

Blooming Crocus Pillowcase

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Make a band of pretty crocuses to finish the edge of a special pillowcase.

Materials: 44"-wide fabrics*

*41" of usable width after preshrinking

1/8 yd. each dark and light green for the leaves

1/8 yd. each light, medium, and dark print or solid for the petals

1/8 yd. yellow for centers

1 1/8 yds. white solid or print for the pillowcase

1/4 yd. print or solid for the binding

Cutting

Dark Green: 2 strips, each 1" x 41"

Light green: 2 strips, each 1" x 41"

Dark for Petals: 2 strips, each 1 1/4" x 41";

crosscut 9 strips, each 1 1/4" x 4",

and 9 strips, each 1" x 3 1/2".

Medium for Petals: 2 strips, each 1" x 41";

crosscut 18 strips, each 1" x 4".

Light for Petals: 2 strips, each 1" x 41";

crosscut 18 strips, each 1" x 3".

Yellow for center squares: 1 strip 1 1/4" x 15";

crosscut 9 squares, each 1 1/4" x 1 1/4". Cut 1 strip,

1" x 20"; crosscut 18 squares, each 1" x 1".

White for pillowcase, triangles, and divider strips between blocks:

Cut a 31"-long piece for the pillowcase and set aside.

From the remaining white fabric, cut:

9 strips, each 1" x 4", for the divider strips between the blocks.

4 squares, each 4" x 4"; cut each square twice diagonally for a total of 12 quarter-square triangles for the background at the top of the crocus blocks (set 3 extra aside).

9 squares, each 1 1/2" x 1 1/2". Cut once diagonally for a total of 18 half-square triangles for the lower corners of the blocks.

Binding:

1 strip, 1" x 41" for upper edge of the crocus band

1 strip 2 1/4" x 41" for double-layer binding that finishes to 1/4" wide at lower edge of pillowcase

Making the Block Sections

All seam allowances are 1/4" wide. Press seams in direction of arrows.

1. Sew each 1"-wide dark green strip to a 1"-wide light green strip. Press the seams toward the dark green in each strip unit. From the strip units, cut a total of 9 pieces, each 5" long, and 9 pieces, each 4" long. Set aside the 4"-long pieces for Block Section Four.



Cut 9 pieces, each 4" long.

Cut 9 pieces 5" long for Section Four.

2. Sew each 1 1/4" yellow square to a 1 1/4" x 4" dark petal strip. Press the seam toward the petal. Make 9.



3. To make Block Section One, sew a 4"-long dk. green/lt. green strip unit to the lower edge of each of the dark petal/yellow unit as shown.



Block Section One

Press the seam toward the petal/yellow unit. Make 9.

4. Sew a 1" yellow square to a 1" x 4" medium petal strip. Press the seam toward the petal strip. Make 9.

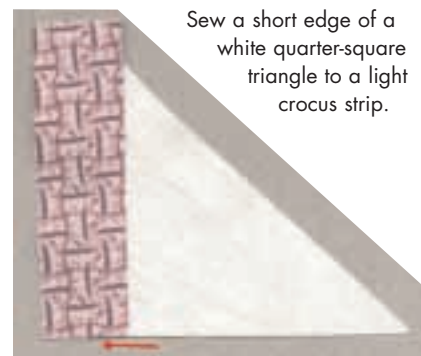


5. To make Block Section Two, sew each medium petal/yellow strip to a 1 1/4" x 3 1/2" dark petal strip. Press the seam toward the dark petal strip. Make 9.



Block Section Two

6. Sew a short edge of a white quarter-square triangle to a 1" x 3" light petal strip. Press the seam toward the petal strip. Make 9.



Sew a short edge of a white quarter-square triangle to a light crocus strip.

