

Project: Pretty Pumpkin Pillow



Combine embroidery with silk and wool fabrics to create a cozy pumpkin pillow that will enhance your fall decorating.

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Materials

- 14×3" rectangle brown plaid felted wool (basket)
- $\frac{1}{3}$ yard tan silk matka, such as raw silk or noil (appliqué foundation, pillow back)
- Scraps of assorted orange felted wools (pumpkins, berries)
- 1×4" rectangle brown felted wool (stems)
- 2×6" rectangle green felted wool (leaves)
- Tan quilting thread
- Embroidery floss: brown and tan
- Polyester fiberfill
- Freezer paper
- Water-soluble marking pen

Finished pillow: 15 $\frac{1}{2}$ ×8 $\frac{1}{2}$ "

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

Measurements include $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowances.

Cut Fabrics

Cut pieces in the following order.

To make pattern templates, see *Make and Use Templates* on page 6. The patterns are on pages 4 and 5.

Felted wool (available in many quilt shops) doesn't fray, so there is no need to turn under the edges of the appliqué shapes. Cut edges cleanly, keeping them as smooth as possible.

To felt wool, machine-wash it in a hot-water-wash, cool-rinse cycle with a small amount of detergent; machine-dry on high heat and steam-press.

To use freezer paper for cutting appliqué shapes, complete the following steps.

1. Lay freezer paper, shiny side down, over patterns. Use a pencil to trace each pattern the number of times indicated, leaving $\frac{1}{2}$ " between tracings. Cut out freezer-paper shapes roughly $\frac{1}{4}$ " outside traced lines.
2. Using a hot dry iron, press freezer-paper shapes, shiny side down, onto designated wools. Let cool. Cut out fabric shapes on drawn lines. Peel off freezer paper.

From brown plaid wool, cut:

- 1 of Pattern A

From tan silk matka, cut:

- 2—16×9" rectangles

From assorted orange wools, cut:

- 1 each of patterns B–H
- 39 of Pattern Q

From brown wool, cut:

- 1 each of patterns I–O

From green wool, cut:

- 15 of Pattern P

Appliqué and Embellish Pillow Front

1. Referring to **Appliqué Placement Diagram**, position brown plaid wool A basket about 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ " from bottom edge of a tan silk matka 16×9" rectangle. Add orange wool B–H pumpkins and brown wool I–O stems. Baste in place.
2. Using tan quilting thread and a primitive whipstitch, appliqué pieces in place.
3. Referring to photo and using a water-soluble marking pen, draw freehand vines for berries and leaves and the pumpkin section lines. Using three strands of brown floss, stem-stitch vines for berries; using tan floss, stem-stitch vine for leaves and pumpkin section lines.

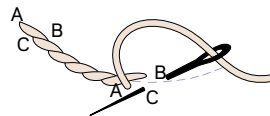
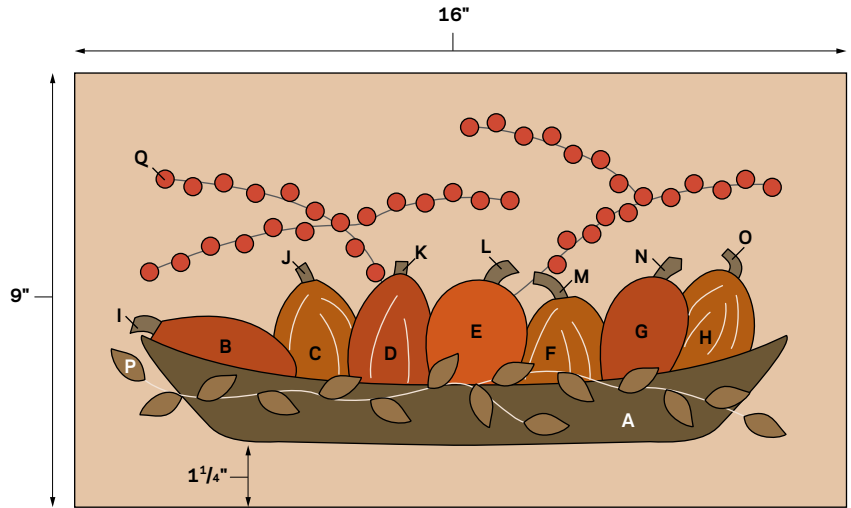
To stem-stitch, pull your needle up at A (**Stem Stitch Diagram**), then insert it back into fabric at B, about $\frac{3}{8}$ " away from A. Holding floss out of the way, bring your needle back up at C and pull floss through so it lies flat against fabric. The distances between points A, B, and C should be equal. Pull gently with equal tautness after each stitch. Continue in same manner, holding floss out of the way on same side of stitching every time.

