BERNINA
8 Series

Crazy Patch Pillow

Created by Jeanne Delpit

This pretty patchwork pillow sampler includes instructions for a variety of embellishment techniques stitched on BERNINA 8 Series machines.

Supplies

Machine & Accessories
- BERNINA 820 or 830 Sewing Machine
- Automatic Buttonhole Foot #3A
- Zipper Foot #4D
- Edgestitch Foot #10D (optional)
- Open Embroidery Foot #20C *and* #20D
- 3-Groove Cording Foot #22
- Patchwork Foot #37D
- Clear Embroidery Foot #39C or #39D
- BERNINA Stitch Regulator #42
- 8mm Double Cord Foot #60C
- Supplemental Thread Holder (optional)

Pillow Supplies
- Assorted fat quarters for front
- One 16" x 16" square of chamois, heavy muslin, quilt batting for front base
- Two 13" x 15" rectangles of fabric for back
- Four 2½" x 43" strips of fabric for cording
- 4 yards of ¾" cotton home dec cording
- Two 3" x 15" strips of lightweight fusible interfacing
- Decorative cords, yarns, and threads to embellish patchwork blocks
- One 14" pillow form
- Three buttons, ½" diameter
- 50-weight cotton thread for piecing
- Assorted decorative threads to coordinate or contrast with fabrics and decorative cords/yarns

Notions
- 14" x 14" and 7" x 14" "Cut for the Cure" rulers
- Rotary cutter and mat
- Tracing wheel
- Fabric marker
- Parchment paper, 16" x 16" or larger
- Seam sealant
- Mary Ellen's Best Press
- #80/12 Jeans needle
- 3.0 Double needle
- Hand-sewing needle
- 505 Quilt Basting Spray
- Buttonhole Cutter and Block

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Assemble the Pillow Front

♦ Lay your crazy patch fabrics on the base fabric and arrange as desired. Press all of the folds in place.

♦ Slice the parchment paper between the patchwork fabrics and the base fabric. Using a tracing wheel and a ruler, mark along the creased fold of each fabric piece. Remove the patchwork fabrics and draw over the incised lines.

♦ Prepare your Personal Program with stitches to use on your crazy patchwork.

◇ Select stitch #414 and touch the Stitch Altering Area (the blue space around the stitch).

◇ Select Add to Personal Program.

◇ Select Personal Program 1.

◇ Touch the title bar to rename your Personal Program.

◇ Touch the back arrow to remove the 1, then type in Crazy Patch. Touch the green checkmark to confirm your selection.

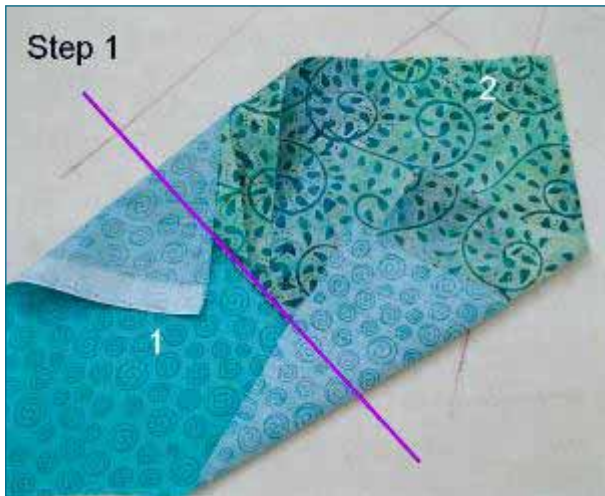◇ Touch the flashing stitch #414 to add it to your Personal Program.

◇ Select the decorative stitch menu and add more stitches to your Personal Program. You won't have to name the folder again — just touch the Crazy Patch Personal Program to add new stitches to it.
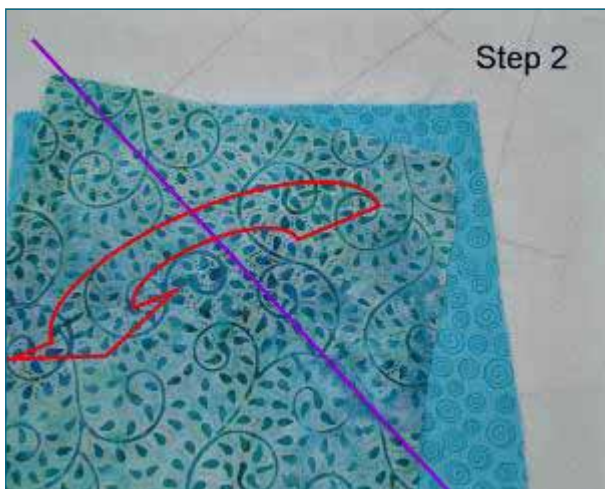
◇ After adding as many stitches as desired, touch the Personal Program Menu icon to see and access the stitches you have saved.

