

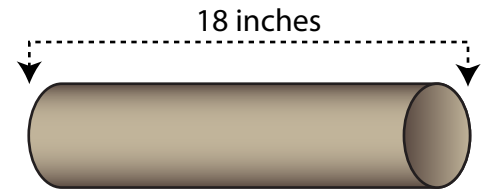
Making a Bolster Pillow

Materials: thick cardboard tube or sturdy cylinder base, wool felt for stuffing layers, tight woven cotton for cover cloth, strong cording or seam tape for drawstring.

Making the base and padding:

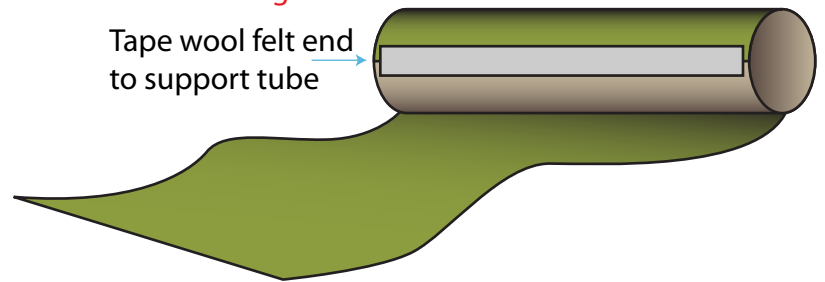
Begin by selecting a foundation. This could be a thick cardboard tube from fabric roll or a polystyrene pool noodle. Something that is sturdy and cylindrical. Cut it 18 inches long or however long you will want the bolster to be. See Fig 1.

Fig 1



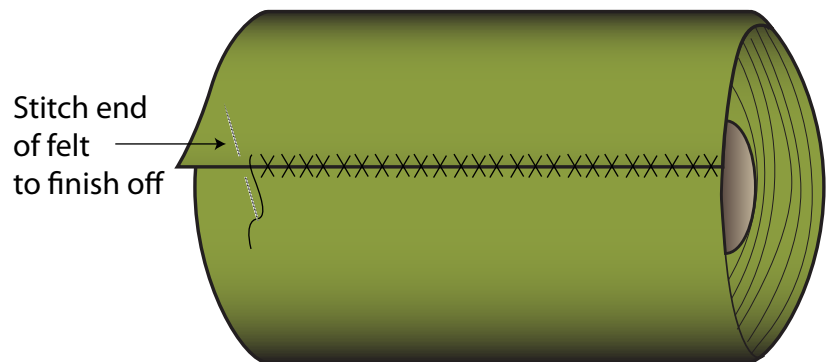
Using wool felt from an old blanket or purchasing wool felt, cut the fabric the same width as the base. Tape one end of the felt to the base. See Fig 2. Tightly roll the fabric around the base, smoothing it out as you go. It is important to get the layers pulled and wrapped tight so that you are making a sturdy padding for when you use pins they will stand up and not wiggle about. Additional lengths of fabric should be added and made slightly wider than the previous layer to give the bolster a rounded edge when it gets stuffed and drawn tight in the cover cloth.

Fig 2



Depending on how thick and large you want the bolster pillow to be will determine how many layers is needed. I would suggest a 5 to 8 inch thickness would be good. After you have added a good amount of layers of wool fabric, stitch the end down with needle and thread. See Fig 3.

Fig 3



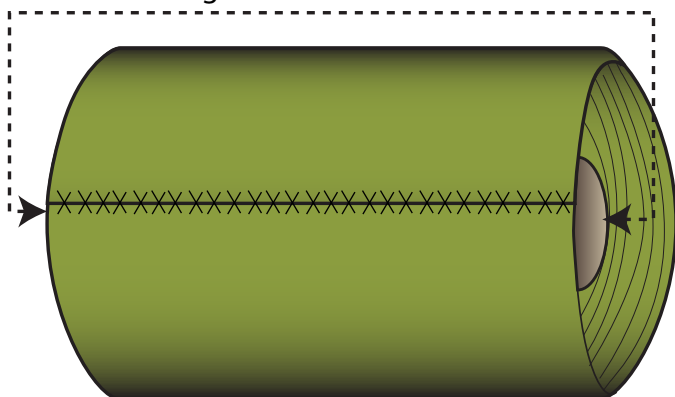
Preparing for the outer covering:

Select a tight woven broadcloth cotton that is dark in color. Measure the bolster from center of base up and around to the other side of the center of base. See Fig 4. Add 1 inch to the width for the casing.

