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Free Design: Embroidered Chair Cushion Cover

October 30, 2020 | By Joanne Banko | DIY, Free Design of the Month, Home Decor, Projects, Sewing Tutorial | No Comments

Opinion by Paid Consultant



Our free design of the month is a gorgeous maple leaf embroidered chair cushion cover. Stitched on common neutral duck cloth, this design becomes a focal point for a fall themed décor in your dining space. This embroidery project will help you spruce up your dining room chairs while adding rich fall colors to your home. Add optional decorative cording for an extra special touch. Are you ready? Let's go sew!

Materials and Supplies:

Tags

#StitchingSewcial
4x4 hoop
Angela Wolf
Applique
Bobbin
Bobbin Thread
brother at your side
Brother Blog
Brother Embroidery
Brother Embroidery Machine
Brother Quilts
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embroidery thread
Emily Thompson

- **Brother sewing and embroidery machine. Note:**

Machine featured in this project is the Brother XP1 Luminaire. You can use any machine with a 4-inch hoop to complete this project.

- **Brother Embroidery Threads** and Bobbin Thread for embroidering.

- **SA5810** Brother Medium Weight Tear-Away Stabilizer

- **SA161** Brother Adjustable zipper and piping foot for optional cording.

- Basic sewing notions including thread to match fabric for construction and a removable marker for marking fabric.

- Temporary adhesive spray designed specifically for embroidery.

- Embroidery needle size 11/75 for embroidery and a jeans needle size 14 for construction.

- Natural colored extra wide double fold bias or finishing overlap area on back pieces and for creating optional cording. Note finished folded tape measures $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch wide, with the bottom side slightly wider than the top.

- 3/16-inch cotton filler cord for optional cording.

- 1-inch deep densified polyester foam for stuffing cushion cover. **Note:** This type of foam insert is easy to cut with scissors and insert into the cover. You'll find this foam in assorted sizes. Be sure to select a size that will closely fit your chair pattern. You'll find more tips for cutting the foam included in the instructions.

- Natural colored cotton duck cloth fabric for front and back of each cushion cover: See instructions below for pattern and yardage requirements.

- Medium weight fusible interfacing for backing front cushion pieces. **Note:** I prefer weft insertion type interfacing for this type of project.

- Pattern tracing cloth or pattern paper for making cushion cover patterns.

- **Brother Free Design of the Month, Free Design**

November. See Figure #1 for size and color information used for stitching this design.

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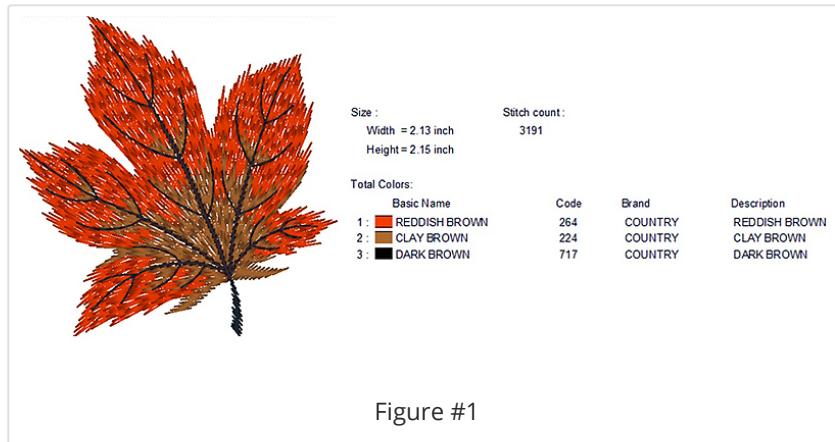


Figure #1

Steps to Create Chair Cushion Cover

Introduction and ideas for this project: I designed this style of embroidered cushion cover to be easily removed for laundering or storage. Once you have a pattern made, you can easily make more of these for various holidays or seasonal changes.

Consider using other designs from the Brother ibroidery.com design download center for other occasions. Please read through all instructions before beginning to thoroughly understand the options and process for creating the covers.