- Position the first crazy patch fabric face up in the center of the base fabric.

- Position the second piece on top of the first, right sides together, placing the creased fold along the previously marked line.

Step 1

- Insert a Jeans needle into the machine, attach Patchwork Foot #37D, and engage Dual Feed. Thread the bobbin for balanced tension.

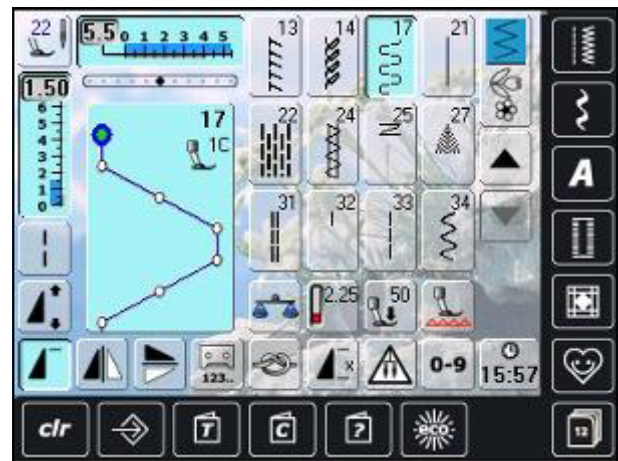- Carefully open the fold of the second fabric. Stitch along the creased/marked line using Straight stitch #1.

Step 2

- Trim the excess fabric away from the seam, leaving about ½" seam allowance.

- Fold the second layer back over the seam allowance; press.

- Embellish the seam with one of the techniques that follow.

Embellishment Techniques
Couched Cording

- Select three cords to couch. Thread the needle and bobbin with coordinating fabric if you do not wish the stitches to show.

- Attach 3-Groove Cording Foot #22 to the machine and open the clasp on the front of the foot.

- Tie the ends of the cords together. With the knotted end behind the foot, position the cords in the grooves and close the clasp. If needed, use tweezers to pull the cords straight from the back of the foot.

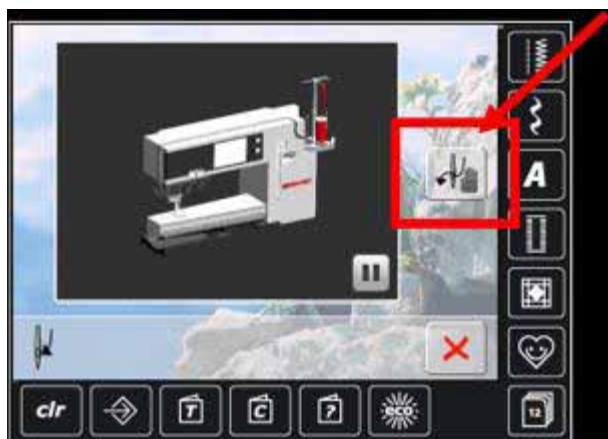- Select decorative stitch #17 (or desired stitch); adjust stitch length and width as desired.

- Couch the cords over the seam line, starting and ending beyond the ends of the placement line so that the starting and ending points will be concealed in the pillow seam allowances.

Double Needle Stitching

♦ Select two threads and place them on the Thread Delivery System corresponding spindles.

♦ Thread the bobbin for balanced tension.

♦ Insert a Double needle into the machine. Place one thread in the threading path so that the first sensor is activated. When the animation appears, touch the Manual Threading icon on the screen. This will prevent the Auto Needle Threader from activating when you touch the illuminated Auto Needle Threader button.
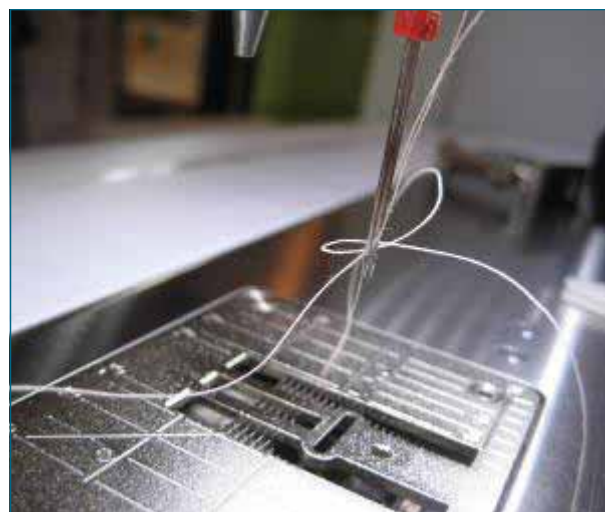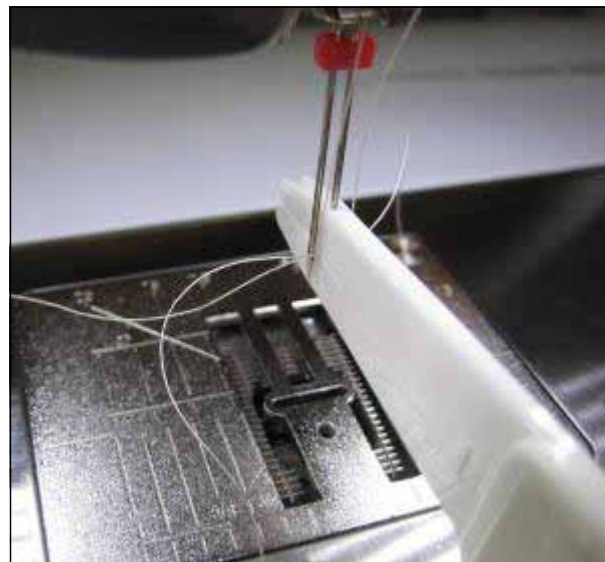

