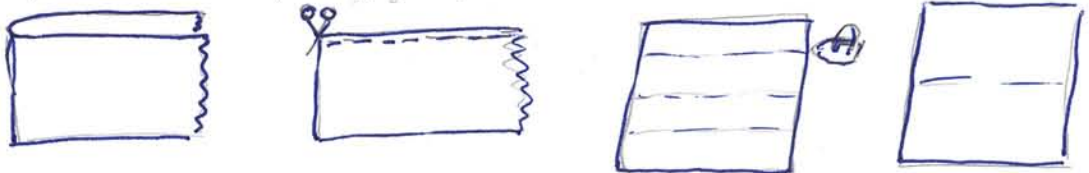


BEGINNING MYSTERY PILLOW QUILT – finishing

1. Sew the backing together. One of my favorite methods follows. You should have 3 1/3 to 3 1/2 yards of backing left after you used some for the pillow back. Hold it by a selvage side opening it out to its full width (43-44"). Place the right sides of the two cut ends together and sew parallel to the selvage from the cut end to the fold. Then cut along the fold and open your back. Trim away selvages and press the fold lines out of the back.



2. Tape the batting to the floor, or a grouping of tables or pin to a carpet so it will stay flat. Fold your backing in half at one end (the foot end if it's directional) and place a pin in it to mark its center, then lay it right side up on the batting. Place pins perpendicular to the edges near the corners. This is a quick turn method as binding interferes with the look of the pillow. You will be quilting through all layers after it's turned.

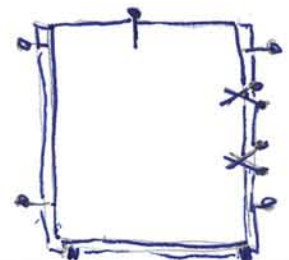


3. Fold the raw edge of your pillow top in half to find the center and place a pin as shown to mark it. Then, place the pillow right side down onto the backing, placing the pillow's pin directly on top of the backing pin and removing one as you pin the layers together. Keeping the center marked. Measure the distance from the edge of the backing to the pillow at its finished end. Shift the pillow's finished end so both sides are equal distance from the backing edges. Pin the raw edge of the pillow to the raw edge of the back.* Make sure you have front pillow fabric, not just batting as you pin. This assures that you will catch all three layers of the pillow when you sew the front and back of the quilt together.

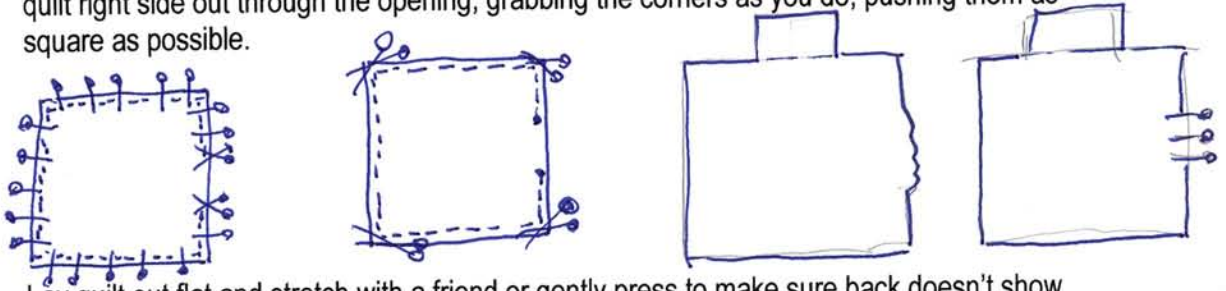


* Trim the excess pillow batting.

