
Round Button Cartwheel Pillow with Heather Bailey

Chapter 1 - Introduction

Overview

(fun music) - The cartwheel pillow is a great project for blending two fabric collections together or more like I have with my True Colors collection and my Lottie Da fabric collections. I will show you how to piece the front of the pillow, the back of the pillow, add piping to the edge, and cinch it down the middle for a quick and easy project that's fun to make.

Chapter 2 - Materials

Materials

- For your cartwheel pillow, you're going to need about a yard and a half to two yards of fabric, which will give you plenty. I'm using fat quarters for my true colors and La Dee Da fabric collections. We have six here for the pillow and an additional fabric to create binding. You'll also need fusible woven interfacing. I'm using about a yard and a half, mine is 20 inches wide. If yours is twice that width you might not need as much. We also have polyester stuffing, which you can get in large bags. We have thread, you're going to want to use an all purpose thread. If you're not sure what color to use, I'm going to be using white, because there's a lot of whites in my fabrics. But if you're not sure what color to use, a gray or beige neutral is great for mixed fabric piecing. You'll also need some nylon cording, for attaching your buttons, some strong unbreakable thread, that's the key. Piping if you're not planning to make it yourself, you can buy it pre-made in all kinds of great colors. You'll want two buttons to cover or large buttons from your collection. If you are going to make your own buttons, you'll need to tool for that. And then moving over to our pin cushion, you'll want normal pins, whatever you work with. I'm going to show you a really neat trick with these flat pins, so you might want to get yourself some of those. And, we are going to need a long doll makers needle, let me show you how long that is. This one here is about four or five inches long. You could get away with a three inch needle, but this will help you stitch the button to the center of the pillow. We have a seam ripper and of course those are great to have on hand anyway, but they are necessary for one of the steps I will be showing you. We have a rotary cutter, a zipper foot, I'll be using this to attach the piping. A quarter inch sewing foot, and if you don't have that you can just use the markings on your machine. We have thread snippers, I like these ones because they're super sharp, they're great for notching edges. Normal scissors for piping. You'll want to get this piping cord if you're planning to make it yourself, you'll need a yard and two-thirds. And then, just some basic cutting and quilting supplies, so you'll want a nice wide quilters ruler, a cutting mat, its hidden underneath here, an ironing surface, this here is what I'm going to be using for my ironing board, but you can just use a normal ironing board. And then, you'll want your printed pattern piece that comes with the class. You'll also want your basic sewing set up, with a machine, an iron and an ironing surface.

Chapter 3 - Create Pillow Front and Back

Cut fabric using template

- We'll start by cutting our fabric. I'm gonna show you how to cut these pieces efficiently from a fat quarter stack. A fat quarter is cut as a half yard piece on the bolt and then cut in half. So you end up with a half yard in length and then a half of a bolt in width so you end up with a bigger square and

not such a small little strip like a quarter yard would be. So to cut our pieces, which look like this, efficiently, we will fold our fabric in half. When your fabric has an organic or all-over print, you don't have to concern yourself with centering your pattern piece on the design, so you can be very efficient with how you lay it out. So for our gore pieces here today, I'm going to pin this pattern piece down with flathead pins that I showed you earlier. These ones are, as you see as I turn it, they're flat. You can use scissors and any old pin. You don't have to have these flathead pins, but I've discovered in cutting a lot of these pieces out that the flat pins allow me to put a ruler on top and still use my rotary cutter, which I'll show you. I need to rotate this. It's a good idea to develop some good habits when it comes to rotary cutters. You wanna make sure to be cutting away from your body and you always wanna make sure your hand is safely away from the cutting line. So I'm going to line up my ruler on top of my pattern piece and cut. (cutting) Try not to cut to far beyond the tip of your triangle. I'm gonna go ahead and get this side done here too. This project is actually quite forgiving on the pattern pieces. (cutting) If you were to cut them a slightly off, you would still end up with a good result because of the tufting that we do with the buttons at the end. (cutting) If you wanna get really tricky, you can fold your fabric again and cut four of these out at a time. For the entire project, you're going to need 12 pieces for the front and 12 for the back. When you're working with one of these organic fabrics or all-over prints, you can invert your pieces on each other to maximize your fabric like this. If you're careful, across with the width of one fat quarter, you can cut seven pieces of this design and still have quite a bit of scrap left over on the side. Interfacing is cut in much the same way, unless you're using fewer fabrics. If you have two alternating fabrics for your pillow to make more of a strong graphic statement, then you can fuse your interfacing to the back of your fabric before you cut it out and save yourself some time. (moving fabric pieces) So I want to now show you how to deal with a print that's directional or has a strong center line. We're gonna move this aside and move on to showing you that right now. So a number of my prints here that I'm working with have a design that you might want to center like this chevron here. As I open this up, you will see that you're gonna want your pattern piece to be centered right on the print. My tip for that is to fold the pattern piece in half. (folding pattern piece) Of course, you could draw a line on the pattern piece and then fold it on the line, but this is my tip. Okay, so when it's folded in half, you can line up your pattern piece on your design, centering it on the print very easily. So you line it up visually and then you pin down the side that's at the bottom first. Oops, little elephant fell over. And then flap this down and pin it down and you will have a centered design. These prints can be a little more tedious to cut out because you might wanna cut them out one at a time. But it's worth it for a cute pillow in the end. So same process I showed you before. (cutting) And again, if you just want to use your scissors and skip the ruler and the rotary cutter, that works perfectly fine. I rotate this to follow my own rule about cutting away from myself. I've seen too many injuries done with this and I have yet to sustain one myself. (cutting) (cutting) So when we take our pattern piece off here, our chevron print will be centered down the middle. If you're making a scrappy pillow, you don't have to match the front of your pillow to the back of your pillow. But you can. So you'll see here on my pillow the chevron matches up with the chevron on the back. The Dauphine print here matches up on the back. The gray and the gray, and so forth. To do that, you're going to need your back of your pillow to be the mirror images of the front of your pillow. I'm gonna show you how to do that in case you are wanting that wrap-around effect. But again, if you're going for a scrappy pillow, that's not necessary. So I have all of my pieces cut here and interfaced. You're going to want 12 pieces for the front and the 12 for the back. And they all should be fused with interfacing on the back like this. And I'm going to show you how to match the

