

Generational Pillow

By Joanna Marsh of Kustom Kwilts and Designs



Mother's Day is just around the corner, and it can be a challenge to find a gift that is useful and has meaning. Practice your curved piecing skills and make Mom a symbolic throw pillow that will bring a smile to her face each time she sees it. The new Horizon Memory Craft 9400QCP makes piecing curves a piece of cake, and you'll have this project done with time to spare. Celebrate three, four, or five generations with this simple design. Choose a range of colors for an ombre effect, or select each generation's birthstone color for endearment. *This tutorial is written with instructions for a three generation pillow, but has the option for four or five. See the additional diagrams on page 7 for instructions and cut lists.*

Skill Level: Intermediate

Sewing Time: 4-8 hours

Finished Size: 20" square (may be larger if you choose the 4 or 5 generation layout)

Janome Supplies Required:

- HMC9400QCP
- ZigZag foot A
- 1/4" Seam foot O
- Red Tip Needle
- Prewound bobbin
- Empty Bobbin

Other Project Supplies:

Dimensions below are for the 3 Generation Pillow

- Print Templates A, B, C at 100% (1/4" seam allowance included)
- 1 yd background fabric-Linen in Natural (Fabric A) sub cut into:
 - (2) 20.5" x 14.5" for back envelope closure
 - (6) 5.5" x 5.5" for pillow top
 - (8) Template B
 - (2) Template C
- 1 fat quarter-Red in figure 2 (Fabric B) sub cut into:
 - (4) Template A
- 1 fat quarter – Orange in figure 2 (Fabric E) sub cut into:
 - (4) Template A
- 1 fat quarter-Dark yellow in figure 2 (Fabric C) sub cut into:
 - (4) Template A
- 1 yd muslin (Optional if purchasing pillow form) sub cut into:
 - (2) 20.5" x 20.5"
- 2 yds Pellon 809 Décor Bond sub cut into:
 - (1) 20.5" x 20.5"
 - (2) 20.5" x 14.5"
- 20" pillow form OR Package of Poly Fil
- Coordinating thread for topstitching pillow hem and piecing

General Instructions:

- RST-Right sides together, RSD-Right Side Down, RSU-Right Side Up, WOF=Width of fabric
- All seam allowances are 1/4" unless otherwise specified.

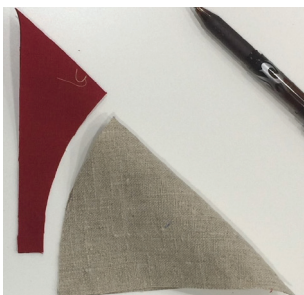
Piecing the Pillow Front

Tip when using linen: Treat the entire piece of fabric with starch prior to cutting to decrease the movement of the fabric when piecing and sewing.

1. Place one cut linen (Fabric A) template B RSU and one cut red (Fabric B) template A RSU on a flat surface.



2. Fold each piece in half and finger press the centers.



Mark the centers with a frixion pen or other erasable fabric marker.



3. Place the two pieces of fabric RST and pin each end and match the center marks, pinning once in the center. Then ease the curves together and pin every 1/2" to 1".



The curves will fit when you ease them together. Be careful not to overstretch or distort the fabric.

4. Attach the 1/4" Seam foot O and from the "Quilting" menu, select stitch #2 for the proper needle position with this foot.

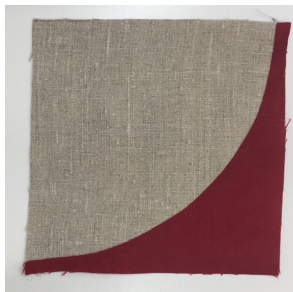


Using foot O, place the pinned edge up against the seam guide and sew a 1/4" seam allowance. Sew slowly. Adjust the fabric up against the guide as needed while you sew.



Piecing the Pillow Front cont.

