

Make Amanda Walker's stylish

floor cushions

Floor cushions are **hot items** right now.

They make great alternative seating to **accommodate** extra dinner party guests and they're perfect for **back patio garden parties** during the summer. **Pile them up in your lounge** and **chill out** with your friends in style.

essentials

Fabric: Ian Mankin, Acton
Cushion pads
Zip and zip sliders
Thread, matching

diy floor cushions

1 Cut the fabric to the same dimensions as your chosen cushion pad; when the cover is made up it will be slightly smaller than the pad, thus making it look plump.

2 Neaten the edges of the fabric squares by overlocking or zigzagging. Match the two pieces together with the right sides of the fabric facing, decide on the length of the opening needed for the zip; this is usually approximately 10cm shorter than the cushion pad dimensions. Position a pin 5cm away from a corner, then another on the opposite side; these pins mark the zip opening. Stitch, with a 1.5cm seam allowance, from the first pin, around the edges to the second pin, back-tacking at the beginning and end of the stitching.

3 Cut a length of zip to the same length as the gap left in the cover plus an extra 5cm. Pull open approximately 3cm of the zip and then pull on the zip slider. To stop the slider from coming off the end, stitch across the plastic teeth at both ends. If you have more

than one cover to make, this type of zip is a much cheaper option and it can be cut to your specific measurements.

4 Stitch the prepared zip into the opening using a zipper foot. With the right side of the fabric facing (the cover should not be turned through at this point) place the opened zip face-down matching the end with the zip slider to one end of the opening. Position the slider 3cm away from the end of the stitching, back into the cover; this will enable the zip to be stitched in place without the slider interfering with the stitching line. Pin one side of the zip in place, then stitch along the edge of the zip's teeth. Pin the remaining side, then stitch in place. Carefully thread the zip slider through to the right side, and turn the cover to the right side and press.

5 Insert the cushion pad, ensuring the corners are pushed well into the corners of the cover.

Buy your zips by the metre, but don't forget to get a zip slider, too

