

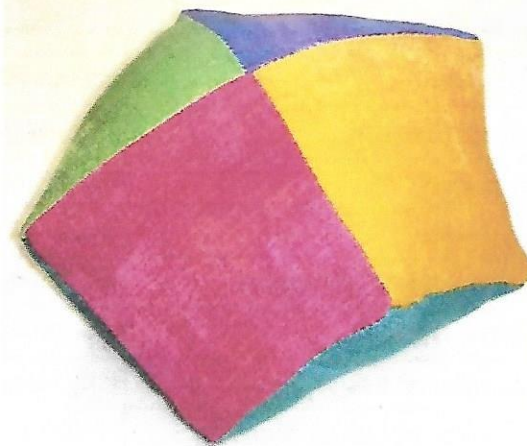


## Pattern of the Month - July 2018

By Evelyn George

### Patchwork Biscornu Pincushion

(or stuffed toy)



"Biscornu" refers to a quirky 8-pointed, stuffed shape made by offsetting 2 squares; traditionally, a biscornu is decorated with elaborate stitching. Ours will be simple patchwork!

Start by selecting 8 scrappy squares of fabric, all cut to the same size; somewhere between 3" and 5" is about right for a pincushion or small soft toy (3" squares were used for the biscornu shown above, which measures about 5" across).

On the wrong side of each square, measure  $\frac{1}{4}$ " from edges at each corner and mark with a dot. Stitching will start and end at the dots. (Use a washable marker or mark lightly with pencil so it won't end up showing through on the right side).

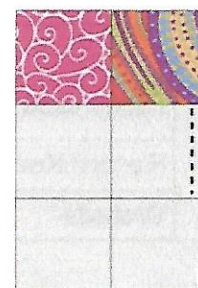
Arrange and stitch the squares into two scrappy 4-patches, starting and ending seams at the dots, and backstitching at both ends. Don't stitch over any seams. Press. (Seams can be pressed any way you want, as you are not stitching over any of them!)

To join the two 4-patches, pin and sew one short section at a time as follows:

Lay the two blocks right side up, side by side, then slide the one on the right half-way down the side of the one on the left. →



Flip right hand block back onto left one, right sides together, aligning them so corner dot of upper block lines up with center seam on the one underneath, with raw edges matching. →



Pin so corner dot on upper block matches dot at center seam on block underneath, folding seam out of the way, if necessary. Starting at dot, take a stitch, then a backstitch, just to dot; then stitch down to dot at seam line (matched to corner dot underneath); backstitch.

Remove from machine, and starting at corner where you just ended stitching, pull next section of upper block around so it lines up with block underneath. Pin in place, matching dots and moving seam allowance out of the way. As you did before, backstitch at corner dot, stitch to the next corner dot; backstitch.

Continue stitching one section at a time, matching dots. Leave the last section of the seam open for stuffing. Turn right side out, poking out the corners. Stuff firmly, pushing stuffing well into all corners.

Hand-stitch the opening closed. →



Voila! Biscornu!



Stuff more firmly for a bouncy toy, or less firmly for a pincushion or pillow. Either one can have a button on the top and bottom, sewn through the center with strong thread and pulled tightly to make a "dent" in the cushion.

(Add a yoyo under the button for a little something extra!)