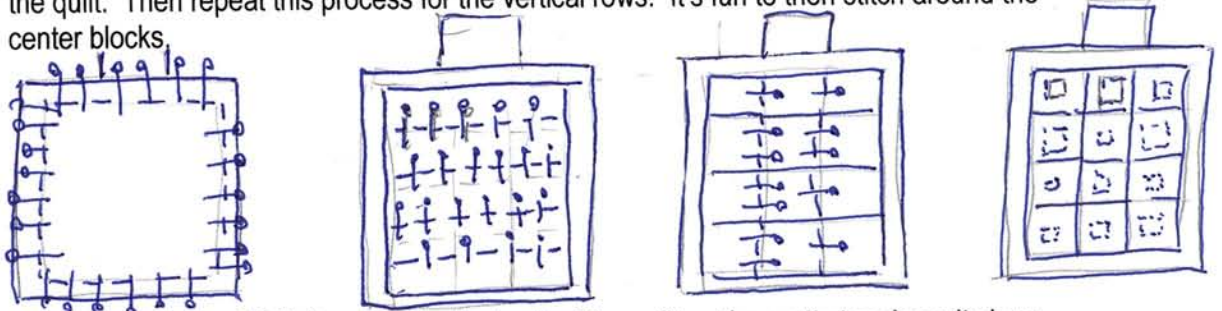
4. Find the center of one end of the quilt top, placing a pin to mark. Put the quilt top right side down onto the back, matching the centering pin to the centering pin on the pillow back. Gently brush quilt top flat and pin to quilt back, leaving an 18 inch opening on the middle of one side. Mark the start and finish of this opening with two pins in an (X). Put this quilt on top of the batting and adjust the pins through all layers. Trim excess batting.



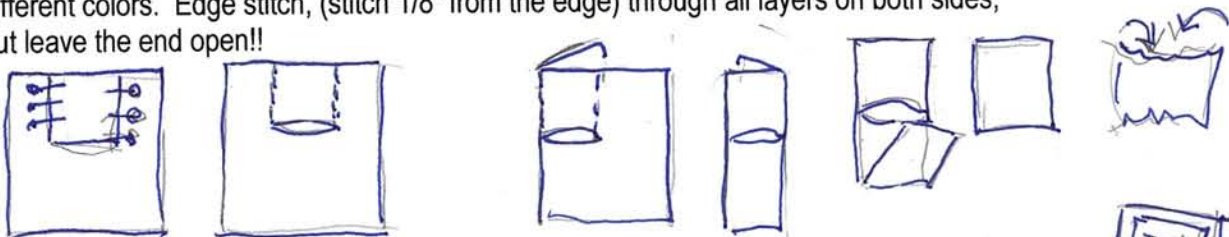
5. Using a generous $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{3}{8}$ -inch seam allowance, start at one X and sew completely around the quilt, ending at the second X, leaving the 18" open between them. Remove all pins. Trim excess batting from corners, being careful not to cut into stitching. Turn pillow quilt right side out through the opening, grabbing the corners as you do, pushing them as square as possible.



6. Lay quilt out flat and stretch with a friend or gently press to make sure back doesn't show to the front or vice versa. Make sure quilt is flat and pin every 6 to 8 inches perpendicularly across the borders. Pin the opening shut by turning the edges under the same as your seam allowance so the border looks the same as the rest of the quilt. Slipstitch the opening closed. Using a walking foot stitch through all layers in or near the border "ditch" completely around the quilt. Ignore the pillow hanging off one end; just don't catch it in your quilting.
7. Lay quilt flat and pin across the block rows horizontally. Make sure there are no folds or "tucks" on the back. Using a walking foot stitch in the seam line between the blocks across the quilt. Then repeat this process for the vertical rows. It's fun to then stitch around the center blocks.



8. Lay the quilt flat and fold the pillow to the back of the quilt so the pretty top doesn't show. Check to see that its' unattached end is centered. Pin perpendicularly down the pillow sides, NOT THE END. Make sure bobbin and top thread colors are reversed if using two different colors. Edge stitch, (stitch $\frac{1}{8}$ " from the edge) through all layers on both sides, but leave the end open!!



9. Your pillow quilt is done! To turn it into a pillow, fold the sides to the front of the quilt along the pillow stitching lines, then starting from the top end (away from the pillow), fold the quilt in pillow sized folds until you get to the pillow. Turn the pillow inside out allowing the folded quilt to slip inside and become it's filling. Always place the folded end down so the top of the pillow looks finished. Enjoy

