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## **Rosita Pillow** with Liza Lucy

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### **Chapter 1 - Introduction**

#### Overview

(light music) - In another workshop, you saw me picking the fabrics for this rosita quilt, how I chose them, and the contrast that I wanted to create. - The quilt that we made, the original quilt, was inspired by the Missoni family who does beautiful zig zag knitwear, and today, I'm gonna show piecing. It's not for beginners, there's some funny angles, and I'm going to show you just how to get those seams correct, and we're going to do a pillow. If you want to make the entire quilt, it's a great way of giving this design some practice, without committing to a queen sized quilt. Once you've perfected this sewing for a pillow, you can go and do any diamond shaped quilt easily. Time to make a pillow. (light music)

### **Chapter 2 - Materials**

#### Materials

- You can make rosita using printed stripe fabrics, and printed solid fabrics. I really don't encourage this. This is a quilt that is much, much simpler if you use woven stripes, which are the same on the front as on the back. That's because the color's woven in. The same thing with the shot cottons instead of solids. They're the same front and back. And being able to reverse these fabrics is very important in this quilt. This pillow. You're going to need a regular ruler. I like my six by twelve. And a Clearview triangle. This is a cuts 60-degree diamonds. And I like this brand best. It's called Clearview Triangle, and I think it's an essential part of my toolbox. I use it a lot. Mary Ellen's Best Press. I'm not even someone who endorses anything, hardly ever! This is great stuff. It is a kind of starch that leaves no residue, and using these cottons, which are a little bit looser hand than printed fabrics, this helps a great deal. So, get this, and let's start looking at the fabrics. You need six different stripes. So different colors, you do want them to look nice together, but six different ones. For the shot cottons, you want to buy them in pairs. You need four pairs. A light and dark in each pair. So, here's a light and dark. And, for the first one I'm going to cut, this is the light and this is the dark. So you need four sets. You need an eighth of a yard for the shots, and you need five eighths of a yard for each stripe. You need the usual sewing materials: Sewing machine, blade, rotary mat. You're going to need a 22-inch pillow form, some pins, a pencil is terribly important, and backing fabric. A yard of a printed fabric, so the back is almost as beautiful as the front.

### **Chapter 3 - Create Pieced Pillow Front**

#### Cut pieces

- These fabrics need to be starched before cutting, and you do need to cut and sew pretty accurately. These are some tricky seams. For the shot cottons, you're gonna cut strips one and 1/2 inches long. So, here we are on one and 1/2 inches. Line it up, and cut. Without moving the strip. Just don't touch the strip. Move this ruler away, and move your clear view triangle to the edge. And your gonna find number three and 1/2. And that's right there. And that's the only number you need to know on this one. So we're gonna get rid of this little edge piece. And then you're going to flip this around to three and 1/2, putting this right where it was cut, lining it along the edge. Normally, I would twirl this and cut away from myself, but it's a small cut, so I'm just going to risk it. And here is our piece. You're gonna need four lights and four darks of every pair. For the stripes, these stripes

can wiggle a little, they are handwoven and they are not gonna be perfectly straight. Don't get too hung up on that. Put your ruler at three and 1/2 inches along the stripe. Now you can see that I can't really do that. I'm gonna have to trim it straight, so I'm gonna twirl this very gently around, leaving my ruler in place, lining it up with the stripe and cutting it so that it's nice and even. The stripes really need to be cut singly. Do not cut them double, it's the only way to get them even close to straight. And getting close to straight is what your gonna need to do. Move you're ruler to three and 1/2 inches, and cut a three and 1/2 inch piece. Bring your triangle over. Put it at three and 1/2 inches. Notice that the point is hitting where you cut the first cut. And get rid of this edge. I'm cutting toward myself. I've being very careful. And that is thrown away. Bring this around. Find the three and 1/2 inches again. Which is right there. Put it to that spot where it was cut. Line up at three and 1/2 inches and cut. Move this one away. Do another one at three and 1/2, moving it around so it's lined up, and make the second diamond. You're gonna bring your stripe back, cut another three and 1/2 inch strip. Four diamonds the same. And those will be the mates to these diamonds. The way you get this wonderful chevron effect is to have four of the same on the left side, the left slant chevron, and four of the same on the right side. They do not match perfectly. I suppose you could make them so they match absolutely perfectly and get a very different effect from ours, but we like this mismatched effect. Now, you're going to be doing four left-side of this fabric, and four right-side of the same fabric. And you're gonna do that for each of the different stripes.

#### Sew pillow front

- After you've cut all six of your stripes, and all four pairs of your shots, you need to work out a sequence of how you want them to be sewn together. So, in this one I've got this dark stripe, and then this orange, and it's made here. A medium stripe. This blue pair here. And so on. As long as you have six large and four small, you'll be okay for the length that you need. So work out your sequence, and then I think it's important to mark the seam allowance, because this is some tricky piecing. So let's mark. There is no front or back to these fabrics, but now we're gonna have to say there's a front and back, because you want to mark the seam allowance on the backs. So, here's your sequence. Here's this piece right here, and I have already marked it. What I've done is taken my ruler, placed it at a quarter inch, and you're marking on what you've determined to be the backside of each fabric. And I'm making these marks darker than you should, but I want you to be able to see them. So you place this on the quarter inch, and just mark, and go all the way around, and mark so that you can see the pivot points on each corner. Do this on all your pieces. I've marked these two pieces that are going to be joined. I put my pin, and their right sides together, through the corner that I marked here, and the corner I marked on the other side, and another one in this corner. You'll notice how their funny little ears sticking out, that's the way it should be. Once you've got a pin through that spot, you're going to put a pin in this way to stabilize here, and one here. And pull these out. And then we'll take it to the sewing machine. I've done another one here. So, here we are at our quarter-inch foot. Notice, by the way, that your needle is gonna hit right where the two fabrics meet. And I'm going to do a very nice quarter-inch seam. Now, if I've done this right, it should go right over my pencil line. Oh, very good. (sewing machine whirring) At the end it gets a little bit trickier, you really wanna poke through and hold them together. And you're going to do this for every join, this exactly the same way to make every seam. Let's take a look. And we open it up, you'll see we've got a nice even line here, and an even line here. And that's what we're going for. Make every single join down an entire column the same way. So, this is going to be here, and continue. Now, I've already done two columns. One that slants this way, with the darker colors, and

