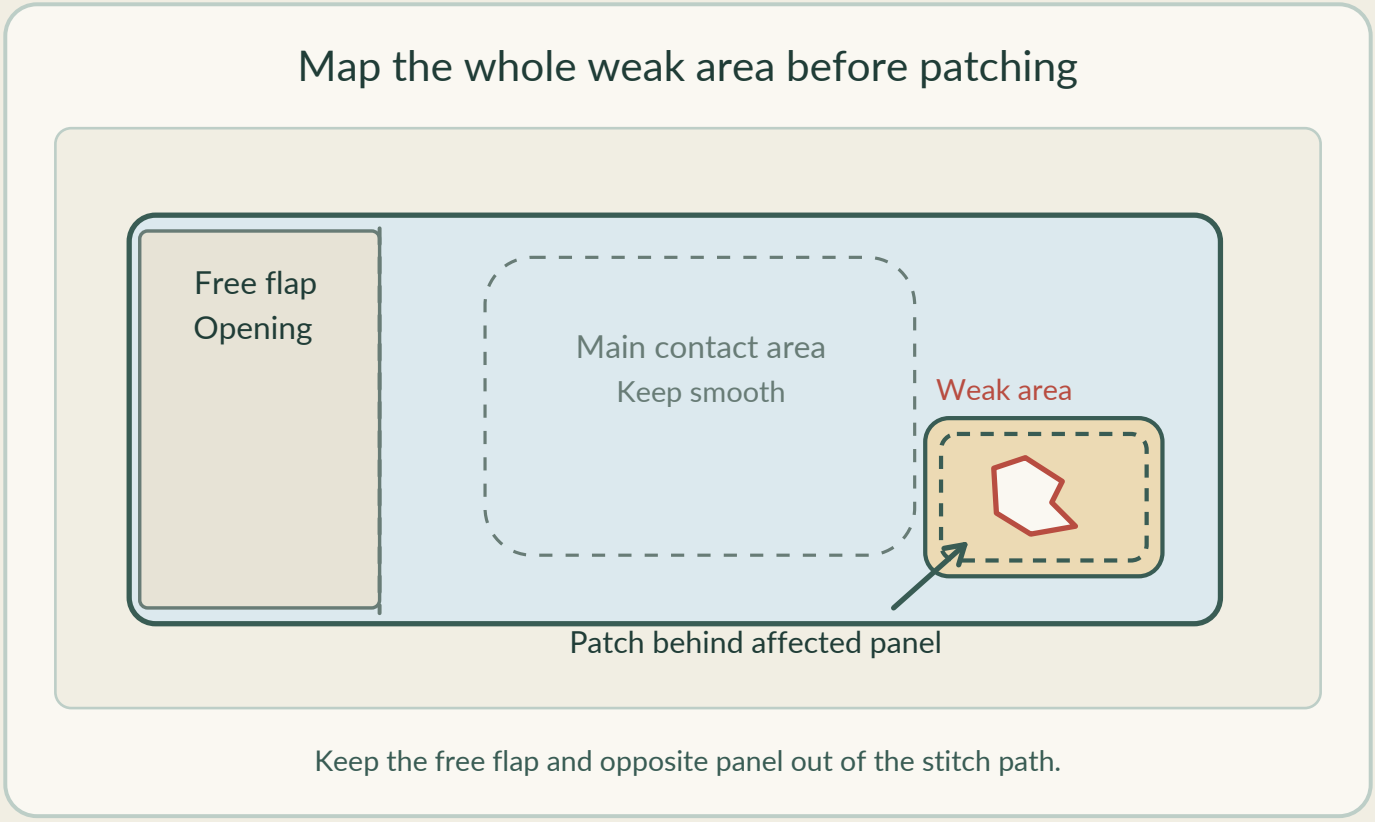
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Patch a Small Hole in a Cotton Pillowcase



Make a smooth, care-compatible patch on an ordinary adult cotton pillowcase while keeping the sleeping surface and opening comfortable.

