

U-Shaped Cat Pillow

A blush-pink fabric pillow with rounded arms, cream heart cheeks and an embroidered face.



A friendly project, one seam at a time. Sew a two-panel, softly stuffed pillow inspired by the supplied design. This guide keeps the long U-shaped silhouette and sweet cat face, with new 3D illustrations showing the construction.

Project size: cut outline 45 × 62 cm (17.7 × 24.4 in). With a 1 cm seam allowance inside that outline, the flat sewn envelope is approximately 43 × 60 cm (16.9 × 23.6 in), before stuffing. Actual stuffed dimensions will be smaller.

Before you start: the reference images give conflicting dimensions. This reconstruction follows the 62 × 45 cm technical sheet; it is not a tested commercial pattern. Make a scrap-fabric sample before cutting your best fabric.

Use: decorative comfort pillow for supervised use away from vehicle restraints. This handmade project is not a crash-tested car-seat accessory. Do not place it beneath a seat belt or harness, or use it for infant sleep.



Materials & cutting list

All measurements are in centimeters, with approximate inches in parentheses. US sewing terms.

Main fabric: 1 m (1.1 yd) of prewashed cotton at least 110 cm (44 in) wide. Cut two matching U-shaped panels. A tightly woven quilting cotton makes the outline easy to mark and sew.

Face: small scraps of cream cotton and brown cotton or washable felt; lightweight fusible web for cotton applique; brown embroidery floss. Avoid buttons or loose plastic eyes.

Filling: approximately 300-500 g (10.5-17.6 oz) washable polyester fiberfill; the amount varies with loft and desired softness. Begin with less and add gradually.

Tools: sewing machine, universal 80/12 needle, matching polyester thread, hand-sewing needle, scissors, clips, washable marker, ruler, large paper, iron and pressing cloth.

Piece	Cut quantity	Cut dimensions
U-shaped body	2 fabric	45 × 62 cm (17.7 × 24.4 in)
Eyes	2 applique	4 × 6 cm ovals (1.6 × 2.4 in)
Nose	1 applique	5 × 4 cm (2 × 1.6 in)
Heart cheeks	2 mirrored	7 × 5 cm (2.8 × 2 in)
Mouth / whiskers	Embroider	Mark directly on the front

Construction choice: this tutorial uses a simple two-panel shell with no side gusset or attachment straps. The extra strips and rectangles on the supplied technical sheet belong to unspecified alternatives and are not needed here. No batting is required; this is a sewn, appliqued pillow rather than a layered quilt.



Make a full-size pattern

The final page is a reference sheet, not an actual-size A4 cutting template.

1. On large paper, draw a rectangle 45 cm wide and 62 cm tall. Mark a vertical centerline at 22.5 cm. Fold the paper on this line to keep both sides identical.

2. Center a 20 cm-wide opening between the arms. This leaves approximately 12.5 cm for each arm at the top. Mark the bottom of the opening 34 cm down from the top edge.

3. Round each arm tip. Draw the inner opening with nearly straight sides and a smooth rounded bottom. Keep its deepest point at the 34 cm mark. Round the lower outer corners with an approximately 4 cm radius.



4. Cut out the folded paper, unfold it and check symmetry. These curves are a practical interpretation of the reference, whose dimension arrows are not fully consistent. Keep the overall width and height accurate rather than tracing the small printed image.

5. The paper edge is the **cut line**. Draw a second line 1 cm (3/8 in) inside every edge for stitching, including the inner U. Do not add another seam allowance. Mark a 12 cm (4.7 in) turning opening centered on the bottom.

6. Place fabric right sides together, with the lengthwise grain parallel to the arms. Pin the paper flat and cut two identical pieces. Transfer the seam line, opening marks and centerline to the wrong side. Keep both layers aligned without stretching the inner curve.

Print accurately: print the tutorial at 100% for readable instructions, then draft the full-size body from these dimensions. Enlarging the whole final sheet by one percentage will not reliably size every piece, because the original artwork is not uniformly scaled.



Applique & embroider the face

Complete the face while the front panel is still flat and easy to handle.



1. Arrange the features. Place the front right side up. Mark eye centers approximately 13 and 32 cm from the left edge and 47 cm down from the top. Put the nose on the centerline at about 51 cm down. Set the cheek centers near 8 and 37 cm from the left, about 54 cm down. Adjust the expression on paper first.