back of the pillow to the front of the pillow. This isn't necessary if you're not going for that wrap-around effect. But to do this, you'll want to pair a gore for the front of your pillow and the back of your pillow like so with the wrong sides together. And for each pair, you can then lay them on the table and arrange them as you see fit. This will give the front of your pillow and the back of your pillow each a counterpart. So like this. We'll match up all our pairs and then we'll start arranging the pillow. I'm actually going to just put my chevron to left of every one of these floral prints and see if I can create a nice design with some uniformity without being too predictable. And we'll see what develops. Now these don't need to be lined up perfectly. You're just trying to get them on the table in a way where you can play with them and create your design but not have to do too much thinking later on to get the back the work out right. See, these daisy prints together. So again, this means if you're matching your pillow front to your pillow back, you're going to want two of each of those prints at minimum. So you could have 12 different fabrics on your pillow and not have any of them match each other. But if you want the wrap-around effect with the front matching the back, you'll want two pieces of each of your fabrics. This is a great project for scraps. Okay, so I have decided to do kind of a spoke effect that's not predictable, but if you look closely you can figure it out. So I have a gray fabric to insert after each one of these repeat so it goes floral, chevron, floral, gray. Floral, chevron, floral, gray. And then we'll go back to floral, chevron, floral and gray. That way we get a scrappy effect, but there's balance to the design.

Piece together front and back

- We're gonna start by creating half of the pillow, and then we will create the other half of the pillow when we're done with the first half. Following the order that I've laid it out on the table, I'm just going to place this first fabric at the right on top of the next fabric, leaving our back pillow fabrics underneath. That's what these are right here. And we're going to sew these together on the machine. I like to backstitch at the beginning of the seam, just so that any torque we put on the pillow later on is not gonna pull apart the seam. And you just want to make sure your edges are aligned and that you stitch with a quarter-inch seam allowance along these longer edges of our wedge. I'm gonna go ahead and backstitch a couple of stitches. And pull it off. And you have your pieces sewn together. Now to continue, you just lay your two pieces back where they had originally come from and fold them onto the next wedge in your design, like this, and bring it back over to the machine. Again, I start in from the outside edge, about a quarter of an inch, so I can start with a backstitch, and we do just like we did before. We line up our edges and stitch with a quarter-inch seam allowance. When it comes to the tip down here, you'll want to finger press the seam open and hold it together with your hands. That's good enough. If you want to put a pin in, that's perfectly fine. And we just continue. By replacing it on our pillow half, we can keep oriented on where we are on the project and not get confused which piece comes next. So right sides together, I just lay the next piece on top and bring it back over to my machine. Start a little bit in from the edge, backstitch, and then continue. Now on your pattern piece, there's a corner right here. You don't need to bring your needle up and then put it down and pivot. You can just kind of rotate around that corner and that will give you a perfectly good result with your pillow, you don't have to make a sharp corner. And then again, down at the bottom, you're gonna wanna line up your edge and make sure this is spread out nicely and finger press down so you don't have any folds happening in here. All right, now you can press your seams as you go or you can wait 'til you've finished your half circle. You don't want to wait 'til you've sewn the full circle, because then it gets awkward to bring your iron in to the middle, and if you do it in half circles, you can press from both sides. We're gonna