Instructions are for creating one cushion. Repeat the process for each cushion you wish to make. Once the pattern is made and the embroidery is finished, these go together quickly. To save even more time consider making with pre-purchased cording or skip the cording all together.

Basic steps for creating the cushion cover:

- Make a pattern for the cushion and cut pattern pieces.
- Use pattern to cut oversized front piece, embroider motifs as desired, and trim to size with pattern.
- Create piping and add to cushion. **Note:** You can choose to create cushions without piping or purchase ready-made home décor piping for insertion.
- Clean finish back pieces and assemble cushion to finish.

1. Make pattern and cut pieces as follows:

Your pattern will vary depending on the shape of your chair seat. If your seat is relatively square you can begin by taking measurements for width and length and draw them on a piece of pattern cloth or paper. For a more specific shape, you can place paper on the seat, crease it along the edges, and pencil in markings. Next, use a combination of curved and straight rulers to draw a symmetrical pattern for the front piece. It's best to simplify the shape for ease in embroidering and constructing the covers. If you have existing cushions, consider taking measurements and use them as a basis for making your pattern. **Additional pattern notes:** It's best to have the cushion slightly smaller than the actual chair seat. The pattern does not have to match the exact shape of your seat. For example, my finished cushion pads the seating area without filling up the entire space on my relatively squared off seats. Use 3/8-inch seam allowance for sewing cushions. Be sure to round off the edges of the pattern for ease in sewing. Do this even if your cushion has square edges. Note that adding cording will increase the finished size of your cushion by about 3/8-inch on outer edges. Cut pattern size with this in mind.

Once you have completed the front pattern, trace off another copy to create back pieces. Divide back pattern into thirds. Mark off the top third section. Add 2-inches above the two thirds line for an overlap on pattern A. Remaining section will serve as pattern B. See example of pattern pieces in **Figure #2a** with cutting lines for overlap pieces shown in red, and red arrows showing pattern sections. **See Figure 2b** for completed patterns.

