

Creative Modifications

When something is almost, but not quite, what I want I'm just not quite satisfied. I will imagine what changes will make it better and set out to "fix" it. I get grouchy if I have to adapt to something so I'd rather adapt the something to me.

Last year I bought a hard side queen size waterbed; the basic bag inside a wooden box – but firm and wave less. It's the same kind I used to have, and missed so much, but I'd forgotten how hard the side was when getting out. I wanted the surface space of a king size but the room isn't big enough. Regular waterbed sheets, which tuck inside the box, always come un-tucked and look and feel messy. I'm older and smarter now, demanding of my creature comforts and very creative, so I set out to make it better.

I decided that I could extend the useable space in the bed, make it look neater, and soften the edge to keep from bruising myself all in one project. I measured and figured and visualized results, then bought a set of California king (longer) size sheets. After buying and placing inexpensive padded rails on the sides of the queen size bed, the fitted California King sheet is the perfect size to fit out over the whole thing. Because it has a deep pocket, it actually fits all the way down over the wooden box. That way, the elastic holds it in place.

The California king top sheet was too wide. It touched the floor on both sides (basic waterbeds are low) and looked messy so I got out my sewing machine. I folded over fifteen inches on one side, pressed a sharp edge and ran a line of stitching along it. After I cut off the excess fabric, I folded over another inch and machine stitched it to create a finished hem. That made the sheet the size I wanted.

To keep the top sheet in place, I fold box corners on both bottom corners and safety pin them in place. I considered permanently sewing the corners, but unpinning and washing it flat, then re-pinning it, keeps it looking smoother I think.

Because waterbeds are lower than mattresses and box springs on a frame, a full size bedspread covers it just right. Full size bedding is so much less expensive than king and queen, I was delighted!

Now we come to the pillowcases. King size pillows are too big, in my opinion, so I have standard size. It was easy to turn the cases inside-out, run a line of stitching across and cut off the excess fabric. When turned right side-out, they fit the standard size pillows perfectly.

I decided that was such a clever idea, I would downsize all the old king size pillowcases that I stopped using a few years ago when I replaced all the pillows with standard size.

I dug them out of the linen closet and started turning them inside-out. Yuck! I had no idea what was inside! Along the seams and packed into the corners was a ton of icky stuff! It was lint but I'm sure it had a lot of skin cells, dust and dust mites, (I am thoroughly grossed out by the enlarged photos of those creepy critters!) and I don't want to even think about what else!

I was glad to be cutting that part off those cases, as part of the project! I was happy to transform all those expensive but unused cases into useable ones. However, now I turn my pillowcases inside-out to wash them!

If you are living with something that is almost, but not quite, right do not just tolerate it. Put a little thought and creativity to work. We all deserve to be totally happy!

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