

DIY Fabric Letters: A Sewing Tutorial for Puffy Letters

Creating stuffed fabric letters is not only a delightful way to repurpose fabric scraps but also a fantastic way to add a touch of handmade charm to your home decor. Make these cloth letter pillows as a baby gift or for a toddler's birthday. This project is not only eco-friendly because we are using scraps to stuff the letters, but it's also a great way to showcase your creativity and sewing skills. Mix and match different fabrics and create names or slogans that you can hang on the wall. You can even make the whole alphabet as an educational toy!

My godchild Aiko has his birthday this month, so I made his name as a gift.

In this tutorial, we'll guide you through the process of making fabric letters stuffed with fabric scraps.

Materials Needed

- Assorted fabrics for the letters
- Small soft fabric scraps for the filling
- Cardboard or paper to make the letter shapes
- Fabric markers and Scissors
- Sewing machine or needle and thread
- Iron & ironing board or wool pressing mat
- Measuring tape
- Optional: Ribbon or twine for hanging

Step 1: Choose Your Fabric and Design

Select fabric scraps that complement each other in color and pattern. Consider the theme or color scheme of the room where you plan to display your fabric letters.

Step 2: Make the Letters Templates

Once you've chosen your fabrics, you can create the letter templates. Sketch the letters you need by hand on paper or cardboard. Simplify the letters as much as possible. You can also choose a font if you don't want to draw, enlarge the letter you need so one letter fits one page and print the page from your computer. Choose letters with rounded edges and avoid fussy fonts. Cut out the letters to make the templates. I decided to cut my letters a little bigger than what I printed, as you can see in the images below.



Step 3: Cut the Fabrics for the Letters



Trace the template on your fabric - on the wrong side - of your piece of fabric. The fabric piece needs to be 1 inch bigger than the letter shape because you need to add the seam allowances. I'm using $\frac{3}{8}$ of an inch seam allowance. I wouldn't use less seam allowance to be

sure. It is easier to work with a larger one. With my little [seam gauge](#) I mark all around the letter shape and in the middle and then connect the dots. I'm using a [heat erasable fabric marker](#), if you wonder.



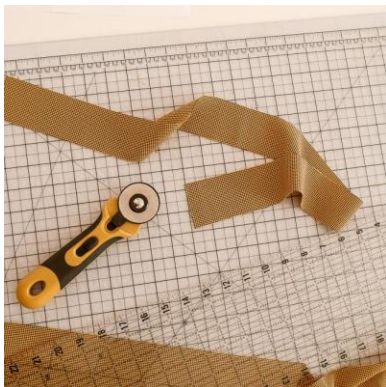
Flip the letter template over and trace the same letter shape on the fabric you will use for the other side of the pillow. If the fabric is plain and can be used on both sides or if the letter is the

same mirrored, this isn't important. But if you are drawing a K and you have fabric with a print, be careful! Always draw on the wrong side of the fabric. Just make sure you end up with two mirrored versions of the same letter. Don't forget to add the same seam allowance on the second letter shape.

Cut your letter shapes out.



We'll be adding a fabric strip in between the two letter shapes. I'm cutting a 2 inch wide strip. This means each fabric letter will be 1½ inch thick. If you want your stuffed letters to be more voluminous, cut this strip a little wider.

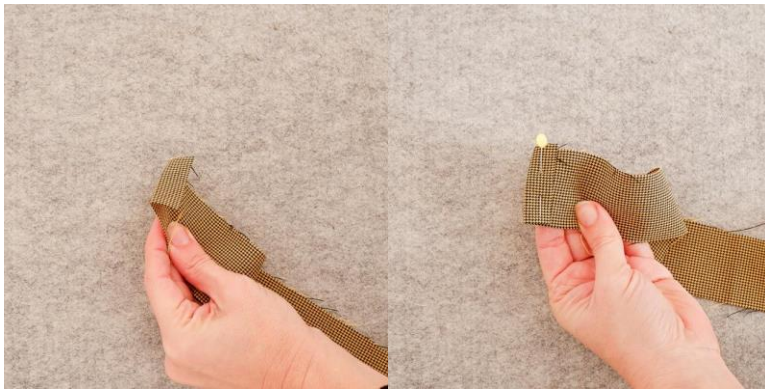


Measure the circumference of your letter, without the seam allowance, with a [flexible measuring tape](#). Measuring the curves is a little tricky so maybe add two extra inches. Your strip needs to be long enough to go all around your letter, and add another two inches for the overlap.

You can sew different fabric pieces together if you don't have a long enough piece available. For my letter "A" I cut a strip of 24 inches. I need a second little strip for the opening inside the "A" letter

Step 4: Sew the Three Fabric Pieces Together

To ensure a smooth and neat finish, iron the fabric pieces. Ironing is crucial for achieving a professional-looking result. Press a fold of half an inch on one short end of the strip.



Place the strip right sides together with one fabric letter shape, pin down. Make sure the folded edge is where you start sewing. Stitch together the strip and letter shape at $\frac{3}{8}$ inch all the way around. Go slowly and stitch carefully. The curves and corners might be a little tricky if you are a beginner. When you get to where you started sewing, make sure the two ends overlap by half an inch. This is where you will stuff your letter later. Make some snips in the seam allowance at the curves and press the seam.



Pin the other letter shape to the other long edge of the strip. Pin it right sides together to the strip (gusset). It is important that the letter matches with the other side so your strip doesn't get twisted and your pillow ends up all wonky. Sew together, snip and press.

If you plan to hang your fabric letters, attach a double folded ribbon in the seam.

Step 5: Stuff the Letters

Turn your letter right side out through the hole at the short end of the strip. Iron the seams some more if necessary. Now comes the satisfying part! Fill each letter with fabric scraps. I don't know why but repurposing fabric scraps always makes me happy. I keep little scraps in a box and from time to time I cut them up in even smaller pieces with my [60mm rotary cutter](#) in put them in a bag for later use. The smaller the better to get a soft pillow.

You can of course use fibrefill if you don't want to use scraps. Use a pencil, the back of a paintbrush or [a sewing stiletto](#) to push the stuffing into the corners and edges, ensuring a plump and even appearance.

Step 6: Close the Opening

Once your letters are adequately stuffed, sew the open side closed with a hand stith. I use a [ladder stitch](#), which is explained in this blog.

Your first letter pillow is ready! Find the perfect spot to showcase your unique fabric letters. Arrange them on a wall, hang them from a string, or display them on a shelf to add a personalized touch to your space.

Conclusion

Creating fabric letters stuffed with fabric scraps is a delightful and eco-friendly DIY project that allows you to express your creativity while making use of leftover materials. This personalized decor adds a touch of warmth to any space and serves as a testament to the beauty of handmade crafts. Enjoy the process, and let your imagination run wild as you bring your fabric letters to life!

An

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