

Creative Living

with Sheryl Borden



#6400 Series

Sewing & Fashion - Section III

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Due to the size of this section, it has been separated into three sections in order for it to be downloaded more quickly. For instance, “Tech Tote” is in Section I on page 3, whereas “90-Minute Quilts For the Community” is in Section II on page 11, and “Basics for Machine Piecing Precision” is in Section III on page 14.

Basics for Machine Piecing Precision



SEWING TEST FOR ACCURATE 1/4" SEAM ALLOWANCES

The success of your quilts depends upon precise 1/4" seam allowances. It is a good idea to test your seam allowances.

TEST: Cut four rectangles that measure 1 1/2" x 4 1/2". Sew them together along the long edges. Press the seam allowances to one side. The finished piece should measure exactly 4 1/2" square. If it does not, adjust your seam allowance and repeat the test.



PIECING PRECISION FOR SQUARE WITHIN SQUARE UNITS AND SIMILAR UNITS

If you have had trouble with pieces fitting in the past, it could have been because you eased the corners to meet the stitching line. When you do that, you are robbing valuable seam allowance from the next seam.

Match the center of the long edge of the triangle with the center of the side of the square. Pin. The tips of the triangle will extend 3/8" beyond the edges of the square as shown in figure 1.

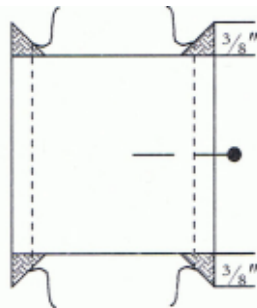


Fig. 1

Stitch. Press the seam allowances toward the triangle. Repeat on the opposite side of the square (fig. 1).

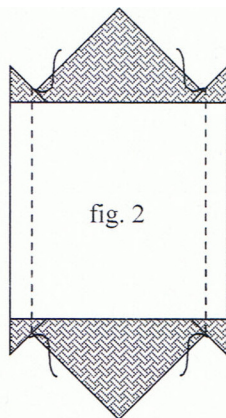


fig. 2

Sew the remaining triangles to the last two sides of the square. NOTE: This time the pieces will meet at the seam line (fig. 2). Press the seam allowances toward the triangles. Trim the dog ears.

Following the steps above will leave you with a perfect square with straight edges and a 1/4" seam allowances beyond the intersection of the stitching lines as highlighted in the circle on one side of the unit in figure 3.

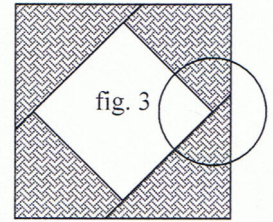


fig. 3

Do you want to make a sample Square Within a Square unit? Cut and use the following pieces:

- Cut one square 4 3/4" for the center.
- Cut two squares 3 7/8". Cut each of the 3 7/8" squares into half-square triangles, four triangles total.

Here is a slight variation. If you are sewing a half-square triangle to a square as shown in figure 4, align the square, 90° corner of the triangle with a corner of the square. See figure 5. Again, the tip of the triangle will extend 3/8" beyond the opposite end of the square.

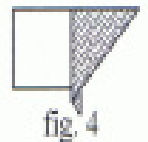


fig. 4

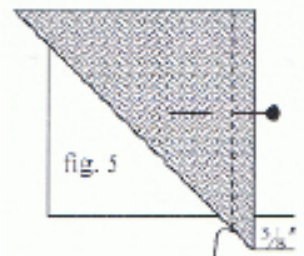


fig. 5

Here is another similar application of this information.

If you are sewing two half-square triangles to a quarter-square triangle as in making a traditional flying geese unit, align the 45° corners of the quarter-square triangle and the first half-square triangle. See figure 6.

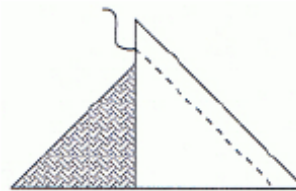


fig. 6

The second tip of the half-square triangle will extend 3/8" beyond the square corner of the quarter-square triangle.

Add the second half-square triangle to complete the flying geese unit. Again, align the 45° corners, and let the opposite tip of the half-square triangle extend beyond the top of the unit (fig. 7).

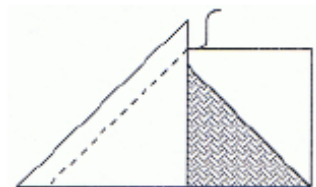


fig. 7

The top of the flying geese unit will be straight, and there will be an accurate 1/4" seam allowance just like when making the square within a square unit. See figure 8.

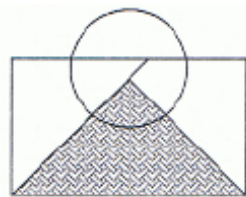


fig 8

Do you want to make a sample Flying Geese unit? Cut and use the following pieces:

Cut one square 2 7/8". Cut the 2 7/8" square into half-square triangles, two triangles total.

Add this information to your "tool box" of skills and use it as you continue your journey to becoming a better and more confident quilter!