continue sewing in the same method. Make sure these stay lined up. Okay, now as you attach many of these gores together, you'll find that you can't keep flipping your seam allowance this way without losing track of the point that you're going for to try to make your corners match. So about four pieces in, I start flipping the seam allowance the other direction. So you'll see these one go this way, and this one goes the other way. You can figure that out as you're sewing it. This is not a hard fast rule for getting this pieced, but what you want to do is keep your seam allowance area, your seam allowance area here at the tip, as flat as possible. So as you're sewing, if you flip your seam allowances the other direction at the last part of your half circle, you'll end up with a flatter tip. So back over here to our table, and here's our last piece in the half circle. And I like to start from the outside edge, so you'll see that I flipped that over so I can keep starting from the same part on the seam. Now I want to make one other point about the flat area in our pattern piece. This is what enables the pillow to wrap back towards the back of the pillow, so that we don't end up with pancake pillow, but our pillow has volume. Now when you're aligning your fabric edges, it helps to flip this tip of the pillow back up so you can see what's happening with your fabric edge here on the top piece. 'Cause you'll see that all of our nested seam allowances here are hiding it. So this is my way of making sure that my new piece is aligning nicely with the edge of bottom piece, or my top piece. When you get to the center of your pillow here, where the points all match up, this little intersection of threads is the center point of your pillow, so that's what I'm aiming my needle towards at this point, I can see all these crisscrossing threads, and that's what I'm, I'm just eyeballing it. But that's where I'm aiming. Once I've gone through that center point, the rest of it's all seam allowance. All right, so now we're going to press our pillow half here and to do that we want to analyze which way we've already directed the seam allowances. So over here on this piece, you'll see that the seam allowance is already falling in this direction because of how we sewed it at the center point of our pillow. This one next falls the same direction, and then our next seam line falls this way, and then this way, and then this way. So I just want to press the seam allowances in the direction that they're already going, so that I don't create twists and turns in the inside of my pillow. By pushing in the wrong direction. You can feel that once you've flipped it over, but you can't see it on camera, so I just wanted to show you the back before I got going. So just starting with one gore at a time, and just press along the seam. And I just do the middle part of the pillow first, and then we'll come along and do the outside edge, because there's a strong corner right here, and you don't want to end up with funky wrinkles right there because you squashed it. So I'm pressing this out, and as it gets pressed, you'll see that our piece cups along the edge, and that is on purpose, that's what the corner in our pattern piece is for. This creates what would be the gusset on a pillow, which is a very technical term that just means the depth of the pillow. If we had created a flat wagon wheel and sewn a band around the outside, that's how we would have gotten our pillow depth. But with this pattern piece, I've included the pillow depth in the piece, and that's why it cups like it does. So we're almost done here with the center of our pillow. This is why you want to press it in a half pillow, because access from the middle here is much easier to press than if you had a full piece. Okay, so that's our middle, and now we want to come along and press these outside little, I'll show you on the back, all these little bits poking out here. And these are quick, 'cause they're all straight seams, they're not angled and there aren't a lot of things in the way. Okay, so I'm checking to see which direction the seam allowance is going, that's why I'm flipping it. And we are there. Okay, so that's a pressed pillow half. And I'm gonna show you that cup again here, so that you know when your pillow is cupping like this, you've done it right. You're going to sew your other pillow front half next. I already have mine done, so we can just get going on sewing these two pieces together to

