

# Holly Leaf Holiday Pillow



This decorative pillow is easy to make because the leaf and berry appliques are all made from felt! The branches and berries are attached with a simple straight stitch. The holly leaves are embellished with free-motion stitching to add dimension. In fact, these techniques can be used to make table runners, placemats and much more. The finished size of the pillow shown is 14" x 28" (35.5cm x 71cm).

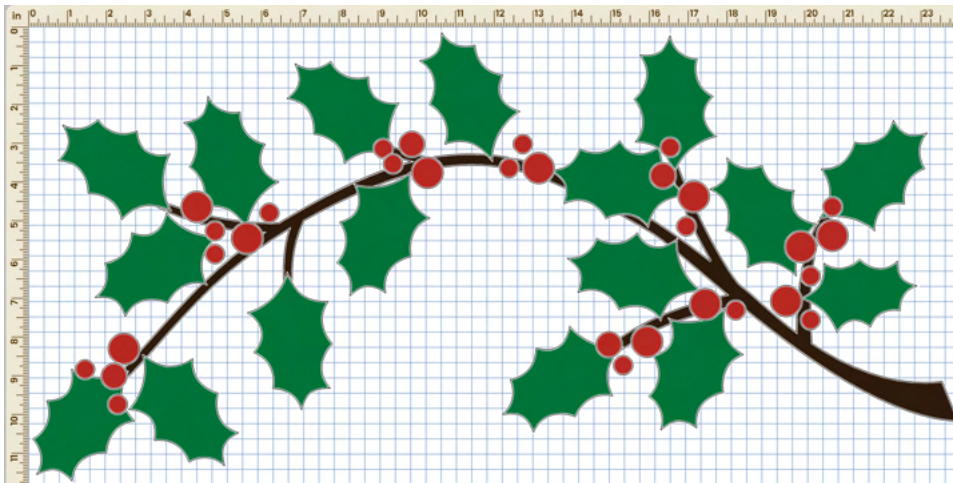
## What you need

- Green Cotton Fabric – approximately ½ yard (0.5 meter)
- Brown Cotton Fabric (for branch) – approximately 10" x 22" (25cm x 56cm)
- Green Felt (for holly leaves) – one piece 11" x 24" (28cm x 61cm)
- Red Felt (for holly berries) – one piece 4" x 12" (10cm x 30.5cm)
- Fusible Interfacing
- Zipper 18" (45cm)
- Paper-Backed Fusible Webbing (for appliques)
- Pillow Form 14" x 28" (35.5cm x 71cm)
- Fabric Grip Mat 12" x 24"

- Brayer
- Rotary Cutter
- Sewing Machine
- Zipper Foot
- Darning / Embroidery Foot
- Seam Ripper
- Thread (green, red, brown)
- Straight Pins
- Glue Stick (optional)

## Directions

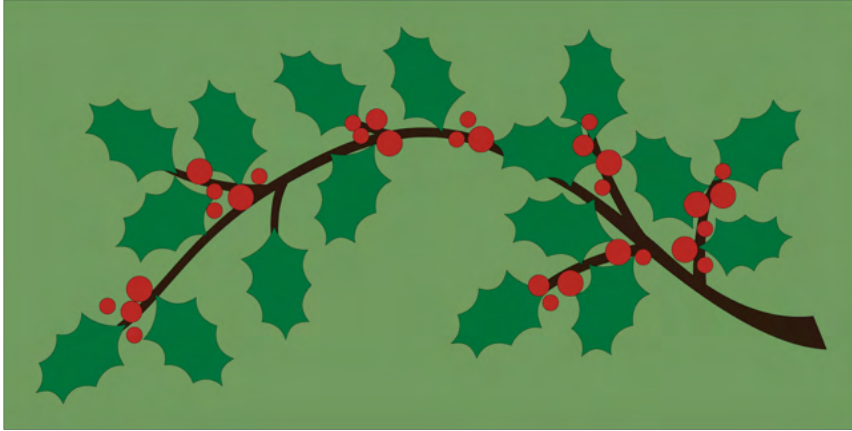
1. From the green cotton, cut two 14" x 28" rectangles. From the fusible interfacing, cut one 14" x 28" rectangle. Apply the fusible interfacing to the wrong side of one green rectangle - this piece will serve as the pillow front.
2. Apply the fusible webbing onto the back of the brown fabric.
3. Open the project in Canvas. Place the brown fabric onto the Fabric Grip Mat, with the fusible web placed against the mat and the fabric facing up. Use a Brayer to help adhere the material to the cutting mat, eliminating wrinkles or bubbles