♦ Place the thread into the appropriate threading guides, but do not thread it through the needle; let it fall onto the stitch plate after passing it through the final guide on the needle bar.

♦ Touch the illuminated Auto Needle Threader button; even though you will be threading manually, this step is necessary to seat the thread correctly for stitching.
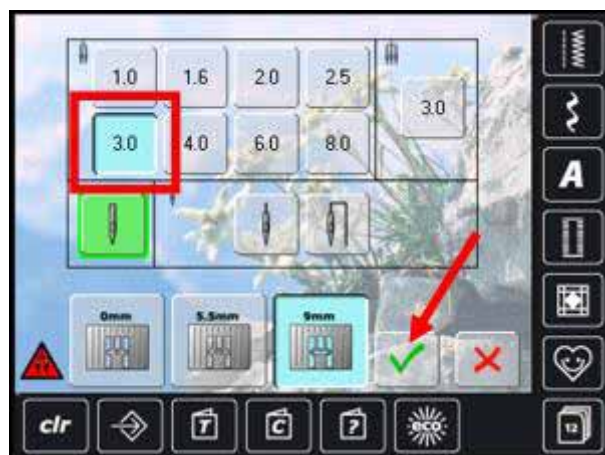

♦ Repeat this process for the second thread, making sure you touch the Manual Threading icon and later the Auto Needle Threader icon.

♦ Thread the needles using the Manual Thread included with the BERNINA 8 Series machines.

Tip: Place the presser foot in the up position for easier threading.

♦ Touch the Security Program icon. Select 3.0 Twin needle and touch Check to confirm your selection.

- Select your Crazy Patch Personal Program and select stitch #414. Notice that the stitch width has been reduced so that the needles will not hit the presser foot. Note that the Security icon is now red, indicating that it is engaged.
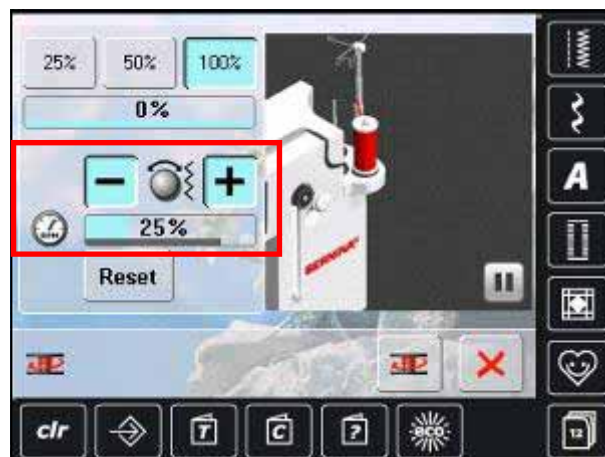

- Attach Open Embroidery Foot #20C or #20D to the machine and note the groove in the foot.

- Stitch over the seam line, aligning the seam with the groove in the center of the foot.

- After embellishing the seam, remove the Double needle.

- To disengage the Double needle limitation, touch the Security Program icon, select the single needle, and touch the check mark. The Security Program does not automatically return to default when the machine is turned off or when a new stitch is selected.

Bobbin Play

- Wind the heavy decorative threads onto Jumbo bobbins. Decrease the Bobbin Winding Motor Speed to its lowest setting.

Tip: Consider using a supplemental thread holder so the decorative thread can spill of the cone without twisting.

