



Velvet Ribbon Pillow Tutorial

When I was a little kid in the 60's we had this off-white couch with raised velvet black, brown and tan stripes of varying widths, which I adored. It inspired me to make a set of velvet stripe pillows for a good pal's new couch a few years back, but her new pup later tore them to shreds! So I'm surprising her with a fresh new one. I'm gaga for velvet ribbons and silk dupioni -- this project uses both and the method I used to stitch it makes it super easy even for a beginner. If you make one, send us pictures and we'll post them in the Stitch Lab Gab!

These materials are for the exact pillow I made, but you can certainly change up the shape, size and fabrics used.



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Materials:

- 2/3 yard silk dupioni or solid cotton fabric (silk dupioni available at Common Thread, Fanny's Fabrics and Interior Fabrics locally)
- 2/3 yard plain muslin fabric
- 14" X 20" pillow insert (available at Interior Fabrics)
- Spool of all-purpose thread to match your outer fabric
- Spool of invisible thread
- Roll of Wash-Away Wonder Tape (a Stitch Lab fave notion we keep stocked regularly)
- Several different colored velvet ribbons of various widths, cut into 14" lengths (Stitch Lab carries lots of velvet ribbons)
- Clear, see-through ruler

Silk dupioni will shatter and tear over time with all the heavy velvet ribbons stitched to itself, so that's where the muslin comes in.

1. Cut out two 14" X 20" rectangles of your outer fabric and of the muslin lining. Cutting the fabric the same size as the pillow form means that the form will fit in nice and snug, filling out all the edges and corners of the finished pillow.



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2. Pin and machine baste one silk layer on top of a muslin layer about 1/4" from the outer edges using your all-purpose thread. Repeat for the other piece of silk and muslin. Now you have flat-lined your silk and it will act as one solid, supported piece of fabric.

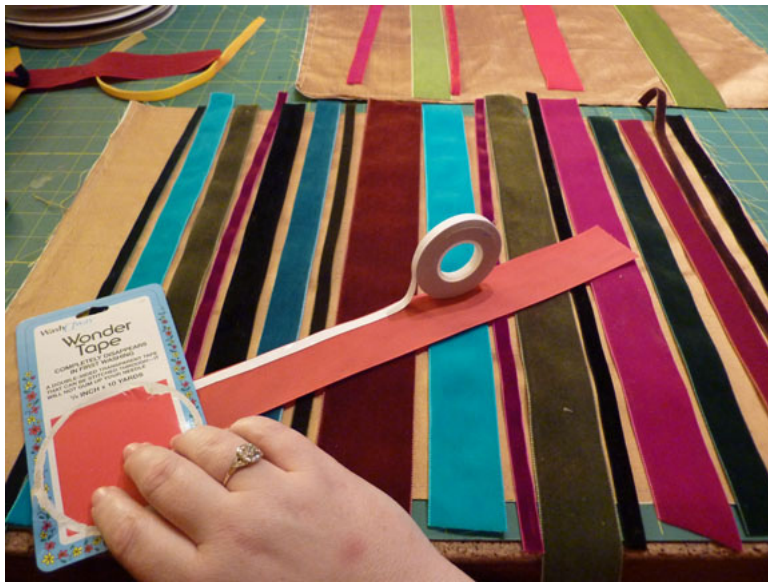


3. Here's the fun part. Lay one piece of flat-lined silk right-side up on your table. Take your ribbons and arrange them any way that pleases your eye across your fabric. I used tons of colors and widths, but many simpler or even monochromatic color combinations are great, too. I left 1/4" of silk peeking out between each row of ribbon.