make our pillow front. So I just matched them together, right sides together, and then I just reverse the cup on this so that everything's smooth and easy to handle on the machine. Okay, so your next thing you want to do is match the center point of your radiating star, and I have to tell you that if this were a quilt, you'd want to be picky about how these points match. But because this area will be covered with a button, you can be easygoing about it. So the best way to do this is to identify the center and put a pin through the center point. I'm going to do that from the back and just flip this forward to check if my pin is in the right spot. And now that I can see the pin, I'm going to take the same pin and poke it through where all these points meet on my other half of the pillow. Push a little bit hard, 'cause there's thick seam allowances there. Okay, so this is just giving me a pivot point so that I know that these are pretty much aligned. If my pin is diagonal like this, then I know there's been a shift, and if my pin is perpendicular to my seam allowances, then I know that I've got them pretty well lined up, at least for our purposes with this pillow. So keeping this pin in place and not worrying about securing it back on itself, we are going to pin on either side of it. I'm sure there's a million ways to do this, but this works well enough for me and it's easy and forgiving. Okay, so we pin on either side, and I'm just gonna pin once on each end. As you saw before, I don't use a lot of pins for these straight lines, but when we've got our two pillow halves together, this is really helpful so that nothing rotates out of place, and then you also can make sure that everything lines up, so see right here, how this one bottom piece is a little longer than the top piece, this is the perfect time to adjust that a little bit. All right, so I'm just gonna leave this hanging out in here just like that, and when I sew towards it, then I'll just remove it. So that's why this little odd guy is just poking out like that. So again, like we did with our piecing earlier, we're going to start from the outside edge of the pillow and work towards the center. With a little backstitch to just secure the stitching at the edge. In fact, I'm going to put my needle in a needle-down position. I think that's good. It might not have worked. Oh there we go, okay, good. Having your needle in a needle-down position just helps hold your fabric in place while you pause like this to make sure everything's lined up. It also helps to have a nice flat surface to sew on when you have a lot of fabric to hold up. Okay so now is when this pin is starting to get in the way, so I just kind of leave it, I just, I guess what do I say, I poke the fabric down here and we just come along, get towards our other pin, remove it, okay now I'm gonna take this thing out. All right, we only want to sew toward the center on this. If you're gonna tuft your pillow in the middle, it helps to leave a little tiny quarter of an inch or eighth of an inch unstitched, because it makes it easier to poke your needle through the middle later on, which I'll explain better later. So stitch towards the center and then backstitch a little bit and leave yourself just a tiny little lip of space unstitched. That'll matter more on the next pass. So I'm gonna flip this over and again go from the outside of our circle towards the inside. I'm just checking to make sure my edges are still aligned nicely. Looking good, and again, you can identify where your points are all coming together if you look closely at the threads down in here, but you're not gonna stitch all the way to that point. You're gonna stop about an eighth of an inch out. It doesn't matter if you do stitch through it. If your machine can handle this big mess of seam allowances, you can stitch through it. But if you leave a tiny little spot open, you're gonna have an easier time sewing your button on. Okay so you want to bring your piece over to the ironing board again, and instead of ironing this new seam one direction, we want to split it open, well I guess that'd be pressing it open, because there's so much bulk right here. If we press this the one side, we're really creating a big knot to stitch through later, but if we can open this up and press it open, it'll be much easier to attach the button and you'll have this tiny little hole that's easier to poke your needle through. It helps to notch this corner here that's created when we pivot on our sewing machine. This reduces the bulk in the

seam allowances and allows your pillow to have a more smooth contour when it's stuffed. You could do that with one little notch. I've found that two notches takes care of it for me. Just on either side of, let me make this one a little bigger, on either side of that corner. Just like this, and you'll see that we've done that on all of the different seams. And this just makes it turn the corner. See how, once this is turned, it kind of darts the seam allowance so that there isn't so much bulk in that area. And you do that to the other side, as well. It helps to have some very sharp, pointed little scissors for this. So I first finger press it, this seam open just a little bit so that it's wanting to be flat before I get the iron involved. And I press from the back, just to get it started, and then come around from the front to add a little bit more pressure so that it's nice and flat. So again, I'm ironing the long part of the seam separately from the little side part of the pillow. And we'll get to the center last. Okay so finger press this open first, that way your fingers don't have to be right next to the iron. I'm gonna talk to you about why we have these pieces interfaced. If you're using an upholstery fabric, you probably don't need to do interfacing. I have you interfacing this because we're working with quilting-weight cottons, and the interfacing creates a lot of stability for the pillow and makes it looks really smooth when it's stuffed. It masks a lot of lumps or whatnot that you might get from stuffing the pillow. And it just gives your pillow a great substantial feeling to it. Okay so we are almost done with pressing our seam open. And this is the spot where it really matters, because of all this bulk. So I kind of, same thing, finger press this open as best I can so that I can keep my fingers safe from the iron. Get this thing where I feel like I've got it nicely opened, and then I just apply pressure with the iron and heat. And if you have steam in your iron, you can give it a good steam here, too, if the fabrics will handle steam all right. Okay, and as you see, this is nice and flat and open, and there's a tiny little hole in there for our needle. Again, if you don't have that hole and you stitched right through, that's not too much of a problem. Here's our pillow front, and we've got our points matching pretty nicely, but I want to say one more time, it's not that important if you're gonna put a big button on here if you have the most amazing matched corners. So take it easy on yourself. Once your pillow front is done, you'll want to move on to the back. For the back of the pillow, if you're matching the front like we talked about earlier, then you're going to have your pieces laying upside down on the table, and you'll just do the same thing that we did before, except you'll be looking at the backs of the pillow pieces. Again, moving from right to left, we will pick up the first two pieces and sew them together, like this, along this edge, and then lay that sewn piece together flat and pick up the next piece. Just like we did when the fronts were showing. And when everything is sewn together and you flip it over, it will be the mirror image of the pillow front. If you're not having your pillow back match your pillow front, then you can just lay the pieces out with the pretty sides up and arrange them just like we did with the front, and you don't have to worry about the order matching.

