



Whale Pillow Pattern & Tutorial  
by Holly Ramer  
[www.stitchcraftcreations.com](http://www.stitchcraftcreations.com)

as seen in *Holiday with Matthew Mead*  
[www.holidaywithmatthewmead.com](http://www.holidaywithmatthewmead.com)

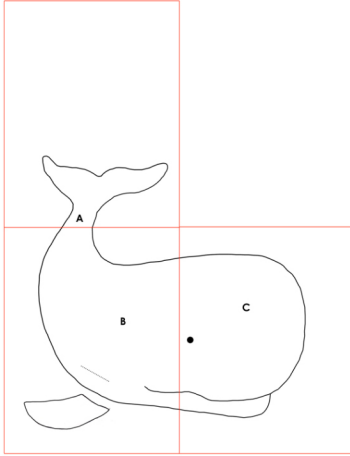
Note: This is a basic outline of how I made this pillow, but I am sure there are better ways to do it. The approach I used works if you 1) don't like to transfer pattern markings onto fabric 2) have trouble sewing close to the edge of an applique shape without veering off the edge or ending up with wobbly stitches and 3) aren't very good at keeping your stitches even when embroidering!

Materials:

- \_ white canvas fabric, or white quilting-weight cotton, about 1/2 yard
- \_ light gray cotton, about 18" square
- \_ light-weight fusible interfacing, about 18" square
- \_ scrap of darker gray cotton
- \_ embroidery thread in white, dark gray
- \_ covered button set

Instructions:

1) print the three pattern pages and tape together like so:



2) With the adhesive side of interfacing facing down, place interfacing over pattern and trace the outline of the whale with a pen or pencil.

3) Cut a piece of white canvas approximately the same size as the interfacing (18"). Iron the interfacing to the canvas.

4) Stack the canvas, interfacing side up, on top of the light gray fabric. Pin through all layers in several places.

5) Using a sewing machine, sew directly on the lines you drew in step 2. You will be sewing through the interfacing, canvas and gray fabric.

6) Flip the fabric over and trim away the gray fabric around the outside of the whale pattern, leaving the whale applique in place. Trim close to the stitching. The edges will fray a bit, but that's OK!

7) You should now have a piece of white canvas with a gray whale applique to the front. Place this on top of another piece of canvas and pin together. Mark roughly 3/4 of an inch around the applique and cut around the shape through both layers, so you end up with the front panel of your pillow and the back.

8) If you want to add hand-stitching, the machine stitching you've already done now becomes a guide. Or, you can just keep the machine stitching and skip the embroidery. I outlined the whale with a backstitch using 3 strands of white embroidery thread, making each stitch cover two machine stitches. The whale's mouth is embroidered using dark gray thread.

9) Cover a button with dark gray fabric and sew onto the whale's face.

10) Cut two flipper pieces out of gray fabric. (Pattern does NOT include seam allowance). Sew together, leaving the top open. Turn right side out. Add dark gray stitching if desired.

11) Cut a slit in the pillow front where the flipper goes. Insert the flipper from the right side, flip the pillow front over, pinch the layers together and sew across the slit, closing it up and enclosing the flipper in the seam.

9) Cut a strip of white canvas 40" long by 2.5" wide to make the pillow's gusset.

10) Leaving a few inches free at the start, pin this long strip of fabric around the perimeter of the pillow front, pinning it well around the edges, and sewing in place with a 1/4" seam allowance. When you get close to where you started, cut the end of the strip to fit and sew the two ends together before continuing around the edge.

11) With right sides facing each other, pin the pillow back to the gusset and sew around the perimeter, leaving about 4" open for stuffing/turning. This does get tricky around the curves but just go slow, and stop and pivot the fabric bit by bit as needed.

12) Turn the pillow right-side-out, stuff and sewing the opening closed by hand.

