

Rock Garden Lounge Pillow

As soon as I saw Pat Bravo's newest collection, Rock 'n Romance, I knew I wanted to make my next Fat Quarter Gang project with this beautiful fabric. I love the line's description on the Art Gallery Fabrics website: "*Girly Girl turns into Wild Child in this daring collection. Feminine prints in subdued hues reveal your inner rockstar.*" Not only do I think this fits Rock 'n Romance to a "T", but it convinced me that the project needed to be something perfect for a little rockstar in my life: my 8 year-old daughter that is (almost frighteningly) morphing from a girly girl into a bit of a wild child!

I decided to make a fashionable and stylish piece of room décor for her bedroom: a reading pillow for her bed. I made it in my absolute favorite size: a 16" x 26" lumbar pillow – small enough to make in an afternoon, but sizeable enough to show off some amazing fabrics and be truly functional as a reading and lounging pillow.

To give it a little extra personality, I added some vintage-inspired crochet flowers that I picked up at a local chain store. Pillows are a great vehicle for trying some new things with fabric embellishment – stamping, iron-on transfers, beading, patches, trims ... think outside the box, and give something new a try!

Materials needed:

- 9 fat quarters of Rock 'n Romance
- 1 fat quarter of Natural Elements (I used
- A piece of scrap fabric or muslin measuring 16.5" x 26.5"
- A piece of batting measuring 16.5" x 26.5"
- Fabric for envelope back: 2 pieces of fabric measuring 16.5" x 30.5" each
- 16" x 26" pillow insert (I got mine from Pottery Barn)
- Optional: vintage-inspired embellishments, like the crochet flowers I got at a local craft shop

Pillow top assembly:

1. To create the pillow top, you will first sew together two strip-pieced sets measuring 16.5" x 22" each. These will be made from a variety of strips cut from your fat quarters along the 22" edge. You can, of course, cut the strips at whatever widths you choose, but I've included my cutting measurements below to make it easier:

Strip set 1:

2.5" x 22"
1.5" x 22"
3.5" x 22"
2.5" x 22"
4.5" x 22"
1.5" x 22"
3.5" x 22"

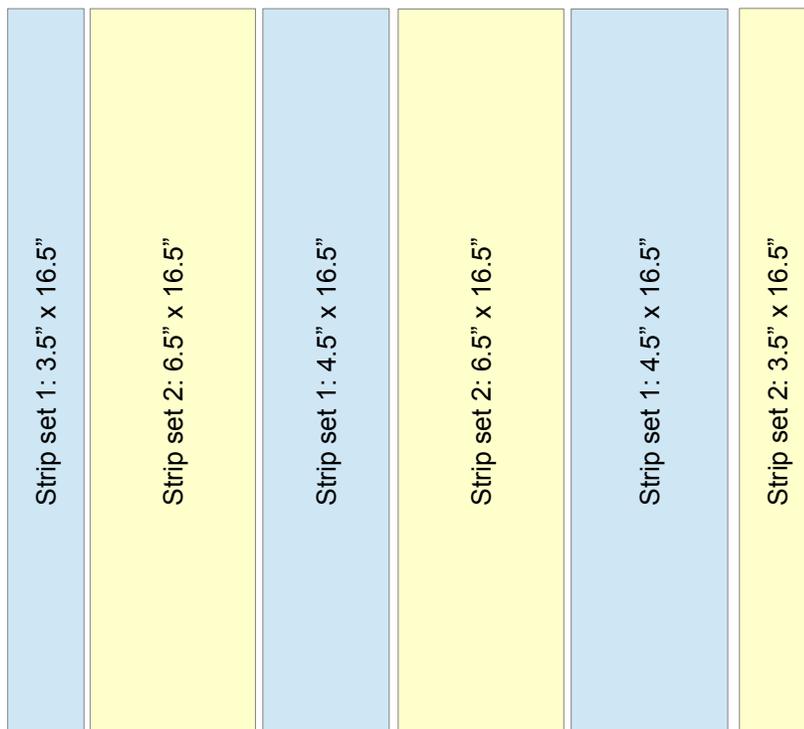
Strip set 2:

4.5" x 22"
3.5" x 22"
4.5" x 22"
3.5" x 22"
2.5" x 22"

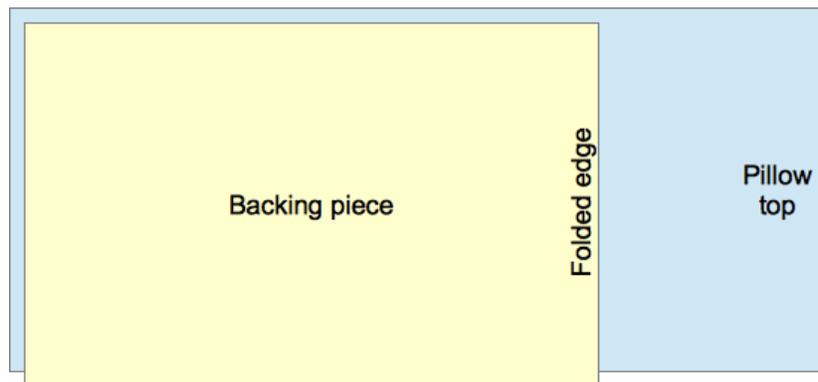
2. Sew your strip sets together, pressing seams open as you go. When complete, both strip sets should measure 16.5" x 22".
3. From strip set 1, cut the following pieces:
 - 1 piece measuring 3.5" x 16.5"
 - 2 pieces measuring 4.5" x 16.5"
4. From strip set 2, cut the following pieces:
 - 2 pieces measuring 6.5" x 16.5"
 - 1 piece measuring 3.5" x 16.5"

Note: save the leftover pieces from your strip sets. You can use them as part of your pillow back!

5. Sew your cut pieces together according to the diagram below:



6. Your pillow top is now complete and should measure 16.5" x 26.5".
7. Layer your pillow top, batting, and 16.5" x 26.5" piece of fabric. Baste (I spray basted mine) and quilt as desired. Add your embellishments for a custom look.
8. Fold one of your 16.5" x 30.5" backing fabric pieces in half, wrong sides together. Press well along the folded edge. Repeat with the other piece.
9. Final pillow construction: layer your components in the order below.
 - Pillow top, *right side up*.
 - One of your backing pieces with raw edges aligned to the top, bottom, and *left* side of your pillow top. The fold should cut down the middle of the pillow top, as shown:



- Lay your other backing piece with raw edges aligned to the top, bottom, and *right* side of your pillow top.
10. Pin well around all 4 sides of your pillow. Sew a seam around all 4 sides of the pillow. I like to go around the pillow twice for added stability (and piece of mind!)
 11. Turn pillowcase inside-out, insert your pillow form, and enjoy your new pillow!