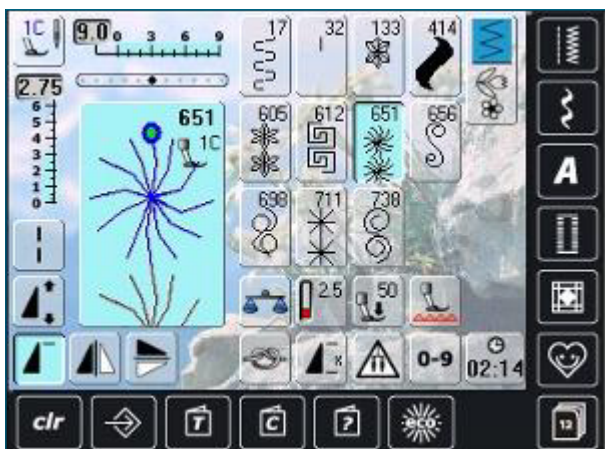*Tip: Consider winding two bobbins of the same thread if you have long seams to embellish.*

- Remove the bobbin. With your left hand pressing up on the bottom of the retaining finger to keep the bobbin case in place, turn the handwheel to position the bobbin basket so that the Multi-function Tool rests comfortably on the silver lug.
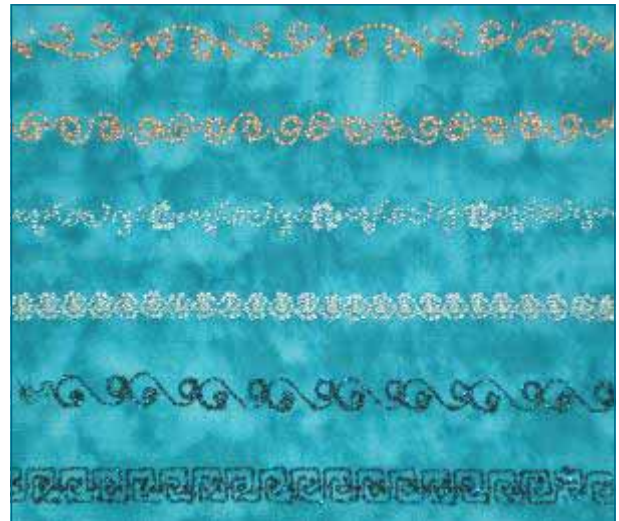
- Pressing down securely with the Multifunction Tool, move the silver lug 3-4 clicks to the left to loosen the bobbin tension. The number of clicks will vary depending on the size of the decorative thread and your machine.

- To reseat the bobbin basket, close the bobbin area door with NO bobbin inserted. Open the bobbin area door and insert one of the bobbins wound with heavy decorative thread.

- Insert a Jeans needle into the machine. Thread the needle with the thread used for seaming the patchwork. Increase the needle tension to about 9 (this will vary depending on the thread and your machine.)

- Open your Crazy Patch Personal Program and select a decorative stitch. Some fun stitches are: #133, #601, #603, #605, #656, #672, #699, #711, #738, #1119, and #1332, as well as many of the Quilt Block Menu stitches.
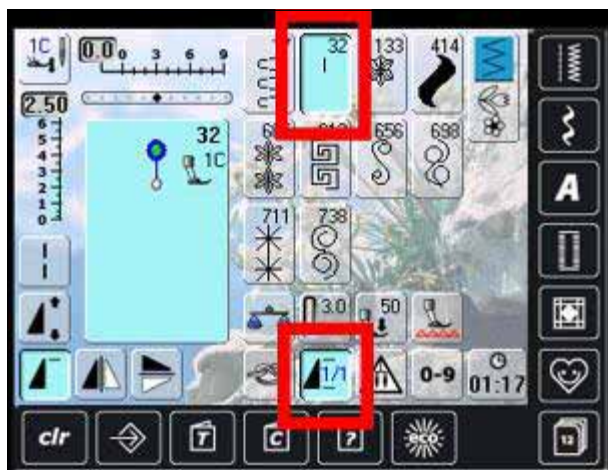

- Depending on the stitch chosen, attach Open Embroidery Foot #20C or #20D, or Clear Embroidery Foot #39C or #39D. Edgestitch Foot #10C or #10D may be used for some stitches, but they must be light and open so the foot will not drag over the stitching.

- Prepare a text swatch by cutting 10" x 12" rectangles of base fabric and patchwork fabric and stacking them. Draw parallel lines about 1" apart on the wrong side of the fabric sandwich (on the base fabric).

- Place the right side of the test fabric sandwich face down on the machine so that the wrong side is facing up. Sew lines of different decorative stitches on the marked lines. Check the results as you stitch, adjusting the needle or bobbin case tension as needed to obtain optimal results. Note the adjustments by writing on the wrong side of the test pieces.

- Place the patchwork pillow front face down on the machine, with the base fabric on top. Select a bobbin play stitch and adjust the settings as determined on the test swatch. Sew along the seam line, stopping outside the seam allowance for the next patch so the ends will be concealed. Stitch additional rows as desired.

Twisted Thread Embellishment

- Attach Open Embroidery Foot #20C to the machine, insert the Jeans needle, and thread the needle and bobbin with a color to blend or contrast with the twisted threads.