**COURTESY: Debbie Caffrey
Debbie's Creative Moments, Inc.**

Handmade Sewn Gifts

Super Fast Jelly-Roll Quilt

Approximate finished size: 65" X 79"

Supplies:

1 jelly roll (40 strips that are 2 x 2 inches wide)
1st border: 1/2 yard
2nd border: 1 1/4 yards
Backing and Binding: 5 yards

Directions:

1. Sew all the jellyroll strips end to end in random order. Cut the selvages off as you go. You will have a very long strip of fabric, approximately 1600 inches long. (40 strips x 40")

Important: Cut 20" off of the beginning of the long strip of fabric and throw it in your stash. You won't be using it. This will make it so your seams will be staggered as you sew them together.

2. Now find the 2 ends of the strip and put right sides together and start sewing. Sew down the long side of the strip to the end and cut the loop at the end of the strip. You now have a very long strip that is 2-jellyroll strips wide.

At this point, you can press them open, but pressing is really not necessary until you have the whole thing sewn. Remember this is supposed to be a fun and FAST quilt. Don't stress over anything!

3. Next find the two ends of this long strip again and put right sides together. Sew all the way down to the end and cut the loop at the end again. You will now have a strip that is 4 jellyroll strips wide.

4. Now find the two ends of this long strip and put right sides together. Sew all the way down to the end and cut the loop at the end. You will now have a strip that is 8 jellyroll strips wide.

5. Again find the two ends of the long strip and put right sides together. Sew all the way down to the end and cut the loop at the end. You will now have a strip that is 16 jellyroll strips wide.

6. For the last time, find the two ends of the long strip and put right sides together. Sew all the way down to the end and cut the loop at the end. You will now have a strip that is 32 jellyroll strips wide.

7. You are finished!!! You now have the center of your quilt. It should measure approximately 50" x 64".

8. Square it up.

9. Borders are next:
1st border: Cut 6 - 2 1/2 inch strips. Join together. Measure and apply borders as shown - across top and bottom first, then sew to sides of quilt.

2nd border: Cut 7 - 6" Strips. Join together. Measure and apply border as shown - across top and bottom first, then sew to sides of quilt.



Hip Headbands

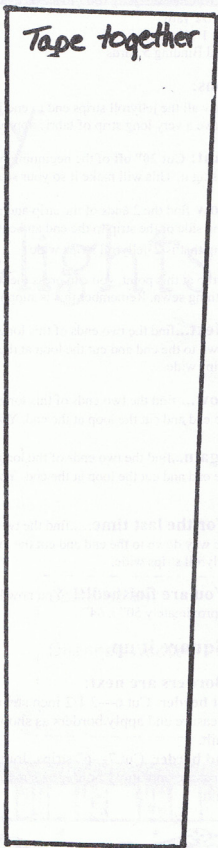
Supplies:

1/4 yard of fabric
1/8 yard of fabric
Matching Thread

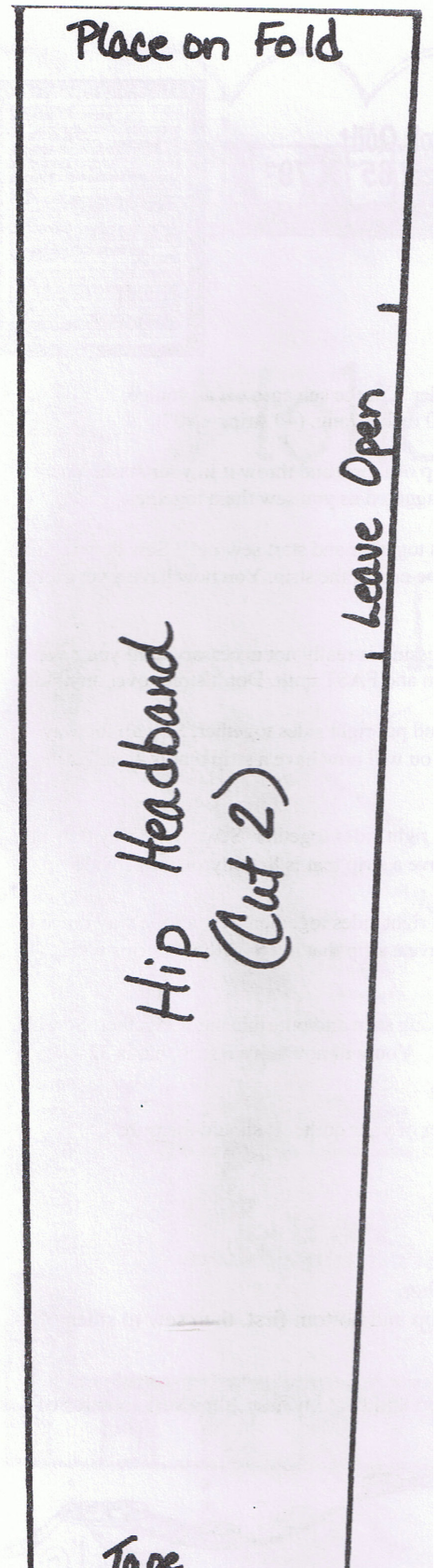


Directions:

