

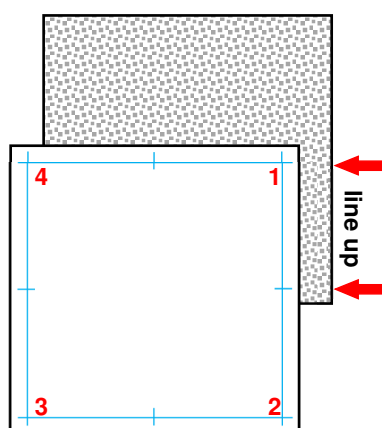
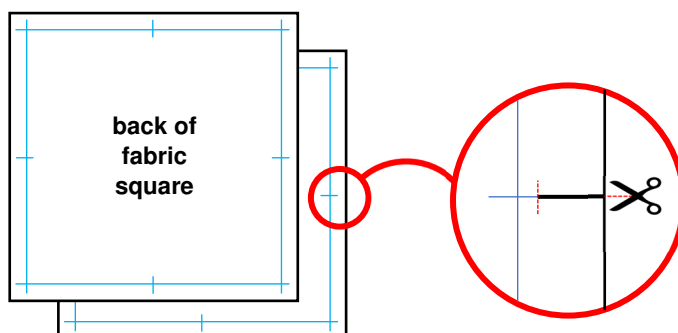
BISCORNU PIN CUSHION

This little item gets its name from the French word for quirky. Start with two squares of fabric the same size; anywhere between 3 to 6 inches. The larger ones keep their shape better if they are made with slightly heavier fabric (upholstery weight cotton or linen) or patchwork either stitched to a foundation layer, or quilted.

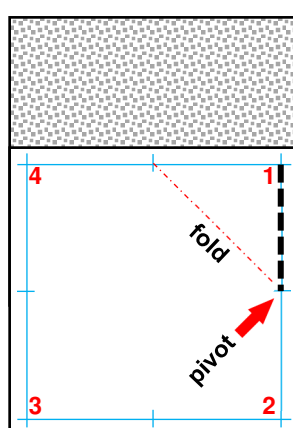


You will need: Two squares of fabric the same size
Cotton or wool scraps for stuffing
Two buttons and strong thread

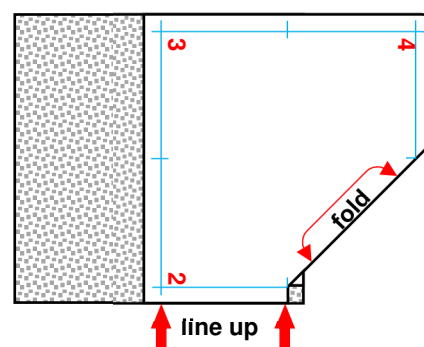
1. Mark the back of both squares of fabric with a pencil line $\frac{1}{4}$ inch away from all four edges, so the lines cross in the corners. Mark an extra point half-way down each side. At each of these half-way points, carefully snip $\frac{3}{4}$ of the way through the marked seam allowance



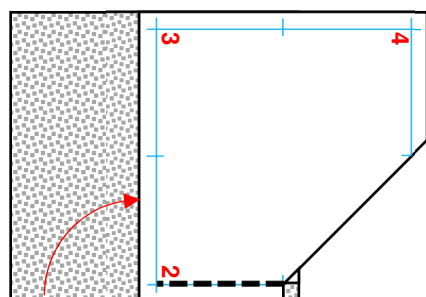
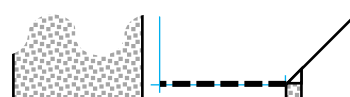
2. Place the two squares Right Sides Together (RST) but offset so the marked corner cross on the top square lines up with the centre mark on the bottom one. Push a pin through the corners and check on the back to see they line up



3. Pin in place and sew with a small stitch from the corner cross to the middle cross – back stitch at each end of the seam – do not sew into the seam allowance

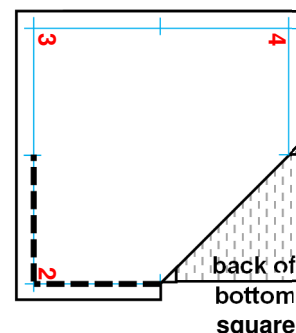


4. Make a diagonal fold in the top square and pivot on the end of the seam just completed so the second half of this first side is now in line with the next edge on the bottom square. Pin and stitch between marks as before



5. Manipulate the bottom square of fabric so that the next two half-edges meet: line up, pin and stitch as before.

6. Keep working round the two squares the same way – it will look a very strange shape that is quite normal! Leave the last side open so you can turn your pin cushion the right way out.



7. Stuff tightly with wool or cotton (batting) scraps – do not use poly wadding it won't work as well as natural fibres – whip/ladder stitch the last side closed.

8. With strong thread, stitch a pair of buttons through the centre of the cushion to finish.

Variations: Make a tiny version to attach to your scissors? I started with $2\frac{1}{2}$ inch squares!