14 practical steps • Original diagrams and repair records

Illustrative repair plans — not physical test results

Before you start

A local hole in a cotton pillowcase can become larger during ordinary laundering. This method is for an ordinary removable woven cotton pillowcase used by adults, with a small accessible defect and sound cloth surrounding it. Choose replacement if the textile is broadly thin, the defect sits where a patch would rub the face, the repair cannot lie smoothly, or the fabric is an infant, medical, barrier, flame-resistant or specialist bedding product. Do not repair the pillow insert itself. Remove the pillow before handling needles.

Materials

Clean pillowcase, soft compatible cotton woven scrap, suitable smooth thread, fine hand-sewing needle, ruler, paper, pencil, removable basting thread, fabric scissors for patch cloth, good light and a similar scrap for practice. Follow the original care label and the patch material instructions.

Plan the repair

Use a single soft cotton patch with a smooth finished edge on the inside of the affected panel. The finished patch must reach sound fabric beyond the complete hole and surrounding wear. Align the weave, precondition the patch separately as permitted, and sew the prepared perimeter through sound cloth without catching the opposite face or envelope flap. Where remaining hole margins are sound enough, secure them flat to the backing with small relaxed stitches from the face. Choose a low-bulk finish and inspect the entire contact area before use. If torn margins remain unstable, use a suitable alternative or replace the case.

Steps 1–2

1. Remove the pillow

Empty the case completely and lay it on a clean flat surface. Identify the opening, any envelope flap and each panel. Never sew while a pillow is inside.

2. Read the care label

Confirm ordinary woven cotton and the permitted wash and drying process. If the cloth is a specialty barrier, coated textile or the original fibre is uncertain, do not improvise a patch.

Steps 3–4

3. Map the wear

Inspect both faces in good light. Draw the hole and every visibly thin or broken area around it, rather than measuring only the open gap.

4. Choose the contact location

Identify the part normally in contact with the head and face. If a repair would create a rubbing ridge or unstable surface there, choose replacement rather than hiding the defect.

Steps 5–6

5. Find sound margins

Check that stable cloth surrounds the affected region and that it is possible to stitch the single panel without reaching a thick seam, flap or closure. Do not pull-test the damaged cloth.

6. Compare soft fabrics

Select a tightly woven but pliable cotton scrap of compatible weight, grain, colour behaviour and care. Avoid coarse denim, stiff adhesive backing or bulky thread. Compare handling on separate scrap.

Steps 7–8

7. Draft the finished patch

On paper, draw a rounded or simple rectangular outline reaching sound cloth on all sides. Add only the allowance needed for the actual chosen edge finish; no universal size is required.

8. Prepare the patch

Precondition the scrap separately according to compatible care instructions, then cut it with the planned allowance. Turn a small smooth edge or use a suitable low-profile finish. Do not cut original pillowcase cloth.

Steps 9–10

9. Position inside the case

Turn the empty case inside out. Put the prepared patch behind the hole, align the warp and weft and baste loosely in sound cloth. Keep the opposite panel and flap out of the sewing path.

10. Attach the perimeter

Sew small even relaxed stitches through the folded or finished patch edge and sound pillowcase cloth. Secure short thread ends without a hard knot; avoid a raised ridge or tight border.

Steps 11–12

11. Stabilize the opening

Turn to the face and inspect the remaining edges. Where sound enough, tack loose margins flat to the patch using small relaxed stitches. Do not force the hole closed or sew unsupported fragile yarn.

12. Clear every working aid

Remove all temporary basting, pins and needles, and count them against what you used. Check the opening and envelope flap are free. If anything is unaccounted for, do not use the case until found.

Steps 13–14

13. Inspect the whole surface

Lay the case relaxed and check the face and reverse for loose threads, roughness, bulk, exposed sharp objects and any trapped layers. If the area cannot remain smooth and comfortable, replace the case.

14. Record permitted care

If suitable, launder as the original case and patch instructions allow, then dry completely. Record actual observations after care. Replace the case if the patch lifts, a tear spreads or rubbing occurs.

Fix, care and preserve

The face still feels rough

Do not cover the roughness with dense stitching. A softer low-bulk patch or replacement is preferable; do not use an uncomfortable sleeping surface.

