

Strawberry Machine Needle Pincushions

By Rachel Barnes

Have you ever gotten out a new sewing machine needle only to stitch one quick seam? The needle technically isn't new but it can be used for a few projects before it's thrown away. If you can relate to this scenario (or if you're new to sewing and want to join in) this project is for you! Inspired by nature, these strawberry pincushion and labeled strawberry stems will keep your needles nice and organized.

Skill Level: Beginner

Sewing Time: 1-2 Hours

Finished size: Approx. 1 1/2" x 2 1/2"

Janome Supplies Required:

Janome Sewing Machine - Skyline S7 was used for this project

Fabrics/Notions/Supplies Required:

- Strawberry Top template (Found on Page 5)
 - Strawberry Bottom template (Found on Page 5)
 - Scrap fabric**
 - 1/2" wide Cotton Twill Tape, cut to 4 1/4" (10.8 cm) in length for each strawberry
 - Coordinating thread
 - Iron
 - Pin Cushion filler
 - Funnel
 - Satin Stitch foot F
 - Hand sewing needle
 - Heat Dissolvable Marking pen (Frixion pens are my favorite)
- **Optional: Woven Interfacing for lightweight fabric scraps

Project Notes:

This project utilizes small scraps of fabric from your stash. You can take a literal approach (like I did) and match the fabric scraps to the suggested needle type. The follow are the labels and fabric types that were made for the samples:

70/10	80/12	90/14	100/16
Voile	Chambray	Quilting Cotton	Canvas



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Notes Continued:

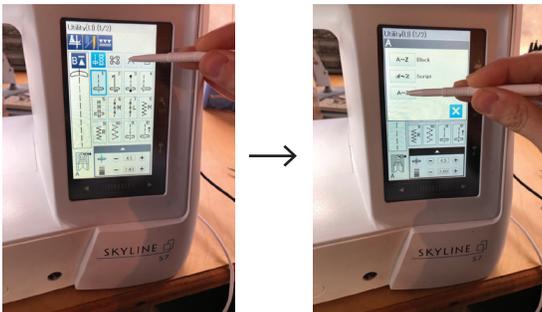
If you'd like a refresher for the recommended fabric types to sewing machine needles, Janome has a helpful downloadable reference card on their website. <https://www.janome.com/inspire/sewing-reference-index/>

Filler: For this project, I used crushed walnut shells as a filler for the pin cushions. Walnut shells are more commonly used as reptile cage fillers. I liked this option as a natural material for this project. If you have a nut allergy or if walnut shells are harder to access in your area you can use other natural fillers like Lavender buds, Small fabric scraps, Rice or Sand, or Clipped Threads (saved from trimming sewing projects).

Let's Get Started!

Make the strawberry stem label:

1. Select the 9mm Monogram feature in the sewing machine.



Type the following into the sewing machine: 90/14



2. Fold the twill tape in half and mark the folded edge with a marking pen.
3. Flatten out the twill tape (with the center mark facing up). Place the marked center edge near the sewing machine needle location.
4. Stitch the programmed lettering stitches. Trim away the connecting stitches, in between the numbers and forward slash to clean up the stitching.

Make Pincushion Top:

5. Cut out (with a piece of scrap fabric) the Strawberry Top template and mark the center location.
6. Fold the twill tape in half with the lettering stitches on the outer side of the loop so they are visible.
8. Lay the twill tape down with the lettering laying right side down (not showing).
9. Center the ends of the twill tape at the marked center location of the Strawberry Top.
10. Sew a box stitch on top of the twill tape ends, attaching the twill tape to the Strawberry Top (approximately a 3/8" (1 cm) wide box stitch).
11. After stitching, fold the twill tape back so the lettering stitches are facing up.
12. Iron on top of the stitching to remove the center fold mark and press the twill tape fold in place (so that the twill tape sticks up, after ironing).



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13. Using the Gathering stitch at a 3/8" (1 cm) seam allowance and stitch a Gathering (or basting) stitch around the edge of the Strawberry Top. Leave the threads long at the beginning and end of the gathering stitches.

