

2011 TQS BOM BELOVED BEAUTIES/ RUFFLED ROSES

Margo's technique for making mini-piping

Although Sue doesn't include it in her directions, for my scrappy version of the 2011 BOM I added mini-piping in three places: around the center appliquéd block, in the appliquéd swags and in the binding.



And I also used it in the swags and the binding of the Beloved Beauties version:



You can get wonderful instructions for doing mini-piping on TQS Episode #109 with Susan Cleveland:

<http://www.thequiltshow.com/os/shows.php/episode/109> or check out her book and piping tool here:
<http://www.piecesbewithyou.com/patterns.htm>

Susan uses polyester drapery cord for her piping and strongly advises that you steam it well to pre-shrink it, even though it is polyester. She suggests sewing with a corded buttonhole foot (#3 for Berninas) or an appliqué foot with a groove on the bottom (#23 for Berninas).

Ricky Tims' Grand Finale DVD http://www.rickytims.com/online-store?p...egory_id=2 shows how Ricky does it. Ricky uses #3 pearl cotton cording for his piping. It also should be pre-shrunk by steaming well before making the piping. Ricky recommends using a 7-groove pin-tuck foot (#32 for Berninas) with the #3 pearl cotton cording.

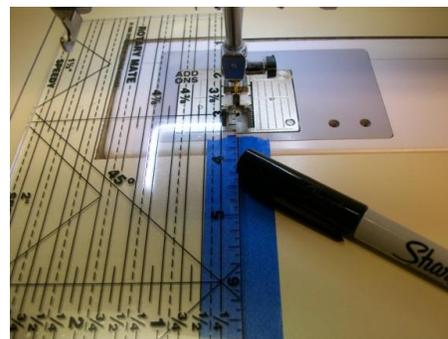
Sharon Schamber does a demo on her web site where she starches her fabric before she cuts the strips and she recommends using Red Heart polyester knitting yarn and says that it doesn't need to be preshrunk. She says that the only foot that will work is the invisible zipper foot (#35 for Berninas).

Obviously, mini-piping is not an original technique from me!

All of these experts lead me to believe that there are no single correct products or techniques for making piping. Here are some assorted cords that I've used successfully, but I am always very careful to steam the cords to pre-shrink them before I wrap it in fabric.



To make mini piping I like to starch my fabric before I cut it into 1" wide strips. I cut enough fabric strips (plus a little extra for joining the strips) and one long piece of cording for the entire project. If I'm using the piping on a straight seam, I'll cut across the grain of the fabric, but if I'm going to be curving it at all, it must be cut on the true bias. The next thing is to join all the strips so that the piping can be made in one long piece. To prepare my machine, I put a piece of painter's tape directly in front of the feed dogs and draw a line straight out in front of the needle.



The ends of the strips can be joined with a diagonal seam by simply crossing them with right sides together in front of the needle and stitching straight across to the other side. Keeping the cross lined up with my drawn line eliminates the need for drawing a stitching line on each piece of fabric. Trim the seam allowances to 1/4" and press the seams open then press the pieced strip in half lengthwise, wrong sides together. The cording will snug up against the inside of that fold.



Because I usually use a heavier cord, I like to use a 5 groove pin-tuck foot (#31 for Berninas) to stitch the piping. I use my fingernails to be sure that the cording is pushed into the fold on the left of the piping fabric, and a stack of Post-It Notes™ to keep the cord lined up in front of the foot, like Susan recommends in Episode # 109. I move my needle to stitch just to the right of the cording, using a matching color, fine cotton thread on the top and in the bobbin.

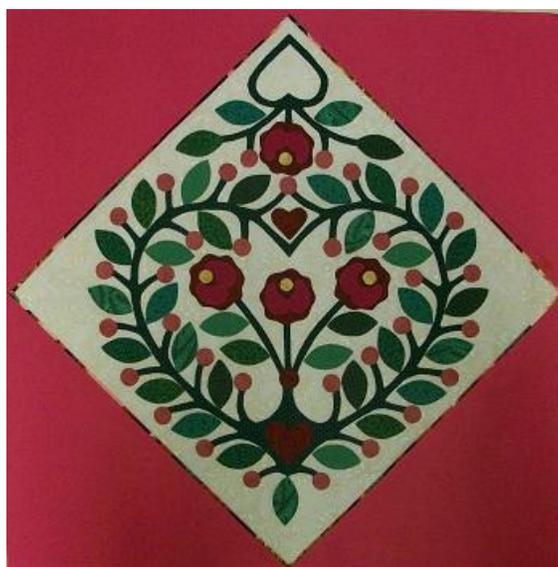


The piping sometimes needs to be trimmed to 1/4", but not always. In order to do this, you can use a regular ruler, but the task will go much faster and be much more accurate if you will use Susan Cleveland's Piping Hot Binding™ tool: http://www.piecesbewithyou.com/patterns_pipinghotbinding_detail.htm



For the first month's part of our Ruffled Roses BOM, I prepared the piping with fabric cut on the straight of grain and inserted it between the completed appliqué center and the setting triangles by trimming the piping to 1/4", lining up the raw edges, and stitching a strip to each side of the trimmed center before adding the setting triangles. Because the piping is prepared in one long strip, you can avoid any joining seams near the corners of the block. Using the pin-tuck foot keeps the piping smooth, and stitching the setting triangles from the back will allow you to see exactly where you need to stitch.

I really like the way it looks!



Instructions for using the piping in the swags and the binding will be covered as they are needed.