

CONTEMPORARY 'EARTH' PILLOW

by Miriam Rawson
Finished size approximately 18½" square



Pillow designed using fabric remnants from Marcus' EARTH quilt, part of the "Earth, Wind & Fire" Series by Nancy Rink featuring CENTENNIAL SOLIDS (see below).



EARTH
64" x 80"



YOU'LL NEED:

- Left-over scraps from the 'Earth' quilt kit (6 colors)
- 2/3 yard background print
- ¼ Yard fabric for piping
- Two 20" square and one 5" x 80" pieces of thin cotton backing
- 18" zipper
- 4 1/3 Yard of 3/8" cording (for piping)
- One 20" pillow form (Fairfield *Soft Touch*® box-edge)

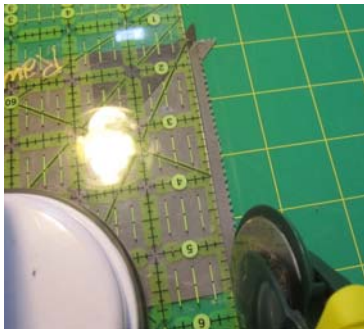
Finished size approximately 18 1/2" square

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Find four different colors of left-over 2 ½" strips from the kit, and cut them into 4 ½" strips. You will need a total of eight strips—four colors. Match them together as follows: Color A with Color B; Color C with Color D.
2. Cut two strips of background fabric 2 ½" x 7 ½" and two strips 2 ½" x 12" for inside borders; cut two strips 2 ¾" x 14 ½" and two 2 ¾" x 19 ½".
3. From Color E, cut four strips 1 ¾" x 11 ½" and from Fabric F cut four 1 ¾" squares.
4. From fabric for piping, cut four strips 1 ¾" x width of fabric, and join together diagonally. Press seams open and set aside.
5. With right sides together, stitch two strips of coordinating colors together, and press the seam allowance in the same direction. Repeat for all the strips. You will have four squares, two of A/B and two of C/D. Trim them to 4" squares, if necessary.
6. Turn the A/B squares over and mark one diagonal line from corner to corner.
7. With right sides together, place the A/B square on the C/D square so the seams are perpendicular to each other. Pin in place.
8. Stitch ¼" from each side of the drawn diagonal lines, and cut along the drawn line.
9. Press the seams open. Arrange the four blocks so the diagonal seam lines all are parallel to each other—or however you like. Trim the blocks so they are 4" square.



10. Stitch the top two blocks together, followed by the bottom two, then press the top seams toward the right side and the bottom ones toward the left.
11. Pin the top and bottom sets right sides together, matching the center seams. Stitch together, then press the seams open. The resulting block will be 7 ½" square.
12. Pin the 2 ½" x 7 ½" background strips to the sides of the block, right sides together, and stitch. Press seam allowance toward the block.
13. Repeat for the top and bottom strips (2 ½" x 12"). Trim the block to 11 ½" square.
14. Pin the strips from Color E to the sides of the block and stitch in place. Press seam allowance toward Color E.





15. Stitch one block (Color F) to each end of the remaining strips of Color E, and stitch to the top and bottom edges of the block.
16. Using the same method as in Step 12-13, stitch the remaining border in place.
17. Place the cording inside the piping fabric with the raw edges even, and use a zipper foot to stitch close to the cording.
18. Place the finished pillow front on the remaining piece of background fabric, and cut the back of the pillow the same size. Cut the side edge of the pillow by cutting two 3" x 28" strips, and two 2" x 20" strips for the side edge of the pillow.
19. Spray the wrong side of the pillow front, back and side pieces with basting spray and place on the batting. Quilt as desired. Note: I used a walking foot and stitch-in-the ditch with parallel quilting in the background area (about 1" apart). Trim the edges close to the fabric.
20. To stitch the zipper in place, trim away 1/2" of the cotton batting along one edge of each of the 2" x 20" side strips. Press under 3/8" along each of the trimmed edges. Pin one strip onto the zipper, next to the zipper teeth. Use the zipper foot to stitch close to the folded edge.
21. Pin the remaining piece of 2" strip with the folded edge just over the top of the zipper teeth, and stitch next to the zipper teeth. Make sure the ends of the two strips are even. Stitch the remaining strips together so the zipper piece is finished.
22. Trim any excess away, so the zipper piece is 3" wide. With right sides together, and avoiding the zipper teeth, stitch one of the 3" strips to each end of the zipper piece.
23. Stitch the piping to the front and back pieces, on the right side, matching all the raw edges. Clip the piping seam allowance at each corner to facilitate the piping going around corners.
24. Pin the zipper piece right sides together to the front of the pillow, matching all raw edges. You will need to clip the side piece about 1/4" at each corner to accommodate the corners smoothly. When you see exactly where to join the two ends of the side piece together, mark it, stitch and trim away excess fabric and cotton batting. Press seam open. Stitch the side to the front.
25. Leaving the zipper open a few inches, and right sides together, stitch the side piece to the back of the pillow.
26. Open the zipper and turn the pillow cover right side out. Insert the pillow form inside and voila!

