neighborhood pillow

This pillow is a fun way to use mini charm squares or scraps and highlight a favorite phrase. It finishes at 18" square with an envelope style closure. I use a 20" square pillow insert to give the pillow extra fluff.

materials needed
- embroidered panel, trimmed to 6½" x 18½"
- mini charm pack or thirty-six 2½" squares
- 5/8 yard of background and backing fabric
- 20½" square of fusible fleece

before you begin
-please read through all of the instructions
-all seams are ¼" unless otherwise noted
-WOF means width of fabric and fabric width must be at least 42"
-instructions assume you know how to make flying geese units
-factory cut mini charm squares can be slightly larger due to the pinked edges, so measure and trim or ease in as necessary

cutting instructions
- if you are starting with an 18½" square embroidered panel, trim 6" off of the top and the bottom so that you have a 6½" x 18½" embroidered panel strip.
- sort your 2½" squares into two piles, one with eighteen roof squares and one with eighteen house squares. Set your pile of house squares aside, and trim your roof squares into eighteen rectangles measuring 1½" x 2½"
- from the background and backing fabric, cut a 13" x WOF strip.
    -crosscut that strip into two rectangles, measuring 13" x 18½", these are your backing rectangles for the envelope style back closure
-from the remaining 9½" x WOF background and backing fabric strip, cut a 3½" x WOF strip and two 1½" x WOF strips
    -crosscut the 3½" x WOF strip into two 3½" x 18½" border strips
    -crosscut the 1½" x WOF strips into 1½" squares until you have thirty-six squares. You will have a small amount of leftover background fabric.
- you can trim the fusible fleece into an 18½" square now, but you may want to wait to trim the batting until after fusing and quilting to help cut down on trimming thread tails from quilting.

pillow front assembly
- Using your eighteen 1½" x 2½" roof rectangles and your thirty-six 1½" background squares, make eighteen flying geese units measuring 1½" x 2½" (figure 1)
- Sew one flying geese unit to one 2½" square from your house pile until you have eighteen house units measuring 3½" x 2½" (figure 2)
- Divide your eighteen house units into two piles of nine and sew each group together along the 3½" side until you have two units that contain a row of nine houses that measure 3½" x 18½" (figure 3)

- To finish the pillow front, sew a 3½"x 18½" border strip to the roof side of the top row of houses, and sew the other 3½" x 18½" border strip to the bottom of the other row of houses, this is your bottom row of houses. Then paying careful attention to the orientation of your embroidered panel, sew the top row of houses to the top of the embroidered panel strip, and sew the bottom row of houses to the bottom of your embroidered panel strip. Your pillow front should measure 18½" x 18½" (figure 4)
- Now that the pillow front is complete, fuse the fusible fleece to the wrong side of the pillow front, taking care to use a fabric scrap or pressing cloth to cover the embroidery before applying the iron. Quilt as desired.

finishing the pillow

- along one of the 18½" long edges of the 13" x 18½" backing rectangle, fold down the edge by ¼" and press, then fold down the edge again by ¼" and press, encasing the raw edge of the fabric in the fold. Topstitch 1/8" away from the edge to secure the hem. Repeat this process with the second backing rectangle to hem it as well. Now that your backing envelope flaps are hemmed, you are ready to attach them to the pillow front.
- place the pillow front right side up, and layer the backing pieces on top with the right sides facing down, the raw edges of the backing pieces aligned with the raw edges of the pillow front, and the hemmed edges of the backing overlapping in the center of the pillow as shown in figure 5. Pin or clip the front and backing together and sew all the way around the outside of the pillow. Clip the corners to reduce bulk, and flip the pillow right side out, using a point turner to poke out the corners. Stuff the pillow and enjoy!

I hope you enjoy making this pillow, if you have any questions, please shoot me an email, monogramsformakers@gmail.com , and I am happy to help. It makes my day to see your projects, if you make this pillow, I would love it if you tag me on Instagram @monogramsformakers or use the hashtag #neighborhoodpillow.

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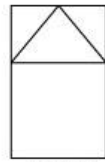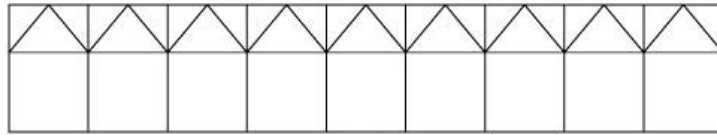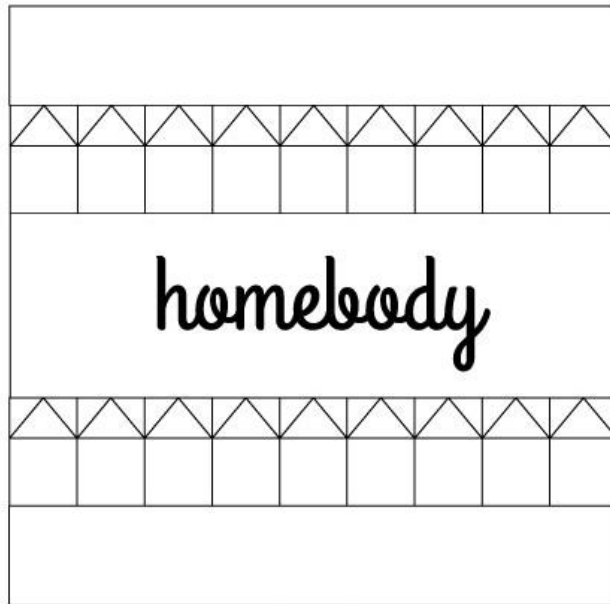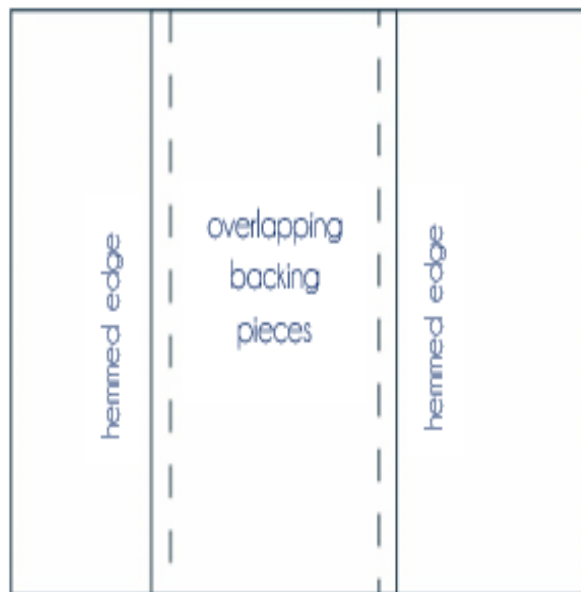
figure 1

figure 2

figure 3

homebody

figure 4

overlapping backing pieces

hemmed edge

hemmed edge

Figure 5