



rainbow drops pillow

by becky goldsmith
photo by jake finch

The great thing about quilting is just when we think we might be tired of the same-old, same-old, another style variation or technique emerges to catch our interest. That's kinda what we have here with our dear friend, Becky, and her gorgeous pillow. Mixing cotton, linen and wool applique gives this simple pillow major graphic punch. This is a great project to take on the road because the applique is fast and easy to accomplish.

cutting instructions

From the white solid, cut:

- (1) 22" x 14 ½" rectangle.
- (1) 22" x 22" square

From the light gray solid, cut:

- (1) 22" x 7 ½" rectangle.

From the charcoal gray solid, cut:

- (2) 20 ½" x 14" rectangles for backing.
- (1) 1" x 22" strip for front.

From each wool scrap, using template, cut (1) drop for a total of (7) drops. (If you're using fusible web, adhere webbing to the wrong side of each drop following manufacturer's instructions, leaving cover paper on the wrong side of webbing.)

overall materials

- ¾ yard white solid (Becky used a cotton-linen mix.)
- ¼ yard light gray solid
- ¾ yard charcoal gray solid for backing and front strip
- (7) scraps of wool at least 3" x 4" (Wool charms work well for this.)
- Small amount of fusible web OR Glue Patch Stick for Wool by In The Patch (Becky sells this product on her website, pieceocake.com. It's the only glue stick she recommends for wool.)
- Wool thread or perle cotton to match wool
- Batting: 22" x 22"

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finished pillow: 20" x 20"

skill level: beginner

piecing instructions

For pillow front:

1. Sew charcoal strip to one long side of white rectangle, RST. Press seam to white.
2. Sew light gray rectangle to other long side of charcoal strip, RST. Press seam to light gray.
3. Using rotary ruler, position each drop's point ¼" away from the charcoal/white seam line on the white side. Space the drops evenly apart. (One drop is the center drop—yellow on Becky's sample, and then the other drops are spaced evenly on either side of the yellow.)
4. For the second drop from the left, flip the drop to the light gray side of the front, again about ¼" from the charcoal/light gray seam line.
5. For fusible webbing: Remove paper from wrong side of drops and reposition drops in place. Follow manufacturer's instructions to iron drops in place on pillow front by ironing on the wrong side of the pillow front.
6. If using glue, use a small amount to hold each drop in place on the pillow front.
7. Applique each drop in place using wool or perle threads. A blanket stitch is the simplest choice. (If you are unfamiliar with the blanket stitch, you can find many helpful how-to tutorials on blanket stitching on YouTube.)
8. Iron pillow front using a pressing sheet.
9. Layer pillow front, batting and backing. Baste. Quilt as desired.
10. Trim pillow front to 20 ½" x 20 ½" making sure to keep the design centered.

for the pillow cover:

1. On one long side of the charcoal backing fabric, fold edge ½" to the wrong side and press seam.