



HOW-TO Serge Into Spiraling

By Linda McGehee

Use the serger to create quick piecing. With a narrow rolled hem of decorative thread like Woolly Nylon or Woolly Nylon with Metallic Thread on the outside, form the illusion of corded piping. The serger is so much faster than the straight stitch machine and the pressing time is down to a minimum.

Step 1

Beginning with a variety of colors and a combination of light, medium, serge several 45 inch strips (width of fabric) together with the wrong sides together and a narrow rolled edge. Use Woolly Nylon in all positions for the best coverage, or use Woolly Nylon in the upper looper and all purpose thread in the lower looper and needle. It may be necessary to alter tensions. As several strips of fabric are stitched together in this manner, it appears that a small corded piping has been inserted. It is quick, it is easy, yet it looks so complicated.

Step 2

The long strips serged together form a set that should measure 7 to 16 inches wide. Make 4 sets when working on a garment with the design around the body. Make 2 sets when spiraling a portion of a garment. Press from the wrong side. Use a see-through ruler and rotary cutter to square the ends of the strips.

Step 3

With serged sets laying flat on a surface, wrong side up, fold one corner over to the side to form a bias angle. Folding some sets to the right and others to the left add variety to the finished project, as an opposite or mirror image is formed.

Step 4

Place a pin in the 1/4 inch seam at the corner. With wrong sides together, pivot the corner to align the longer, straight edges. This may seem twisted and awkward at first, but it will work. Bias strips are forming.

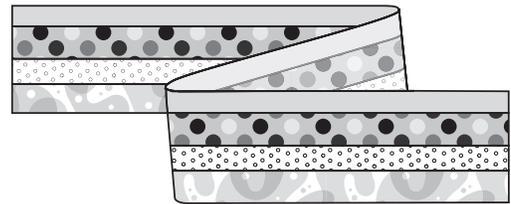
Step 5

Start serging the outer strips together forming a spiraling or barber pole effect until reaching the end of the strip. This step forms a tube with pointed edges extending from both ends.

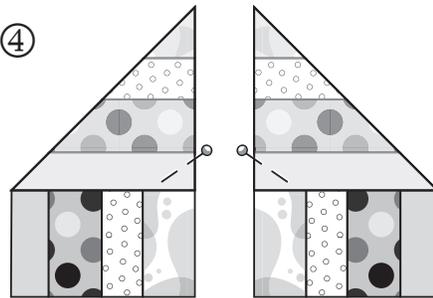
Step 6

When the seam is complete, make a press line along one side of the folded tube. Cut the fold line off with a ruler and rotary cutter to expose a larger piece of bias/diagonal parallel strips with no waste.

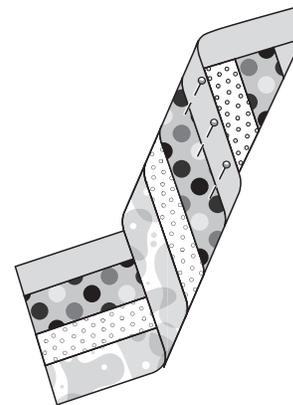
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