

# Tartan Heart Cushion



*From the Handmade Blog*

**Out with the new and in with the old!**

*This project is my way of welcoming in 2014 - a new year, with new challenges and lots of new ideas. I wanted to make something that would remind me of new years past. It had to include tartan, because I have had a bit of a thing about it since spending Hogmanay in Edinburgh several years ago - the kilts were amazing, along with the pipes, Scottish reels and the hospitality. I also wanted to include some vintage blanketing, because over the past year I have grown to love it big time, and find that my workroom is stuffed with this wonderfully versatile material. The pretty red brooch was passed on to me by an elderly friend many years ago. It was already vintage, before vintage was fashionable, but somehow it found its way into 'the stuff I used to wear but can't get rid of drawer.' Happy New Year from me, and I hope that if my elderly friend was still around, she would be pleased that her brooch has a new life in 2014.*

## To make the cushion you will need:

2 x rectangles of blanketing or soft material 22 x 29cm (8¾ x 11½in)

Tartan fabric for the heart motif 12 x 12cm (4¾ x 4¾in)

Perle Cotton No 5 or embroidery thread – red or a colour to match the tartan

Toy stuffing

Several strips of toning fabric 10 x 3cm (4 x 1¼in)

– ripped not cut

Brooch

## To make the cushion:

1 Cut the front and back of the cushion from blanketing or soft material. You could make your cushion any shape or size to suit your fabric.

2 Download the heart trace here. Cut out the trace and then pin it onto the tartan fabric. Cut out, and then pin the tartan heart onto the centre of the cushion front.

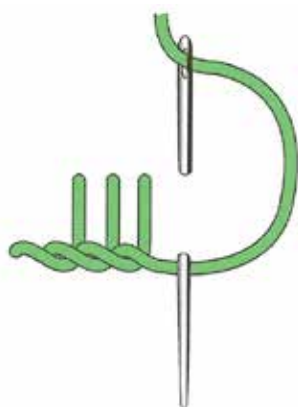
3 Thread your needle with Perle cotton or embroidery thread and then blanket stitch around the heart outline, securing it to the cushion front.

4 Place the cushion front and back together, right sides facing out, and blanket stitch the pieces together leaving a gap on one edge for stuffing. Do not finish off the embroidery thread at this point, and with the needle still threaded, stuff the cushion before continuing with the blanket stitch to close the gap. I used toy stuffing for my cushion, but you could use a cushion pad, cutting the fabric front and back to fit the pad.

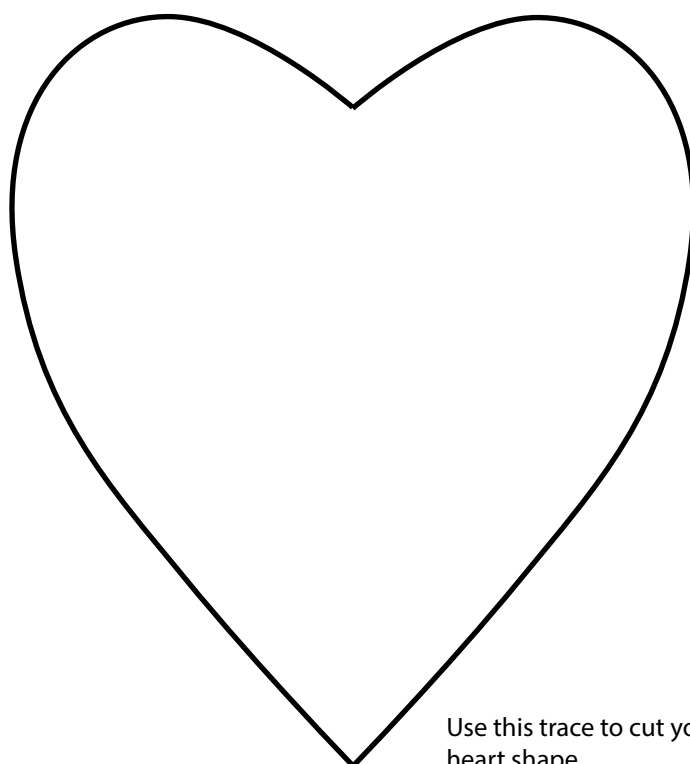
5 To finish, rip several strips of fabric and pin them onto the cushion front with a brooch. You may find it easier to mark the ripping line with a ball-point pen on the back of the fabric – the lines then will disappear when ripped. I used my lovely vintage brooch, but charity/thrift shops are always a good source of vintage jewellery.

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## Blanket Stitch



*Thread your needle with embroidery thread and make a knot in the end. Anchor the thread between the fabric layers, bringing the needle out on the edge of the fabric. Make a stitch by pushing the needle down through the fabric about 6mm (¼in) in from the outer edge. Take the needle behind the fabric and out on the edge, so that the thread is behind the needle. Pull up the thread making your first stitch. Continue making stitches in this way along the edge of the fabric.*



Use this trace to cut your heart shape