

Eight-Pointed Civil War “Buckshot” Pincushion

Designed by Ellen Highsmith Silver

Quilters of the Civil War era likely created these pincushions using remnants of their favorite fabrics. At the time, they used buckshot as the filler, because it was plentiful at the time. Today, buckshot is not so easy to find, so designer Ellen Highsmith Silver employs a modern-day combination of polyester pellets and quilt batting scraps to fill her reproduction pincushions.



You'll Need: (for a pincushion approximately 8" in diameter x 4" high)

- 1 fat quarter of fabric, cut into (8) squares, 4½" x 4½"
- Polyester fiberfill
- Polyester pellets

1. Fold each square in half diagonally, with right sides together. Stitch along the short sides, leaving an opening for turning, as shown. Fig 1. Trim the three corners to reduce bulk.

2. Turn triangles right side out, easing out the points with a blunt tool. Fill each triangle tightly with pellets and/or batting scraps; slip-stitch the openings closed.

3. Stand two completed triangles side-by-side, having the edges with the stitched openings positioned upright. Connect the two triangles at the top & bottom, points A and B. Fig 2.

4. Continue to connect the remaining triangles until the circle is complete. Decorate the top with buttons, beads, ribbon or yo-yo's.

Note that you can achieve interesting effects by using a striped fabric, or by fussy-cutting and centering a particular motif when cutting the squares.