Chapter 4 - Add Piping and Finish Sewing Pillow

Create custom piping

- We have a few options for trimming out our pillow. We can use piping that's purchased from the store, pre-made like this right here, and it comes in lots of different colors and different widths. Or we can use a ruffle, you could create that on your own or buy some trims from the store that would fit right into a seam. I'm going to make my own piping using our fat quarter here and some piping cord. This one is about a quarter-of-an-inch in diameter, it comes in lots of different sizes. And we're going to cut this on the bias so that it makes a nice, smooth, corded edge without wrinkles. So, I'm gonna open this up and move these pipings out of the way. Now, with fabric, you have a vertical

grain to your fabric and a horizontal grain, this is the warp direction which is the direction which was strung on the loom when the fabric was woven and then the weft is the other direction where the fibers go in and out over the warp fabrics, you can identify the warp which is the grain of the fabric by the selvage. If you have a selvage on your fabric, your grain of your fabric will fall parallel to your selvage. If you don't have a selvage showing and you just have a scrap, you can do this little test to check for the vertical grain of your fabric. If you tug this way and then tug this way, you'll find that there's more stretch the weft direction and less stretch going this direction which is the grain or warp. If you are looking to cut something on the bias like we are, you want to have your cut be parallel to the most stretchy direction of the fabric, which is diagonal to both the warp and the weft. So bias is super stretchy and weft is somewhat stretchy and warp is not stretchy. So to do that we're going to fold our fabric like this so that we have a folded edge that is perpendicular to the bias grain of our fabric. I know for my quarter inch piping I need to have a strip of fabric that's one and 7/8 inch, that's enough fabric to go all the way around the cord and give us a half an inch seam allowance to sew with. So I'm going to start over here, line up my ruler with the cutting mat. Now save this 'cause you might need that depending on how much length you're able to get out of these longer pieces. Flip this around, we're going to make a one and 7/8 inch strip. You can just move along and keep cutting that remember if you cut it one and 7/8 inch I have an eighth of an inch hanging out over the edge here so I need to adjust that when cutting so that I maintain that width. And so forth. We're going to seam our strips together so that we have a bias strip in total that's long enough to go around the entire perimeter of our pillow. To do that, you'll take your two strips of bias and overlap them so they're perpendicular to each other like this and you'll want to stitch from this corner that's created to this corner. So let me get a pen out to show you. You're going to stitch from there diagonally across here to this corner. If you like you can pen it you can even draw the lines so that you maintain a perfect line on the bias. I'll do that, I'm going to eyeball it, my (mumbles) is very forgiving. Now I already have a zipper foot on my machine here for the next step which works perfectly fine, just want to make sure you're stitching from that one I'm going to call it an armpit for lack of a better word that one armpit created by the overlapping fabrics over to the other one. Just like that. Now we're going to trim off these excess flaps out here, make a nice seam allowance and when you open it up it's all connected. So to trim this off you just take your ruler and line up the mark, you want to give yourself think about quarter of an inch seam allowance. These are scraps. And this is what you have. You can either press this to one side or press it open or you can just finger press it and move on. To sew this to the cording you're just going to wrap it around your cord like this, you want to align the cut edges with each other, don't worry about the fact that this is all cut funky on the diagonal we're going to trim that off later. It helps to pin in a couple of places just to make sure that you're keeping everything smooth and it's running nicely without getting pulled funky. Now once you've got this going in the machine you can just hold it with your hands and align everything and if you're comfortable with that then that works great, it goes quickly, if you want to pin it every few inches, that's also helpful. Alright to sew our piping you want to use a zipper foot with your needle position all the way to the far side so that you can push the piping up against the edge of your foot as closely as possible. Now I'm going to use white thread so you can see what's happening but normally you would want to choose thread that matches your fabric as closely as possible. Now to get a really nice snug fit with the threads pushing up closely against the cord, I push on the cord but I recognize that that's a dangerous move so don't do that unless you're comfortable getting your finger near that needle. You can just keep repositioning your bias so that you're prepared to do another few inches. This is a great time to do some meditating can be a

pleasant and soothing activity, I tend to just make a bunch at once and then use it on different projects. Continue making your piping until you have about two yards, that will give you plenty to finish your pillow.

