

## Easy Envelope Pillow Backs—Two Ways

Use these simple directions to finish pillows with an envelope closure. Binding or no binding? That's up to you.

### MATERIALS

- Pillow top
- Backing fabric
- Pillow form
- Point turner
- Binding strips:  $2\frac{1}{4}$ "  $\times$  (the pillow perimeter + 5") (for the Envelope Back with Binding option only)

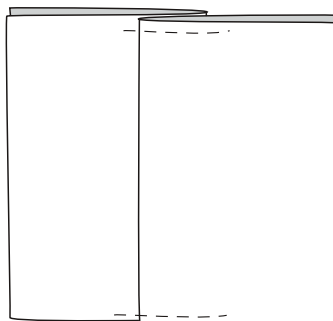
### ENVELOPE BACK WITHOUT BINDING

**1.** Cut 2 pieces of backing fabric, each the height of the finished pillow plus  $\frac{1}{2}$ " (for seam allowances) and the width of the finished pillow plus 6" (for overlap). As an example, for a 16"  $\times$  16" pillow, cut 2 rectangles, each 16 $\frac{1}{2}$ "  $\times$  22".

**2.** Fold and press the rectangles in half widthwise, wrong sides facing. (In our example, the rectangles would be 16 $\frac{1}{2}$ "  $\times$  11".)

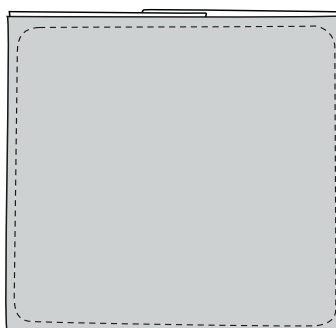
**3.** Overlap the pressed edges, making a square the size of the pillow top.

**4.** Baste the overlapped edges together at the top and bottom.



**5.** Place the pillow front atop the backing with right sides facing. Stitch around the outer edge of the pillow top, rounding the corners if you prefer to avoid sharp points on the finished pillow.

**TIP:** Sew around the entire pillow twice for additional strength.



**6.** Turn the pillow right side out through the opening in the pillow back. Gently push out the corners of the pillow with a point turner and insert the pillow form.

### ENVELOPE BACK WITH BINDING

Follow the instructions for Without Binding through step 4, but cut the fabric the height of the finished pillow *without additional seam allowance* and the width of the finished pillow plus 6" (for overlap). As an example, for a 16"  $\times$  16" pillow, cut 2 rectangles, each 16"  $\times$  22". Then proceed with the instructions below.

**1.** Place the pillow front atop the backing, wrong sides together. Machine baste around the pillow layers,  $\frac{1}{8}$ " from the outer edge.

**2.** From the binding fabric, cut enough  $2\frac{1}{4}$ " strips to go around the perimeter of the pillow, plus an extra 5". Using diagonal seams, join binding strips into 1 continuous piece for straight-grain, French-fold binding. Bind the pillow as you would a quilt and insert the pillow form.