

# French Seam Pillowcase Tutorial

(includes a flap to envelope the pillow)

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## Fabric Requirements

### Option 1

#### **With striped accent trim:**

1 strip of print fabric 57" x 21"

2 grey strips 4" x 21"

1 pink strip 2.5" x 21"

### Option 2

#### **Without striped accent trim:**

1 strip of fabric 65" x 21"

Percale cotton is a fantastic fabric for household linens!

For this tutorial I used a great floral organic cotton percale (which was designed by Harmony Art Organic Design) for the body & Kona cotton solids to add the accent trim stripes. For a list of Harmony Art Organic Percale stockists visit Harmony's website:

<https://www.harmonyart.com>

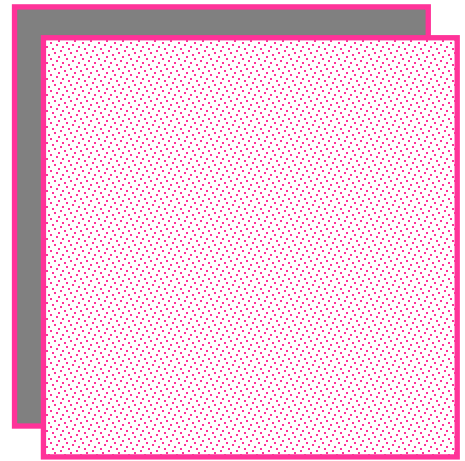


# How to sew a French seam!

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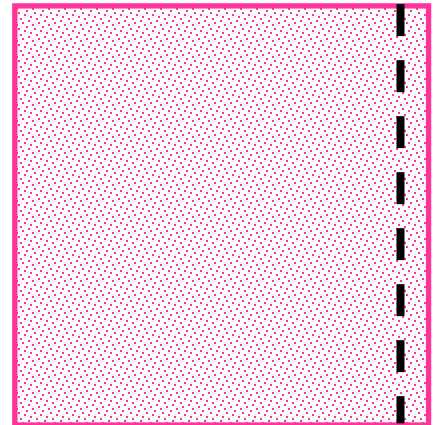
## Step 1

Place your two pieces of fabric right sides out.



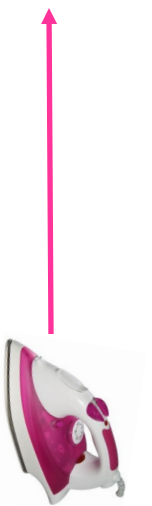
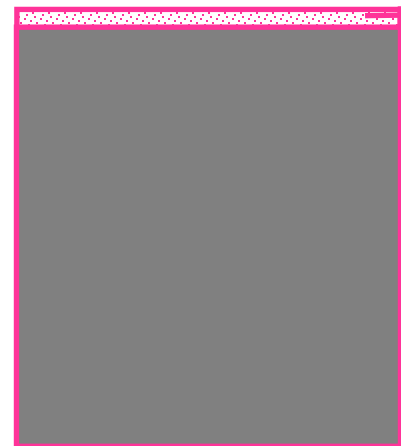
## Step 2

Stitch a 1/4" seam along the edge you wish to join.



## Step 3

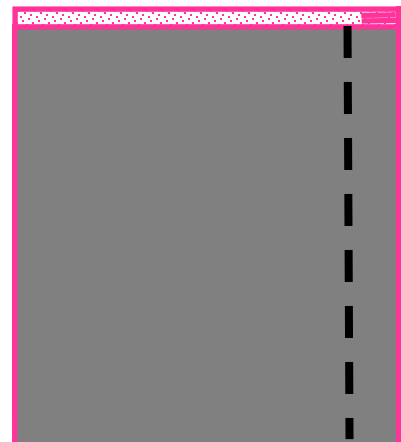
Turn the fabrics right side in and press the seam flat.



## Step 4

Stitch a 5/8" seam (or wider if you prefer) this completely envelopes the raw edges from the previous seam within a casing of fabric.