4. Appliqué green wool P leaves and orange wool Q berries as done in Step 2 to finish appliquéing pillow front.

Finish Pillow

1. With right sides together, layer appliqué pillow front and remaining tan silk matka 16×9" rectangle. Sew together, leaving a 6" opening along bottom edge for turning.
2. Turn right side out. Stuff firmly with fiberfill. Slip-stitch opening closed to complete pillow.

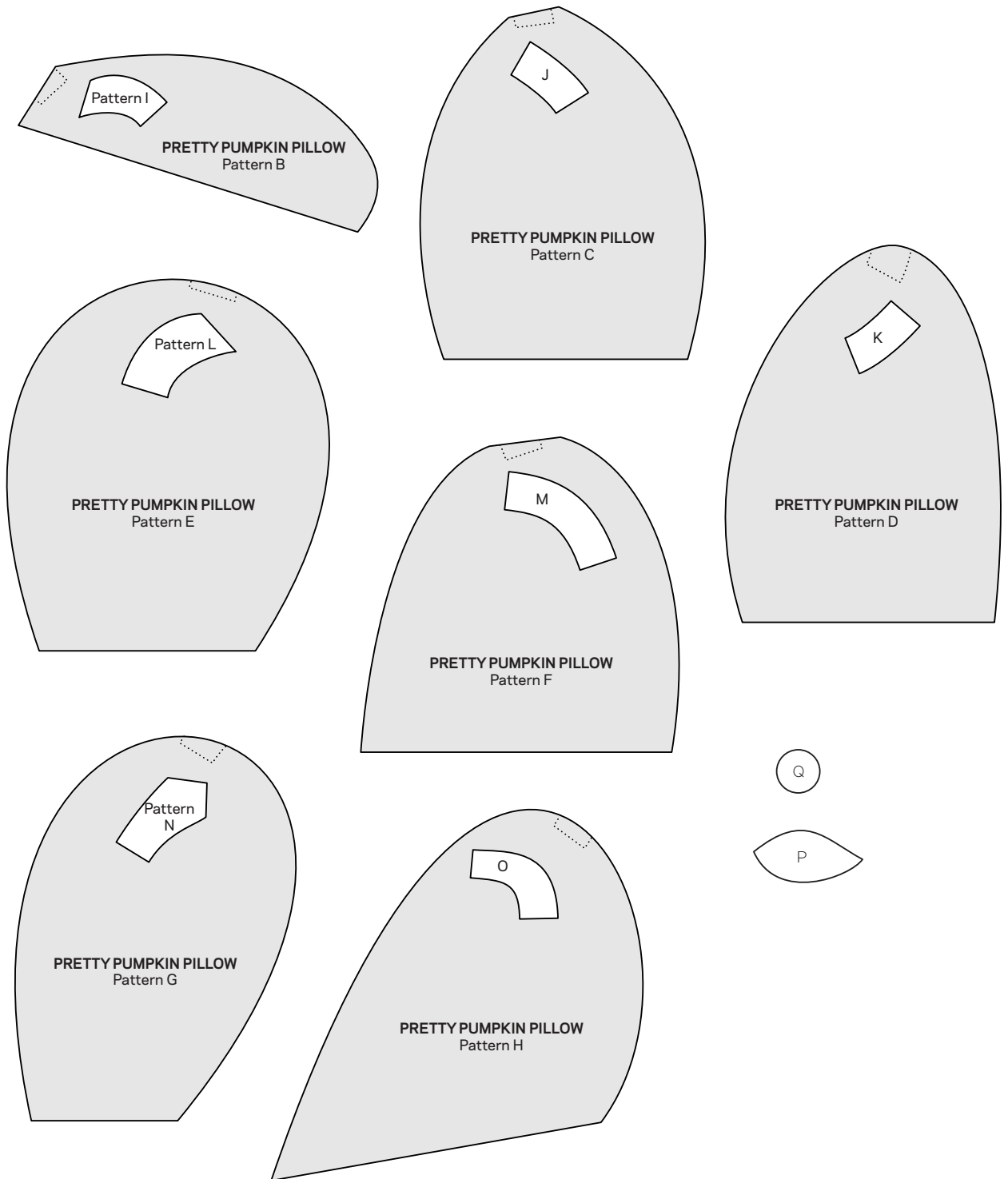
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STEM STITCH DIAGRAM

