

Rowley project list: **Veranda Slipcovers and Cushions**

Mixing fabrics in solids, geometrics, florals, and textures adds interest and color to any room design. In order to do this well, you will want to use odd numbers. The minimum number to use for the most impact is three. For our veranda slipcovers and cushions, we chose one solid textural fabric and four print fabrics. Varying the scale of the pattern repeats in the fabrics is the key to doing this well.



MATERIALS & SUPPLIES

Rowley Products

Moisture Resistant/
 Shower Curtain Fabric
 5 oz. Polyester Batting
 #3 Nylon Invisible Zipper Chain
 #3 Nylon Invisible Zipper Slide
 Pillow Template
 3/8" Double Face Adhesive Tape
 Custom Satin Ribbon Labels

SKU

SF30/10
PF72
EVR32/
EVP3/
PF10
DF37
FL40

VERANDA SLIPCOVERS AND CUSHIONS: STEP-BY-STEP INSTRUCTIONS

When making cushion covers and slipcovers using multiple fabrics for several different chairs, starting with a plan is helpful. Think carefully about the fabrics you choose for each chair, loveseat or ottoman. Furniture placement in the room should also be taken into consideration.

Cutting the Fabric for Cushions and Slipcovers:

- 1** Draw a diagram for the cushion or slipcover pieces, tracing and measuring top/front, bottom/back, band and zipper sides. Add a 3/4" seam allowance to all cushion diagrams.
- 2** Note on each diagram the fabric name and item (top chair seat cushion, green; chair seat band, green; top of loveseat cushion, floral; etc.). Before cutting, consider the fabric grain or pattern.
- 3** The solid fabric for the chair seat and loveseat cushions had a textural repeat. In this case, pattern matching was not necessary, but it was important that the horizontal grain ran straight (not at an angle) across the cushions.

- 4** The bottom seat cushions are simple rectangles and the cushions have a top, bottom, and boxing strip.
- A.** Making sure the texture is straight, follow the diagram to cut the top and bottom pieces. Before moving the cushion cuts from the table, place a pin on each cut to mark the right side of the fabric and the “up” direction.



- 5** The seat cushion backs (the slipcovers) have cut-outs for the chair arms. Each cushion seat back had a front, a back and a boxing strip.
- A.** Again with the texture straight, cut the fabric in rectangles slightly larger than the cushion diagram. Fold each piece in half.
 - B.** From the diagram, mark and cut the curved shapes for the top corners and the cut-outs.
 - C.** Cut boxing strips to wrap three sides of the cushions. The zipper strip will wrap the bottom of the cushion plus a few inches to go around the sides of the cushion. Texture lines may run horizontally or vertically along the band, but should be straight.



- 6** The loveseat back slipcovers used a print fabric, with each cushion being cut with the same repeat. The fabric was cut so the repeat ran horizontally from cushion to cushion. Each cushion was also cut as a pair.



- A.** For a perfect pattern match, cut the first cushion front and place this on the uncut fabric. Find the pattern match, marking the top and bottom corners for the next cut with a pin.



- B.** Place the first cut over the uncut fabric, right sides together, and matching corners at the pins. Press one seam allowance from the first cushion cut towards the back side to help view the pattern repeat is matching. The second cushion front is now ready to be cut so that the cushions will become a pair.



- C.** The above cuts may now be used to as patterns to cut the back sides of the cushions, placing the cuts over the fabric, matching the fabric repeat.



- 7** Zippers are inserted in the center of the boxing strip at the bottom of the cushion. Cut zippers for each of the cushions, put the zipper pulls on the zippers, and sew over each end to prevent the pull from accidentally coming off. In this case, we used size #3 nylon invisible zippers and slides.



- 8** Because outdoor foam was not used on these cushions, we added a separate cover for each cushion using shower curtain fabric to protect them from the elements. Cut lining fabric the same size as the face fabric cuts for each cushion.

- 9** With fabric cut and each zipper prepared, gather the pieces for each cushion or slipcover into sets, matched to their respective cushions. They are now ready for fabrication.



Cutting Fabric for a Cushion with a Flow Match Boxing Strip:

- 1 The boxing strip is cut to match the pattern repeat perfectly.
- 2 Although the cushion is wider in the front than the back, use a pillow template to determine the best placement of the fabric repeat. Place rulers or objects around the finished size to show the pattern placement. Mark the corners.



- 3 After marking the corners for the cushion, remove the template and use the cushion diagram to correctly mark for the narrower back edge. A $\frac{3}{4}$ " seam allowance was used on all sides of this cushion cut. Cut the cushion bottom to match the cushion top by placing the first cut on the fabric, matching the pattern.
- 4 Determine the cut of the boxing strip. On the front edge of the cushion cut, press the seam allowance on to the back side. Apply a piece of double sided tape at the edge of the seam allowance. Do not remove the release paper. With fabric right sides up, place the taped fabric edge on the uncut fabric to find the pattern match.



- 5 After finding the fabric match, gradually remove the release paper from the tape and lightly press the two fabrics together. This fold will become the stitch line. On the uncut fabric, mark the boxing strip for the correct width for the cushion to include the $\frac{3}{4}$ " seam allowance. Cut enough to go around 3 sides of the cushion.



- 6 Repeat step 3 above to cut the zipper strip for the back side of the cushion. Again, the zipper strip will wrap the back side of the cushion plus a few inches to go around the sides of the cushion.

Cushion Fabrication:

- 1 For each cushion, stitch the invisible zipper on the zipper strip. Place the zipper and zipper strip right sides together, matching edges. Stitch close to the zipper teeth. You may pin or glue baste the zipper in place if necessary.



- 2 Starting and stopping about 3 inches from the back corners of the top cushion cover, stitch the boxing strip to the cushion top, matching the pattern. Do not stitch through the double face tape.



- 3 Remove the double face tape from the seam allowance on the front of the cushion cover.

- 4 Check fabric repeat before sewing the zipper to the back side of the cushion.



- 5 Stitch the zipper strip to the back side of the cushion matching the pattern. Wrap the ends of the zipper around the back edges of the cushion, overlapping boxing strip to complete the cushion top.



- 6** The back of the cushion will now look like this photo.



- 7** Stitch the cushion bottom to the boxing strip and serge the raw edges of the cushion.



- 8** To make cushion lining with shower curtain fabric stitch cushion covers, using the same method described above. No pattern matching is necessary to sew the cushion lining covers.

Cushion Slipcover Fabrication:

- 1** Stitch the invisible zippers as in step 1 for cushion cover fabrication.
- 2** Fold top corners of slipcovers to form a triangle. Pin in place.
- 3** Open corner to check fit over existing cushion.



- 4** Stitch boxing strip to top cushion slipcover, starting and stopping about 3 inches from each end as in cushion fabrication. At the corners, open the triangle.



- 5 Stitch the zipper strip to the bottom of the slipcover front section. Wrap the ends of the zipper around the side edges of the cushion, overlapping boxing strip to complete the cushion top.
- 6 Stitch the slipcover back to the boxing strip.
- 7 In areas with curved seams, stitch a second row of stitches to stabilize the seam. Clip close to stitch lines.



- 8 Serge the raw edges of the slipcovers.