2. Secure the applique. Trace the eyes, nose and mirrored hearts onto fusible web. Fuse to the fabric wrong side according to its instructions, cut cleanly, peel and press into place. Stitch all edges with a narrow zigzag or close blanket stitch. Felt may be stitched directly without fusible web.

3. Add the smile. With brown floss, backstitch a short line below the nose and two curved smile lines. Add two short whiskers outside each cheek. Keep knots on the wrong side and anchor every end securely. Remove guide marks as directed by the marker manufacturer.

Check: keep every decoration at least 2 cm away from the perimeter seam. The face should stay entirely in the broad lower section. The printed eye ovals may be rotated vertically to match the photographed expression.



Sew the U-shaped shell

Use a 1 cm (3/8 in) seam allowance and a 2-2.5 mm straight stitch.



- 1. Match the layers.** Place the front and back right sides together, hiding the face inside. Align arm tips, inner curve and bottom corners. Clip or pin every few centimeters; add extra pins around curves without pulling the fabric.
- 2. Sew the perimeter.** Start at one end of the marked bottom opening and backstitch. Follow the seam line around the outside, over the first arm, down and around the inner U, over the second arm, and back to the other end of the opening. Backstitch again. Leave only the marked 12 cm gap unsewn.
- 3. Reinforce the inner curve.** Sew a second short line inside the seam allowance, about 2 mm from the first line, around the deepest part of the U. Stay outside the main stitch line so the finished outline does not shrink.
- 4. Release the curves.** Clip the concave inner curve at 1-1.5 cm intervals, stopping 2 mm before the stitching. Cut small wedge-shaped notches from convex tips and bottom corners. Do not cut the thread. Keep the full allowance at the turning gap.
- 5. Turn and inspect.** Pull each arm gently through the bottom opening. Ease out curves with a blunt point turner. Press lightly before stuffing, protecting the applique. Check for puckers or skipped stitches and repair them now.



Stuff softly, then close

Small tufts of filling create smoother arms and a more even surface.



- 1. Fill the tips first.** Open the fiberfill into small airy tufts. Push a little into each rounded arm tip with your fingers or a blunt stuffing tool. Add filling evenly down both arms, alternating sides to maintain symmetry.
- 2. Shape the lower body.** Distribute loose tufts across the wide bottom section, including the corners. Massage the filling through the fabric to break up lumps. Keep the pillow flexible; stop before the inner curve becomes tight or the stitches start to separate.
- 3. Prepare the opening.** Fold the raw edges inward by 1 cm and align them with the stitched seam. Move filling away from the gap. Clip the folds together without trapping any tufts in the seam.
- 4. Ladder stitch closed.** Knot a doubled thread and hide the knot inside the fold. Take a 3-4 mm stitch within one folded edge, cross straight to the other fold, and repeat. Pull gently after several stitches so the ladder disappears. Secure with small stitches, bury the knot and trim the thread.
- 5. Final inspection.** Gently squeeze the pillow and check that no seam opens and no filling escapes. Tug each applique edge lightly to check attachment. Remove all pins and loose threads. A perimeter topstitch is unnecessary after stuffing and can flatten the rounded shape.



A neat finish that lasts

Keep this page beside your sewing machine for quick checks.

My inner curve puckers. What should I do?

Before stuffing, turn the shell wrong side out and check the clipped allowance. Add a few careful clips to release the concave curve, staying clear of the stitching. Press lightly and turn again.

One arm looks fuller than the other.

Remove or redistribute a little filling through the open bottom seam. Compare both arms laid flat on a table. Equal fabric dimensions do not guarantee equal volume unless the filling is distributed evenly.

Can I use fleece or stretchy fabric?

Yes, but first test the seam and applique on scraps. Stretch changes the final shape and dimensions. Stable cotton is the simplest choice for this reconstruction.

Can I wash the finished pillow?

Follow the most restrictive care instructions for your fabric, applique and filling. Spot clean first. If all components allow washing, use a gentle cycle in a large laundry bag and dry thoroughly. Never store damp filling.

How do I use the last page?

It reproduces only the supplied professional pattern image, plus the requested branded footer. Use its measurements with the drafting instructions on page 3. The extra pieces are retained as part of that reference image; this two-panel tutorial does not use them.

Before giving the pillow away

Inspect the hidden closure and face stitching. Explain that it is a decorative cushion, not a restraint, positioning device or infant sleep product. Do not add cords or headrest loops for this version.

Completion checklist: symmetrical outline; smooth inner curve; secure embroidery; soft, even filling; fully closed bottom seam; no exposed pins, loose threads or detachable decorations.



