

# SUMMER BOLSTER



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Finished Dimensions: A square 40" table cloth holds a single or double comforter

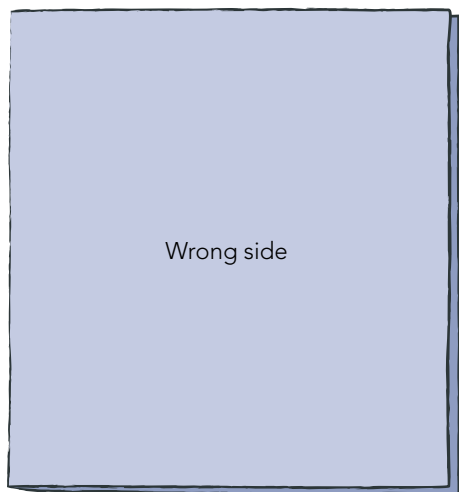
When the warm months arrive, transform your winter down comforter into a plush summer bolster. The bolster doubles as welcome storage that's attractive enough to be out on display, and it makes a fabulous pillow for reading in bed or lounging on in the hammock. What a wonderful solution when space is at a premium! This bolster is a great way to display a favorite piece of vintage fabric; just make sure it's sturdy enough to handle the stress when you stuff the blanket inside. (Some older textiles can be too brittle and fragile for everyday use, while others are quite sturdy.) Larger pieces of antique textiles come in the form of bed sheets, coverlets, and tablecloths. They are easy to track down at flea markets and offer a wealth of different styles to choose from.

## Make the Bolster

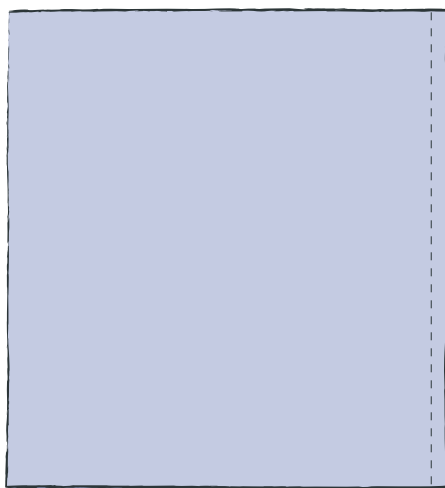
1 Fold the fabric in half with the right sides facing. Sew the long side opposite the fold with a  $\frac{1}{2}$ " seam allowance. Press the seams open and stitch both sides down with a small zigzag stitch.

### SUPPLIES

40" x 40" piece of fabric  
2 yards of twill tape or ribbon  
Seam ripper  
Thread  
Pins  
Iron



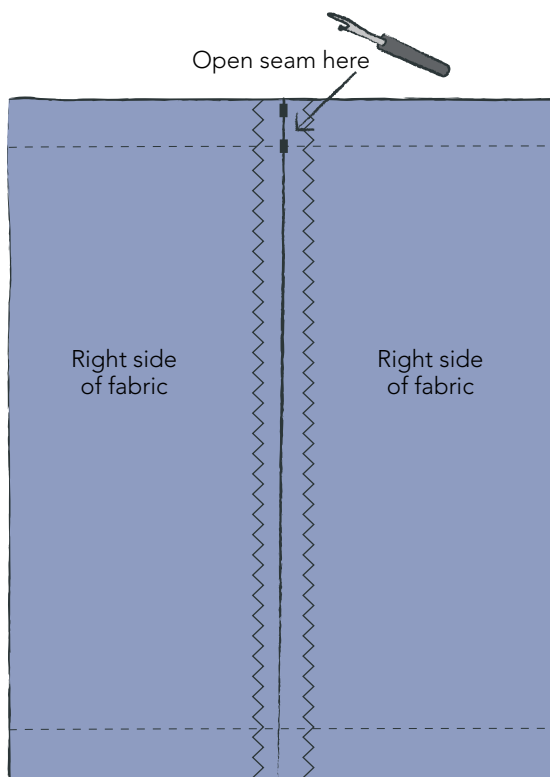
STEP 1A



STEP 1B

2 Create a drawstring channel on both open ends by folding the fabric over 2" and pressing. Fold 2" a second time and press again. Sew in place at the bottom of the fold and stitch a second seam 1" from the top edge of the fold. Topstitch the edge, as well.

3 Turn the piece right side out. Use your seam ripper to open the seam in the drawstring channel. Stitch back and forth several times below and above the opening to reinforce the opening. Do this for both channels.



STEP 3

4 Thread the ribbon or twill tape through the channels with a safety pin. Fold the raw ends of the ribbon or tape over twice and stitch to finish the ends.

5 Cinch one side shut and tie with a bow. Stuff your comforter into the open side and cinch and tie it, as well. Toss this fluffy pillow onto your bed, grab a good read, and settle in for pure comfort and relaxation.

**NOTE:** Instead of using an old textile, you can create interest with any favorite fabric on hand. See the techniques in Chapters 1 and 2 for full instructions on how to

- Add several rows of tiny raw-edged ruffles several inches below and parallel to the drawstring channels
- Incorporate pencil pleats in any direction desired
- Stencil a printed pattern on solid fabric



## The Dyne

*As a small child, I stayed with my grandparents frequently. I slept in the tiny postage-stamp bedroom next to the stairs. My grandfather had been inspired by the boats he'd sailed upon when he built the house and utilized every available inch. Above my bed was a sliding wooden panel that accessed a small storage cabinet built into the slant above the stairwell. It was the perfect size for storing blankets when they weren't in use. I used to slide the panel open and crawl in to snuggle like a gosling among three big goose-down comforters that my grandmother affectionately referred to as "dynes" (pronounced doona). Years earlier, my grandparents had visited Europe and had taken a freighter home, laden with unconventional souvenirs—a trio of dynes. For decades my mother's family curled up under the warmth of goose feathers and sang the praise of these amazing Dutch blankets, a staple and tradition in many European countries. Today down comforters, cousins of the dyne, are available in every bedding store across the country and lay upon each bed in my home during our brutal East Coast winters. We don't have my grandparents' storage cabinet, so I designed this bolster as a space-saving solution for the modern home.*

*During the photo shoot at my mother's barn, I discovered that I had accidentally left behind my daughter's comforter, which the bolster had been created for. Cameras were in position, lighting was perfect, there was no time to race home. I desperately looked around the barn for something fluffy to use in its place. In a large basket, nestled beneath a stack of sheets, was one of my grandmother's dynes. It took my breath away, and I was instantly flooded with memories. I lovingly stuffed it into the bolster . . . a perfect fit. ■*