Measure the circumference and add 1 inch for for seam allowance. See Fig 5. Cut into rectangle shape fabric. See Fig 6

Fig 4

measure the length from center of tube to other side



measure the circumference and add 1 inch

Fig 5

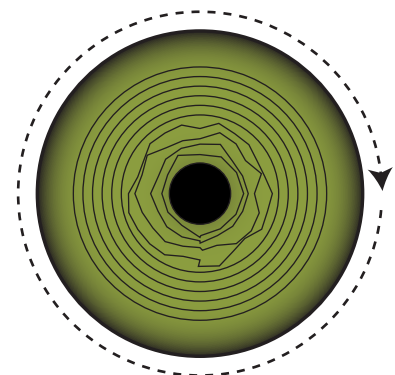
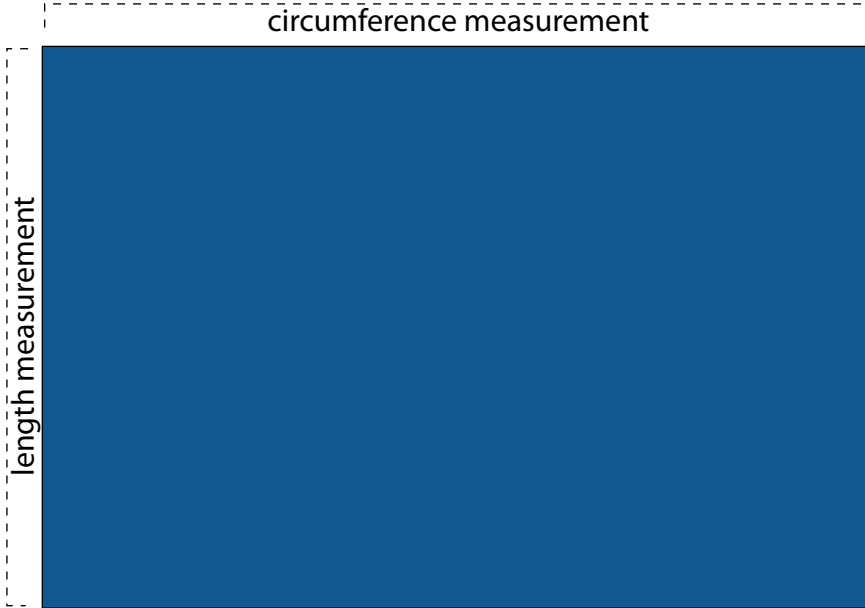


Fig 6



With right sides together, sew the two length measurements which will create a tube. See Fig 7

Fig 7

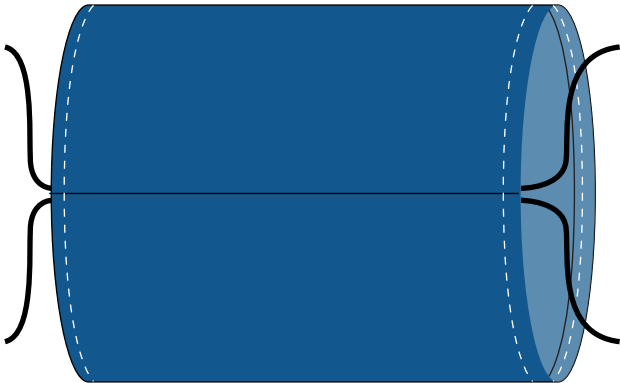


Fig 8



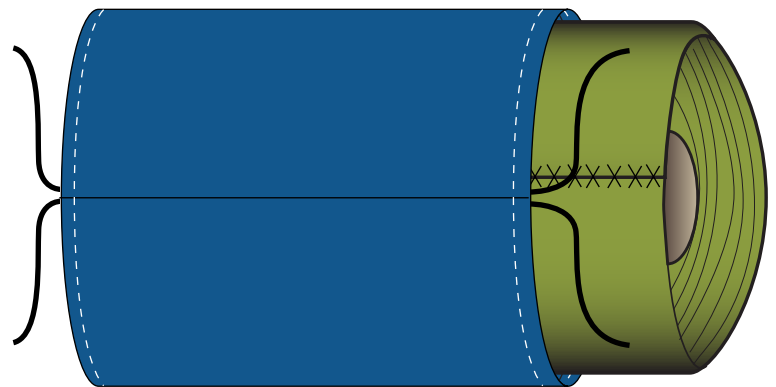
Sew a 3/4 inch casing on both ends of the tube. Be sure to leave an opening for the drawstring. See Fig 8

Fig 9



Draw a good strong cording or seam tape through the casing on both ends. See Fig 9

Fig 10



Tightly stuff the wool felt base into the cover cloth sleeve. See Fig 10

Draw the string up tightly to gather the ends in and tie a bow securely. Tuck the cords inside. You now have a finished bolster pillow to use. See Fig 11

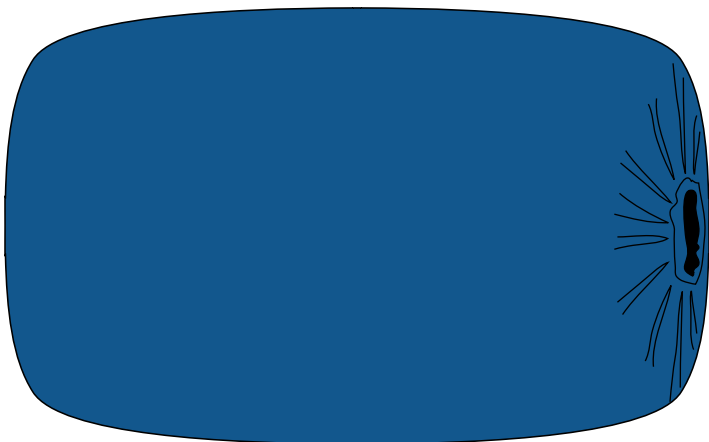


Fig 11