- Select stitch #32, the Single Straight stitch, and engage Pattern Repeat 1x. Engage Needle Stop Down.

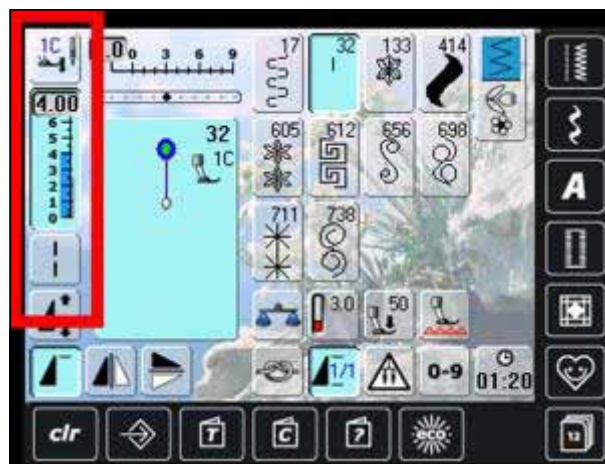- Touch the Set Up soft key and select the Sewing Settings icon.

- Scroll to the third page of this menu to access the Hover options. Select the Hover at Adjustable Position icon and set the hover height to 3.0mm. Touch the check mark to confirm.

- Touch the red X to escape Set Up.

- Increase the stitch length to about 4.0mm or long enough to take a single stitch over the decorative cords/yarns you have selected.

- Select 2-5 decorative yarns or cords; bundle them together and tie a knot at the end. Split the yarns into two halves — you may choose to have one or two strands on each side, two on one side and three on the other, etc.

- Position the presser foot at the beginning of the seam and hand-walk the needle into the center of the seam allowance. Leave the presser foot raised.

- Place the divided yarns behind and around the needle and lower the presser foot.

- Select Zigzag stitch #2. Drop the feed dog and stitch in place 6-7 times right in front of the knot to hold the bundle in place.

- Select Single Straight stitch #32 again. Note that all of the changes made previously have been remembered.

- Take a stitch. The needle will stop down in the fabric and the foot will hover above it.

- Cross the yarns over each other and pull them snug against the needle. If needed, adjust the stitch length to catch all of the yarns between the yarn crosses/twists.

- Stitch again. Repeat the twisting/crossing process as needed to complete the row of stitching. Crossing in the same direction each time will produce a braided look.

- This technique takes some time to stitch, as only one stitch is sewn at a time. You could use the Free Hand System to lift the presser foot after each stitch, but isn't it easier to have the machine's hover function do it for you?

- When finished with this technique, go back into Set Up > Sewing Settings > Hover Options and touch the Reset icon to restore the default hover setting.

Free Form Couching

If using decorative threads that will not couch nicely, or if you do not want to lose the look of the threads by couching them down, consider securing them in place randomly.
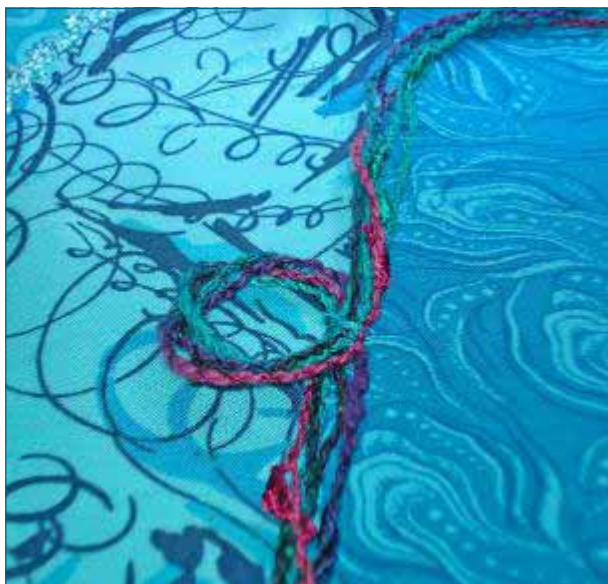
- Gather some decorative cords/yarns/threads together to form a single strand. Place the "strand" over the crazy patch seamline to be embellished.

- Select Bartack #25.

- Insert a #80/12 Jeans needle into the machine. Thread the needle and bobbin with coordinating or contrasting thread as desired, threading the bobbin for balanced tension.

- Attach Open Embroidery Foot #20C and place the end of the "strand" under the foot. Leave a long enough tail that the cord ends will be hidden under the seam allowance of another patch.

- Lower the presser foot and stitch the bartack to hold them in place, using tweezers to keep the cords together if needed. If a larger bartack is needed, increase the stitch width.

- Create freeform loops with the decorative cords, bartacking in place periodically.

- When finished, leave the thread tails long enough that they will be concealed under another patch.

