

## Selvage Pincushions by Cindy Cockell



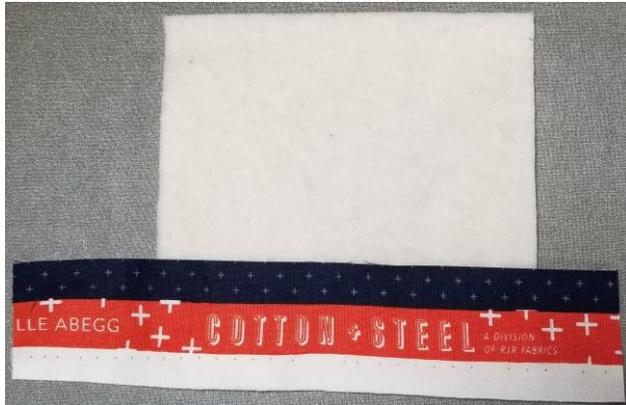
The red and navy selvages are from Cotton & Steel fabrics. Their selvages are often almost 2" wide so are great for selvage projects. They are the red ones. Some selvages are quite interesting like the SEW + MAKE + QUILT, NOEL and Sprinkle. But even the color dots and fabric name or designer name can make an interesting pincushion.

Cut the selvage but leave at least  $\frac{1}{4}$ " to  $\frac{1}{2}$ " of fabric to give you enough for a seam allowance and sometimes you might like to see some of the fabric too. The actual edge of the selvage won't ravel so doesn't need to be in a seam allowance, you can just overlap it on another fabric and stitch down. I used the blanket stitch on my machine to do that (above and below WELCOME WINTER).

This pincushion is 5" finished square.

- I started with a base of a  $5\frac{1}{2}$ " square of batting.
- I laid my first selvage at the bottom but I made sure it was one that I could lose the  $\frac{1}{4}$ " in the bottom seam allowance but still see the design (that was my NOEL).

- Then I worked my way up. I either put then next fabric right sides together with the previous strip and sewed it then flipped it up, or I just laid the selvage edge and blanket stitched it. Straight stitching would also work, as would other decorative stitches.
- When you've covered your batting then give it a good press then trim to 5"x5"



#### Back:

- The back is actually in 2 pieces so I could sew all around the edge and have an opening in the center to stuff. This makes a neater outside edge.
- Cut 2 pieces 5 1/2" x 3". Put right sides together and sew along the 5 1/2" edge, but leave an opening in the center of the seam about 1 1/2" for turning and stuffing. I used a 3/8" seam allowance. Press the seam open.
- Trim to 5" x 5".
- Lay right sides together with the top.
- Stitch around all 4 sides. Hint: to get sharper corners stop your stitches about 1 stitch from the corner pivot point, pivot 45 degrees and take 1-2 stitches, then sew the next side, etc. Clip the corners. This method leaves more room in the corners for the fabric to fill and it will turn better. That's a trick from garment making.
- Turn it inside out through the opening in the back. Push out the corners.
- Stuff quite full
- Whip stitch the opening closed.
- Sew a button or two in the center. I like stacking buttons.



These are easy to make any size. If you don't want to do them with selvages then use leftover strips of various sizes. You can even make a free form log cabin or slab or crazy patch block and use that for the top. Add embellishments like beads or lace before you sew the back on. The possibilities are endless!!! Have fun with it.

Free form block made similar to a log cabin like to the right. Just keep adding to the sides as you go around. You can even piece some of the logs. Keep building it until it measures a little over 5" x 5" then trim.



You can also make quilt blocks that finish to 4", 5", 6" or any size you wish. They don't have to be square blocks. Try making a rectangle or heart.