

Project: Bright and Bubbly Pillow

INSPIRED BY *BUBBLE UP* FROM DESIGNER SACHIKO ALDOUS ([TEAROSEHOME.BLOGSPOT.COM](http://TEAROSEHOME.BLOGSPOT.COM))  
QUILT TESTER: JAN RAGALLER



FABRICS are from the Honey Honey collection by Kate Spain for Moda Fabrics ([modafabrics.com](http://modafabrics.com)).

Happy appliquéd circles arranged in a flower shape fill a bright pillow. The ragged edges of the appliqués add to the project's breezy charm while orange piping frames the aqua background and echoes the center circle.

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**Materials**

- 22" square solid aqua (appliqué foundation)
- $\frac{1}{3}$  yard total assorted prints (appliqués)
- 18x22" piece (fat quarter) orange print (piping)
- $1\frac{1}{2}$  yards backing fabric
- 20" square pillow form
- $2\frac{1}{3}$  yards  $\frac{3}{16}$ "-wide cotton cording
- Washable fabric glue (optional)

Finished pillow:  $20\frac{1}{2}$ " square

**Yardages and cutting instructions** are based on 42" of usable fabric width.

**Measurements** include  $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowances. Sew with right sides together unless otherwise stated.

**Cut Fabrics**

Cut pieces in the following order.

Patterns are on page 4. To make templates of the patterns, see Make and Use Templates on page 5.

**From assorted prints, cut:**

- 1 of Pattern A
- 9 of Pattern B
- 8 of Pattern C

**From orange print, cut:**

- Enough  $2\frac{1}{4}$ "-wide bias strips to make an 86"-long piece for piping

**From backing fabric, cut:**

- 2— $20\frac{1}{2}$ x $24\frac{1}{2}$ " rectangles

**Appliqué Pillow Front**

1. Fold solid aqua square in half vertically and horizontally (**Diagram 1**). Lightly finger-press folds; unfold. Fold square diagonally in both directions and lightly finger-press again to make an appliqué foundation with placement lines; unfold.
2. Referring to **Diagram 2**, arrange assorted A, B, and C circles atop appliqué foundation. Pin or baste circles in place.
3. Machine-straight-stitch  $\frac{1}{4}$ " from outer edge of each circle to make appliquéd pillow front. Machine-wash to ravel the appliqué edges. Press and trim appliquéd pillow front to  $20\frac{1}{2}$ " square including seam allowances.

**Assemble Pillow**

1. Sew together orange print  $2\frac{1}{4}$ "-wide bias strips to make one long bias strip.
2. Fold one short end of orange print piping strip under  $1\frac{1}{2}$ ". With wrong side inside, fold strip in half lengthwise. Insert cording next to folded edge with cording end 1" from folded strip end. Using a zipper foot, baste through fabric layers right next to cording to make piping (**Diagram 3**). Trim seam allowances to  $\frac{1}{4}$ " wide.
3. Aligning raw edges, baste piping to all edges of appliquéd pillow front, starting  $1\frac{1}{2}$ " from folded piping end. As you stitch each corner, clip seam allowance to within a few threads of stitching line (**Diagram 4**); gently ease piping in place. Cut end of cording to fit snugly inside folded opening, then stitch to beginning point.
4. With wrong side inside, fold each backing  $20\frac{1}{2}$ x $24\frac{1}{2}$ " rectangle in half to form two double-thick  $20\frac{1}{2}$ x $12\frac{1}{4}$ " rectangles. (The double thickness results in a more stable pillow back.) Overlap folded edges about 4" to make a  $20\frac{1}{2}$ " square (**Pillow Back Assembly Diagram**). Baste across edges where layers overlap to make pillow back.
5. Layer appliquéd pillow front and back with right sides together; pin. Sew together around outer edges just inside cording stitching line to make pillow cover. Turn right side out; press. Insert 20"-square pillow form through opening to complete pillow.