Adjust the curve against the presser foot and remove the pins as you approach them. Press the curved seam away from the linen.



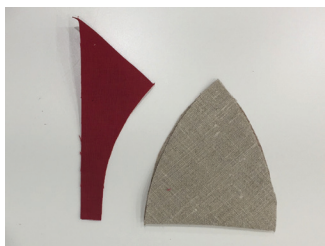
5. Repeat steps 1-4 three more times with the remaining Fabric B pieces.

6. Repeat steps 1-5 with Fabric C pieces.

7. Repeat steps 1-5 with Fabric D pieces.

Optional: Repeat steps 1-5 with Fabric E and F pieces if making additional generation blocks.

8. Take one red (fabric B) template A piece and one linen (fabric A) template C piece and place them RSU. Fold each piece in half, RST, and finger press the line.



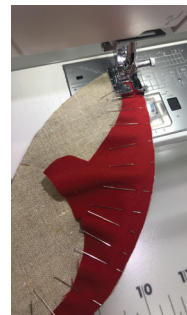
Open the pieces and mark the centers.



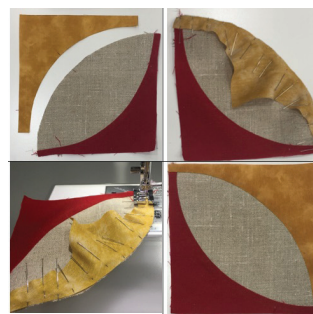
9. Place the two pieces RST and pin each end. Then match the center marks and pin. Ease the curves together and pin every 1/2" to 1".



10. Using foot O, place the pinned edge against the seam guide and sew a 1/4" seam allowance. Sew slowly and adjust the curved edge against the presser foot, removing pins as you approach them.



Press the seam away from the linen. Place this pieced portion RSU and take one dark yellow (Fabric C—or the next color diagonally if making a larger pillow) template A piece and place it RSU next to it.



Fold both pieces in half and mark the centers.

Piecing the Pillow Front cont.

11. Place the template A piece on top of the pieced portion from step 10, RST, and pin at each end. Match the center marks and pin. Ease the curves together between the pinned areas and pin every 1/2" to 1". Place the pinned edge against the seam guide and sew a 1/4" seam allowance. Sew slowly and adjust the curved edge against the presser foot, removing pins as you approach them. Press the seam away from the linen (fabric A).

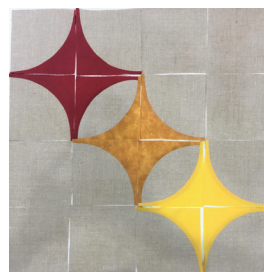
12. Repeat steps 8-11 for the remaining template A-C-A combination pieces (for the 3 generation pillow, you will have one more. For the 4 generation, you will have 2 more. For the 5 generation, you will have 3 more to complete.)



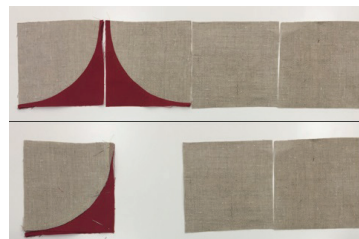
13. Take the remaining template pieces of fabric and match them based on the diagram for the pillow you are making.



14. Mark the centers and pin, as you did in the previous steps. If desired, you can chain piece here figure 16. Once all template pieces have been pieced into 5.5" blocks, place them in the layout you have selected for this project, now incorporating the 5.5" squares of linen.



15. Piece the squares in the top row together by taking the first two 5.5" squares and placing them RST. Pin in place and sew together.



Take the remaining pieces in the row and pin RST and sew. Press seams open.

16. Repeat step 15 with remaining pieces in the other rows.



Piecing the Pillow Front cont.

17. Place the top row and the second row RST and pin in place. Sew with a 1/4" seam allowance and press seams open. Repeat for remaining rows to complete the pillow front.