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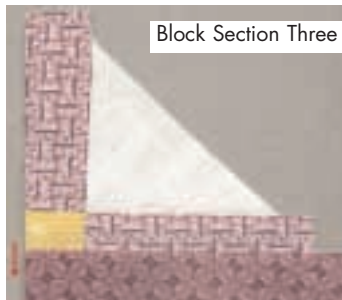
7. Sew a 1" yellow square to each of the remaining 1" x 3" light petal strips. Press the seam toward the petal in each unit. Make 9.



8. Sew a unit from step 7 to a 1" x 4" medium petal strip, press the seam toward the medium petal. Make 9.

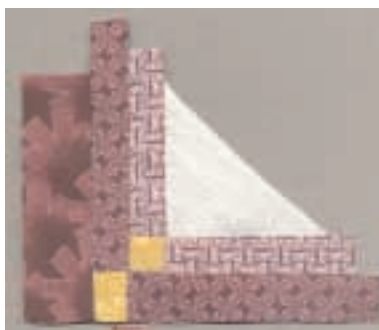


9. Sew each light petal/yellow strip from step 8 to the lower edge of the unit from step 6. Press the seam toward the petal strip. This is Block Section Three. Make 9.



Assembling the Blocks

1. Sew each Block Section Two to a Block Section Three as shown and press the seam toward Block Section Two. Make 9.



2. Sew each Block Section One to the lower edge of Sections Two/Three. Make 9.

Block Sections One/Two/Three



3. Sew a 5"-long dk. green/lt. green strip unit (Section 4) to the left edge of a unit from step 2. Press the seam toward the light green strip. Make 9.



Trimming the Blocks

1. Using a rotary ruler and cutter, align the $2\frac{1}{4}$ " line through the points of the yellow squares in the center of the block and trim each side. The resulting piece should be $4\frac{1}{2}$ " wide from side to side.



2. Align the ruler across the bottom of each block so that the $1\frac{1}{4}$ " line is at the lower point of the lower yellow square and trim.



3. Trim the excess at the top of each block so they each measure 4" long.



4. Center a white half-square triangle (they are oversized) at each lower corner of each block and stitch.



cont. on page 3

5. Press the seam toward the center of the block. Trim the excess triangle at each corner to square and finish each block. The resulting blocks should measure 4" x 4½".



Trim excess at each block corner.

Completed Crocus Block



6. Sew a 1" x 4" white dividing strip to the right-hand edge of each completed block. Press the seam toward the strip.



7. Sew the blocks together to make one long strip of 9 blocks and dividing strips. Press the seams toward the dividing strips.



Assembling the Pillowcase

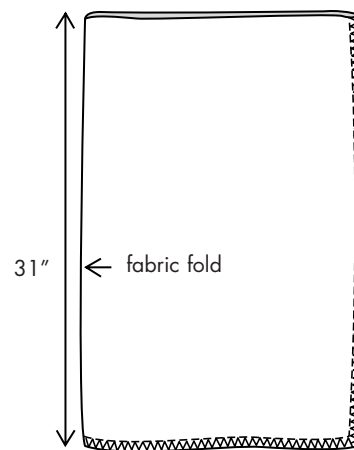
1. Sew the 1"-wide binding strip to the upper edge of the band. Press toward the seam allowance, then wrap over the raw edge and press.

Note: If your patchwork band is longer than the binding strip, you will need to add length to the strip.

2. Place the lower raw edge of the crocus band even with the raw edge of the 31"-long pillowcase panel and pin or baste in place. Trim the excess fabric width from the pillowcase panel.

3. Stitch in the ditch of the upper-edge binding to secure the band to the pillowcase.

4. Fold the pillowcase in half with right sides together and stitch ¼" from the short and long raw edges. Zigzag or serge to finish the edges.



5. Fold the 2¼"-wide binding strip in half lengthwise with wrong sides together and press. Use to bind the lower edge of the pillowcase.

Note: If the lower edge of the pillowcase is longer than the binding strip, add a second shorter 2¼"-wide strip to the long strip to make it long enough. Use a bias seam to avoid bulk in the finished binding.