once that slants the other way with the lighter-shot cottons on the other side, lemme show you what I mean. Here are two columns, one facing this way and one this way. And there will be a diagram online, please follow it like a map. And I've sewed this column, and then I've sewed this column. And now, I'm going to put the two of them together to make a chevron. You're going to put them face to face, front to front, and you're going to pin at every join. Now, the first end, let's just pin that where it is. And you're going to oppose your seams just the way you do on square patchwork, and they nest. This one's ironed in that direction, and this one's ironed in this direction. Or finger-pressed should be sufficient. And you're going to nest them together, and pin. And we're going to sew from here, to here. Quarter-inch seam, place under your foot, and away we go. (sewing machine whirring) Okay, I'm gonna pull it out. Last stitch. And here is our first chevron sewed all the way down. Ah, that looks nice. Most of the time with patchwork, you iron to one side. In this chevron, I'm going to press open every seam going down between the pairs of columns. I will use the best press again, and make this really, really flat. You need to make four of these, and here it is. One column, two, three, four.

#### **Chapter 4 - Finish Pillow**

Add back and finish

- The width is roughly 23.5 inches. It doesn't have to be exact, but it's about 23.5 inches. You're going to cut off the points on both ends until it measures 23.5 inches square. 23.5 across, 23.5 top and bottom. Don't be too worried about making these exactly the same as where you cut them off. It won't matter when you see the pillow finished. This is a bias edge, and you wanna stabilize it because it can cause a lot of wiggling if you don't stabilize it when you go to make the pillow. So I put my machine on a long stitch, and I just stitch about an eighth of an inch from the edge, as you can see here. This will not be seen at all. It's just to stabilize this from wiggling when we go to make the pillow. So here is our trimmed piece. I have doubled it over, so front to front. Because I'm going to do something that a seamstress friend told me, when you make a knife edged pillow, so often they have ears that stick up very strangely. And there is a trick to making that not happen. Now, you're gonna say well, it's not gonna be square anymore, and that's a fact. It will not be, but you will be glad you did it. I pinned it together, front sides together, and I've measured five inches from here to here and put a mark, and five inches from here to here and put a mark, and then a half inch and a half inch down. I'm going to take this pin out and I'm going to take my rotary cutter from this mark to this one and slice that off. Don't move the slice away, because you've gotta preserve that mark. I'm now gonna do it here again. And I'm gonna put it, the ruler, from my half inch mark there and the five inch there and I'm gonna slice that angle off and take this away. Funny angle here so, let me get a scissor and clean that up. I didn't make a very good cut, but the idea is to end up with a quarter that looks like that. And here. And there is a sliver off of both the top and the side. And this is no longer perfectly straight, but it's going to make a much nicer knife edge pillow. There won't be ears on each corner. The last step for making this pillow is to make the backing and then put the two pieces together and we've got a pillow. For the backing, you want to cut a piece of fabric of your own choice. This was before I cut it 30 inches by 25. And you're gonna slice the 30 inches right down the middle making two 15 inch by 25 pieces. Turn the edge you just cut over twice, and stitch down and do it on this one as well. And once they're both stitched down overlap about four inches, and pin together. This is, we'll make a pocket to put our insert. You're going to take your trimmed rosetta, and place it on your backing. Front to front. This is going to be smaller, as you can see. Because when you get it all together, front to front, you'll trim the backing to the same shape and

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size as the chevrons. So don't be concerned if the backing is too big. That's the way you want it to be. When you get them together and they're nice and flat, pin them together around and trim off this excess so that they match. Once you've done that, we're going to sew all the way around using a 5/8 inch seam. Up till now we've used the convention for quilt making, which is a quarter inch. Now we're going to our sewing by normal rules, which are 5/8 of an inch. Normal sewing rules are a little different. Here it is, sewed. We've used a 5/8 inch seam, which is the usual sewing seam for non quilters, all the way around the whole thing and I've trimmed off the corners. Little bit beyond my stitched corners, so that it won't stuff the corners and look bulky inside. So here's where the magic occurs. You gotta poke out the corners. And all we have to do is stuff our pillow. So I have here a 22 inch pillow form. And I'm going to put it in through the flat that was left when we overlapped the backing. Hey Keith. - Yeah. - Come see the rosetta pillow. - Okay. Wow. - You like it? - Yeah, see, just isolating that little bit of a quilt makes it a gorgeous cushion. - Yeah. - It's got dimension. I love it. - I think it's gonna look great on my den sofa. - Feels good too. Great. - Thanks.