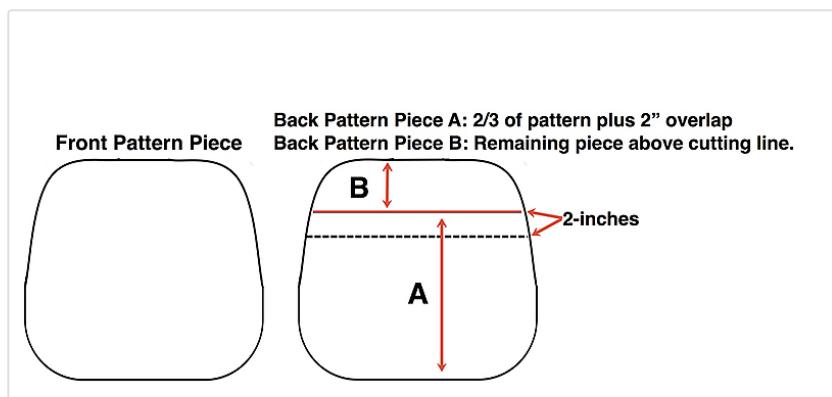


Figure #2a

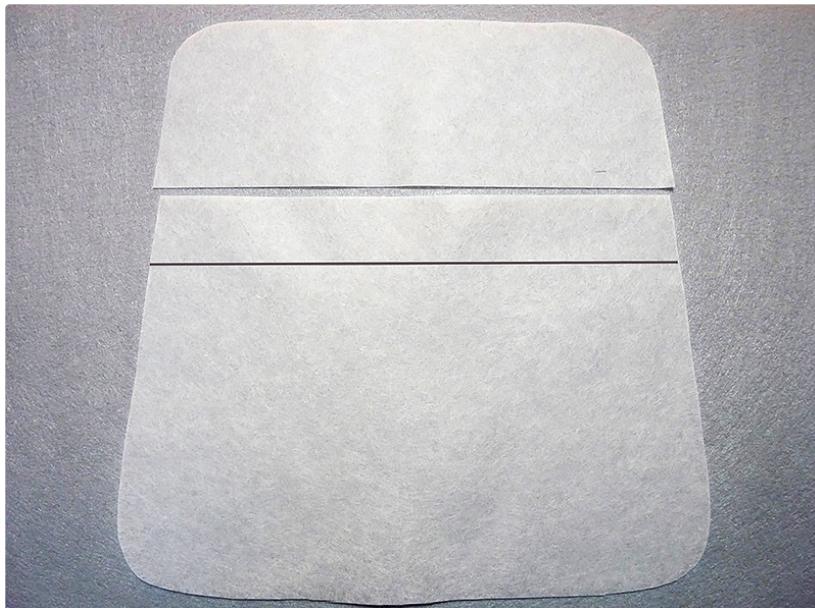


Figure #2b

2. Use actual pattern pieces to determine yardage needed for each cushion cover. To cut oversized fabric for front piece, place pattern on fabric and trace pattern shape with removable Cut fabric adding at least 1-inch outside the pattern line. **See Figure #3.**

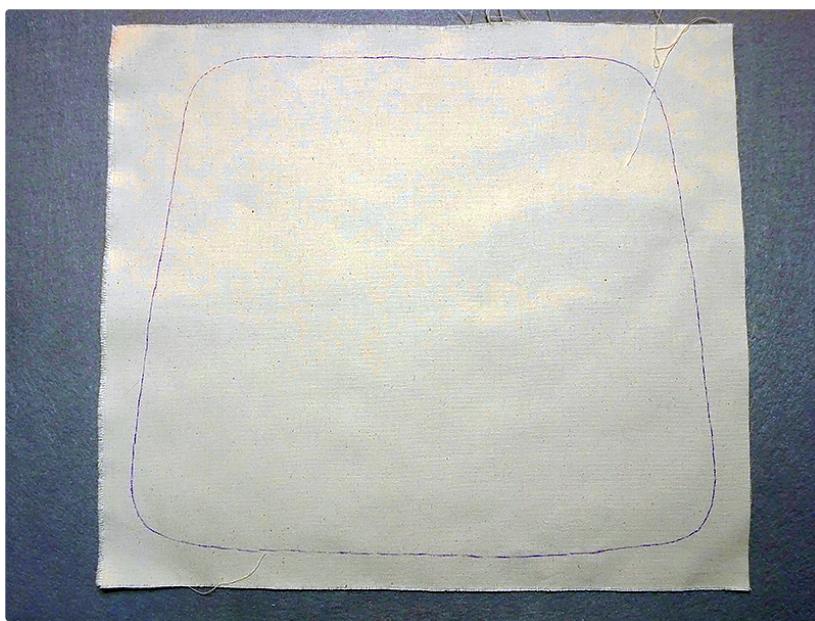


Figure #3

3. Transfer design to machine. Embroider motifs as desired along the edge of the cushion using your favorite method for placement. This is a dense design. Add tear-away

stabilizer attached with adhesive spray for each hooping.

Note that if you are stitching close to the edge you may need an oversized piece of stabilizer to make sure fabric is held tightly in the hoop.

Stitch leaves randomly on the fabric, making each cushion different or opt for a more precise look like I did. **Tip:** I marked off lines for the center of each motif and used templates printed with the Snowman marker created with PE Design 11 software for precise placement. I printed a template to stitch a mirror image copy of the design as well. To stitch each motif, I used low tack tape and taped the template to the fabric using the pattern as a guide, and then scanned the hoop to stitch each motif that matched my template. I started with the idea of stitching designs in the center of the front and one in each corner, and then decided to add designs along the side. See examples of my embroidery process in **Figure #4a through Figure 4e**.