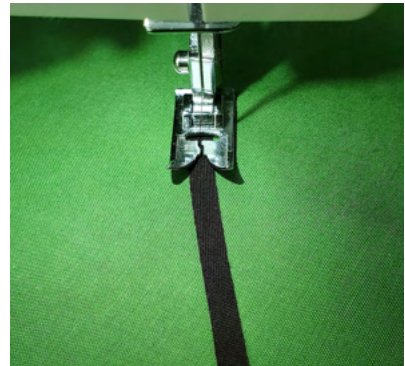
4. Go to the Output Menu and press Send to Machine. Follow the steps to cut the brown branch on your crafting machine.

*Note: When using more than one material, check all settings and customize inputs for your mat size, material type, material size, and arrangement of pieces before selecting next to begin cutting each layer.*

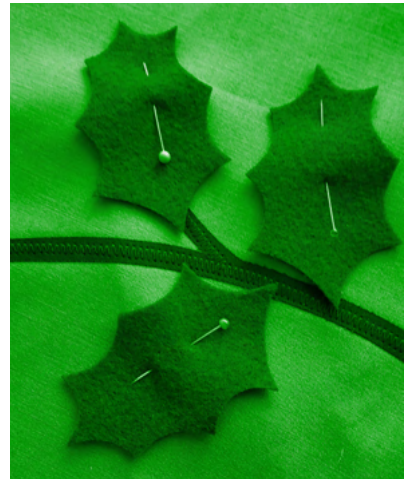
5. Apply fusible web to the green and red felt pieces. Cut the green felt leaves, then the red felt berries, rearranging to reduce waste. Set leaves and berries aside for now.
6. Remove the paper backing from the cut branch. Fuse the branch onto the pillow front. Use the image below for placement reference.



7. With brown thread, stitch the branch in place using a wide zigzag stitch.



8. Pin the holly leaves in place along the branch to decide on the placement you want for the leaves. Remove the pins and fuse in place.



9. To prepare your sewing machine for free-motion stitching, disengage the feed teeth and install the Darning/Embroidery Foot. Stitch each leaf in place with a coordinating thread.



10. Pin the berries in place over the branches and leaves to decide on the placement you want for the berries. Remove the pins and then fuse in place. Thread the machine with the red thread, then free-motion stitch the berries in place.



11. Attach the Zipper Foot and re-engage the machine's feed teeth. If your zipper is longer than 18", stitch across one end and snip off the extra. Place the pillow front and back together with right sides facing. Center the zipper along the pillow lower seam, using pins to mark each side edge of the zipper.





12. Using a  $\frac{3}{4}$ " (2cm) seam allowance, stitch the pillow front to the pillow back using a regular stitch length; backstitch at the pin. Between the pins (about the length of the zipper), stitch using a basting stitch (stitch length set at approximately 4.5 to 5mm and reduced upper thread tension). Between the remaining pin and the pillow edge, stitch using a regular stitch length, backstitching as you start.
13. Press the seam open. With the wrong side of the pillow facing you, center the zipper over the basting stitches, with the right side of the zipper facing down. Pin or use a glue stick to secure the zipper in place.
14. Attach the Zipper Foot to the sewing machine. Re-engage the feed teeth. Working from the wrong side of the pillow, and with the zipper pull opened a few inches, begin to stitch along one long side of the zipper, sewing about  $\frac{1}{2}$  way down the zipper..



15. Stop with the needle down, lift up the presser foot, move the zipper pull back up past the needle, then lower the presser foot, and continue sewing. Continue sewing down one zipper side edge, across the zipper bottom, up the remaining zipper long edge, and across the zipper top.
16. Flip the pillow front over and use a seam ripper to open the basting stitches. Remove any loose thread bits.



17. Pin the pillow front and back together along the side edges and the remaining long edge, with right sides together.
18. Stitch the perimeter using a  $\frac{5}{8}$ " (15mm) seam allowance. Trim the corners and turn the pillow right side out. Insert the pillow form.

