

India Cotton Duvet Cover + Pillow Sham

Take an inexpensive Indian block-printed sheet and transform it into an exotic bed set.

Use a bright fabric for the duvet back and coordinating pillow shams. Then add decorative details with assorted trims on the shams and a silk panel in the duvet centre.

Fabric

- Queen-size Indian printed cotton flat sheet (commonly 90" x 102" [2.3 x 2.6 m])
- 5 yd (4.6 m) of rayon or cotton (at least 54" [137 cm] wide) for shams and underside of duvet (Contrast)
- 34" x 16." (86.5 x 42 cm) piece of silk.

Other Supplies

- All-purpose thread to match the sheet and Contrast fabric
- Contrasting or metallic thread to match silk .
- 20" (51 cm) each of assorted trims for pillow sham (*shown here*: silk ribbon, sequins, cording, and braid)
- Matching or metallic thread to attach trims
- Hand sewing needle
- Clear acrylic ruler
 - Rotary cutter and self-healing mat

Finished size

Standard pillow shams 20" x 26" (51 x 66 cm); queen-size duvet cover shown is 89" x 95" (2.2 x 2.4 m).

Notes

— All seam allowances are .5" (1.3 cm) unless otherwise noted.

— Both comforter and flat sheet sizes marked as queen size can vary by manufacturer. To ensure that your duvet cover fits properly or to customize the cover to a different size comforter, measure the length and width of your comforter and adjust the cutting dimensions (and/or consider a smaller or larger flat sheet), if necessary. If you are using a flat sheet for the duvet cover, be sure to check the dimensions in addition to the marked size. Down and down alternative comforters are quite squishy and will fit easily into a cover with slightly smaller dimensions, but you don't want the cover to be overly large because this can cause the comforter to slide around (a little extra space is okay). If your sheet is not quite large enough for the cover you wish to make, consider adding a border of a coordinating fabric to obtain the necessary measurements for the cover front.

— Prewash all washable fabrics.

Prewash the Indian printed sheet alone in case the fabric dyes run. The specified width of the rayon or cotton fabric (for the shams and duvet underside) accounts for shrinkage.

CUT OUT FABRIC

1 Find a large area such as a dining room table or floor space to lay out your fabric for cutting. Using a rotary cutter and self-healing mat or scissors and a clear acrylic ruler, measure and cut two panels, each 45.5" wide x 97" long (1.15 x 2.5 m), from the Contrast fabric for the underside of the duvet.

For the pillow shams, cut two 27" wide x 21" long (68.5 x 53.5 cm) pieces (front panels), two 11 ." wide x 21" long (30 x 53.5 cm) pieces (back panel A), and two 20." wide x 21" long (51.5 x 53.5 cm) pieces (back panel B) from the Contrast fabric.

2Cut ten ties 2" wide x 9" long (5 x 23 cm) from the Contrast fabric.

ASSEMBLE DUVET

3Place the two Contrast panels right sides together, matching up all edges, and machine stitch along one 97" (2.5 m) side. You have now created the underside panel. Press the seam allowances open and set aside.

4If desired, centre the silk rectangle on the right side of the Indian cotton sheet (position the silk vertically along the length of the sheet). Pin in place. Use a decorative or zigzag machine stitch and contrasting or metallic thread to topstitch (see Sewing Basics) the rectangle in place, stitching ." (6 mm) from the edge, around the entire perimeter of the silk rectangle.

5Spread out the underside panel on a large, flat surface, with the right side facing up. Place the sheet on top, right side down, and match up all the edges (right sides will be together; the sheet may be longer than the underside panel, so if this is the case, simply match up one short edge and the excess will be trimmed in Step 7). If the sheet width doesn't match up neatly with the underside panel, trim it to size equally on the two long sides. Pin together around the perimeter.

6Machine stitch around three sides, leaving one short (90" [2.3 m]) edge open; be sure to remove pins as you go.

