

Reading Pillow with Pocket

What you'll need

- $\frac{5}{8}$ yd. fabric
- Ruler
- Water-soluble marking pen
- $\frac{1}{3}$ yd. of complementary fabric for monogram and pocket
- Initial template (from separate monogram printable) and pocket template
- Straight pins
- Scissors
- Fusible webbing (about 8-in. square)
- Iron
- Embroidery floss, cross-stitch needle, and small embroidery hoop (optional)
- Sewing machine
- Matching thread
- 18-in. square pillow form, or 1 to 2 large bags polyester stuffing

How to make it

1. Mark and cut the $\frac{5}{8}$ yard of fabric into 2, 18-inch square pieces using the ruler, marking pen and scissors.
2. Take both fabric squares and find the center of each by folding each square into fourths and marking the center with your pen. Unfold both squares and set aside.
3. Cut an 8-inch square from the complementary fabric. Iron the fusible webbing to the back of the fabric and, when cool, remove the backing paper.
4. Pin your initial template to the fused square of fabric. (Pin it to the fabric side, not the fusible webbing side.) Cut out your initial, and then remove the paper and pins.
5. Center the cutout fabric letter onto the right side of 1 of the pillow squares. Iron on a medium-high setting to fuse it.
6. Optional: To add embroidery detail around the letter, place the letter inside the embroidery hoop and tighten the hoop. Cut a piece of embroidery floss about 18 inches long. Pull 2 strands out of the bunch and thread them through the cross-stitch needle. Knot the ends. Then bring the needle up from the back of the fabric square at the raw edge of the letter and bring it back

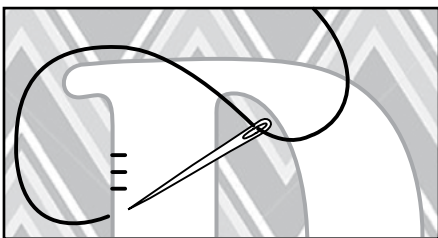


Diagram 1

Come up at edge and go down about $\frac{1}{4}$ in. from edge.



Front



Back



7. To make a pocket for your book, pin the pocket template onto the complementary fabric, cut out the pocket, and then remove the paper and pins. Take it to the ironing board and turn under about $\frac{1}{2}$ inch of the raw edge to the back of the fabric along all sides. Optional: Make clips along the curves for a smoother curve. Turn under the top straight edge again another $\frac{1}{2}$ inch. Take it to the sewing machine and sew a straight stitch along the top edge through all folded layers.
8. Center the pocket, right side up, onto the right side of the second pillow square, tuck the raw edges under, and then pin and sew along the “U” shape—but not along the top straight edge. Optional: Make 2 rows of stitches to make the pocket more durable. Then iron to remove wrinkles.
9. Now it's time to put the pillow together. Place the 2 pillow squares right sides facing, (making sure the initial and the straight edge of the pocket are both right side up. Pin and sew along all 4 sides using a $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch seam allowance, but leave about 6 to 8 inches along the bottom side unsewn so you can add stuffing later. Turn the pillow inside out through the opening.
10. Stuff the pillow with the pillow form or the polyester stuffing. Once the pillow is filled, pin and sew the opening closed. It's a little tricky on the sewing machine, so you can use your cross-stitch needle and sewing thread to whipstitch the opening closed. See Diagram 2.
11. All done! Now it's time to lie back, open a book and enjoy your reading pillow.

