

Full House Pillow



To make one pillow cover for a 16" x 26" lumbar pillow, this is the bare minimum of what you'll need:

- **Houses & Doors:** 5 pairs of 2 matching charm squares measuring 5" x 5"
- **Roofs:** 3 charm squares measuring 5" x 5"
- **Checkerboard:** 8 charm squares measuring 5" x 5"
- **Background:** 1 piece measuring 4" x 20" or 5 squares measuring 4" x 4"
- **Border:** ½ yard
- **Pillow Top Backing:** ½ yard – I recommend using a thin-ish muslin
- **Batting:** 1 piece of cotton batting measuring 20" x 30"
- **Binding:** ¼ yard
- **Pillow backing:** ½ yard for a backing with a zipper or ⅝ yard for an envelope backing or one with buttons
- **Filling:** 1 pillow insert measuring 16" x 26" or stuffing
 - Available at Pottery Barn, JoAnns and various other stores.
- **Pattern:** 1 Full House pattern for cutting and measurements.

But if you want your pillow to be really scrappy, you'll want more variety than the requirements given above will provide. One charm pack will make a couple of pillows but the only hitch is that each house will have to use two fabrics. For that, I would recommend using the same fabric for the two side pieces of each house and the second fabric for the piece above the door... but that's just me.

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

- Following the cutting and piecing instructions in the Full House pattern, make 5 houses. Join the houses to make a row, then piece two checkerboard strips using 15 squares for each.
- Join the house row, the two checkerboard strips and two narrow inner border strips to make a pieced section measuring 11" tall by 23" wide.

- Cut 3 border strips – 3 ½” x 42”. Attach borders to the sides, then 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 16 ½” x 26 ½”.
- 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. ☺

