



# Mod Mosaic Floor Pillow

by Elizabeth Hartman



This quilted pillow cover fits a 24" x 24" pillow form. It uses a modern, improvisational patchwork style that ensures no two pillows will be exactly the same. The envelope-style closure is simple to make and use.

*Note: Because of the improvisational nature of this piecing style, it can be difficult to tell exactly how many print fabric scraps and how much solid fabric sashing you will need. I've tried to err on the generous side with my recommendations, but please keep in mind that using many very small scraps may require additional sashing fabric.*

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## Supplies

Approximately 72 – 108 Print and/or Solid Fabric Scraps 2" – 8"

3/4 Yard Neutral Solid for Pillow Front Sashing

1 Yard Coordinating Print or Solid for Pillow Back

29" x 29" Batting for Pillow Front

29" x 38" Batting for Pillow Back

2 Yards Muslin or other scrap fabric for Lining

2 strips 2 1/2" x 27" for Binding (pieced, if desired)

24" x 24" Pillow Form

*Yardage requirements contemplate fabric at least 42" wide. Except where otherwise indicated, piecing directions contemplate a quarter inch seam allowance.*

*The piecing style used in this pattern will work well with a variety of differently-sized scraps. However, the size of scraps used will affect both the total number of scraps and the amount of sashing needed. In particular, if you're using very small scraps, you will likely need more scraps and more sashing.*



## Cutting Directions

- Cut Neutral Solid Sashing fabric into 25 strips 1" x width of fabric.
- Trim Coordinating Print or Solid for Pillow Back to 29" x 38"
- From Muslin, cut one piece 31" x 31" for Pillow Front Lining and one piece 31" x 41" for Pillow Back Lining.

## Piecing Directions



Your pillow top will be made from 9 blocks, each pieced in an improvisational style. Begin your first block with a selection of 8 – 12 print fabric scraps and 2 solid sashing strips. (You may not need exactly this many scraps, but I find it's easier to begin working on a block with a small, focused selection of scraps.)



Start with 2 of the scraps, cutting a length of solid sashing long enough to piece between them. If the edges of your scraps aren't straight, trim them now. It's not necessary to square the scraps – just to make sure the sides you'll be sewing together have clean, straight edges.



Sew one scrap to either side of the sashing strip.



Decide which side of the block you would like to add to next, and use a ruler and rotary cutter to cut a straight edge on that side. Again, the goal is not to square things up. Making the cut at a slight angle can result in a more interesting composition.



Cut a piece of sashing long enough to fit between the already-pieced block and the scrap you're about to add.



Sew the pieces together, keeping the sashing between the pieced block and the newly-added scrap.



Once again, cut a straight edge along whatever side of the block you plan to add to next.



As your block gets bigger, you probably won't be able to keep adding single scraps to each side. Instead, use a couple of smaller scraps, cutting sashing strips to fit between each.



Sew the smaller pieces (with sashing between them) together first.



Sew a sashing strip to your pieced block before adding the smaller scraps you just sewed together.



You're probably getting a feel for this now. Each new addition to the block will involve cutting a straight edge along one side . . .



. . . cutting and adding a sashing strip about the same length as the straight edge, and piecing and adding a small strip of scraps (each separated by sashing).



Continue adding pieces, making sure that each print scrap that is added is separated by solid sashing.



Keep going, until your block measures about 10" x 10".



"Square up" the sides of the finished block.

I intentionally put quotes around square up, because you don't really need to make a perfectly square or rectangular block. Slightly wonky edges will enhance the look of your project.

Repeat these steps to make 9 blocks, each measuring about 10" x 10".

Play with the arrangement of your blocks until you find one that you like.

As you work on your block arrangement, pay attention to the way the sashing pieces will line up as the blocks are joined together. In general, it will look better if the sashing pieces *don't* line up.



Sew each column of 3 blocks together, cutting straight edges and adding sashing strips between each block.



Cut straight edges along the sides of each column.



Finish piecing by sewing the columns together, placing a piece of sashing between each.



Trim the pillow top down to 27" x 27". (This time it should be square.)



Sandwich your 27" x 27" pillow top with a 29" x 29" piece of batting and a 31" x 31" muslin back. Quilt as desired and trim quilted pillow top to 26" x 26".



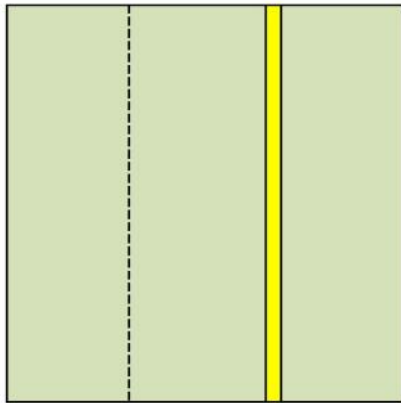
Sandwich your 27" x 37" pillow back fabric with a 29" x 39" piece of batting and a 31" x 41" muslin back. Quilt as desired and cut into 2 pillow back panels each 18" x 26".



Use your 2 1/2" binding strips to make and sew double-fold binding to one of the 26" raw edges on each pillow back panel.



Lay your pillow front on your work surface, with the right side facing up. Place one of your pillow back panels on top of the pillow front, with right side facing down. The raw (unbound) edges should line up with the edges on one side of the pillow front.



Add the second pillow back panel, this time lining up the raw edges with the other side of the pillow front. The pillow back panels will overlap, as shown on the above diagram.



Pin all layers together and sew around all four sides using a  $\frac{1}{2}$ " seam allowance. As you pin and sew, be sure to catch all layers (at the points where the pillow back panels overlap, there will be three layers).



When sewing around the pillow, I recommend sewing each side all the way across – from one side to the other – rather than pivoting the seam at each corner. Trim each corner and finish the raw edges with a zigzag stitch (or serger, if you prefer).



Finish by turning your pillow cover right-side-out, pushing out the corners with a chopstick or other blunt instrument.

That's all there is to it.  
Enjoy your finished pillow!