BERNINA Stitch Regulator Embellishment
This isn't necessarily a seamline embellishment, but it works well to enhance the crazy patch blocks.

- Insert a #80/12 Jeans needle into the machine. Thread the needle and bobbin with contrasting or coordinating thread. Thread the bobbin for balanced tension.

- Select one of the BERNINA Stitch Regulator soles and install it on the accessory.

- Attach the BERNINA Stitch Regulator to the machine and plug it in.

- Select your preferred Mode and alter the stitch length as desired. The stitch width can be altered when using Straight stitch #1, or Zigzag stitch #2 can be selected instead.

- Using the Start/Stop button or the foot control, activate the BERNINA Stitch Regulator and begin moving the fabric.

- Stitch, following a line in the fabric pattern or creating your own stitch designs.

- Activate the Auto Thread Cutter when your stitch patch is complete.

The BERNINA Stitch Regulator can also be combined with the Bobbin Play and Twin Needle embellishment techniques.
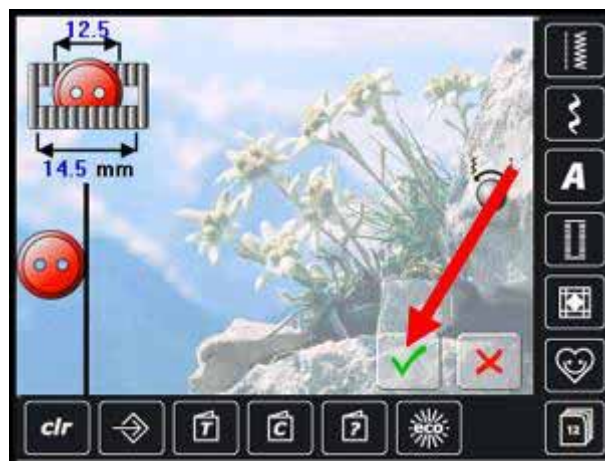
Assemble the Pillow Back

♦ Place the two 12" x 15" rectangles right side down on an ironing board so that the edges for the placket and buttonholes are next to each other. Fuse the 3" x 15" interfacing strips to these edges.

♦ Fold back 1½" along the fused edge and press in place. Fold under another 1½" to completely enclose the interfacing; press in place.

♦ Turn the back pieces right side up and overlap the hemmed edges 1½".

♦ Mark the buttonhole locations: one in the center, one between the center and each side.

♦ Attach Automatic Buttonhole Foot #3A to the machine. Thread the #80/12 Jeans needle and bobbin with the thread for the buttonholes. Thread the bobbin for balanced tension.

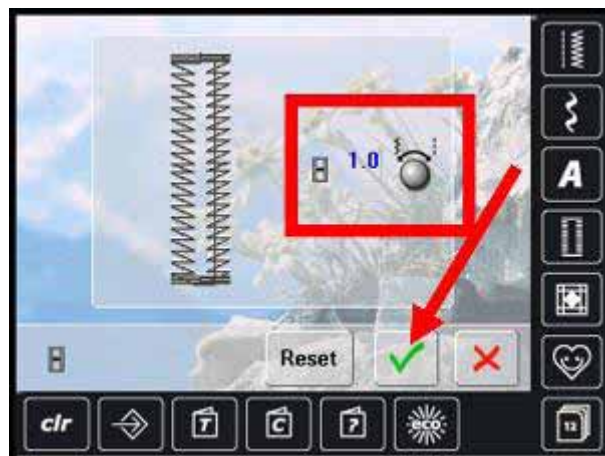♦ Select buttonhole #52, the Heirloom Buttonhole, from the Buttonhole Menu.

♦ Touch the Buttonhole Length/Measurement icon. Hold your button up to the left side of the screen and use the stitch length or stitch width knob to move the vertical line until it reaches the right side of your button.
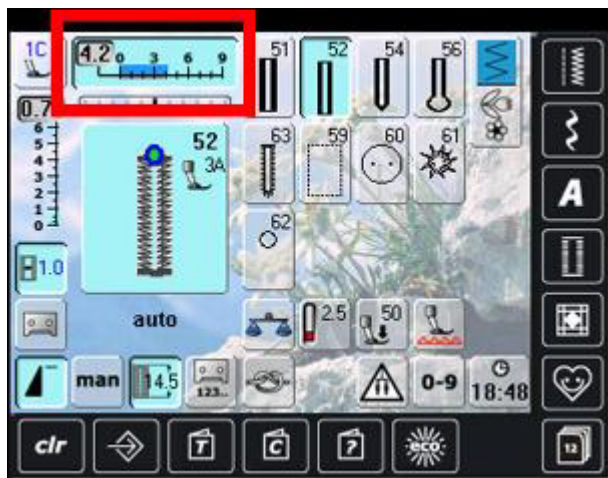

