

It's Sew Easy Series 2100 – It really is SO Easy!

Show#2113-1 Chair Cushion Covers with Decorative Piping

Presented by: Joanne Banko

www.letsgo sew.com

Let's stay in touch! I'd love to help you make the most of **your** sewing machine!

[CLICK HERE](#) to add your name to the letsgo sew.com email list and receive timely tips, sewing news, free tutorials, and special updates. You'll be the first to know about new blog posts and detailed previews of the online It's Sew Easy TV show.



See how easy it is to dress up your dining chairs with simple to sew, changeable chair cushion covers. The opening in the back makes it easy to change the cover or remove it for cleaning. Decorative piping makes these really special!

Are you ready? Let's go sew!

Materials and Supplies featured in this show:

- Brother Stellaire sewing and embroidery combination machine. Note that **most any machine** with decorative stitch capabilities is suitable for this project.
- Embroidery Thread and Bobbin Thread for decorative stitching.
- Medium Weight Tear-Away Stabilizer
- SA192 Piping foot. Note: An adjustable zipper foot is another option.
- Basic sewing notions including thread to match fabric.
- An embroidery needle size 11/75 is recommended for decorative stitching and a jeans needle size 14 for constructing cushion covers.
- Loop turner for turning ties.
- Seam sealant for treating ends of ties if necessary.
- 3/16-inch cotton filler cord for cording.
- 1-inch deep densified polyester foam for cushion insert. **Note:** This type of foam insert is easy to cut with scissors and insert into the cover. You'll find this foam in assorted sizes. Be sure to select a size large enough to fit your chair pattern.
- Medium weight home decor fabric for front and back of each cushion cover. Use your completed pattern to determine yardage. **Tip:** Select washable fabric and pre-shrink if you want to be able to wash your cushion covers.
- Pattern tracing cloth or pattern paper for making cushion cover patterns.

Steps to create piped cushion covers:

Step 1. Create your pattern as follows:

Pattern will vary depending on shape of chair seat. If seat is relatively square you can begin by taking measurements for width and length and draw them on a piece of pattern cloth or paper. For a more specific shape, place paper on seat, crease it along the edges, and pencil in markings. Next, use a combination of curved and straight rulers to draw a symmetrical pattern for the front piece. It's best to simplify the shape for ease in constructing the cover. If you have existing cushions, consider tracing the shape as a basis for making your pattern.

Additional pattern tips:

- The pattern does not have to match the exact shape of your seat. For example, my finished cushion pads the seating area without filling up the entire space on my relatively squared off seats. Be sure to round off the corners of the pattern for ease in sewing. For ease of adding piping, I recommend you do this even if your cushion has square edges. Note that adding cording will increase the finished size of your cushion by about 3/8-inch on outer edges. Cut pattern size with this in mind.
- Use 3/8-inch seam allowance for sewing cushions. It's best to have the foam cut slightly smaller than the actual chair seat.
- Once you've completed the front pattern, trace off a second copy to create back pieces. Divide back pattern into thirds, with a one-third section at the upper half and a two-thirds section on the lower half. Note that this ratio does not have to be exact. Next, Add 2-inches above the two thirds line to create an overlap and label as pattern A. Label remaining section as pattern B. See example of pattern pieces in **Figure #1a** and **Figure #1b**.

