



UNION JACK CUSHION

To make this project you will need:

Materials:

- Checked backing fabric for cushion front and back
- Floral fabric for side flaps and upright cross
- Plain blue fabric for diagonal cross
- Red felt for heart
- Pink rickrack braid
- Cushion pad
- Large button
- DMC red Cotton Perle 5 or similar for blanket stitch

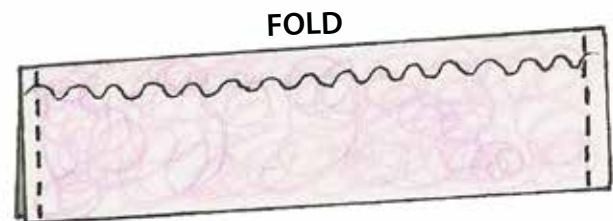
I wonder if it's World Cup frenzy or the spontaneous appearance of flags on cars and rooftops that has made me feel patriotic! Whatever inspired this project, I have just loved making this Union Jack cushion cover; everything came from my scrap bag apart from the cushion pad which cost next-to-nothing from Ikea.

This is what you do:

My cushion pad measured 60x30cm (24 x12in). These instructions will enable you to make a cover to fit your own cushion pad.

- 1 Cut two rectangles of backing fabric (I found a red checked bottom sheet at a local charity shop), the same size as your cushion pad, adding on a 1cm (3/8in) seam allowance to all sides.
- 2 Measure across the diagonals and cut two strips of fabric, a little longer than the length of the diagonal and 6cm (2 3/8in) wide. This includes a 1cm (3/8in) seam allowance on both long edges. I used blue denim fabric. If the fabric isn't long enough then join the strip at the centre point as this will be hidden once the cushion is made up.
- 3 Measure the height and width of the upright cross, and then cut two strips of fabric slightly longer than both measurements and 8cm (3 1/8in) wide – this allows for a 1cm (3/8in) seam allowance of the long sides. Again, if your fabric isn't long enough to go right across the cushion then join the strip in the centre. I used a floral fabric here, but you can use whatever you have in your scrap bag.
- 4 Cut two strips of fabric for the side flaps 13cm (5 1/8in) wide and exactly the same size as your cushion fabric. Fold each strip in half long ways and then press. Machine stitch a row of rickrack to one side of each flap approximately 1cm (3/8in) from the folded edge. With wrong sides together, machine stitch across both short ends of the flap with a 1cm (3/8in)

seam allowance. Repeat for the other flap. Turn to the right side and press. See illustration below.



- 5 Press under 1cm (3/8in) on the long edges of the two blue strips and the two floral strips.
- 6 Lay your cushion front onto a flat surface and position the two diagonal blue strips to form a cross. Pin, tack and then machine stitch the strip to the cushion fabric, down both sides, 3mm (1/8in) in from the edge. Repeat for the second strip.
- 7 Lay the floral strips on top of the blue cross to make an upright cross. Pin, tack and then machine stitch the first floral strip into position, stitching 3mm (1/8in) in from the folded edge. Repeat for the second floral strip.
- 8 Using the heart trace on the next page, cut a heart from red felt. Pin a row of rickrack in the shape of a heart onto the

Peaches, our old Light Sussex hen just sneaked in on this picture!



felt. Machine or hand stitch in place.

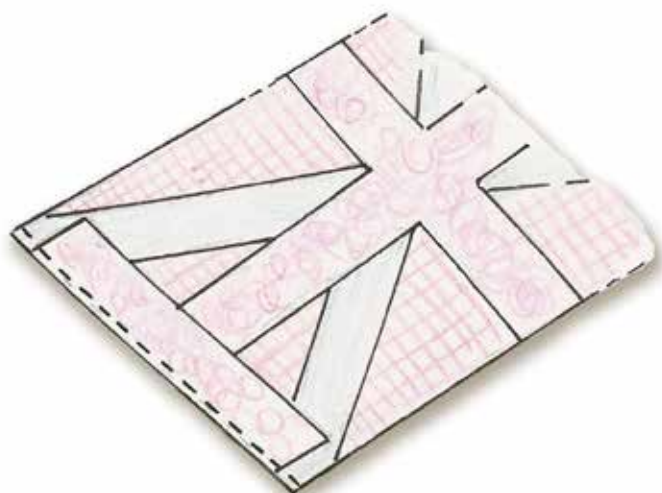
9 Place the felt heart centrally over the place where the crosses overlap on the cushion front. Pin then tack into position.

10 I used Cotton Perle 5 in a red colour to blanket stitch the heart to the cushion front, but you could use anything you have in your scrap bag – unpicked wool would work well or stranded cotton using all six strands – see Blanket Stitch below.