1. Cut out pattern and tape together where shown.
2. Place pattern on fold of fabric and cut 2.
3. With right sides together, pin and sew around headband, leaving a two-inch opening on one side of headband.
4. Turn fabric right side out and push out corners.
5. To make flower, cut from a different/coordinating fabric a piece measuring 2 inches x approximately 40 inches.
6. Press strip in half lengthwise so that it now measures 1 inch x 40 inches.
7. Start coiling and twisting strip to make flower. Make sure the strip is flattened as you go. Flower can be sewn by machine halfway through process to prevent flower from slipping. Finish flower to desired size.
8. Sew through all coils randomly so flower cannot come undone.
9. Stitch flower on to headband.



Enlarge the pattern on the left to be 8 1/2" in total length; 2 1/4" at the top edge that says "Tape together," and 1 7/8" at the other end.



TEN MINUTE TABLE TOPPER

Supplies:

- 1/3 yard print fabric, center piece
- 1/2 yard coordinating print, backing



Directions:

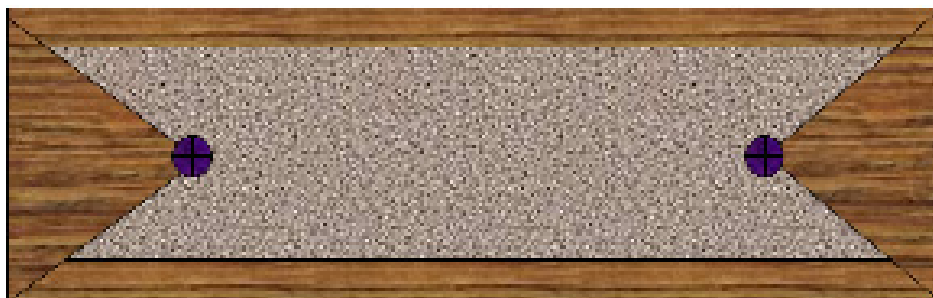
1. Cut center piece of fabric 10 to 12 inches wide X WOF (width of fabric).
2. Cut backing piece of fabric 18 inches X WOF.
3. Place right sides of center and backing fabric together, pin on each side and stitch long edges using a 1/2 inch seam allowance. Short ends will be left open.
4. Turn right side out. You now have a long tube.
5. Lay flat on ironing board and press so that the backing fabric borders the center piece evenly on long sides.
6. Trim short ends even if needed.
7. Fold fabric in half lengthwise with center piece to outside. Stitch using a 1/2 inch seam allowance on both short ends.
8. Press seams open.
9. Turn seams inside to form a point; press.
10. Stitch a decorative button or embellishment at the edge of short seam to secure in place.



Step 5



Step 7



COURTESY: Shannon Wooton
NM Cooperative Extension Service



Fringe Flowers With the Embroidery Machine

Fringe flowers add additional dimension to embroidery designs. There are several types of fringe flowers that can be made with an embroidery machine.

One type of fringe flower that is the easiest is shown in Illustrations 1 and 2. After sewing all of the design, flip the hoop over. With small sharp scissors, cut away the bobbin thread to the long satin stitches that made the fringe. Don't worry as there is plenty of other stitching to hold one side of the threads in. Brush away the clipped bobbin threads. On the front side of the design, use tweezers to pull the thread loops to the top. Trim any unruly fringe threads on the front side. There always seems to be a few.



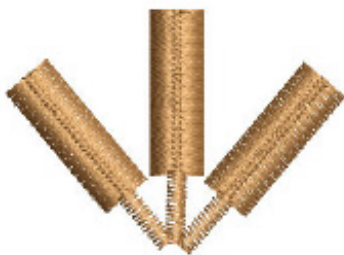
Illustration 1



Illustration 2

Another type of fringe flowers is shown in Illustration 3. It is created by cutting each side of the satin stitch bar on the backside creating a short stubby fringe.

These are tiny little things so be patient with them. Trim along each side of the satin stitch bar cutting the bobbin thread even with the fabric. This is a tight area so snip away at them patiently until they are cut. Leave the bobbin stitches and the embroidery thread "fuzz" in the center of the satin stitch bar. Do not brush that off the backside, as it must remain to keep the front stitches in place.



On the front side, use tweezers to gently loosen the stitches on either side of the satin stitch bar. Gently rake under the stitches. Cutting the fringe this way creates more of a fuzzy fringe rather than loopy fringe like the other fringe flowers.

Trim any unruly fringe threads on the front side. There always seems to be a few.

inter-Illustration 3

For an added measure of security add a small piece of fusible facing to the back side of the fringe on this second type for fringe flower. I recommend "Fusi Knit" brand fusible because it is light weight, not scratchy, and it stays fused.

To add the fusible, keep the design in the hoop. While adding the fusible to the backside of the work, the concave side of the hoop protects the design from getting crushed during the fusing process.

**COURTESY: Laura Waterfield
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