Birthday Party Pillow (Sewing Machine)



Materials:

* (2) Felt Rectangles \* (approx. 12” long x 9” wide)

A selection of patterned and solid felt should be offered.

* (1) Felt Pocket Square (approx. 4”x4” or 5”x5”)
* (1) Felt Appliqué Design (i.e., Star or Heart)
* (1) Stuffing

Instructions

* Before the party:

Set-up a sewing machine for each party guest.

The machines should be threaded and ready to use when

the guests arrive.

- Use bright colored thread!

- Upper thread and bobbin thread colors don’t need to match

- Insert full bobbins only

- Set the machines to the slowest speed setting

- Test the machines to make sure they all work!

Optional – Set up the easel with “Happy Birthday *name of guest*” (Welcome party guests to write fun birthday messages on arrival)

* Welcome Introduction (15 Mins)
  + Introduce yourself and guests
  + Goals for today
  + Studio Rules
  + Sewing Machine Safety Briefing (Octopus board if needed.)

* Have each guest select: (5 mins)

- (2) Pillow pieces (one patterned and one solid),

- (1) Pocket Square

- (1) Appliqué Design

* Intro to sewing machine (15 mins)
  + Party guests select a bookmark
  + Following the printed stitch lines have everyone lower the needle, lower the presser foot, straight stitch, raise the needle, raise the presser foot, pull the fabric out, cut the thread
  + Repeat once or twice before starting project
* Start the pillow (10 mins)
* Arrange and pin the Appliqué to the pocket piece.

Stitch the Appliqué close to the edge.

* Arrange and pin the Pocket onto one of the Pillow pieces. (10 mins)

Stitch 3 sides of the Pocket close to the edge.

Remind them to keep the top opening unsewn.

* Sew pillow (10 mins)
  + Pin the Front and Back of the Pillow together, with WRONG sides together, the pocket opening facing upwards, and lining up all 4 edges.
  + Using a straight stitch, sew around the Pillow, 1/4” - ½” in from the edge. Demonstrate how to use the presser foot as a guide, by lining up the right side of the presser foot with the bag edge. Leave a 3” opening in the center of one edge for stuffing.

* Stuff the Pillow, using small handfuls of stuffing and making sure to push the stuffing into the corners. (10 mins)
* Stitch the opening closed (Instructors should do this part).

* If there is time left over, the party guests can:
  + use fabric markers to embellish their project
  + Complete the bookmark (with wrong sides together pin front to back and stitch around all 4 edges)