

Wheelchair Quillow

**Designed, printed and distributed by the
Valley Piecemakers Quilt Guild.
All proceeds are dedicated to community projects.**

HISTORY

In 1999 Shirley Campbell, guild member and retired physiotherapist, presented her original plan for a wheelchair "Quillow" to the guild. She explained that wheelchair + quilt + pillow = Wheelchair Quillow. Shirley had lots of help progressing with the idea and made contacts in the community, while Lisa, Linda and Florence helped Shirley draft the pattern. Lisa finished up by printing it for everyone. In 2000, ten *Quillows* were produced and in the following year, five were made. These were anonymous donations. Our custom *Quillow* can be stored folded up into the leg fit foot section, its unique shape ensures that it won't get caught in the wheels of the chair, and the oversize leg section will keep feet warm - it can sufficiently accommodate footwear. In the summer months, you turn it around and sit on the lap section so that you don't stick to the wheelchair in hot weather. With your feet in the leg section, you will be protected from the sun's burning rays.

CONSIDERATIONS

Quillows can go to assisted living, public health, and extended care and hospital facilities. It is always a good idea to speak with local authorities before proceeding with this project to get permission for your planned donation. Some areas in Canada may have to contact the public health nurse, hospital administrator, fire marshal and/or the institution's laundry contractor. If this is for a personal gift, please be forewarned that some people may not be readily accepting of such a gift. It is a sensitive matter, so we advise extreme sensitivity and care is given when selecting a recipient for a *Quillow* gift.

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

- Read all instructions before beginning your Quillow project!!!
- Wash, press, and remove selvages on die fabrics before cutting.
- Select any quilt block pattern for your quillow, 4" finished blocks work best.
- Press seam allowances in the direction that will create the least bulk, and whenever possible, toward the darker fabric.
- All block assembly seam allowances are $\frac{1}{4}$ Inch and are NOT included in the measurements given on the diagrams.
- All outside seam allowances for binding are $\frac{1}{2}$ inch and are NOT included in the measurements given on the diagrams.

- Cut backing larger than these measurements.
- Choose a dark fabric for the backing to not show the dirt as much
- Choose a fiberfill suitable for institutional laundering.

MATERIALS NEEDED FOR WHEELCHAIR QUILLOW

Finished size: 54" x 42"

Sewing thread to match fabrics

2.5 yds fabric for Quillow top (or equivalent in scrape)

1.09 yds fabric lot back, leg section (or equivalent in scraps)

2.5 yds dark fabric for backing fabric (top)

1.09 yds dark fabric for backing fabric (leg section)

3.6 yds suitable quilt batting

2/3 yds binding

(Measurements are given for 44" wide fabrics. All fabrics should be pre-washed.)

STEPS FOR ASSEMBLING YOUR QUILLOW:

1. Refer to pattern diagram for all cutting dimensions.
2. Each grid square equals two inches.
3. Assemble your chosen pattern blocks to suit the finished size.
4. Cut and shape blocks in keeping with the pattern diagram(s).

LAYERING YOUR QUILLOW

1. Mark your quilting design on the pieced quilt top and pieced leg section before layering.
2. Cut the batting and backing fabrics 5 inches larger than the quilt top and leg section.
3. Lay the pressed backing on bottom (right side down), batting in the middle and pressed quilt top the top of these (right side up). Make sure these are centered and that everything is flat.*
4. Baste with safety pins or thread if you prefer, always work from the center and work out to the raw edges
5. Machine quilt, starting from the center and working outward. We do NOT recommend hand quilting. Heavy usage and/or institutional laundering will shorten the life of your Quillow if you hand quilt.
6. After machine quilting trim the batting and backing even with the quilt top.*
7. Sew the 31" binding strip to the upper inside edge for the back of leg section (refer to Binding Your Quillow, steps 5 - 10).
8. Lay quilts top (front side down) and position leg section (front side up), squarely over the leg & foot section of the quilt top.
9. Baste all the layers together with safety pins or thread if you prefer.

* Repeat sequence for leg section.

BINDING YOUR QUILLOW

(Double Fold/Continuous Strip Method)

1. Cut 3.25" wide binding strips for a sturdy double layer binding technique.
2. Total circumference of Quillow is 170"+ 6" per corner turn (X 6) = 206" this will allow for overlay at the start and finish points of your binding and for joining strips together.
3. Sew the binding strips, right sides together on the straight grain, into one long piece.
4. Choose a starting point for your binding at a front, lower-side edge.
5. Align the raw edges of the binding with the edges of your quilt top.
6. Pin the binding strips in place.
7. Sew $\frac{1}{2}$ inch from the quilt edge, being sure to catch all the layers of the Quillow.
8. Trim the excess binding and press the seams toward the binding.
9. Fold binding to the back.
10. Tuck under raw edge and blind stitch it down along the seam line. Fold in the corners neatly (when applicable), and stitch down to form squared corners.



Quillow – Front View

