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“Pillows for your Pets”

A quick inexpensive pet bed alternative

Description: This pattern is a great way to make an inexpensive bed for your pet. The addition of elastic in the pillowcase ends will help keep everything together while your furry buddy snuggles. The entire pet bed remains washable and if it gets stained over time, you can replace the covers or pillows for minimal cost.



Finished Pet Beds Being enjoyed

The materials needed can be purchased at most big box stores. You might also get lucky and find what you need at secondhand stores.

1 package standard pillow cases— 2 per package

2 pillows

Matching Thread

1/4 inch elastic—24 inches

Cutting implements, seam ripper, pins or binding clips, safety pin





This project goes together very easily. We were able to purchase the pillowcases and pillows for less than \$10.00
The elastic was from our stash. Start by opening the pillow cases and laying them right sides together with both open ends in the same direction.



Your pillowcases may not be exactly the same size but that won't be a problem. Just make sure to line up the bottom edges. When you put the elastic in the open ends, they will pull up and you won't be able to see any difference.

Using pins or clips, make sure the edges are lined up in preparation to sew. See how our bottoms are lined up in the larger picture. The smaller picture shows the extra length on one of the pillowcases at the openings.





We set our needle in the middle of our foot and used the foot edge as our guide. Sew a seam down one side of the pillow cases. This will connect them. Make sure to backstitch at the beginning and end for strength.

This is what your pillow cases will look like after sewn together. You will see the seam allowance but it will be hidden once filled with the pillows.



You could stop now and put your pillows in. As you can see the pillows are visible still and might be a tempting thing to chew on or pull out by your pet.





In this picture you can see that pillowcases usually have a casing in the open area. This is a folded over seam which is perfect to run your elastic through.

You are ready for the elastic now. We used 24 inches and split it into 12 inch pieces. That length will close the pillow case enough to make it look neat but leave it large enough to get the pillow in and out.



Work on one pillow case at a time. Find the original side seam inside the pillow case and the casing. Use your seam ripper to open a hole large enough to pass the elastic and safety pin into.





Open a hole on either side of the original side seam in the pillow case.

Put the safety pin through one end of your elastic piece.



Push the elastic into one hole and use a straight pin to attach the other end of the elastic to the pillow case. This will ensure you don't pull it all the way through and lose the end. Work the elastic around the casing until it gets to the other side.





When you get to the other side, you can use another straight pin to make sure the elastic stays put and then pull the safety pin out of the hole in preparation to sew. See the first straight pin is still holding that end piece from the first hole also.

Safety pin is being pulled out



Line up your sewing foot on top of the elastic, drop the needle into it and stitch over. Make sure you remove your pin so you don't sew on top of it. Go back and forth a few times to make sure you really attach the elastic well.





Now you can go to the other hole and sew the same way. We sewed a little bit away from our pin. Once removed, the elastic will retract into the hole. You can either close the holes up or we left ours open because they are small enough for the elastic to hide.

This shows the difference in one pillowcase having elastic and the other not. You can do the exact process on the second pillow case to insert the elastic.



This view shows both pillowcases with elastic. Now you should be ready to insert the pillows.





First and second pillows going in.

Your project is now complete! You might think the seam is uncomfortable, but looking at our puppies, we think they like the fact they can get really deep into those pillows. It makes them feel very secure!



ENJOY!