Sew piping to pillow front

- We're going to pin our piping to the edge of our pillow front. I'm going to begin with mine here by pinning at the seams. This isn't necessary. But if I pin through the seam, then I can direct which way the seam allowance will go, try to keep that consistent throughout. You'll want to pin your cording on the front of your pillow on the right side of the fabric. And the cording seam allowance radiates out from the outside of the pillow. You don't wanna pin it on this direction. Your seam allowance will be on the outside. Now that you've got it all the way around this circle, (rustling) you wanna just overlap a few inches and cut it. And we'll cut off the extra after we get this sewn on. I'm going to stitch the piping down to the front just to secure it. And then later, we'll add the pillow back on and sew through all the layers one more time. I'm going to start stitching a few inches from my tail end here. We'll secure that down later. I'm, again, using the zipper foot, which enables me to put my needle positioned all the way to the left and have the needle run as close to the cording as possible. (rattling) I backstitched a few stitches to secure the thread at the end. I've also changed the thread color that I'm sewing with to better match my piping. (rattling) I'm gonna put my needle position down again. (rattling) So we'll go around the entire perimeter of our pillows. (rattling) Same action as before, where you're pushing the needle up against the cording. I'm using my fingers over here to guide it. (rattling) If you wanna do that, be very careful not to get your fingers caught underneath your needle. And you can probably buy specialized equipment for sewing your piping in place, but I'm perfectly happy to use a zipper foot. (rattling) (rustling) (rattling) This ones getting a little bit backed up, so I'm gonna just loosen that up a little bit as I go. (rattling) (rattling) (rattling) (rattling) This is where you discover that you don't really need to pin it. (rattling) But it does help you measure and make sure that you've got the right amount of cording before you cut it. (rattling) (rattling) (rattling) All right, I'm coming around to the end here. (rattling) We're gonna leave ourselves a bit of space open for overlapping. (rattling) And we've got a little ways to go. I want to seam (rattling) my piping here on this blue piece, 'cause that's where I made the overlap happen. So I'm gonna get it up in here and backstitch a little bit, take it off the machine. So, the first thing we're gonna do is trim our bottom piece with a blunt cut. (snapping) All right, so we need to get our seam ripper now, and we're going to unpick a little bit of the stitching here along the top-most layer of our cording. I can also trim this down a little bit at this time. You want your cording to, the fabric part, the rope's different, the actual cord itself is different. But the fabric we want to overlap by an inch or so. So I'm gonna cut that off jut to get rid of our excess. And we're going to pick out these stitches right here. And just careful to just catch the thread every few stitches so that you can open this back up. Okay. All right, so now we have a loose piece of fabric and our cord poking out. You want to move the fabric completely out of the way and overlap your cord. You're going to trim the cord right here. I'm not gonna do it yet. Right there, so that your cord butts up right next to each other, that the two ends meet (snapping) like this. Then, your fabric piece is now longer. You actually are going to wrap this around the other cord, and I realize that I need to unpick just a little bit right here too. I'm gonna do that from the back side. 'Cause that shows me my most recent stitching, and I won't be cutting into my cording stitch. Okay, you wanna have a little bit of this loose. Okay. We're going to fold our fabric end under a quarter of an inch or more and slide it underneath the cord here on the right. I'm gonna pin that in place at the back and give you a view.

Now, I'm going to fold this back over that fabric and pin it in place. And then we're going to fold our fabric up this way. Got a lotta little pins in here, and then we can take those out after everything's in the right spot. Now, I normally pin across what I'm sewing, perpendicular. In this particular case, I'm going to run a pin parallel to my seam edge just to hold more of this area down so I can remove these two pins. I'm gonna take this back to the machine and finish sewing my cording down, being careful to push very tightly up against this area to hold this fold in place. You wanna make sure you know where your cording stopped being secured so you can overlap that a little bit, so you don't leave yourself any holes. (rattling) Let's get this pin out of here. And we're gonna just put some tension on it with our fingers like this. (rattling) Move it out of the way, make sure you use a pin to make sure that's not getting caught. (rattling) A little backstitch, and our piping is on the front of our pillow. Now, you wanna inspect what you've sewn just to make sure there's no flubs or wrinkles. So if you just peel your piping back along the front and run around the perimeter, like it's a big pizza pie, check for any problems, any places where your fabric got folded on accident. Everything is looking really good, so now we're ready to add the pillow back.

