

\*All patterns in the book included seam allowances so no need to add.

*Pin Cushion Caddy (page 68)*

Without a doubt, I know that this pattern is a challenging one, so I'd like to offer as much as I can before you get started. In addition to pointing out a few actual corrections (which are highlighted), I will also offer some tips to hopefully make this pattern easier.

\*With regard to the interfacing listed in the Supplies section, **it does not have to be fusible on both sides**, but only one side. And to clarify, the type that I used is the very heavy fusible interfacing - it is still flexible but is very cardboard like. This is important for the cubby inside the pin cushion to keep its shape.

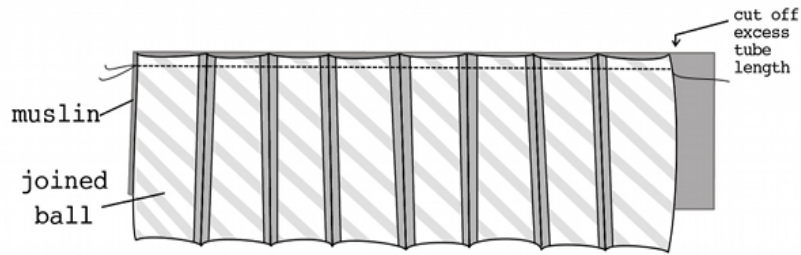
*Because there seems to be some difficulty in joining the assembled ball section to the inner tube section (steps 16-18) please take the following into consideration before you cut the tube piece from your fabric:*

\* I know definitely that there is some fiddling involved with the depth of the ball seams to insure that they match the circumference of the tube. The pattern was tested a few times by seamstresses (as well as several times in my own studio) and we received no word on problems with this. However, I'll be honest and say that I fear a little play could have happened with those pattern pages during the final printing. And perhaps the ball sections got just slightly larger, or the tube length got slightly smaller. Whether or not this happened, here are a few trouble shooting ideas to consider followed by an alternate piecing method:

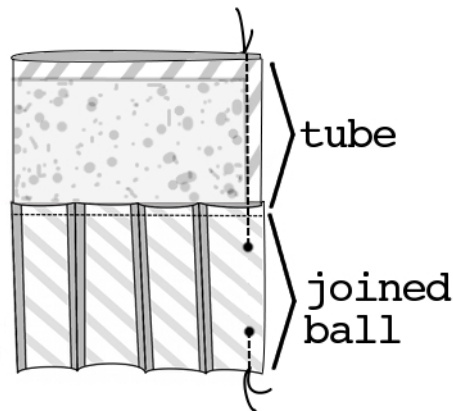
- make sure that your cutting of the paper pattern is right in the black line of the drawn pattern.
- be sure that you are not cutting the fabric any bigger than that, not even by a tiny bit, because with so many seams that can add up fast.
- some fabric stretching definitely could happen, so you could help avoid this with a little stay stitching or just taking precautions not to stretch.
- step 17 suggests hand basting the tube to the ball first, which comes highly recommended, as it is a challenge to get this under the machine to begin with and even more so if you are easing.
- If you still have trouble fitting the joined sections of the "ball" to the tube, I would recommend that you go ahead and modify the length of the tube piece, and the length of the tube interfacing to be as long as you need it to be to accommodate the ball sections. Changing the length of the tube will not have any bearing on the rest of the pattern, all it needs to do is fit the assembled ball.

\*Considering the above, here's some re-sizing help for the tube piece and an alternate piecing method:

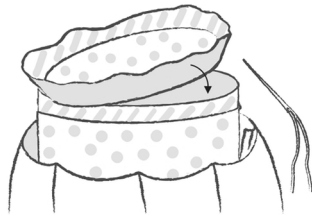
- Skip Step 12 in the "Assemble the Ball" section and instead leave the last seam of the ball sections open
- Before you begin step 13, cut a muslin (instead of your final fabric) piece for the tube (1F) but make it a few inches longer than the pattern piece (try making the piece 4.5 x 13.5)



- (see above) Machine or hand baste the long side of the tube to the joined ball sections using a 1/2" seam allowance. Trim the length of the tube piece so that it matches the length of the joined ball perfectly. Carefully detach the muslin piece from the tube now and use it as your pattern template to cut your final tube piece.
- Once you've cut a new tube piece to match your muslin cut the heavy interfacing as directed, but increase the length by the same amount that your new tube piece increased from the original pattern.
- Follow Step 13.
- Skip Steps 14-17 and instead with right sides together, sew the new tube piece to the joined ball sections as you did above to test the muslin tube piece, keeping your stitch line just above the tube interfacing. Clip the seam allowances of the joined ball section, press seam open and then press all seam allowances towards the tube piece.



- (see above) Keeping the joined tube and ball open from each other, fold in half with right sides together, and close the tube and the ball sections in one single 1/2" seam, just missing the tube interfacing, and only going through fabric. Stop sewing once you've passed into the joined ball section about 1.5". Pickup sewing again about 1.5" away from the bottom edge of joined ball (this leaves an opening for stuffing). Press seam open.
- Turn the ball right side out and down over the tube.
- Begin following the book instructions again at Step 18. (Please note that in the book on page 69, Step 18 is highlighted to indicate that it is illustrated but Step 18 actually has no illustration. On page 70 there is an illustration is labeled as Step 18, please ignore this illustration altogether.)



step 19



step 20

-For further clarification, there is now a Step 19 and a Step 20 illustrated added above.

\*Once you get to Step 21, I recommend keeping something like a water bottle or coke can inside the cubby while you are filling the pin cushion with fiber fill to help keep its shape. You do want to stuff it firmly, but not so firmly that the tube collapses.

*\*I know its a bugger to make, but I found that the more I made the easier it became and the prettier they looked... the mere concept and function of the Pin Cushion Caddy is one that I enjoy every day, and was worth the challenge!*

### Taxi Tote (page 98)

\*Step 17 should read: Press the 1" button loop strip toward the wrong side **1/4"** on each long edge so the the edges meet in the center. Press another crease on the center line where the edges **edges m** meet to enclose the raw edges. Topstitch down the middle of the button loop. Press.

### Prairie Blouse (page 119)

The pattern size offered in the book pattern pages is roughly a 4T. Its not too difficult to alter the size of the pattern on this one, and there are tips for that on page 119.

### Smashing Smock (page 103)

The pattern size offered in the book pattern pages is roughly an 8/10 adult pattern. There are instructions listed on pages 103-104 for altering the size of the pattern. Making a muslin version first, and just basting together basic shapes is a little time consuming but helpful for the perfect fit.

### Doggie Dreams Bed (page 171)

\* Step 6 should read: With right sides together, sew the inner short side to the short side of the inner top, aligning their edges, starting and stopping **1/2"** away from the edges with a 1/2" seam allowance. (Where you stop and start sewing on this piece should be **right** in the seams made from Step 4.) Repeat on the opposite short side.

For further discussion, info sharing and inspiration visit my SEAMS to Me Flickr group at:

<http://www.flickr.com/groups/seamstome/>