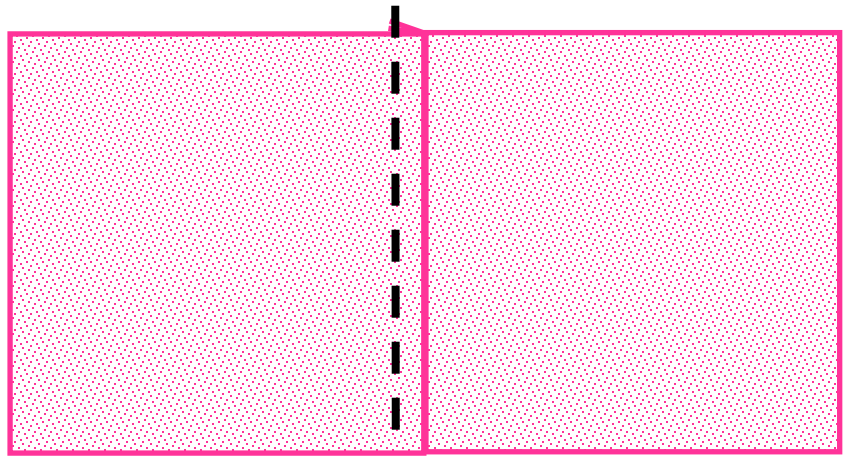
Press fabric open to complete the seam.



## Step 5

This **optional step** is needed in some steps when constructing your pillowcase.

Stitch a line 1/4" away from the seam on the right side of your fabric to attach the swinging fabric casing of the French seam to your outer fabric to ensure your seam lays nice and flat.

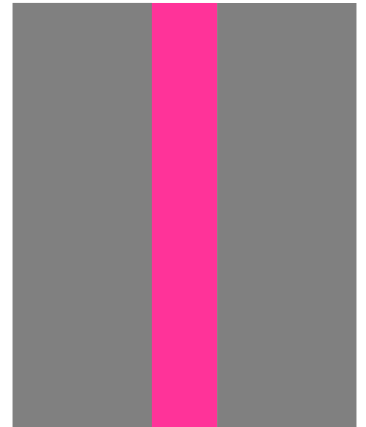


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# Making the Pillowcase!

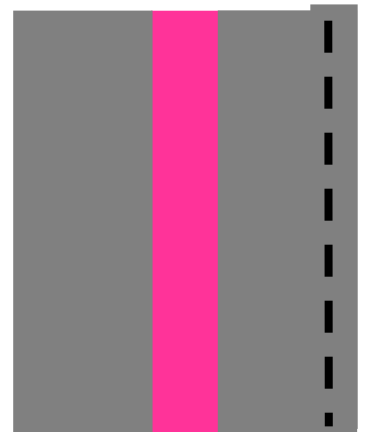
## Step A — Option 1 Creating the strip trim.

Join the 3 solid pieces of fabric lengthwise using French seams, including step 5 above to make the seams lay flat.



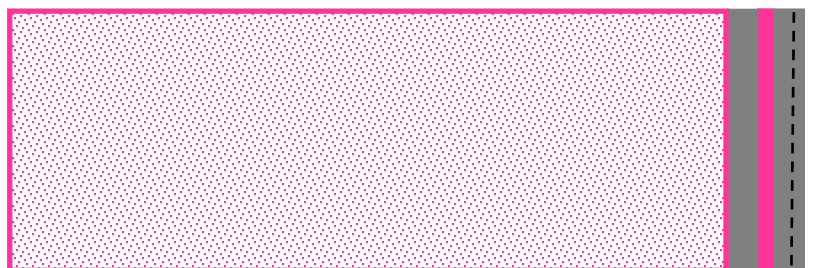
## Step B — Option 1

Hem one lengthwise side of one grey piece (be sure to fold over twice so all raw edges are enveloped within the hem).