18. Take the coordinating piece of Pellon 809 Décor Bond (in this case, the 20.5" x 20.5" piece) and fuse it to the wrong side of the pillow front, following the manufacturer's instructions for application. Set aside.

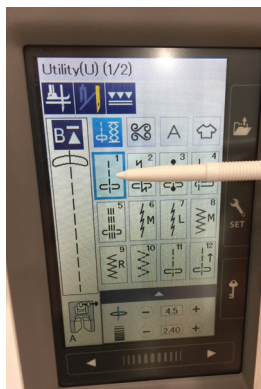
Hemming and Finishing

19. Take the remaining pieces of Pellon 809 Décor Bond, and fuse to the wrong side of each of the back envelope pieces, following the manufacturer's instructions for application.

20. Place one envelope piece with the Décor Bond side facing up and on one of the longer edges (in this case, the 20.5" edge), fold up 1/2", with wrong sides together and press. Fold once more, another 1/2" up and pin to secure. Repeat with the other envelope piece.



21. Attach ZigZag foot A, and from the "Utility" menu, select stitch #1.



Topstitch the hems 1/8" from the folded edge. You only need to hem one long side of each envelope piece.

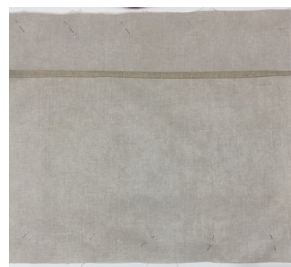


22. Attach 1/4" Seam foot O and select stitch #2 from the "Quilt" menu.

23. Place the pillow front RSU on a flat surface. Take one of the hemmed envelope pieces, and place it RST on top of the pillow front, matching the 20.5" raw edge with the 20.5" raw edge of the pillow front top. Pin in place.



24. Take the remaining envelope piece and place it right side down, lining up the raw 20.5" edge with the raw bottom edge of the pillow front. Pin in place. The hemmed edges should be overlapping. Sew pinned edges with a 1/4" seam allowance, using foot O.



Hemming and Finishing cont.

25. Attach Foot A. From the “Utility” menu, select stitch #8-a zig zag stitch- and increase the width of the zig zag from the standard setting of 3.0 to a width of 4.5. Zig zag stitch (or serge) the 1/4” seam allowances sewn in step 24 to finish the raw edges.

26. Take the entire long pillow front and back that are now one piece and place RSU.

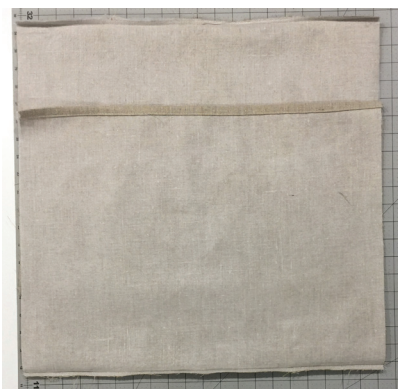
27. Fold the top back envelope piece down at the sewn seam, RST with the pillow front. Match the raw side edges and pin to secure.



28. Fold the bottom back envelope piece inward at the sewn seam, RST with the pillow front, and overlapping the hems figure 28. Match the raw edges and pin in place.

29. Change the foot to the 1/4” Seam foot O and select stitch #2 from the “Quilt” menu. Sew pinned edges with a 1/4” seam allowance, using foot O.