11 Stitch a large button to the heart and then finish the button with a length of red Perle 5 or similar.

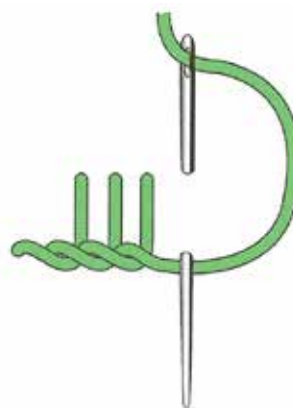
12 Position one flap on the edge of the cushion front, with the right sides of fabric and the zigzag side of the flap, facing. The folded side of the flap should be facing in, and the flap should be central between the top and bottom edges.

Machine stitch the flap in place 5mm (1/4in) from the cut edges. This row of stitches will not be seen once the cover is assembled and is only there to hold the flap in position. Stitch the other flap in place. See illustration below.



The best bit about this project is that my husband's favourite shirt, worn out but much loved, has a new life as part of this trendy cushion...I love recycling...oh, and just for the record... girls outnumber boys in our household, so no, football was not the inspiration!

Blanket Stitch

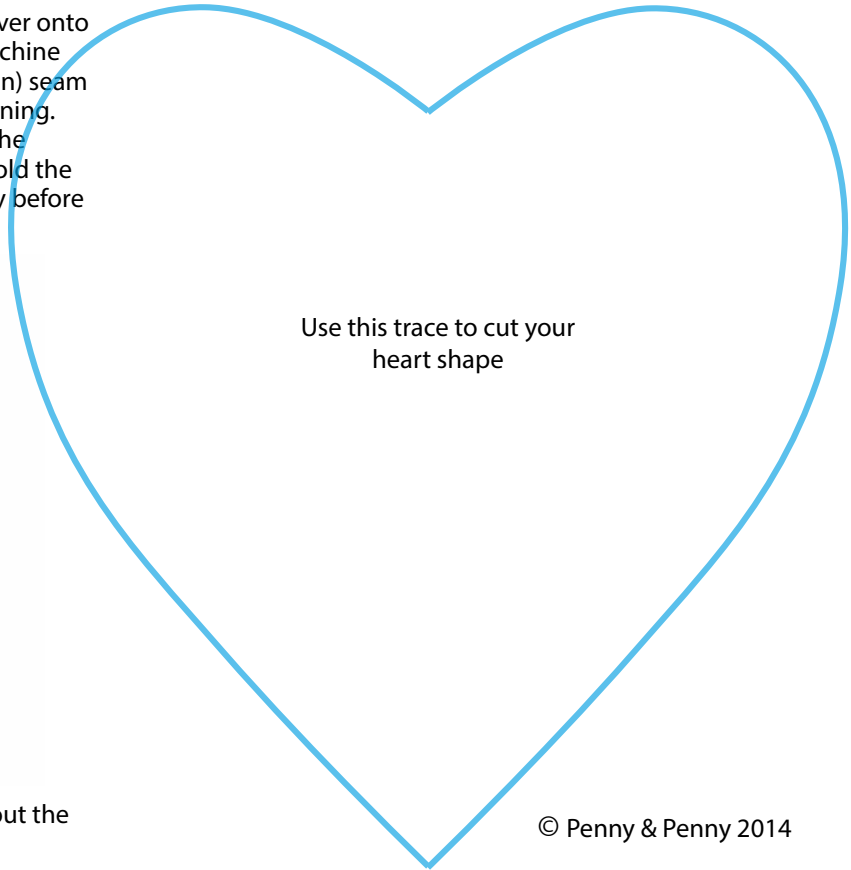


Thread your needle with embroidery thread and make a knot in the end. Anchor the thread between the fabric layers, bringing the needle out on the edge of the fabric. Make a stitch by pushing the needle down through the fabric about 6mm (1/4in) in from the outer edge. Take the needle behind the fabric 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.

13 To assemble your cushion, with the flaps folded over onto the ends of your cushion front, pin, tack and then machine stitch around the edge of the cushion, with a 1 cm ($\frac{3}{8}$ in) seam allowance and leaving a gap on the long edge for turning. The tricky part is making sure that you do not stitch the flap at the side seams of the cushion. It may help to fold the corners of each flap over and pin them out of the way before stitching. See illustration.



Use this trace to cut your heart shape



14 Turn the cushion cover to the right side and pull out the flaps at the corners. Press carefully.

© Penny & Penny 2014

To finish, insert your cushion pad and then sew up the gap with small neat stitches.

Find more craft, knitting and stitching projects at www.susanpenny.co.uk

