

Fabric-Padded Headboard

No sewing or upholstery experience is needed to make a beautiful headboard for a bed. The trick to making it easier is having the plywood cut at the lumberyard and having no legs to attach. This headboard is attached to the wall above the bed. Padded headboards add color and texture and break up the uniform look of a perfectly matched set of bedroom furniture. A padded headboard makes the bed look very inviting and is comfortable to lean against when reading in bed. Instead of covering the border of the headboard with one piece of fabric, I covered it with four different striped fabrics. Each fabric was cut into pieces, then pleated and stapled to the headboard consecutively to achieve a rainbow effect. Decorative cord is used to hide the staples between the center and border fabrics. A quick way to finish the headboard is to buy cord that coordinates with your fabric. I could not find any in purple so I made a ruched cord cover to hide a plain white cord.

Materials

Fabric for center of headboard	Rolled quilt batting
Coordinating fabric for border cut into fifteen 10 x 10-inch pieces for a twin bed	Staple gun and staples
1/4- or 1/2-inch plywood, cut to bed size	Felt-tipped marker
Pencil	Twisted paper cord
1-inch foam, cut 10 inches larger than bed size	1/2- to 1-inch diameter decorative cord
Hot-glue gun and glue sticks	Coordinating fabric to cover cord, if necessary
	1-3 saw-toothed picture hangers, depending on bed size

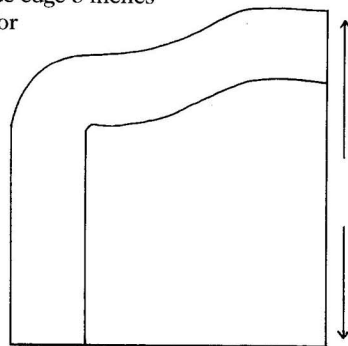
Design Extra:

Make a pillow from two round doilies, stuff with batting, and weave colorful ribbons through the lace edge to close. Tie ends of ribbons into a bow.

Approximate Sizes:

	Twin	Full	Queen	King
Standard Bed Size	24" x 39"	24" x 54"	24" x 61"	24" x 76"
Center fabric	1 yard	1-2 yards	2-3 yards	2-3 yards
Border fabric	1 yard	1 1/2 yards	2-3 yards	2-3 yards
2-inch foam	34" x 49"	34" x 64"	34" x 71"	34" x 86"
Quilt batting	34" x 49"	34" x 64"	34" x 71"	34" x 86"
Twisted paper cord	2 1/2 yards	2 3/4 yards	3 yards	3 1/2 yards
Decorative cord	2 1/2 yards	2 3/4 yards	3 yards	3 1/2 yards

1. To determine measurements for fabric and materials, see above.
2. Trace headboard pattern and either enlarge on a photocopier or draw your own. Make one copy, then turn traced pattern over on copier. Make second copy for reverse image for opposite side of headboard. (Figure 1)
3. Transfer pattern to plywood by drawing over the photocopy with a pencil. Turn copy over and rub with pencil point over wrong side of copy. Graphite from pencil will leave the pattern on the plywood. Use second copy to draw other half of headboard on plywood. Cut plywood along pattern lines.
4. Center and hot-glue foam to plywood. Lay batting on work surface and center headboard face down on quilt batting. Bring edges of batting and foam to back and staple taut on all sides.
5. Turn headboard to right side. Mark with felt-tipped pen from outside edge 5 inches around sides and top for border. Untwist paper cord no wider than 1/2 inch. Starting from bottom left, lay cord over drawn line and place vertical staples about every inch along cord into plywood around headboard. This will make a groove in the foam.



(Figure 1)

6. Cut center piece of fabric to fit slightly over cord. Staple fabric along paper cord, then bring bottom to back and staple taut.
7. Cut fabric for border pieces into 10 x 10-inch pieces. The number of pieces needed will be determined by the size of each pleat and the size of the headboard. Lay first piece at center top, fold a pleat in fabric, and staple edge to cord. Continue pleating and stapling fabric. Turn side edges of fabric under before stapling each piece. Add consecutive colors in one direction until you reach the bottom. Loosely pleat top of each piece and staple taut to back of headboard. Repeat from center to opposite side. Your paper cord is now covered with fabric and staples.

8. If you are going to make a ruched cord cover you will need a strip of fabric that is 3 inches wide and double the width of the bed. This fabric can be pieced by fusing fabric together to make one long piece. When the fabric is ruched the seams are hidden. To make a ruched cord cover to hide plain cord, see page 14.
9. Place a line of hot glue over staples and press decorative or ruched cord into groove to hide staples. Staple ends of cord to the back of headboard.
10. Attach 2 large pieces of picture-hanging hardware to each side on back of headboard. Place a third in the center for a queen- or king-size bed. Center right above bed and hang.