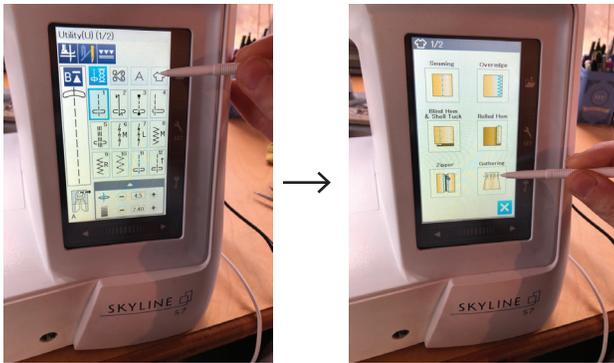
14. Pull the gathering threads on the right side of the fabric to gather the Strawberry Top circle. Tuck the edges of the fabric inside the center of the circle on the wrong side.

15. With the right side of the Strawberry Top facing up, press the fabric to flatten the gathered stitches. Tie the gathered thread tails in multiple knots to secure the gathering in place. Leave the thread ends long to trim later.

Make Pincushion Bottom:

16. Cut out (with a piece of scrap fabric) the Strawberry Bottom template.

17. Selecting the Gathering stitch, sew around the top curved edge at a 3/8" (1 cm) seam allowance.



18. Fold the Strawberry Bottom in half, right sides together, and iron the fold flat.

19. Using a standard straight stitch and a 1/4" (0.6 cm) seam allowance, sew along the side edge of the pin cushion. You will sew over the gathering tails (and will pick them through the fabric later for gathering).



20. Turn the strawberry right side out. Do not trim the seam or the point. (Trimming may weaken these areas for the filler.)

21. On the right side of the fabric, pull through the two gathering thread ends on each side of top edge. Pull these gathering threads to pull the opening of the pin cushion closed. Tuck the top edges of the fabric inside the center on the pincushion. Do not tie the gathering threads together yet.

22. With a funnel, carefully fill the pin cushion with a filler. After filling the pincushion (and packing the filling down) tie the gathering thread ends together, multiple times, to hold the gathering in place.

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Finishing Up:

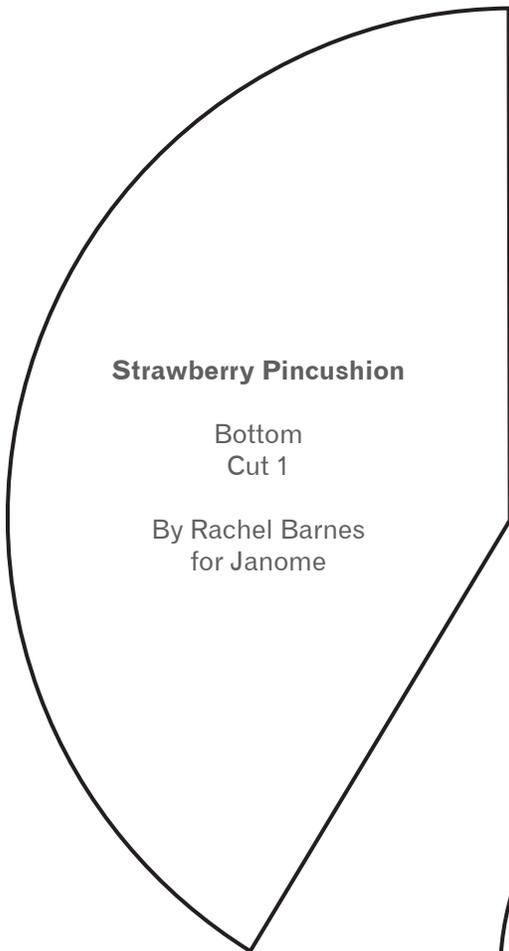
23. Place the Strawberry Top on top of the Strawberry Bottom. With sewing thread and a hand sewing needle, stitch around the underside of the Strawberry Top, attaching it to the Strawberry Bottom.

24. After the top is attached, trim the gathering thread ends from the Strawberry Top and bottom pieces.



Enjoy using your Strawberry Sewing Machine Needle pincushion! These strawberry inspired pin cushions could be hung on display or placed in a bowl for decoration.

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1" square
Verify
when printed