

- Suggested story concept
- Designed and produced models for photography
- Developed diagrams
- Researched and wrote story and instructions

Hassle-Free HASSOCK

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Informal but stylish, a hassock can serve as a soft perch (pulled up close to a cosy fire) or a comfy footstool (pulled up in front of a favourite chair). And anywhere space is at a premium, several can stack out of the way until they're needed for extra, instant seating. That's lucky – these versions are so easy to sew, you'll be tempted to make more than one.

Hassock

Finished rectangular hassock is approx 51 cm square x 21.5 cm high (20 in square x 8½ in high); cube is approx 30.5 cm square and high (12 in square and high).

YOU NEED:

Vinyl, leather, synthetic suede or sturdy upholstery fabric: two 75.5 cm (29¾-in) squares for rectangular hassock; two 64 cm (25¼-in) squares for cube

Matching sturdy thread such as buttonhole twist

Heavy-duty metal or plastic zipper: 20 cm long for rectangular hassock; 18 cm long for cube

Bean-bag pellets

Dressmaker's chalk pencil, ruler and set square

TO MAKE:

NOTE:

- Backstitch at beginning and end of each seam and use 1.5 cm (5/8-in) seam allowance throughout.

1 With right sides together and edges even, pin squares together, leaving opening for zipper centred on 1 edge; using medium-length straight machine stitch, sew. Stitch again, 3 mm (1/8 in) outside first stitch line, to reinforce seam.

2 Referring to diagram (above right), finish each corner as follows: Working with 1 hand inside, open out corner, then refold so seams align; about 10 cm (4 in) from corner, pin layers together at seam. Lay refolded corner flat on work surface. Using chalk pencil and ruler, measure and mark each folded edge 15 cm (6 in) from corner for rectangular hassock or 21 cm (8¼ in) for cube. Draw line from mark to mark; line should be 21.5 cm (8½ in) long for rectangular hassock and 30.5 cm (12 in)

long for cube, and perpendicular to seam (check with set square and redraw if necessary). Stitch along line, reducing bulk at seam by turning seam allowance on top and bottom in opposite directions, if desired (not shown). Stitch again 3 mm

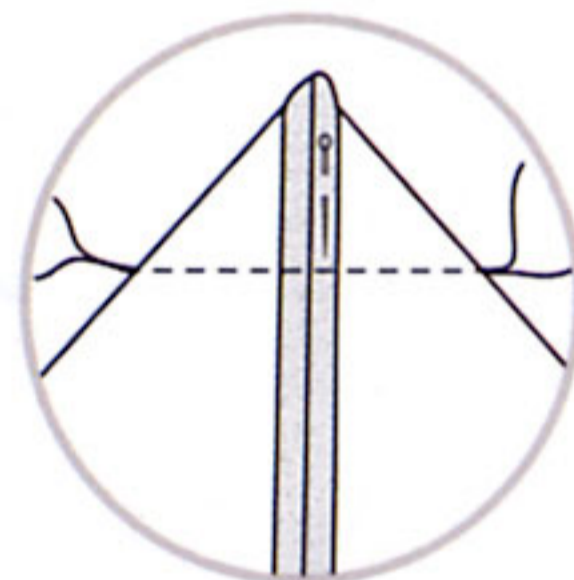
outside first stitch line. Trim seam allowance to 6 mm (1/4 in), then machine-zigzag raw edges together to bind.

3 Turn right side out. Turning under seam allowance along each side of opening, pin zipper in place. Using zipper foot, stitch, then pull top threads through to inside and tie all 4 threads in overhand knot to secure. If desired, reinforce seam at each end of zipper with (hand or machine) stitches sewn across and perpendicular to seam.

4 Open zipper and fill hassock with bean-bag pellets, then zip closed. ●



FOR SHOPPING INFORMATION, SEE PAGE 324



DESIGNER'S TIPS

- Traditional hassocks are often sewn from embossed leather patches and filled with sheep's fleece.
- Other fillings sometimes used in hassocks are chipped foam and shredded or crumpled newspaper.
- When sewing vinyl or leather, remember that pin and needle holes will be permanent, so pin only in the seam allowance or along intended stitching line.
- When sewing leather or synthetic suede, you may find a nonstick presser foot helpful.
- To make filling easier and tidier, form a sheet of stiff paper or card stock into a cone that has a wide top and a bottom that just fits zipper opening; push into opening and pour pellets into cone. Gently tap hassock on work surface periodically, as you fill, to let pellets settle.
- After filling, hand-stitch pull on closed zipper in place, if desired, to prevent zipper from being opened accidentally to release pellets (a good idea if you have kids). Save any leftover pellets to add later, if necessary, to plump up hassock.