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# Embellished Silk Pillow

Created by Debbi Lashbrook

Some simple quilting, decorative stitching, and a double cord detail give a rich look to this 16" silk dupioni pillow. An invisible zipper in the back makes it easy to remove the cover for cleaning or for a seasonal design change.



## Supplies

### Machines & Accessories

- Any BERNINA sewing machine
- Presser feet:
  - Reverse pattern Foot #1/1C/1D
  - BSR – BERNINA® Stitch Regulator
  - Clear Embroidery Foot #39/39C
  - Invisible Zipper Foot #35
  - Double Cord Feet #59/59C and #60/60C

### Fabric and Notions

- ½ yard of silk Dupioni
- Assorted silk swatches in coordinating colors
- Small pieces of batting
- Armo Weft ® interfacing
- Tear-Away stabilizer
- Chalk marker
- Temporary Spray Adhesive
- Perle cotton, size 8 or similar
- 6mm Decorative cording for embellishment
- 8mm Decorative cording for corded edge
- 16" pillow form
- 18" invisible zipper

### Threads

- Mettler polyester thread used for construction
- Isacord embroidery thread for embellishment
- YLI Invisible thread, clear or smoke color
- Metallic thread, optional

### Machine Needles

- Size 80/12 for construction of pillow
- Size 90/14 used for attaching heavier cords
- Metafil Needle, size 80/12, if using metallic



*Feet-ures is a comprehensive 3-volume, spiral-bound reference guide to all BERNINA presser feet, accessories and attachments.*

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## Cutting & Preparation

Use a rotary cutter, mat and ruler to cut dupioni into various sizes of squares and rectangles to decorate the pillow. Sizes used in the sample were 2"-4" in length x 1"-3" in width.



Cut some batting pieces slightly smaller than the dupioni shapes. You do not need batting for all of the shapes. The batting will give dimension to some of the swatches.

Cut one piece of dupioni 16" x 16" for the pillow front. *Note: Do not allow extra for seam allowances, but cut the pillow to the exact size of your pillow form to make a "plumper" pillow.*

Cut two pieces that measure 16" x 9" each, for the pillow back.

Fuse Armo Weft® interfacing to the wrong side of the silk front & backs following the manufacturer's instructions.

## Swatch Embellishments



Use a stiletto or tweezers to help fringe swatches on all four sides.

Use temporary spray adhesive to lightly spray the wrong side of the swatches; place batting

under some of them. Then, lightly spray the back of the batting pieces as well.

Place the fringed swatches on the right side of the pillow front as desired (use photo on previous page as a guide) The non-batting shapes should be placed in the background and the batting-backed shapes, in the foreground.

Drop the feed dog. Attach the BERNINA Stitch Regulator #42 or another free motion presser foot if desired.

Thread machine with your color choice of Isacord thread. Use matching thread in the bobbin.

Place pillow front under the needle. Take 2-3 stitches to secure the thread then trim the thread tails and free-motion stitch over the swatches as desired. When finished, take 2-3 stitches in place to secure the thread and trim.



Thread perle cotton through the hole in the front of Clear Embroidery Foot #39/39C. The perle cotton will give dimension to the stitches.

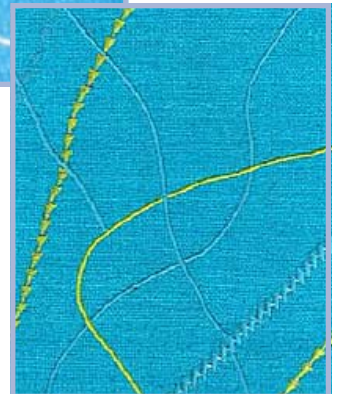
Activate needle down and select the decorative stitches you wish to use.

Use Isacord or metallic thread as desired and experiment with different decorative stitches. Don't forget that you can adjust the stitch length and width as desired.

Use chalk to mark curved lines to follow when stitching decorative stitches over the fringed swatches. Place tear-away stabilizer behind the project.



*Note: BERNINA machines have "Temporary Altered Memory" so that any settings you alter will be remembered, allowing you to can go back and forth between stitches without needing to reset them.*

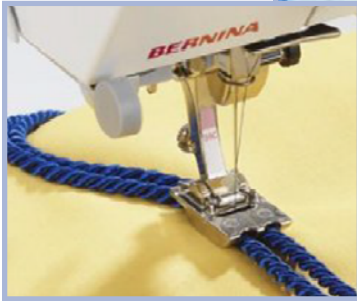




## Adding Double Cording

Place purchased cording (4-6mm in diameter) in the grooves under Foot #59C.

Select a feather stitch. Alter the length to 4.5mm and the width to 5.0mm.



Activate needle down and stitch the cord as desired. Each right or left swing of the feather stitch will secure the cord to the fabric.

## Pillow Back

Press under 1" along one of the 16" sides of each of the pillow backs, making each one 16" x 8."

Attach Invisible Zipper Foot #35 to the machine. Thread with Mettler thread in the needle and bobbin.

Unzip the zipper. Unfold the pressed edge and lay one side of the zipper tape face down along the crease.

Position the coil of the zipper in one groove on the sole of the presser foot. Stitch the length of the zipper, next to the coils.



Repeat with remaining part of the pillow back and other side of zipper. Zip the zipper partially closed.

Place the zipped pillow back right sides together with the decorated front.

Using Reverse Pattern Foot #1/1C, stitch around all pillow edges with a ½" seam. Make sure the zipper is slightly opened so that you can unzip it after sewing the outside edges.

Turn right side out; press lightly along edges.

## Corded Edge

Use Double Cord Foot #60C to place a larger diameter cord along the edges of a pillow, using invisible thread in the needle and in the bobbin.

Select the gathering stitch and adjust the length to 1.0mm and the width to 5.0mm. *Note: The feather stitch can also be used with a length of 4mm and a width of 5mm.*

Leave an extra 2" of cording at the beginning and the end of the cording for "reweaving" at the pillow's corner. Use transparent tape or masking tape to keep the trim from unraveling.

Place the cording in the right groove under Foot #60C and align the pressed edge of the swatch under the foot so that it butts up next to the cord.

Stitch along the edge, beginning and ending at a corner.

To reweave the cording at the pillow edge, unravel each end of cord at the corner of the pillow and intertwine the edges so the cording looks good from the front of the pillow



Stitch across the corner of the intertwined cord a zigzag stitch. Set the SL at 1.5mm; SW at 2.0mm.



Bring the unraveled ends to the wrong side of the pillow and secure with Zigzag Stitch # 2. Set the SL at 1.5mm; SW at 2.0mm.



Trim the ends of the cord on the back of the pillow close to the zigzag stitch.