30. Repeat step 25 to finish the raw edges.

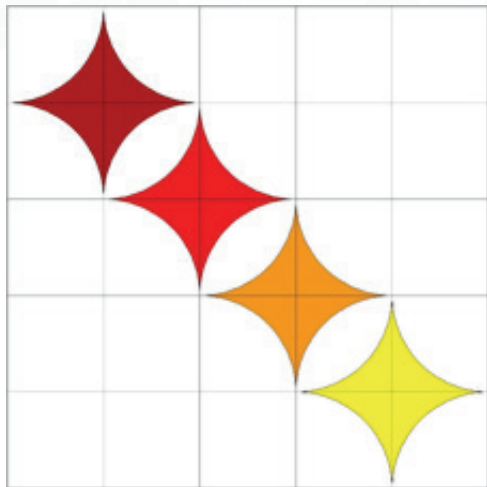


31. Turn the pillow RSO and press. Insert your pillow form and enjoy!

*Optional: To make your own pillow insert, place the two pieces of muslin you cut for the project (based on your pillow size) RST and pin around the perimeter. Sew with a 1/4” seam allowance all the way around, leaving a 4” opening for turning. There is no need to finish the raw edges. Turn the pillow RSO. Fill with Poly-Fil or other stuffing and pin the opening closed. Whipstitch or topstitch the opening closed. Place the insert inside the pillow.

Optional 4 and 5 Generation Layouts

4 generation pillow - 25" square



1 yd background fabric-Linen in Natural (Fabric A) sub cut into:

- (2) 25.5" x 16.5" for back envelope closure
- (10) 5.5" x 5.5" for pillow top
- (10) Template B
- (3) Template C

1 fat quarter-Dark red in figure 2 (Fabric F) sub cut into:

- (4) Template A

1 fat quarter-Red in figure 2 (Fabric B) sub cut into:

- (4) Template A

1 fat quarter-Dark yellow/orange in figure 2 (Fabric C) sub cut into:

- (4) Template A

1 fat quarter-Yellow in figure 2 (Fabric D) sub cut into:

- (4) Template A

1 yd muslin (Optional if purchasing 25" pillow form) sub cut into:

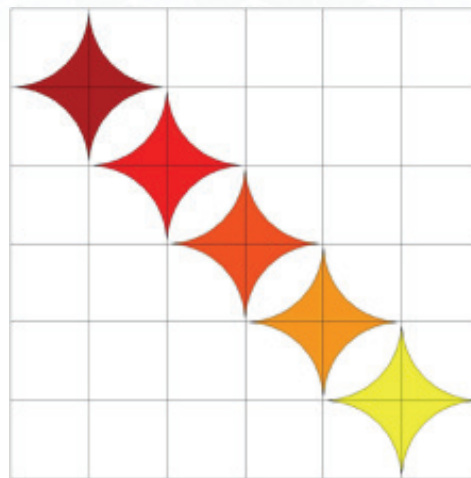
- (2) 25.5" x 25.5"

2 yds Pellon 809 Décor Bond sub cut into:

- (1) 25.5" x 25.5"
- (2) 25.5" x 16.5"

Instructions are the same, just follow the diagram for layout and piecing. Hem the longer edge of the envelope pieces.

5 generation pillow - 30" square



1-1/4 yd background fabric-Linen in Natural (Fabric A) sub cut into:

- (2) 30.5" x 18.5" for back envelope closure
- (20) 5.5" x 5.5" for pillow top
- (12) Template B
- (4) Template C

1 fat quarter-Dark red in figure 2 (Fabric F) sub cut into:

- (4) Template A

1 fat quarter-Red in figure 2 (Fabric B) sub cut into:

- (4) Template A

1 fat quarter – Orange in figure 2 (Fabric E) sub cut into:

- (4) Template A

1 fat quarter-Dark yellow in figure 2 (Fabric C) sub cut into:

- (4) Template A

1 fat quarter-Yellow in figure 2 (Fabric D) sub cut into:

- (4) Template A

1 yd muslin (Optional if purchasing 30" pillow form) sub cut into:

- (2) 30.5" x 30.5"

2 yds Pellon 809 Décor Bond sub cut into:

- (1) 30.5" x 30.5"
- (2) 30.5" x 18.5"

Instructions are the same, just follow the diagram for layout and piecing. Hem the longer edge of the envelope pieces.

Generational Pillow Templates

Key Block (7/10 actual size)

