

this page Using a pleat that is usually associated with curtain headings and valances gives an elegant look to a simple throw.



box-pleat throw

Depending on how you wish to use it, this throw can be made to any size and you can sew more or fewer box pleats, adjusting the measurements to suit your requirements. I used a piece of fabric measuring 150 x 110cm for a design featuring three sets of four pleats – the central pleats are 20cm long and the inner and outer pleats are 25cm long, with 20cm between each set. If you wish to add more pleats, add an extra 15cm to the width measurement for each row of pleats and the gap between rows.

materials + tools

150 X 110CM CREAM FELT OR FELTED

WOVEN-WOOL FABRIC

CONTRASTING TACKING THREAD

MATCHING SEWING THREAD

BASIC SEWING KIT

SEWING MACHINE

1 Lay the fabric on a flat surface with the long side running horizontally, and mark out three sets of four pleats using a ruler and tailor's chalk or a fabric-marker pen. Start with a set of outer pleats, which are 25cm long and 5cm wide (when sewn), with a 5cm gap between each pleat. Draw the first line 27.5cm down from the top edge of the fabric, and work downwards. Mark four 25cm-long 10cm-wide pleats, leaving a 5cm gap between each one, then draw a guideline through the centre of each of the four pleats. Leave a 20cm space from the base of these pleats, and mark out the central set of pleats, which are 20cm long and 5cm wide (when sewn), with a 5cm gap between each pleat as before. Leaving another 20cm space, mark out the second outer set of 25cm-long 10cm-wide pleats.

2 To create the box pleats and the resulting three-dimensional effect between the sets of pleats, pull in the outer edges of each box pleat and align them on the guideline running through the centre of the pleat; pin in place.

3 To keep the pleats neat and make sewing easier, tack the folds in place using a needle and tacking thread. Repeat this process for all the pleats so that, when the entire row of pleats is tacked, you are left with two 20cm gaps between each set of pleats.

4 Machine-stitch the pleats, sewing 5mm in from the folded edge all the way down one edge, across the bottom of the pleat and then up the other side. Carefully remove all tacking.