The opening is partly sewn shut

If the cloth remains sound, undo only the affected new stitches and separate the flap or opposite panel. Reattach the patch without trapping free layers.

The patch shrinks differently

Record the actual change after permitted care. Do not stretch the case to compensate; select compatible material or replace it.

The hole spreads beyond the patch

The full weak zone was not adequately supported or the fabric is deteriorating. Stop using the case and reassess the entire panel; replacement may be the best choice.

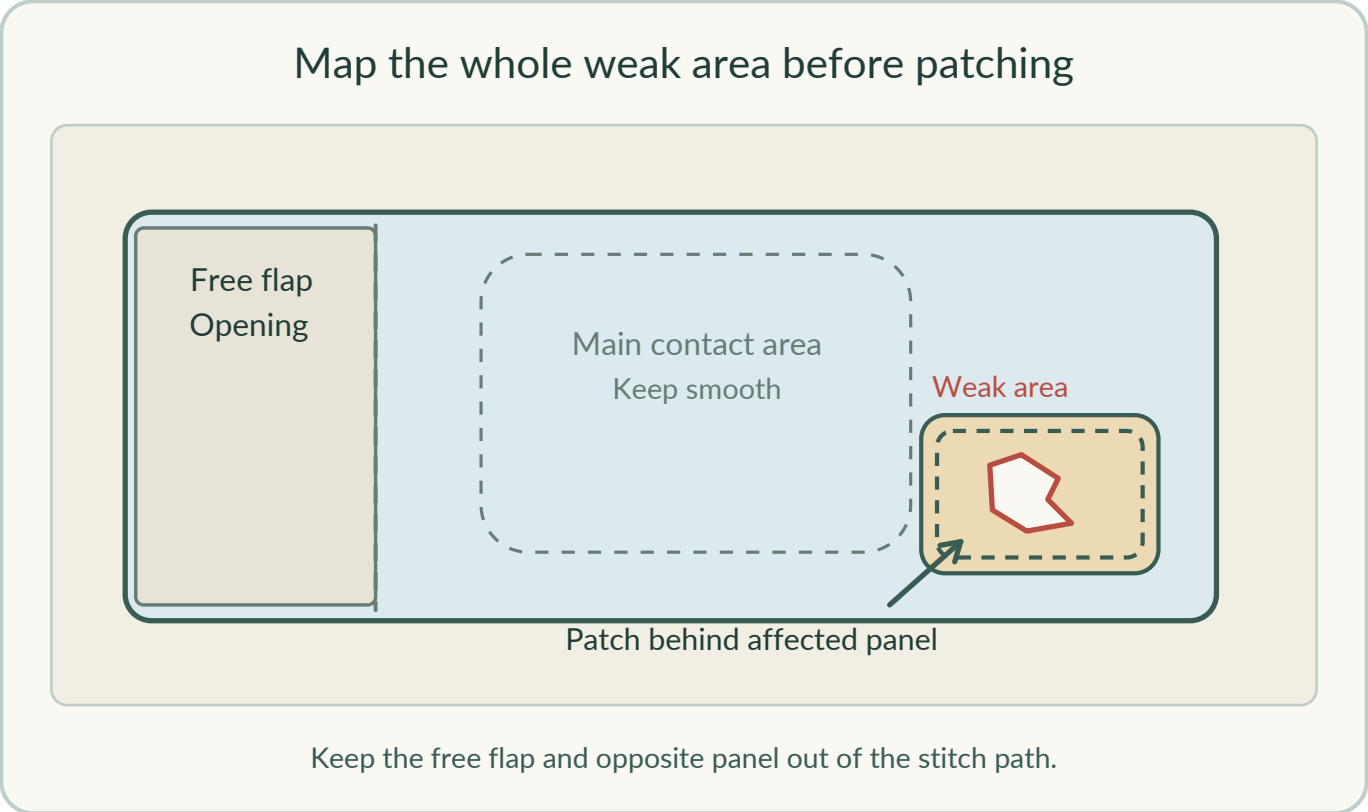
Originality and evidence boundary

Original Steadleaf English prose, design, diagrams and records. Follow the actual item, textile and tool instructions. No physical repair, durability, load, strength, washing, flame-resistance or compatibility testing was performed by the publisher. Ordinary adult garments and non-technical household textiles only; no safety or performance certification.