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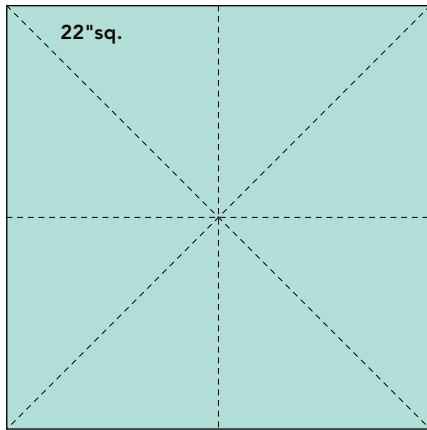


DIAGRAM 1

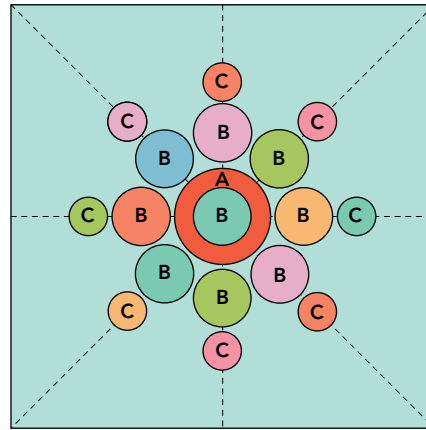


DIAGRAM 2

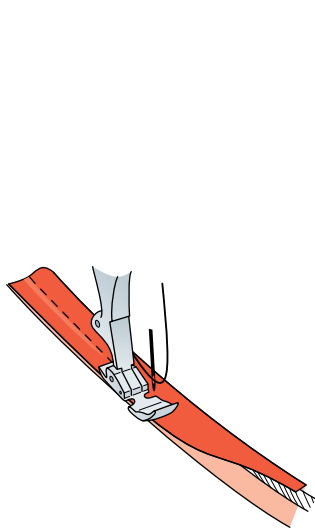


DIAGRAM 3

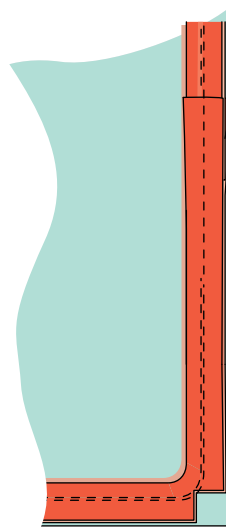
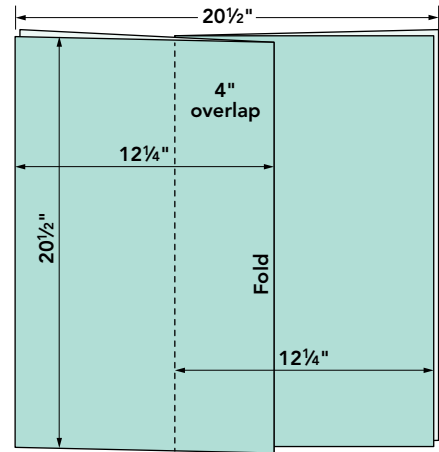
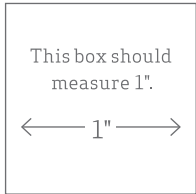
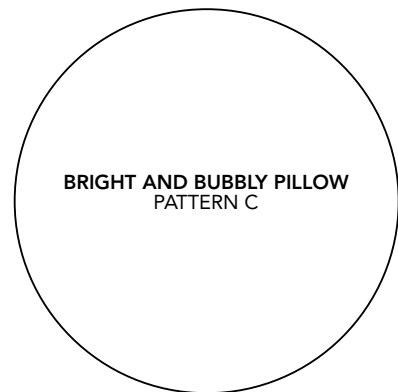
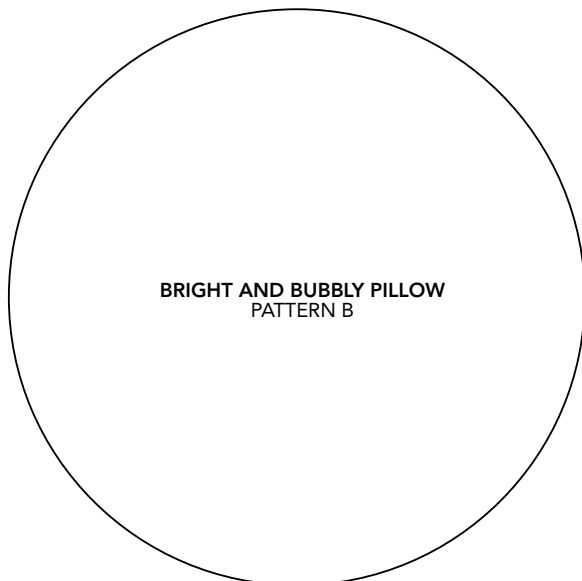


