

# Pet Bed From Scraps

## A free project from Vicki Welsh

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I started making these dog beds for a local rescue shelter several years ago. To be honest, it wasn't for the dogs as much as it was a way to use up sewing room scraps. Keep in mind that these are functional, they are not pretty! I use any fabric that I get free and I don't care at all about thread color, shape or accuracy.

I used to just make a big square and stuff it full but I found that the stuffing clumped away from the center too much when the dogs used it. I came up with a way to add stuffing in cells so that it stays evenly distributed in the bed. These get much better reviews and the local shelters love them.



For the pet bed you need:

- some remnant heavy fabric. Decorator fabrics are great. Just mention it at a club meeting and someone will always have some they want to get rid of.
- thread - not your Masterpiece or Bottom Line. Heavier threads are better and this is a great time to use up partial bobbins. I do not worry about thread colors.
- stuffing: chopped up batting and fabric, fleece and stuffing from old bed pillows. Stuffing from bed pillows helps to keep the weight somewhat under control. I cut up the batting and fleece bits into something close to 2" chunks.



You can make the bed any size you want but I usually go for something around 28" square because it gets rid of the stuffing scraps faster.

Cut the fabric about 28- 30" long. We aren't worried about exact measurements.

Fold the fabric in half right sides together and stitch two sides, leaving one side open. Make sure you are using strong thread, these beds are going to get plenty of abuse.

I don't worry about seam allowance but usually make it a bit wider than 1/4". Turn the bed right side out.



Draw two line across the width of the pet bed, perpendicular to the open edge. I spaced them about 9" apart on a 27" bed. These are sewing guidelines to create the stuffed cells. You are creating

three channels for stuffing. Stitch the channels through both layers. Then draw 2 channels spaced the same distance in the opposite direction. These will be your guidelines for stitching the cells as you stuff them.



Grab fist fulls of stuffing and start stuffing the channels. Do them one at a time and only stuff to that first drawn line.

Stuff them VERY FULL. I tried an early version on a friend's learned that they flatten out a lot if they are not stuffed really tight.



Pin the channel closed as you stuff it. You can see in this photo how tight the bed is stuffed. I usually pin the corners

of the cell first and keep stuffing as I pin toward the center of the cell. The other thing to keep in mind is the direction of your pins. I sew with the stuffed part to the left of my needle and pin so that I can pull out the pins as I sew.



Sewing these required a good bit of man-handling. Just take your time and try to shift the stuffing out of the way of the presser foot as you go. The fabric will occasionally pleat and I don't worry about that at all. The dogs don't seem to be too picky about it.

After you've filled and stitch the first section of channels, fill and stitch the second and then fill the third to within 1" of the open edge



The reason that you left the top 1" of the channels unsewn is so that you can fold the top edges to the inside for finishing. Fill this last row in the same way but fold the top edges in about 1/2" and pin the channels closed as you fill the last 3 cells.



Topstitch the edge to close the bed and you are done. Now your sewing room trash gets one more use before it finds its way to the landfill.