Figure #1a

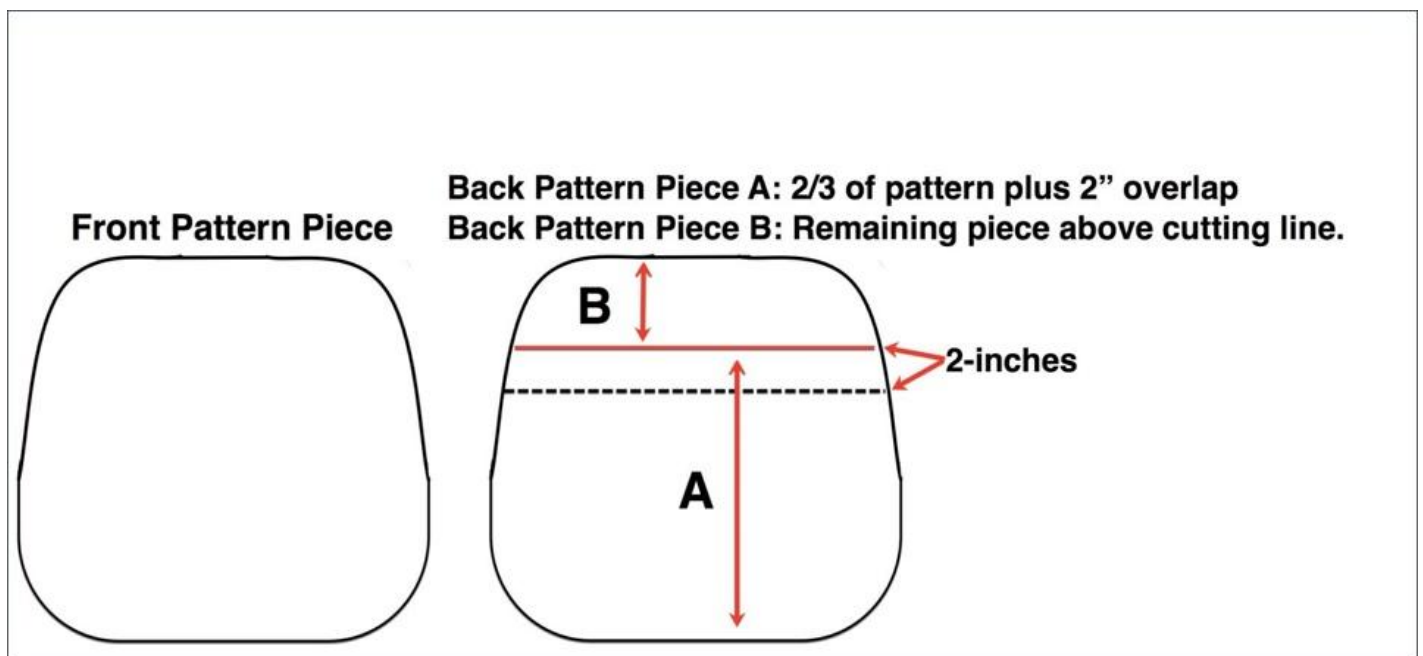
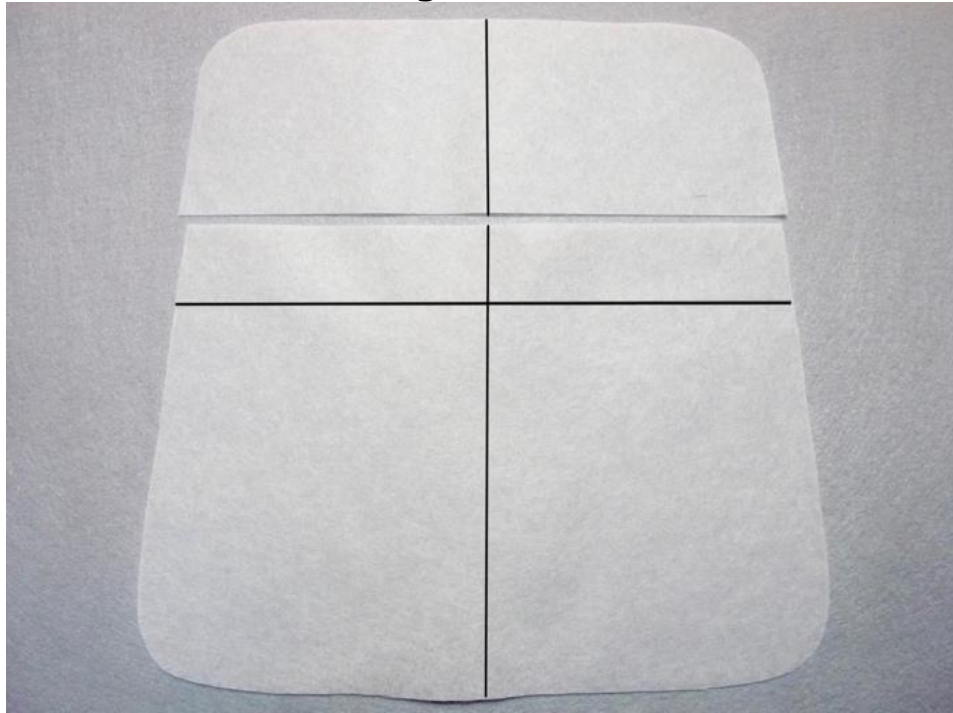


