
TOPPONCINO DIY

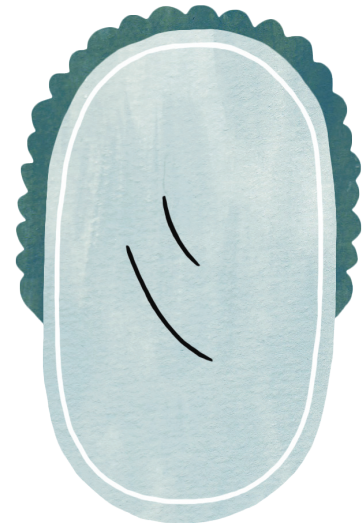
A thin quilted pillow, called a *topponcino*, is a favorite for many parents. It can be used from birth for the first few months to ease this transition period for the baby. They can be held on it, laid on it, and it becomes an important point of reference such as having the smell of their caregivers on it.

MATERIALS

- Topponcino paper pattern (instructions below)
- Pencil or washable fabric marker
- Straight pins
- 100 percent cotton batting: 90 inches x 108 inches (queen size) will make two topponcinos
- 100 percent cotton broadcloth (or other thicker fabric) for the mattress cover: 1 yard of 44/45 inch fabric
- 100 percent pima cotton (thinner fabric) for the sham: 2 yards will make two shams
- Eyelet: 1 yard of 1½ inch eyelet
- Pearlized cotton thread (for batting bows)
- Needle and additional sewing thread

SETTING UP THE PATTERN

1. Using pattern paper or a paper bag, measure and cut an oval shape 25½ inches (65 cm) in length and 17¾ inches (45 cm) in width.
2. Fold the pattern in half lengthwise and make a crease down the center. Using a pencil, draw a line down the center crease.
3. Open the pattern and fold each outside edge of the pattern so that it meets the center pencil mark, making two more creases.
4. Using a pencil, trace the two folds you have just made.
5. These three lines will be stitching lines for the batting so that it does not shift once inside the mattress.



Note: Wash, dry and iron all fabric (but not batting!) before starting to sew. Use cool or warm water and delicate dryer setting.

CONSTRUCTING THE MATTRESS

1. Smooth out the batting as much as possible.
2. Fold the batting into a rectangle that is eight layers deep.
3. Pin the pattern to the batting.
4. Using a pencil or a fabric marker, trace the pattern and the stitching lines onto the top layer of batting.
5. Remove the pattern.
6. Using a long single strand of the cotton thread, sew through all eight layers of batting along the lines you have traced, starting with the centerline. Make sure the knot at the end of your thread is between the layers so it will not show or be felt by the baby. You can use a basting stitch that is 2 to 3 centimeters long.
7. After sewing all three lines, cut the batting around the pattern (watch for knots).
8. Place the cut-out batting on top of the cotton broadcloth. Position the batting to one side so that when the cloth is folded over the batting, the batting is centered between the two layers.
9. Using straight pins, pin the cloth closely around the batting. Be sure to leave an opening of about 8 inches (20 cm) so that the batting can be removed.
10. Baste stitch around the batting, right next to the straight pins. Remove the pins and batting.
11. Machine stitch right next to your basting stitches.
12. Put the batting back in and make sure that it fits snugly.
13. When the batting fits perfectly inside the mattress cover, and no adjustments need to be made to the fabric, remove the basting stitch and cut the fabric about 1 inch (2 cm) away from the permanent stitching.
14. Cut slits at the curves (be sure not to get too close to the stitching), and turn the cover right side out.
15. Iron the cover and insert the batting.

16. Blind stitch the opening closed.
17. Using a single strand of cotton thread, tie double knots and bows in the places shown; this will keep the mattress together.



The mattress is done!

CONSTRUCTING THE SHAM

1. Iron the long piece of pima cotton and sew a narrow hem (about 1 in/3 cm) at each end. Be sure that both hems are on the same face of the cloth (both on the “bottom” of the fabric).
2. Lay the hemmed fabric on a flat surface with the folded hems facing down (fabric is right side up).
3. Place the finished mattress on the pima cotton piece, about two thirds of the way toward one end.
4. Fold the shorter end of the fabric over the end of the mattress, then fold the longer end over both, so that the two hemmed ends overlap on top of the mattress. The folded ends should be at least 1 inch/3 centimeters away from the ends of the mattress to allow for pinning.
5. Now unfold the shorter end of the fabric and trace the shape of the upper end of the mattress onto the fabric.
6. Pin the eyelet, lace edge facing inward, to the traced line. Turn the ends of the eyelet slightly outward and pin.

7. Refold the short end of the fabric under the other end and pin the cotton fabric closely around the perimeter of the mattress.
8. Baste stitch around the perimeter of the mattress. At the top, be sure to stitch through the eyelet (not the edging), as well as through the two layers of fabric.
9. Remove the pins, then remove the mattress through the opening that has been created in the back and machine stitch next to the basting.
10. Flip the sham right side out and insert the mattress. If it fits fine and the eyelet looks good, and no corrections or adjustments need to be made, remove the mattress, flip the sham back inside out, and remove the basting stitch.
11. Cut around the perimeter of the stitching (about 1 in/3 cm away) and clip the curves.
12. Iron the sham and insert the mattress.