

## **2. STEP 2 – ESTIMATION OF MATERIALS**

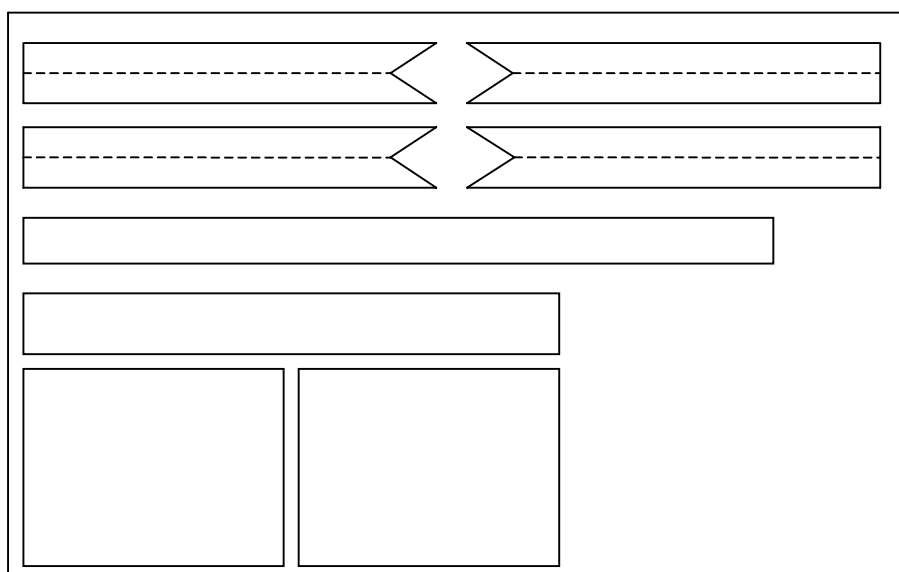
Our *Cushions Part 1 - TEACHYourself Guide* contains all the instructions for making up a piped cushion cover to fit a 38 cms square cushion pad. Make sure you understand the materials involved for that particular exercise as it serves as a basis for your estimating process for your advanced cushion.

As advanced cushions come in so many diverse designs and sizes it is impossible to give a specific list of ancillary materials and fabrics required for each design. The following list contains all the materials that are mentioned in this guide. Pick the ones appropriate for your own design and estimate accordingly.

### **2.1. Fabric and materials required for the cushion cover:**

- *Face fabric – sufficient for making up the front and back cover and any band that is involved. If you decide to join various types of fabrics together then allow extra for these seams as well as the usual extra for turnings and the additional required for any zip insertion. Always consider any pattern matching that is necessary.*
- *Face fabric for any piping casing that is involved.*

When you have decided on your design and are ready to estimate for the face fabric required, I would strongly suggest you work out a cutting plan. Do a quick sketch of how you are going to position your pieces on the fabric as below. Again consider any pattern matching, as this will effect the positioning of the pieces.



**Diagram 1**

*Cutting plan for a squab cushion – 1 top and 1 bottom piece, 2 band pieces and 4 strips for the ties. Piping in a contrasting fabric*

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- *Trimnings of various designs – these can be used in numerous ways - inserted into the side seams, top stitched in a particular design to the front cover or in the form of tassles stitched into the corners. The list is endless.*
- *Continuous zip and gliders.*
- *Piping cord – always wash the cord prior to use if you intend washing your cushion cover in the future, as piping cord can shrink quite drastically.*
- *Sewing thread of the right colour and weight.*

### **2.2. Types of fillings:**

- *Square or rectangular cushion pad of the correct size and filling for making scatter cushions – either synthetic or feathers.*
- *Bolster pads and round cushion pads of the correct size and filling*
- *Foam pads for box or squab cushions. These should ideally be polyester or stockinet wrapped for easy insertion into the cover.*
- *Fibre or feather pads for box cushions.*

### **3. STEP 3 – MAKING UP YOUR CHOSEN DESIGN**

#### **3.1. Design Group 1 – Advanced Scatter Cushions**

*The cushions within this design group are scatter cushions with various fabric combinations making up the front cover.*

*You will have already decided on the finished size of your cushion, your next step is to do a sketch, preferably to scale, of what you want your finished cushion to look like. If you have a computer then so much the better, you can use a graphics package to help plan your design.*

*The most important element in this design is getting the scale right in terms of the relationship between the various fabrics. Your sketch will help you to achieve the right balance before you begin cutting out your pieces of fabric, thus avoiding any costly mistakes.*



*This scatter cushion follows the instructions outlined in TEACHYourself Cushions Part 1. Advanced techniques are involved in making up the front cover. This design involves joining various pieces of fabric together to form an interesting combination of patterns and textures. The striped fabric has been cut on the straight joining the two main sections of the cover and it has been used on the bias for the piping.*