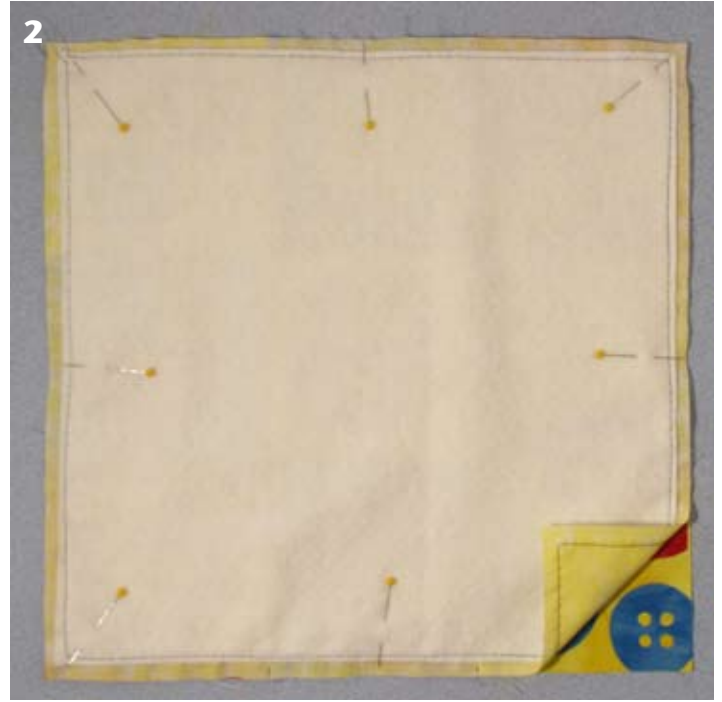




# How to do a pillowcase turn

These directions were produced by **Susan Brubaker Knapp**. They are free, and may be copied and distributed. E-MAIL: [susan@bluemoonriver.com](mailto:susan@bluemoonriver.com)

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**Note:** *The pillowcase turn is done before quilting. This is the speediest method I know for finishing an art quilt.*

1. Make sure that your quilt top is squared up and then trim it, leaving a  $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance on all sides.
2. Cut a piece of backing fabric the same size as the top.
3. Cut a piece of batting  $\frac{1}{2}$ " smaller in both dimensions than your quilt top. For example, if your quilt is 12" by 14", cut your batting 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ " by 13 $\frac{1}{2}$ ".
4. Center the batting on the wrong side of the backing fabric, so that  $\frac{1}{4}$ " of the backing fabric shows on all sides, and pin.
5. Put the walking foot on your machine, and set stitch length to the longest length. Stitch the batting to the backing fabric,  $\frac{1}{8}$ " inside the batting. The thread color does not matter, as it will be completely removed later. (See **1**).
6. Place the quilt top face up on a flat surface, then place the backing fabric with the batting stitched to it on top, right sides together. Pin. (See **2**).
7. On the seam allowance of the backing fabric, mark two places about 4" apart on one side. This is the open-

ing where you will turn your quilt right side out later. (See **3**).

8. Choose a thread color that matches the front of your quilt. Starting at one of the places you marked, start stitching a  $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam, stitching in the opposite direction from the second mark. Don't worry if you stitch slightly over the batting; just maintain a consistent  $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance.
9. Stitch all the way around the perimeter of the quilt, until you get to the other mark. Backstitch at the beginning and end of this seam.

10. Clip your corners, taking care not to cut through the seam. (See **4**).

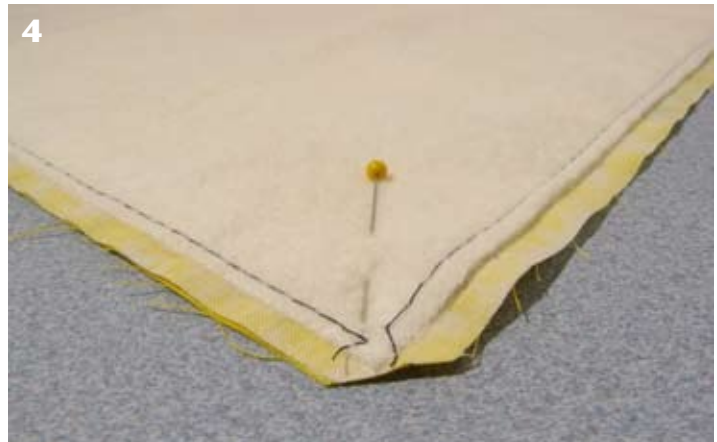
11. Turn the quilt inside out through the unstitched opening. Push the corners out using a blunt-tipped tool. Press the quilt on both sides, turning the fabric at the opening inside.

12. Use a seam ripper to remove the basting thread from back and interior of the quilt.

13. Hand stitch the opening closed.

14. Pin baste, and then machine quilt your quilt.

One of the biggest advantages to this technique is that when you have finished the quilting, your piece is completely done!



This is "Buttons" by Susan Brubaker Knapp. It is a small art quilt finished using a pillowcase turn.

For free tutorials on more finishing techniques, including mitered facing, non-mitred facing, and hanging sleeves, please visit my website or blog!

**Susan Brubaker Knapp**

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