## Step C — Option 1

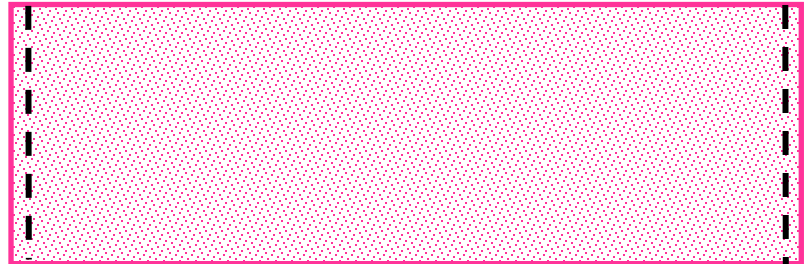
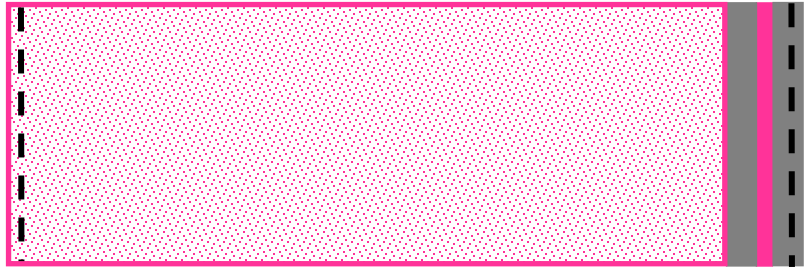
Attach that strip set to one end of the strip of print fabric that measures 57" x 21" use a French seam that includes step 5 so that it lays flat.



## Making the Pillowcase!

### Step D

Regardless of whether you are making the pillowcase with the accent strip trim or just with print fabric, both ends of your long rectangle will need to be hemmed (be sure to fold over twice so all raw edges are enveloped within the hem).



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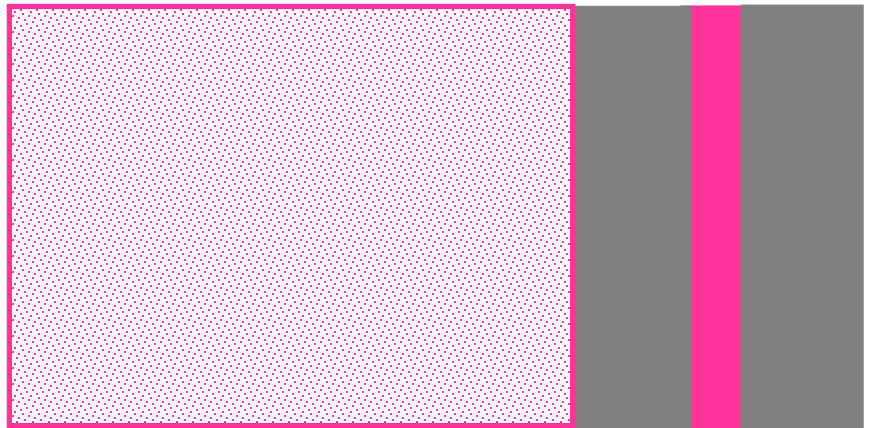
### Step E

Layout your pillowcase **right sides out**, fold as shown in this diagram



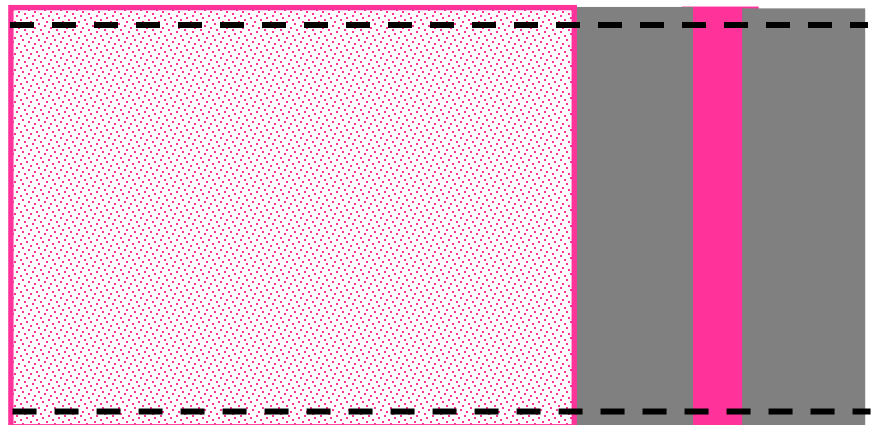
From the side view your fabric will be folded like this.

From the top (birds eye view) you see the fabric that will be the top of your pillowcase in either option 1 with accent strips or in option 2 without the strips.



### Step F

Stitch a 1/4 seam along both lengthwise edges.



