

Around the Pink 'Hood



To make one pillow cover for a 22" x 22" square pillow, this is the *bare minimum* of what you'll need:

- **Houses & Doors:** 12 charm squares measuring 5" x 5"
- **Roofs:** 3 charm squares measuring 5" x 5"
- **Checkerboard Center:** 6 charm squares measuring 5" x 5"
- **Star Points:** 4 charm squares measuring 5" x 5"
- **Star Centers:** 1 charm square measuring 5" x 5"
- **Background & Borders:** ½ yard
- **Pillow Top Backing:** ¾ yard – I recommend using a thin-ish muslin
- **Batting:** 1 piece of cotton batting measuring 26" x 26"
- **Binding:** ¼ yard
- **Pillow backing:** ¾ yard for a backing with a zipper, an envelope backing or one with buttons
- **Filling:** 1 pillow insert measuring 22" x 22" or stuffing
 - Available from Garnet Hill, JoAnns, Amazon.com and other sources.
- **Pattern:** 1 Full House pattern for cutting and measurements & the Tiny Town pdf.

But if you want your pillow to be really scrappy, you'll want more variety than the requirements given above will provide. I made this pillow using 30 different charm squares, and yes, I had some leftover strips that I used to make a couple of little checkerboard pincushions. (After all, Christmas is coming...)

To make the pillow, here's what you need to do:

- Using the Full House pattern and the Tiny Town pdf., cut the pieces for 12 houses. Then piece a total of 12 houses. Join the houses to make four strips of three houses each.
- For the stars, cut the following:
 - **Star Points:** From 4 charm squares, cut 4 sets of squares – $1\frac{1}{2}'' \times 1\frac{1}{2}''$.
 - **Star Centers:** From 1 charm square, cut 4 squares – $2'' \times 2''$.
 - **Background:** From the background, cut a total of 32 squares – $2'' \times 2''$.
- To piece the stars, the star points are made using the connector-corner method.
 - For each star, select four background squares – $2'' \times 2''$ – and four matching star point squares – $1\frac{1}{2}'' \times 1\frac{1}{2}''$. Place the small square in the corner of the background square aligning the edges. Stitch diagonally across the square and then trim the seam to $\frac{1}{4}''$. Repeat on the adjacent corner. The point **will be more than $\frac{1}{4}''$ from the edge of the square**. That was done on purpose. ☺
 - Layout the pieces in three rows of three squares each – background corner squares, pieced star-point squares and the center square. Using a scant $\frac{1}{4}''$ seam allowance, the finished square should measure $5'' \times 5''$.
 - Now, on two **adjacent sides**, trim the star to measure $4\frac{3}{4}'' \times 4\frac{3}{4}''$. That means, you'll be trimming $\frac{1}{4}''$ off two adjacent sides of the star. I promise this will make sense when you get to this part. And it has to be done to fit the houses as they measure $4\frac{3}{4}''$ too.
- **Checkerboard:** Cut a total of 17 strips – $1\frac{1}{2}'' \times 5''$. Make strip sets and cut them into $1\frac{1}{2}''$ wide pieced strips. Piece a checkerboard section that has 49 squares – 7 rows of 7 squares.
- To finish the pillow:
 - From the background, cut 1 strip – $1\frac{1}{2}'' \times 42''$ width of the fabric. Cut 2 strips – $1\frac{1}{2}'' \times 7\frac{1}{2}''$ and 2 strips – $1\frac{1}{2}'' \times 9\frac{1}{2}''$. Join $1\frac{1}{2}'' \times 7\frac{1}{2}''$ strips to the sides, then join the $1\frac{1}{2}'' \times 9\frac{1}{2}''$ strips to the top and bottom edges of the center checkerboard section.
 - Join two of the three-house rows to each side of the center checkerboard.
 - Join two stars to each end of the two remaining three-house rows – keeping the un-trimmed sides of the stars on the outside corners of the pieced strip. Here's how you'll know if you've got it right – the seams for the corner squares will line up with the seam separating the house and the roof. And it will line up on **both sides** of the star with the top is finished.
- Cut 2 border strips – $3'' \times 42''$. Cut 2 strips – $3'' \times 18''$ and cut 2 strips – $3'' \times 23''$. Attach the $3'' \times 18''$ strips to the sides, then the $3'' \times 23''$ strips to the top and bottom edges of the house/checkerboard section.
- Layer pillow top with batting and the inner backing and quilt as desired.
- Trim the quilted pillow top to measure $22\frac{1}{2}'' \times 22\frac{1}{2}''$.
- Make/finish the back of the pillow as desired – I purposely leave mine a bit bigger than the front to make it easier to assemble.
- Layer the pillow top over the “finished” pillow backing **with wrong sides together**. Yes, the right sides should be facing out.

- Baste the edges of the layers together. While this step isn't absolutely required, I find it helps when it comes to stitching the binding on to the pillow.
- Cut binding strips at **at least** 2 ¼" wide. With the extra layer of fabric in there, I cut my binding strips just a bit wider than usual.
 - **Bias or straight?** If you are going to miter the corners, you can use a straight of grain binding. If you are going to round the corners like I've done, you will need to use a bias binding.
- Attach binding to the quilt top using your preferred method. Turn to back and stitch down by machine or by hand.
- Open back and insert pillow. Close back and put pillow on couch. Take nap. ☺