Press all seam allowances open. Clip the seam allowances at the corners.

7 On the open end of the duvet, trim the cotton sheet flush with the edge

of the underside panel, if necessary. Fold over .5" (1.3 cm) to the wrong side on the sheet and the underside panel at the open edge and press, then fold another 1" (2.5 cm) to the wrong side and press again to make a neat hem all the way around. Pin the hem in place, then topstitch all the way around the open edge, .25" (6 mm) from the inner fold (your stitching will be about .5" [2 cm] from the outer edge).

ATTACH TIES

8 On one tie (cut in Step 2), fold .5" (1.3 cm) to the wrong side on each short edge and press. Now, fold over each long edge .5" (1.3 cm) to the wrong side so that the raw edges meet in the middle and press (figure 1).

Then, fold the tie in half lengthwise, enclosing the raw edges, and press (figure 2). Pin along the tie to hold the folds in place and then edge stitch along both short sides and the long open side to finish the tie;

begin with one short edge and pivot 90 degrees at the corner with the needle down, sew down the long end, and then pivot at the next corner as before and sew along the remaining short edge (this will create a continuous stitch line). Repeat the entire step for each of the remaining ties.

9 Place the hemmed duvet cover opening in front of you with the sheet on top (with the duvet cover still inside out). *Take five of the completed ties and distribute them evenly along the

hemmed edge of the sheet, positioning one short edge of each tie .2" (2 cm) above the edge (this will leave a little more than 7" [18 cm] of each tie hanging down past the edge of the duvet cover). Pin each tie in place on the sheet only. Turn the duvet cover over so that the underside panel is now on top and repeat from *, matching up the placement of each tie with those on the front (sheet) side.

Using a small zigzag stitch, sew each tie in place by sewing across the tie, about .2" to .3" (6 mm to 1.3 cm) from the edge. Be sure to stitch back and forth over each tie a couple of times to secure it firmly in place. The duvet cover is finished!

SEW TRIMS TO PILLOW SHAM FRONTS

-Depending on the type of trims you chose, you can probably machine stitch them in place, but if they are lacy or delicate trims you may have to hand stitch them instead. With one front panel (27" x 21" [68.5 x 53.5 cm]) facing right side up, pin the first trim in place about .2" (6.5 cm) from one short edge. Machine or hand stitch in place (to machine stitch, use a zigzag or straight stitch, or other desired decorative stitch; to hand stitch you can simply use a running stitch or a more decorative embroidery stitch as desired). Place each additional trim .2" (1.3 cm) from the previous one and machine or hand stitch in place as before. (The sequin string and openwork braid shown in the sample were hand stitched in place, while the wider trims were machine-stitched in place; if you are using a sequin string, use a whipstitch

to secure it and hide the stitches between the sequins. Cut off any excess trim flush with the edge of the fabric. Repeat the entire step to attach the trims to the second pillow front. If the trims are directional, be sure to make one left sham and one right sham. (See detail photo left.)

ASSEMBLE PILLOW SHAM

=On one 21" (53.5 cm) edge of each back panel piece (both As and Bs), fold .6" (6 mm) to the wrong side and press, then fold another .6" (6 mm) to the wrong side on each and press again. Edge stitch along the inner fold on each panel (your stitching will be just shy of .6" [6 mm] from the outer edge).

Q To assemble a sham, place one front panel right side up in front of you. *Place one back panel A on top, right side down (right sides together), aligning it along the embellished short edge of the front panel and with the hemmed edge facing toward the middle. Repeat from * to place one back panel B, aligning it along the opposite short edge; the two back panels will overlap by about 4" (10 cm). Pin and then stitch around the entire perimeter. Use a serger, pinking shears, or zigzag stitch to finish the seam allowances and prevent fraying. Clip the corners, turn the sham right side out through the back panels, and push out the corners. Repeat the entire step to create the second sham.