## Step G

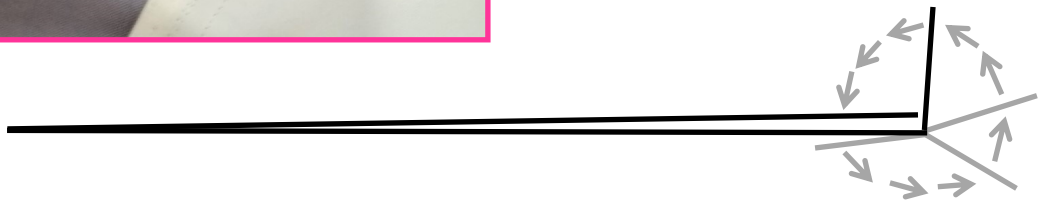
Turn the pillowcase inside out, it will have the enveloping flap laying against the wrong side of the fabric that will be the back of your pillowcase, like this

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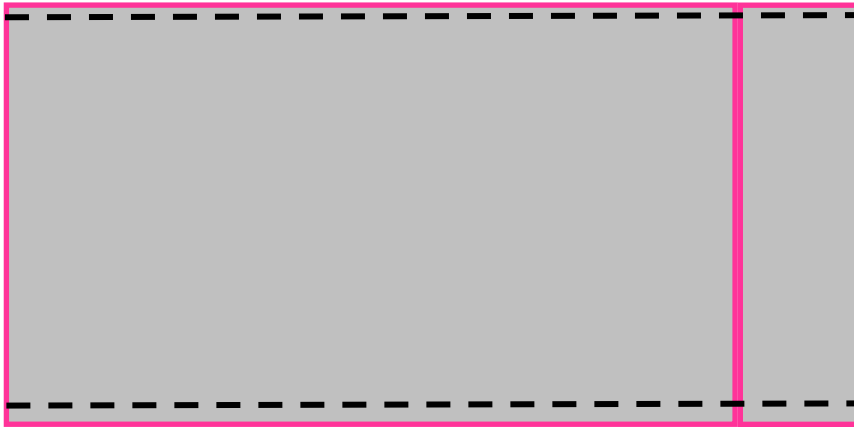


## Step H

Turn the flap to the opposite side of the pillowcase so that it is laying over the accent strip end of the pillowcase.



It should flip all the way over the open end of the pillowcase as shown. Grey represents it's original position and the movement you need to complete.



## Step I

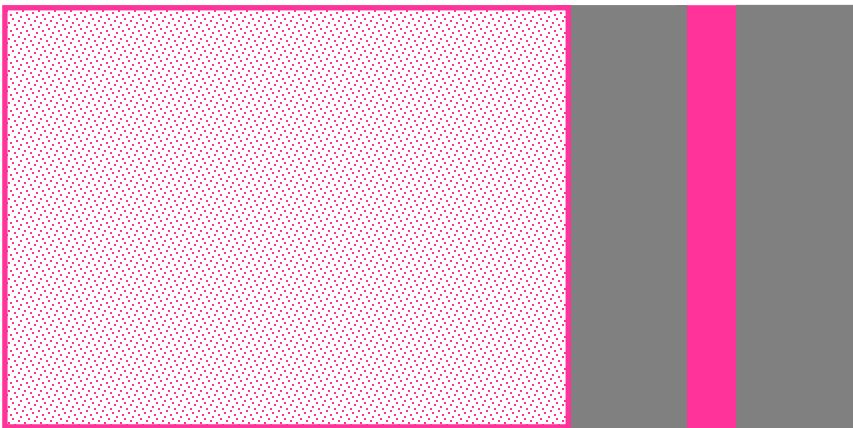
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Stitch a  $\frac{5}{8}$ " seam (or slightly wider if you prefer) along both lengthwise sides of the pillowcase, this completely envelopes the raw edges from the previous seams.

## Step J

Turn right sides out & your pillowcase is complete!

Using straight stitch only you sewed a pillowcase with an enveloping flap that has NO raw edges !



The flap should be covering the pillow at the open end of the pillowcase! So it can't work its way out of the case during the night!



Isn't it a fabulous technique to learn!



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And even at the open end of the pillowcase all seams are tidy and completely covering the French seam casing fabric!!



These are my absolute favorite pillowcases!