PRETTY PUMPKIN PILLOW
Appliqué Placement Diagram

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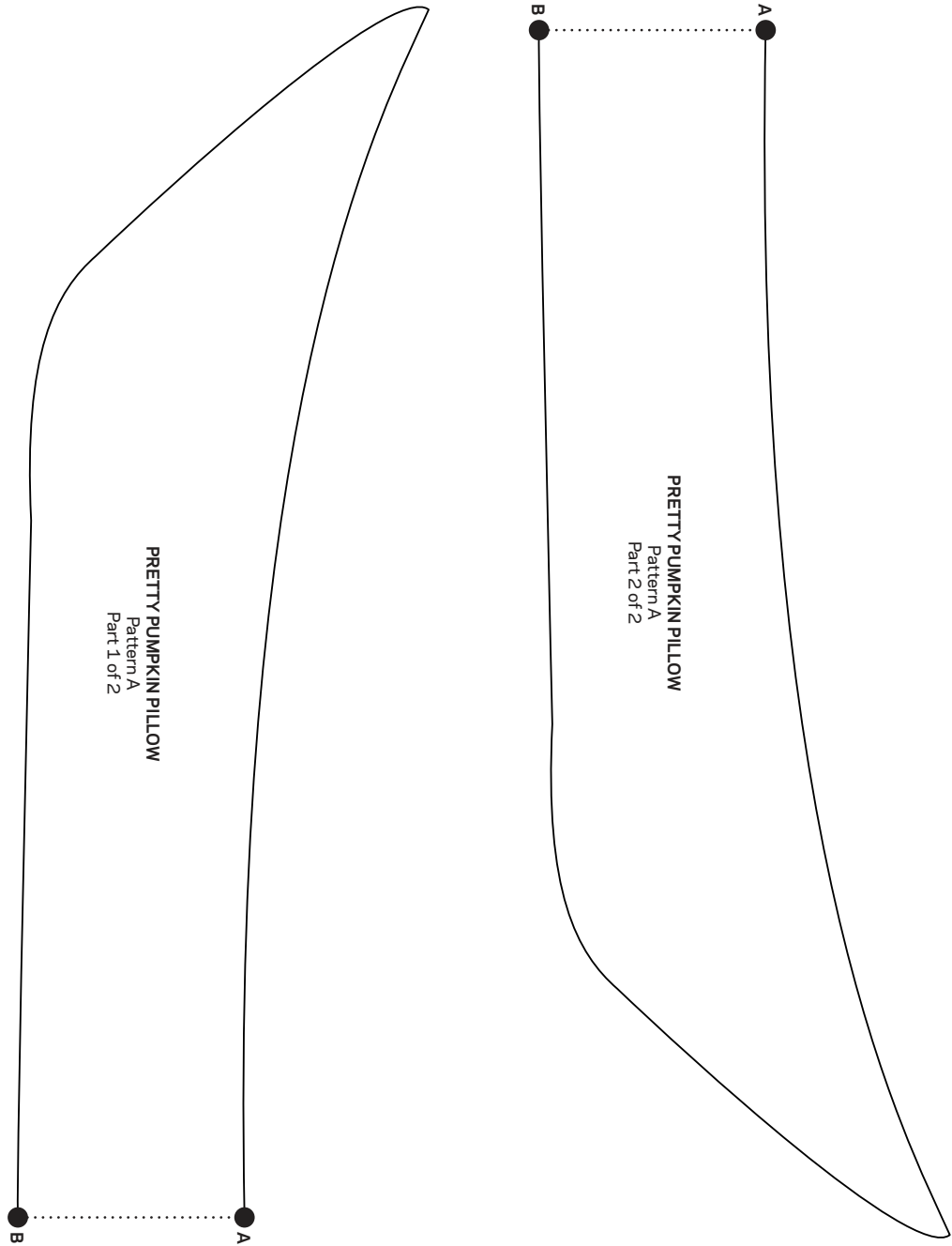


This box should measure 1".
← 1" →

*** 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."

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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.

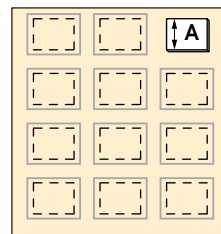


DIAGRAM 1

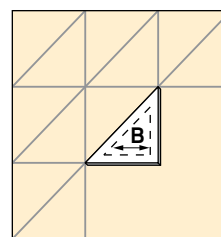


DIAGRAM 2