

TREND TALK

IDEAL HOME'S STYLE EDITOR NICKY PHILLIPS SINGS THE PRAISES OF THIS CLASSIC WAY TO STYLE UP CUSHIONS

“Karate-chop cushions? I'm 100% converted”



Aside from their colour or pattern, the way you place your cushions – layer, scatter, keep symmetrical, basically, whatever you

do – can be so personal.

I've always been a 'puncher' (pulling a cushion taut and then punching it in the centre) so having been a stylist for 25 years, I certainly didn't think I would see the day when I would have extolled the virtues of a karate-chop cushion! But I'm seeing them everywhere again and thanks to the interior designers and boutique hotels that have elevated the look, I'm 100% converted.

I spoke to interior designer Sean Symington about this styling trick, one that he often uses in his projects. 'In order to achieve the plump and luxurious look I'm after,' explains Sean, 'I choose cushion pads that are at least an inch larger than the covers. This makes all the difference when styling them as you are able to "fluff and chop" so they sit up straight and look their best. I love a crisp cushion and showing off the beautiful fabric is always the priority.'

In essence, the reason I love a karate-chopped cushion is its ability to make a super-smart, polished look more casual and a casual look way smarter than it is. Just whatever you do, never mix a chop and a punch!



IDEAL IDEA

If you have a sofa full of cushions, every one needs 'the chop'. But if they're one in front of the other, chop only the largest at the back

Room scheme designed
by Sean Symington