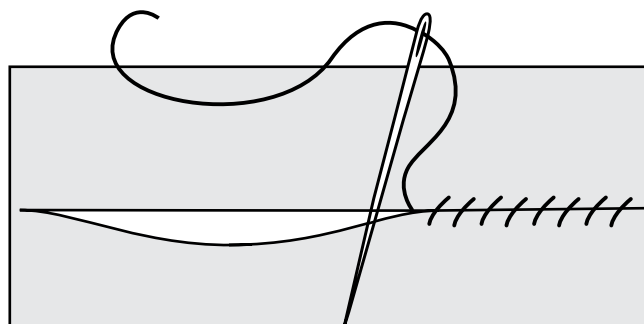
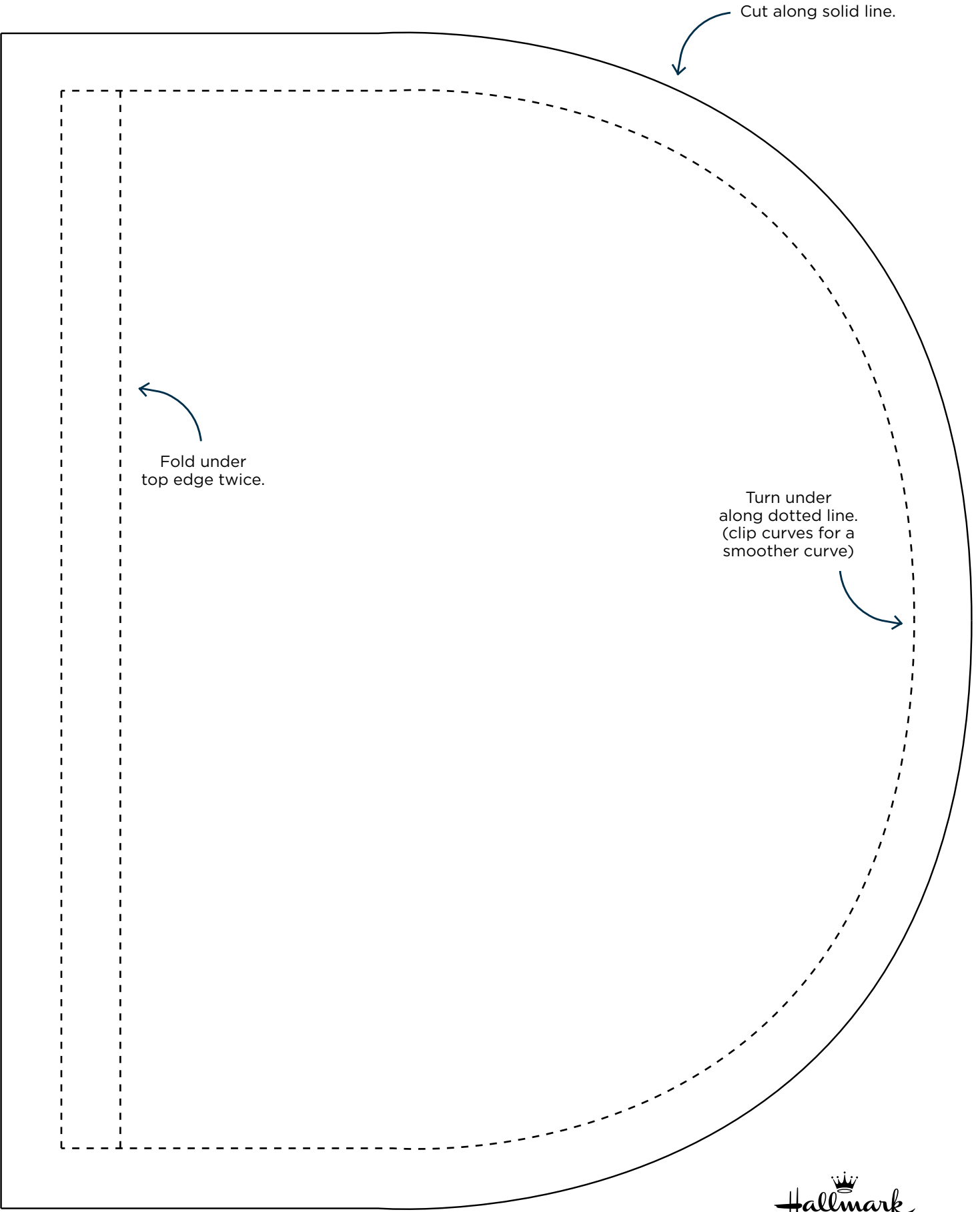


Diagram 2

Pocket template



Cut along solid line.

Fold under top edge twice.

Turn under along dotted line. (clip curves for a smoother curve)