Finish sewing pillow together

- We're ready to sew our pillow back to the pillow front. And as you'll see, with our mirror image sewing, we have the pattern matching up with the part underneath. So I'm just gonna pin these at each of the seam allowances. So I'm gonna guess about a half an inch from the edge. I'm gonna pin right through the seam line and then come through on the back and check that I'm right on the seam line again, and then pin that. With the cording as a buffer between the two seam lines, you don't have to have your seam lines match absolutely perfectly, but it doesn't hurt to give it a good try. This is your last opportunity to make sure that all of your seams are pressed nicely, that your main seam running across the middle here is pressed open, and that you have notched all of these corners so that you'll have a nice, smooth pillow when you're all done. We're ready to sew. (machine whirring) And here, we're getting here towards the end, we want to leave about five inches or maybe four, 4 1/2, five inches opening between where we started sewing and where we end. I find it helpful for that opening to be large enough to fit my hand. So it's better to go with a slightly bigger opening than not 'cause you can always stitch it shut, but opening it back up is not as easy once you've got it turned. I backstitch again, secure the thread, so that as we're tugging on this opening to add stuffing to it, we're not going to split our pillow open. Sometimes it's hard to get a snug fit with your stitching pushed tightly against the piping, so you might wanna take a second pass doing what we just did, but now that our layers are all attached together, you can really shove that piping up close against the zipper foot and get a nice trim edge for your cording.

Chapter 5 - Finish Cartwheel Pillow

Stuff pillow

- Before we can turn our pillow, we need to notch the edge. I'm doing that about every inch and a half. Cutting notches like this relieves pressure in the seam area, so that when you stuff your pillow, it can expand and be as voluminous as possible, without having tension and pulling where the seams are. (material snapping lightly) I find that cutting two notches per every gore or wedge of the pillow is good enough, so, if you just put two in each section, that's good enough. I'm going to go ahead and notch a little bit more scantily in this area that's open. We have to do two right here. We're gonna stitch this area closed by hand, and I don't want these notches to be too deep. All right, we're ready to turn this. Just open it, pull your hand down the middle, and pull it right side out.

It helps to have that hole be large enough for your hand. All these activities are way easier. Especially when we get to stuffing the pillow. All right. I'm just smoothing out the edges. We get back to our circular shape. Before stuffing the pillow, it's helpful to finger press the edge under, get a crisp edge here. That might not stay there after we've stuffed. We can do it again, but I find it helpful to know where my edge is. Okay, we're ready to stuff our pillow. So, now we're going to stuff the pillow, and you want to use just your standard polyester fill, and I find that if you take really big clumps of fill, you get a much less lumpy result. So, the biggest puff you can possibly fit in that hole at once. I'm positioning the stuffing towards the back of the pillow. So, I don't have to reposition it later on. Now, how far you stuff your pillow, how much stuffing you put in, is really up to you. You can have a soft and squishy pillow that might be slightly more wrinkly, or you can add more stuffing for a smoother but firmer pillow. (material shuffling softly) Every once in a while, I'll compress the pillow like this, to try to even out the stuffing. And, also, it lets me feel where the hollow areas are. Like, right here I have a little bit of a hollow. So, I'm going to put more stuffing over there. (material shuffling softly) Another test you can do while stuffing your pillow, is, pick it up, and squish the middle, and get an idea of how much tufting you want. Do you want it to pull and gather and tuft in this way or do you want it to be more firm with less tugging, so that your pillow ends up smoother like that? That's really just up to you. And, that might also be dictated by your fabric choices, and what your pattern looks like. If you were to make a peppermint pillow for Christmas, for instance, you might get more of a spinning effect by pulling it in more tightly. With strong graphic piecing. (material shuffling) So, with just a little bit more stuffing put around the edge, we'll be ready to close this seam here in just a minute. I like to do a lot of squishing and flipping, which is, squish, and then flip, and then squish, and flip. It's almost like cooking. All right, this is feeling pretty good. Okay, so, to close the seam, we'll want to finger press this edge right here, under a half inch. One more time, make sure you have a nice crisp edge, and then, meet that edge to the under part of your piping. I'm just making sure it's all even. If I stretch it like this, I could find the center and pin there first, like that. If you divide those two openings on either side of that first pin, then half, you're spreading out any discrepancy in length between the front and the back. So, you get a nice, smooth finish seam. Yes. In a situation like this, where you're going to be hand-sewing, you could put your pins running the other direction, this way. It really doesn't matter, whichever one you're more comfortable with. And, we will hand sew, using just our regular thread. I've selected a neutral gray thread, in case any of it shows. And, starting at my right hand side here, because I'm right-handed, I will get the needle, let's see, I'm gonna come in from the left, to hide my knot. To make a whip stitch, we just grab a section of fabric from our piping, and then catch the folded edge from our pillow front, and pull the thread. (thread scraping softly) I'm using two strands of thread for extra strength to the seam. I'm using my pillow as a pin cushion. This will keep track of how many pins you poke in there. You want to try to keep these consistent. But that piping will really help hide your hand-stitched area on your pillow. To finish sewing this, we just knot the thread. In a hidden way, just try to bury your knot. I like to make a loop, then stitch my thread through that loop, like this. And then, run my needle into the fabric, and back out again, at a distance, so I can trim these thread ends, and they won't pop their way back out. (material claps lightly)