Notice that the measurements on the graphic change as you move the line. The upper number is the size of the button; the lower one is the size of the buttonhole. 2mm is automatically added to the length to allow for the thickness of the button.
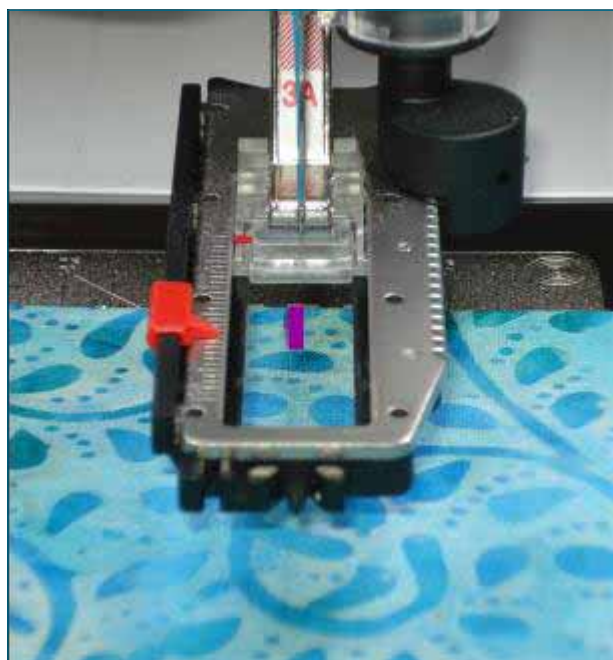
♦ Touch the green checkmark to confirm the size.

♦ The Heirloom buttonhole is delicate; to avoid accidentally cutting the stitches when opening it, touch the Buttonhole Slit Adjustment, and then change the slit size to 1mm.

- When the slit size is increased, the bead size is automatically reduced. Watch it change as you adjust the slit width. Adjust the bead width to 4.2mm; this will not interfere with the slit width.

- Sew a test buttonhole using the same layers the actual buttonhole will be stitched through—three layers of fabric and one layer of interfacing. Touch the Buttonhole Length/Measurement icon, if needed, and remeasure the button. Retest.

- Align the edge of the pillow back under Automatic Buttonhole Foot #3A, positioning the outer edge of the fabric along the ⅝" line in the stitch plate behind the foot. Press the Presser Foot Raise/Lower button on your machine; this will lower the presser foot, but then raise it again slightly to hover over the fabric. Fine tune the placement.
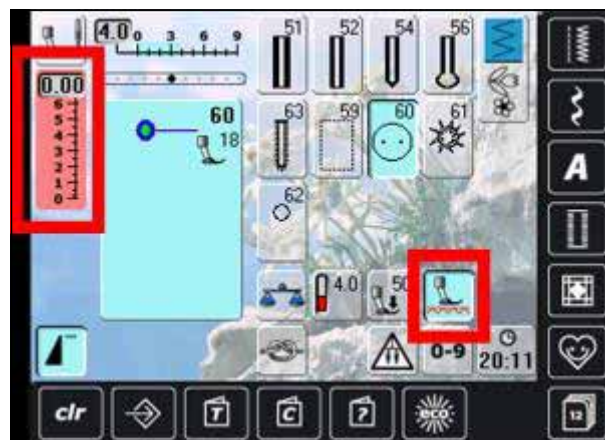

- Stitch the buttonhole using the Start/Stop button or the foot control. Do not move the fabric until the buttonhole is complete. Use the Auto Thread Cutter to clip the threads.

- If desired, use a seam sealant on your buttonholes, applying it to the wrong side. Allow it to dry, then use a Buttonhole Cutter & Block to cut the buttonholes open.

- Overlap the pillow backs with the buttonholes on top. Mark the buttonhole locations through the buttonhole slits.

- Attach Button Sew-On Foot #18 and select Button Sew-On stitch #60. Notice that the feed dog automatically drops and that stitch length adjustment is not available.

- If desired, change the needle thread for your buttonholes.

- Place the button under the foot with the holes between the toes of the foot. The holes in buttons are not always spaced the same, so always test first, using the handwheel stitch in the left hole, then jump to the right. Adjust the stitch width as needed to match the button holes. Slowly complete the stitch program using the foot control. When done, use the Auto Thread Cutter to trim the thread tails.
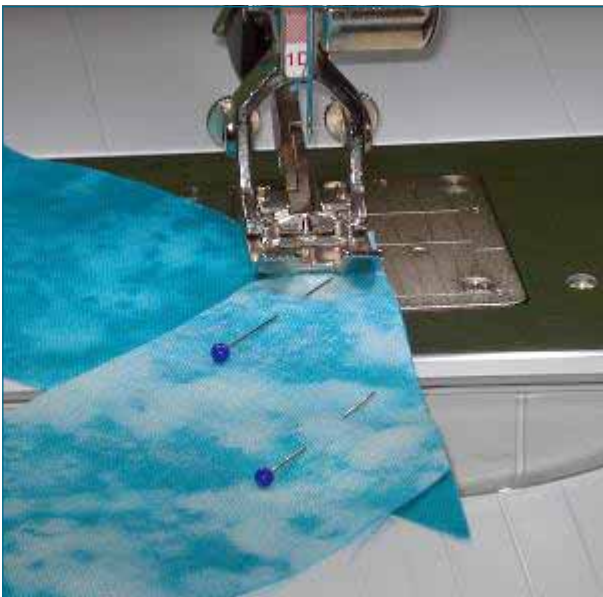
- Stitch the remaining buttons in place. It is not necessary to test the stitch width again.

