pillow:

Cut a 3/4" thick piece of plywood or particle-board 16-1/2" by 14-1/2" for the base. Attach "legs" to each corner of the base. We used 2-1/2" wooden "balls" from the wood turnings section of the crafts department. Drill 4 holes in the base. The 4 holes should be approximately 1-1/2" from each side of a corner. Thread a screw through each hole from the top side of the base to the bottom. Screw a ball onto each screw and secure tightly. Position the covered bottom pillow on top of the base. Turn the pillow upside down so the legs of the base are facing you. Starting on one side pull the fabric over the side of the base to the bottom of the base and staple the fabric to the base using the staple gun. (Depending on how tight you pull the fabric you should have approximately 1" of fabric pulled to the bottom.)

Repeat Step 6 until all four sides of the bottom pillow have been attached to the base.

Center the base tabs along the 15" sides of the base and staple in place.

Finishing the ottoman

Stack the middle pillow onto the base and top with the top pillow. Pull the tabs of the top pillow down and the tabs of the base pillow up to meet each other. Where the buttonholes overlap, mark the button placement on the base. Stitch the buttons to the base. Button the base tab first, then the tabs from the top pillow.

**Skill Level: Some experience helpful**

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