Add buttons to front and back and finish

- Our last step is to add a button. You have a lot of options. You can go for a smaller button. But I think that a larger button adds more impact to the center. And it helps cover, if you weren't careful

about matching your points. You can choose a vintage button or a brand new button. You want two, but they don't have to match each other on the front and the back because no one will ever see your pillow, front or back, at the same time. This is a pretty vintage option. I have big flower buttons and some funky coat buttons. There's a lot of different options. And it's always fun to experiment with how that affects, how your button choice affects the look of your finished pillow. I have another pillow over here that we can audition some buttons on, show the effect. I'm gonna use these same buttons here. So there's our purple button on a much more graphic pillow. Green gives it a much more colorful look. Brown grounds it and makes it a little bit more organic and earthy. Here's a new button that isn't vintage. So you can just play. This is a really fun chance to tie your color palette together. If you can't find the right store-bought option, covered buttons are a great way to go because you can choose whatever fabric works best for your pillow. I'm going to show you how to do that now. You can buy a kit for covering buttons at the store. They come with tools necessary and usually one or two sets of button fronts and button backs. Once you have the tools for it, you can usually buy a kit of refill supplies for the front and back. You just wanna make sure you're using the right button size for the tool that you have. These buttons here are an inch and a half in diameter. You need to cut a fabric circle much larger than your button. It's about a half of an inch bigger all the way around. I've already interfaced this fabric because that makes a much more matte-looking button when you're done. If you use thin fabric without interfacing, the shine of the button can show through. Another option is to use a medium-weight fabric that is thick enough to prevent the metal from showing through. You just put your fabric on top of your tool. And these can vary a little bit by manufacturer. But generally, there's gonna be a tool like this that you snap your button top into. It creates a little ruffled edge. Then you gather all the fabric edges in towards the center. I like to kinda massage 'em down into place with my fingers so that there aren't too many wrinkles and gathers on the edge. So see right here where there's like a funky thing happenin'. We can pull that smooth. Train the fabric to go where we want. Then you put your button back on like this and the tool on top. And you're going to push down. It takes quite a bit of force. I usually get it started and then flip it over to complete it. My thumb's bent backwards. (chuckles) All right, so here I'm gonna flip it on the table and give it some shoulder. (button pops) You hear that pop? That means we're probably good. And I can see the edge of my button poking around. You just pop your little button out of here, and you have a finished covered button, ready to go. You'll need two buttons to complete your pillow and some nylon or other very strong cord that you can't break with your hands. That's my test for knowing that it's strong enough. And a very long needle. I have already threaded my needle with two strands of my nylon thread, just for extra security. I don't have a knot on the end. It's just two strands of thread. Let me move these things aside here. (materials scrape) First thing we do is pass the needle through the button shank until we have our thread wrapped around the shank. So now I have four strands of thread. I'm gonna set this down and even out those ends. Okay so here I've got my button and all four strands of my thread. So now I'm going to thread onto my needle. I like to fold the threads over my needle and pinch 'em really tight in order to get 'em to all go through the eye of the needle. So here's where we are at. Your needle is threaded with four strands of your strong thread, and it's going through the loop of the button. Now I'm going to stitch these strands through the center of my pillow. Flip the pillow over. And you have to poke around a little bit before your needle pokes up in exactly the right spot. (needle pops) I love that popping sound. Okay I didn't exactly poke it right through my opening, so I have to do a little bit of wiggling. Pull your needle through to the other side. And you can take your needle right off of those threads. Divide 'em back out into two sections of two threads like this. And we're going to

run. I guess we need our needle again for this, don't we? So we're gonna run our needle through with just two of these threads, through the shank of our second button. (metal scrapes) Okay now we don't need our needle. All right, we have two strands of thread that are crazy, crazy strong and can't be broken by hand and our button attached. Our other button's on the other side. I'm going to put one pass half knot in this thread, just so that there's some tension on the thread, and use this to cinch my button down. If you push down like this, you can bring your two buttons closer together and take some of the force off of your hands. Now this is where you decide just how much tufting you want your pillow to have. I like to go for a little bit of extra in case it slips back a little, while I'm knotting this thread. It's a little bit like wrestling a fierce horse with the reins. Once you have enough tension on the center of your pillow, you can go ahead and knot your threads in a square knot to secure the buttons in place. (thread squeaks) Cinch tightly. I recommend doing a square knot again at least a second time and possibly a third or fourth if you have any anxiety over your buttons poppin' off. 'Cause one or two knots is plenty, but three or four is fabulous. And we just trim our threads carefully. We don't wanna cut into the button or the fabric. And you can always just bury those thread ends underneath your button. Your pillow is done. Now that you know how easy these are to make, you can use this project to experiment with different fabric lines and colors. It's just a lot of fun.