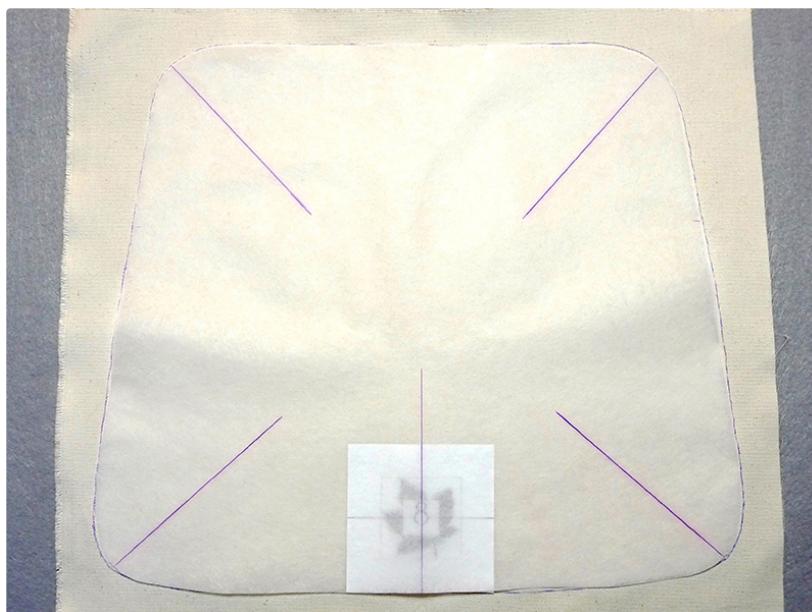


Figure #4a

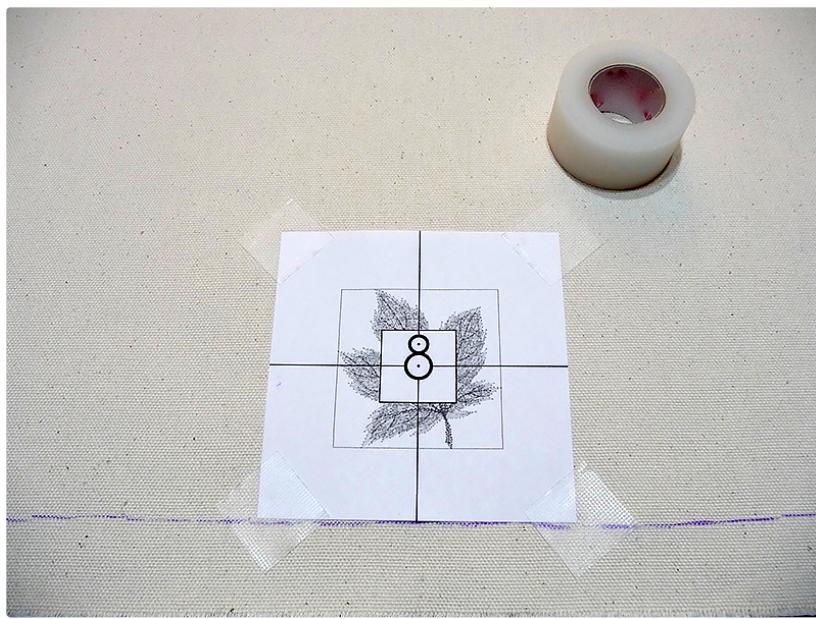


Figure #4b

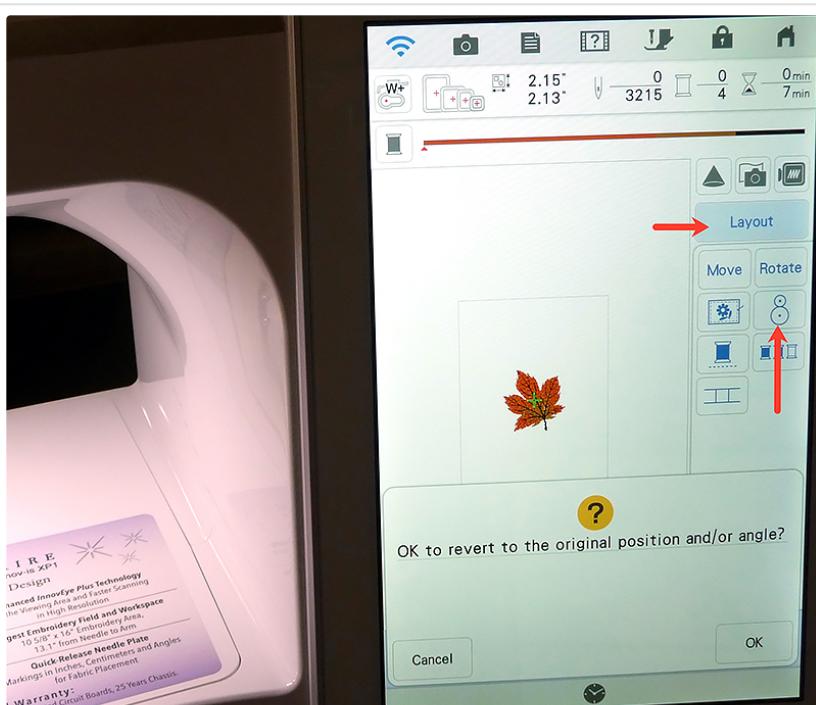


Figure #4c

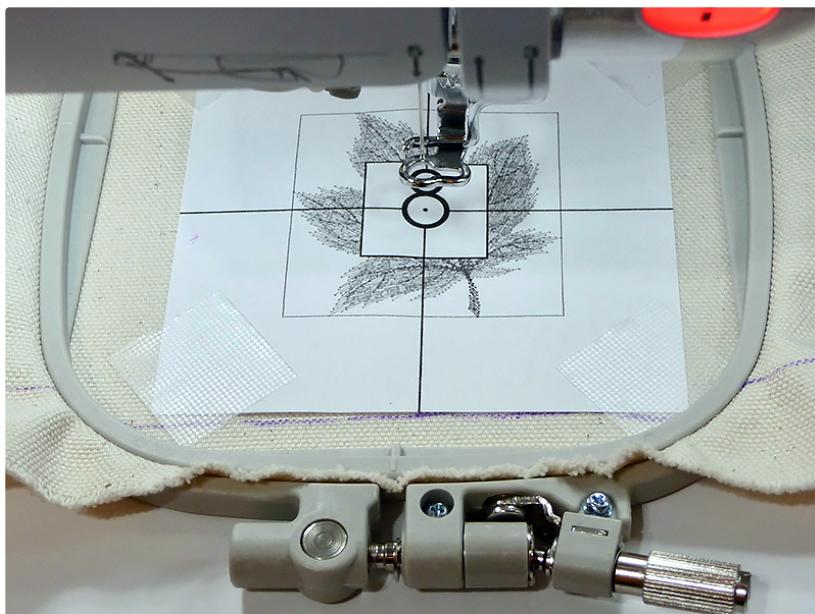


Figure #4d



Figure #4e

4. Remove excess stabilizer, press fabric, and cut
embroidered cushion to size.

5. Make and add optional piping as follows:

Measure for cording and add several extra inches. Cut bias tape
the same length. Press tape open. Add strips of stabilizer to
wrong side and sew a line of decorative satin stitches (stitch No.
13-06) along the center. Remove stabilizer, press, wrap around
cording, and machine baste close to cord using adjustable
zipper foot. Pin and then machine baste cording to front piece,

overlapping cord at the center back and clipping corners to fit curves. See piping steps in **Figure #5a through Figure 5e**.