DIAGRAM 4



PILLOW BACK ASSEMBLY DIAGRAM

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**\* NOTE:** When printing a downloadable pdf, set Page Scaling preference to NONE to print patterns at 100%. Do NOT "Shrink to Fit" or "Fit to Printable Area."

## Make and Use Templates

### Make Templates

A template is a pattern made from extra-sturdy material so you can trace around it many times without wearing away the edges. Acrylic templates for many common shapes are available at quilt shops. Or you can make your own by duplicating printed patterns on template plastic.

To make permanent templates, purchase easy-to-cut template plastic, available at quilt shops and crafts supply stores. Lay the plastic over a printed pattern. Trace the pattern onto the plastic using a ruler and a permanent marker to ensure straight lines, accurate corners, and permanency.

For hand piecing and appliqué, make templates the exact size finished pieces will be (without seam allowances). For piecing, this means tracing the patterns' dashed lines.

For machine piecing, make templates that include seam allowances by tracing the patterns' solid and dashed lines onto the template plastic.

For easy reference, mark each template with its letter designation, grain line (if noted on the pattern), and block name. Cut out the traced shapes on their outside lines. Verify each template's shape and size by placing it over its printed pattern. Templates must be accurate; errors, however small, will compound many times as you assemble a quilt. To check templates' accuracy, make a test block before cutting the fabric pieces for an entire quilt.

### Use Templates

To mark on fabric, use a pencil, white dressmaker's pencil, chalk, or a special fabric marker that makes a thin, accurate line. Do not use a ballpoint or ink pen; it may bleed if washed. Test all marking tools on a fabric scrap before using them.

To make pieces for hand piecing or appliqué, place a template facedown on the wrong side of the fabric and trace. Then reposition the template at least  $\frac{1}{2}$ " away from the previous tracing (**Diagram 1**), trace again, and repeat. The lines you trace on the fabric are sewing lines. Mark cutting lines  $\frac{1}{4}$ " away from the sewing lines, or estimate the distance by eye when cutting out the pieces with scissors. For hand piecing, add a  $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance; for hand appliqué, add a  $\frac{3}{16}$ " seam allowance.

Because templates used to make pieces for machine piecing have seam allowances included, you can use common tracing lines for efficient cutting. Place a template facedown on the wrong side of the fabric and trace. Then reposition the template without a space between it and the previous tracing (**Diagram 2**); trace again and repeat. Using a rotary cutter and ruler, cut pieces out, cutting precisely on the drawn lines.

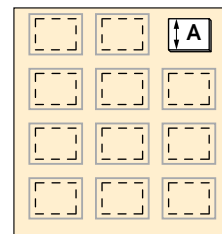


DIAGRAM 1

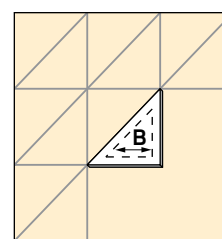


DIAGRAM 2