Figure #1b

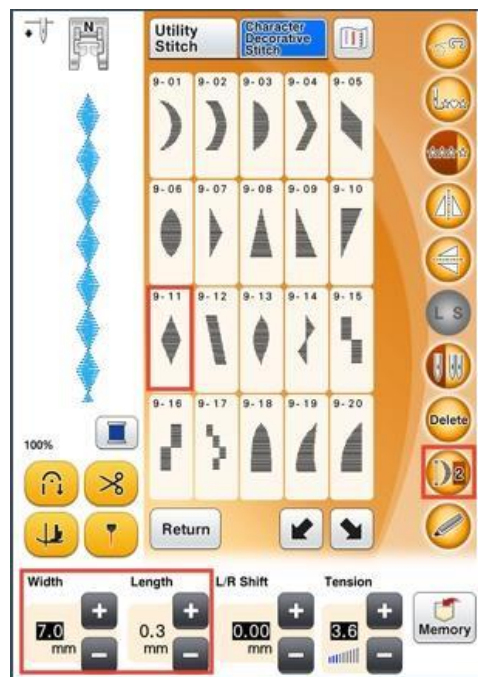


Step 2. Cut the following for each cushion:

- You'll need three pieces cut from cushion fabric:
 - Use full size pattern piece to cut one piece for the front.
 - Cut one of back piece A for lower portion of back piece.
 - Cut one of back piece B for upper portion of back piece.
- Cut foam using a copy of your top pattern trimmed to be slightly smaller.
- Cut four bias strips measuring 1 1/4-inch wide X 16-inches long for ties.
Tip: Cutting ties on the bias makes them easier to tie and easier to finish.
- Cut piping strips as follows: To determine length and width for piping strip, begin by measuring around outer edge of top pattern and add six inches extra for finishing. Record this measurement as length. To measure for width, wrap a scrap of fabric around the cord, pin tightly close to cording, and then measure and mark 3/8-inches from the pin. Cut along the marked line, measure the piece, and record number for width. These two measurements will tell you what size you need to cut for bias strip.

Step 3. Set up sewing machine for decorative stitching using foot N or a clear view foot. Choose an elongation style decorative stitch such as the one shown in **Figure #2**.

Figure #2



Layer stabilizer under your bias strip and sew along center with decorative stitch. **See Figure #3.**

Figure #3



Carefully remove excess stabilizer when finished stitching. Press to flatten.

Step 4. Change to standard sewing thread and attach piping foot. Wrap decorative bias around piping and baste a scant distance from the cord. Next, pin cording to top piece with raw edges even, beginning a slight distance from the center and leaving a few inches loose. Baste cording to top, stitching close to previous stitching, easing cording around curves, overlapping piping at the center, and trimming excess cord at the crossing point to eliminate bulk. See **Figure #4**. **Tip:** Feel free to clip cording to help ease it around curves.

Figure #4



Figure #5

Step 5. Change to standard foot. To create ties, use the lightening stitch to sew a 1/4-inch seam with right sides together. Turn right side out, press, and tie knot in one end. Cut end at an angle and treat with seam sealant if necessary. See **Figure #5**.



Finish raw edges of overlap on back pieces with an overcasting stitch or serger. Press under 1/2-inch and topstitch to hem straight edges. Layer top and back pieces with ties inserted between. Be sure to position ties at edge that coordinates with back of chair. You may want to take this to your chair to check position before sewing. Place piping foot back on machine and sew layers together, having stitch form so it's snug against the piping. See **Figure #6**. Turn right side out, press lightly, and insert foam. Enjoy!

Figure #6



Additional Resources:

- For more projects and tutorials, be sure to visit www.letsgo sew.com. You'll find online lessons, videos, free downloads, plus lots of sewing and embroidery information and inspiration!
- [CLICK HERE](#) to sign-up for sewing news from letsgo sew.com.
- [CLICK HERE](#) to subscribe to my YouTube channel for Let's Go Sew videos.
- You can find me on Facebook [HERE](#).

Happy Sewing!

Joanne