Figure #5a

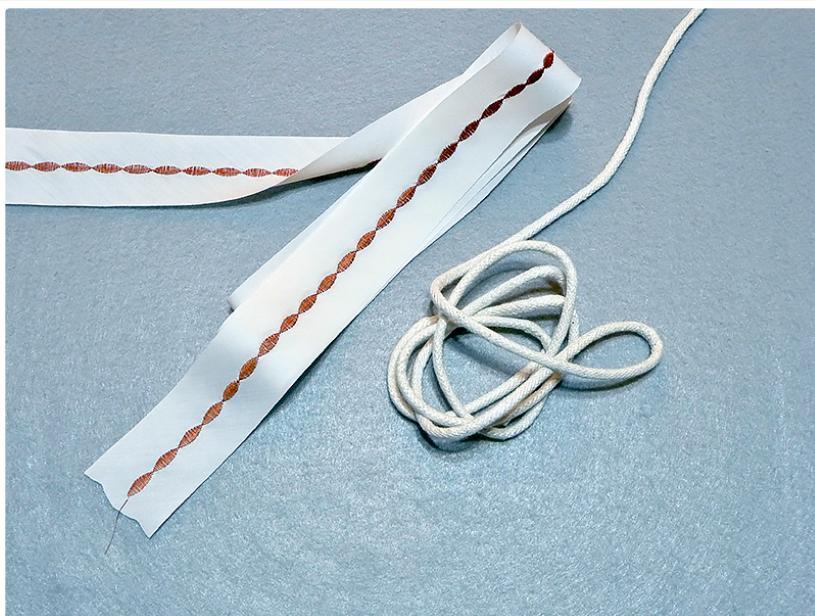


Figure #5b



Figure #5c



Figure #5d



Figure #5e

6. Clean finish straight edges of back pieces by sewing bias tape over raw edges. Note: Corded version of cushion shown in remaining steps. Overlap to fit front piece, having all raw edges even and cording sandwiched between the layers. **See Figure 6a and Figure 6b.**

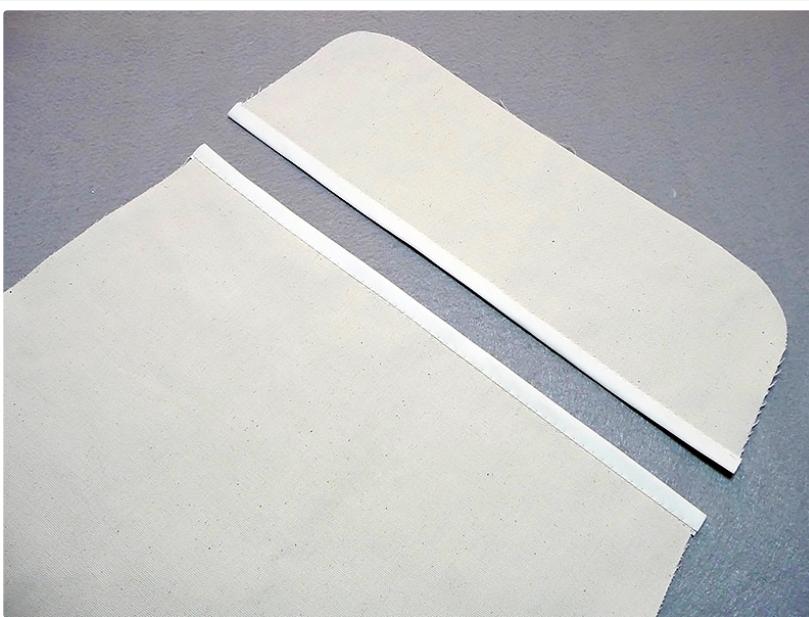


Figure #6a



Figure #6b

7. Sew back and front layers together using zipper foot, sewing close to cording.
8. Turn right side out and press. Cut foam using front pattern, cutting piece slightly smaller than front for easy insertion. **Tip:** Use a permanent marker to trace pattern on foam and then cut $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch inside the markings for foam that is slightly smaller than your outer cover. Insert foam through back opening. You are finished! Enjoy! See back of finished cushion below:



Options and ideas:

- Use additional bias tape to make ties for securing cushion to chair legs, adding ties at the two corners along the back of the cushion.
- Purchase enough fabric to make covered cording using the self-same fabric as your cushions if desired.
- For sensational dining room décor, consider adding this design to table runners, placemats, coasters, and more!



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