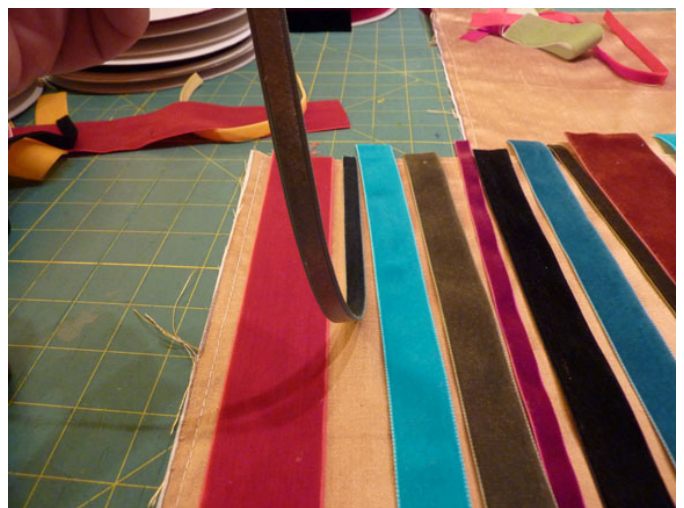


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4. Once you've arrived at a nice ribbon placement, it's time to bust out the Wonder Tape. Leave your ribbons on the pillow fabric as you've arranged them. We love Wonder Tape because it is a double stick tape that completely washes out and won't gum up your needle. You'll start on one end and work your way across, adhering one ribbon at a time. So, it's great for installing zippers in garments and applying trim without pins! Apply Wonder Tape along the outer edges of the back side of the first ribbon.



Peel off the paper backing and stick the ribbon to the pillow fabric starting 3/8" from the cut edge of the pillow.



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Use your ruler to make sure you stay on the straight and narrow throughout this process.



Repeat this step, spacing your ribbons 1/4" apart until all of your ribbons are taped to your fabric.



5. Thread your machine with the invisible thread. Use a regular thread bobbin to make it easier to deal with the persnickety invisible thread. We find that using a felt disc under your thread spool also helps with even feed of the invisible thread on vertical spool holders.



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6. Stitch along the edges of the velvet ribbon to stitch it in place. You can use an edge stitching foot or move your needle to the side and use the center groove in your presser foot as your guide. Try to stay in that spot where the raised velvet meets the woven edge of the ribbon.



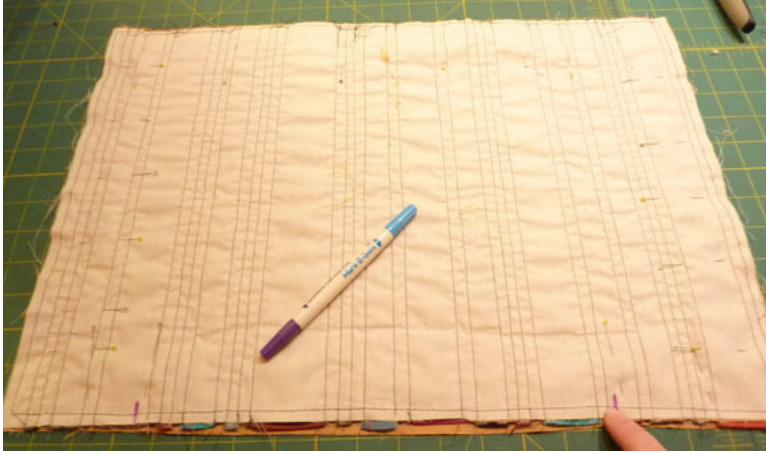
Work all your rows of stitching consistently from top to bottom. Changing directions can torque the fabric and make it all wonky. Just roll up the right side of the fabric as you stitch so that it all feeds through nice and smooth.



7. Now you're ready to stitch your pillow together. Place your pillow front and pillow back with right sides together and pin into place.

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8. Stitch your pillow together using a 3/8" seam allowance, leaving a wide opening at the bottom edge for your pillow insert.



9. Clip threads, clip corners and turn your pillow right side out.



10. OOH! It's so pretty! Pop your pillow form inside. Fold in 3/8" on each fabric edge in the opening and pin the pillow closed, tucking in your folded edges.



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11. Thread up a needle with your all purpose thread and now you're ready to ladder stitch that opening closed! Don't know the ladder stitch? No worries! Check out our ladder stitch video tutorial!



12. A quick whisk of the lint roller and you're ready to give this squeal-worthy gift to your favorite handmade gift-worthy person!

