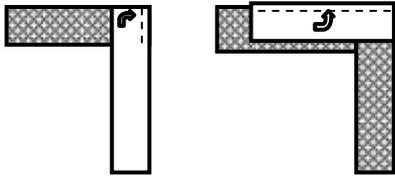


Making a braid border

Carole Johnson, 2/18/2021

This example uses 2 ½" x 6 ½" rectangles of red, white, and blue fabrics.

Start by placing one white on a red rectangle at the short ends, right sides



together.

Sew a partial seam on this first one, only about an inch. Finger press the seam up. Sew the red-white piece right sides together to a blue rectangle. This is a long seam. Press up. Keep adding red, white, and blue rectangles.

To make things go more quickly, sew 3 or 4 sets at the same time, so you don't have to cut threads so much.

End each set with a blue on the right side of the set. That way you can sew sets together easily, sewing the blue from the top of one set to the red at the bottom of another set.

This is where the partial seam comes in.

Fold the white/red piece up and pin it out of the way. Sew the blue/white right sides together with the red fabric. Now finish the partial seam and the two sets are connected.

1. Fabric required to make a braid that goes around a 23" x 45" panel:

¾ yard each of red, white, and blue, (using the 2 ½" x 6 ½" rectangles).

2. Trimming the border. Press seams up, all in one direction.

Sew 3 or 4 sets together. (I have found that 16" makes a good size set. If you make it longer, it becomes cumbersome to handle.)



Lay out the long border of 3 or 4 sets, all pressed flat. Line your ruler up at one side and cut off all the points. Measure from that cut side 7 ¼", and cut off the points on the other side. (If your seams were larger than ¼", you'll cut at 7").

Now you have bias on both sides, so don't stretch it.

3. Apply the border to the top of the panel, leaving 7 ¼" free on the left side. This will be completed after the left border is sewn. Cut the border using a ruler lined up with the right side of the panel.

Add the right side border starting at the top of the already sewn top border. Cut off even with bottom of panel. Continue around the panel, completing the left top corner after the left border is sewn and trimmed. Square up all corners.

4. Make your next border something on the straight grain in order to stabilize the bias side of the braid border.