Print the following pages separately if desired. Schematics are illustrative, not full-size cutting patterns. Record only actual observations.

Pattern 1

Placement map: an empty adult pillowcase lies flat, with the opening and free envelope flap marked separately. A small local defect away from the main contact zone is covered by a rounded patch on the inside. The dashed stitch perimeter lies beyond the whole weak area in sound cloth. This is a schematic, not a prescribed patch dimension.



Pattern 2

Layer cross-section and finish: a single pillowcase panel is supported by a soft woven patch behind the hole. Show a low-profile turned patch edge with perimeter stitches through sound panel only, and small separate stitches holding stable torn margins to the patch. The opposite case panel stays free; no exposed rough edge or bulky knot.

Layer detail — keep the contact face smooth

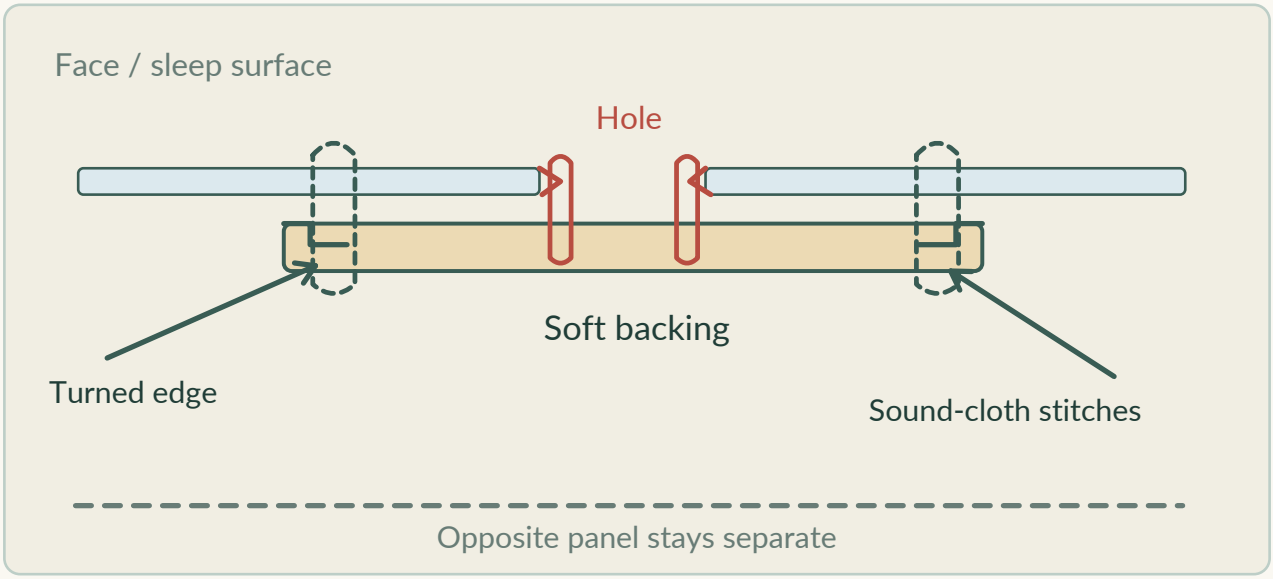


Illustration only. Replace if the repair is rough or uncomfortable.

Record 1 — Materials and repair plan

Record actual observations only. Use UNKNOWN or NOT CHECKED for anything you have not established.

Case type / care / intended use

Opening and full weak zone / units

Face-contact area / comfortable placement?

Sound margins / flap / layer access

Patch weight / grain / care

Finished patch and edge allowance

Stitch route / practice observation

Decision: patch / replace / refer

Record 2 — Finish and follow-up

Record actual observations only. Use UNKNOWN or NOT CHECKED for anything you have not established.

Actual patch / dimensions / material

Perimeter and margin stitches

Opposite panel and flap free?

All tools / pins / basting removed?

Face and reverse smooth?

Permitted care / drying observation

Decision: continue / replace / refer

Date / follow-up