- Button the pillow backs together. Mark a 15" x 15" square using a 14" square ruler and fabric marker. Trim along the marked lines with a rotary cutter and mat.

- Set the pillow back aside for now.

Make and Attach the Cording

- Thread the #80/12 Jeans needle and bobbin with coordinating threads. Thread the bobbin for balanced stitching.

- Cut the ends of the 2½" x 43" strips at 45°. Using ½" seam allowances, join them together to form one long strip. Trim the seam allowances to ¼" and press them all in the same direction.

- Wrap the fabric strip around the ¾" cording starting at one end. Pin edges if necessary.

- Attach Zipper Foot #4D and engage the Dual Feed feature. Engage Needle Stop Down. Move the needle one position from far left. This line of stitching will not be tight against the cording, as the fabric needs to be loose so that it can be shirred along the cord.

- Begin stitching. After 12" or so, stop and shirr the fabric along the cord. Continue stitching, stopping and shirring as needed. When finished, adjust the ruching evenly along the length of cord.

- Lay the pillow front right side up on a flat surface. Pin the cording around the outer edges of the pillow front, matching raw edges. Start and stop in the middle of one side. Adjust the gathers at the corners so that there is enough ease for the corner to turn right side out easily. Pin the covered cord in place.

Tip: To make removing the pins easier, pin in the seam allowance with the points facing the presser foot.

• Attach 8mm Double Cord Foot #60C. Engage Needle Stop Down. Position the pillow front so that the left groove of the presser foot rests on the cording. Thread the needle and bobbin with matching thread. Adjust the needle position so that the needle will stitch on the previous stitching. This seamline will be close to ½" from the edge. As you stitch the section where the ends meet, pull the cording slightly out of the ruched covering and trim the ends to remove the bulk.
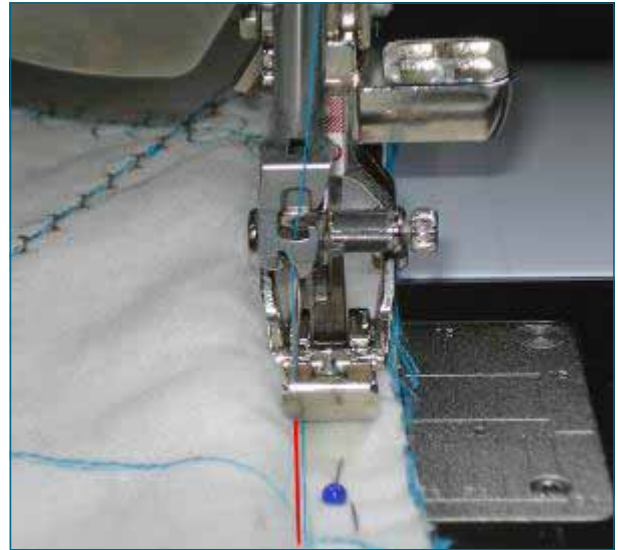

• Fold the seam allowances away from the pillow and check to make sure the ruched cord turns the corners nicely and that there are no puckers in the pillow top.

Join the Pillow Front and Back

• Place the pillow back on a flat surface, with the right side facing up. Decide whether the buttoned closing will run across or up and down and place the pillow front face down on the pillow back accordingly. Pin the front layers to the back.

• Thread the #80/12 Jeans needle and bobbin with coordinating thread. Thread the bobbin for balanced tension. Engage Needle Stop Down.

• Attach Zipper Foot #4D to the machine and engage the Dual Feed feature. Position the pillow under the presser foot with the wrong side of the front facing up so that the previous stitching is visible.

• Position the left edge of Zipper Foot #4D as close to the cord as possible. Stitch around all four sides of the pillow, placing the new stitching just to the left of the previous stitching (see the red line); this ensures that the previous stitching will be hidden when the pillow cover is turned right side out.

• Reach inside the pillow cover and unbutton the buttons. Turn the pillow cover right side out and adjust the ruched cording at each corner. Insert the pillow form and button the opening closed.