

Helpful Stitching Hint

.....Quilting Techniques

Trapunto or Italian Quilting

Trapunto is a form of quilting that only quilts in specific areas. As with other quilting Trapunto is the sewing of two fabrics together with padding in between. The backing fabric is of a fine, but tightly woven fabric. The stitching of two parallel rows by hand is worked through the two layers of fabric. The backing fabric is slit so that the quilted areas can be padded with yarn or cord. For wider features in the design a fine filling can be used.

History:

Trapunto or Italian Quilting was widely used in Europe as early as 1740. Predominantly using linen fabric and threads, complicated patterns of raised outline were easily visible and were used for clothing as well as household articles. Today this techniques is used on a variety of fabric, mainly decorative household articles, including bed quilts, cushions etc.

Fabrics suitable:

For the major fabric - satins, fine linens, tightly woven silks, polished cottons, chintz. Suitable backing fabrics include organdie, organza or a tightly woven, semi transparent fabric with the same washing properties as the main fabric. Use thread matching the main fabric or for a different effect, use slight darker tone of thread. For the padding use a matching 8 ply yarn (or a suitable sized cording) and stuffing for the wider areas.

Directions:

1. Cut out the main fabric and the backing fabric to the correct size of the item to be decorated, plus 3cm seam allowance.
2. Mark design lightly on the wrong side of the background fabric
3. Baste the two pieces together with wrong sides of fabric together
4. Using the matching thread work fine running stitches around the design, keeping the two lines parallel except for areas of the design that require a little more padding. (Machine stitching can be used for more simple designs)
5. Use either double or single thread, depending on the space between the line and the amount of stuffing you require. With a tapestry needle threaded with a matching yarn: thread needle through the parallel lines, leaving a centimetre of thread protruding. Start from the centre of your design. If you have long sections in the design, at intervals pull the needle and length of thread through the fine backing, then reinsert the needle through the same hole and continue. To end, cut the thread leaving a centimetre of thread protruding.
6. To pad wider areas, snip a tiny hole in the backing fabric and stuff area firmly with padding (see diagram)
7. Carefully remove all tacking.



Wrong Side



Right Side

Art Quilting

Art quilting is a medium for visual expression. The technique includes all kinds of quilt stitching, hand and machine work and it can be very individual. Experimentation with machine and hand stitches, with textures, colours, stitches, threads and fabrics. Project may be large or small and can be combined with other techniques.

Shapes to be worked can be circles, squares, panels, teardrops, tabs, etc. 'Tabs' are the example given and can be used as the total produce such as a small hanging, or forming a decorative edge.

The small hanging using the 'tab' design

Fabric s suitable: The end use will influence fabric chosen. Surface fabrics chosen for this technique are cotton and rayon, printed and plain, fine wadding and a fine background fabric.

Directions:

1. Produce patterns – rectangular with a shaped base
2. Place front and back fabric, right sides together with wadding outside.
3. Machine stitch edge around edge, leaving top.
4. Turn through to right sides and press well.
5. Machine stitch designs on each tab.
Additional decoration can be added.
6. Place as required on to a backing fabric and zigzag to fasten.
7. Finish of any edge with a fine piping.



Stuffing shapes to form a 3-D effect – a fun use of applying the technique of stuffing

Geometrical shapes can be formed by sewing to form the desired shape, turning through to the right side and then stuffing with wadding. Next attach each shape to form a 3-D, reversible item. Circles, rectangles, squares, diamonds, cone shapes can be assembled and decorated to produce a fun item or a form of decorative piece to attach to a larger piece of work

Directions (for example given)

1. Construct a pattern of the square shape, include a 0.5cm seam allowance.
2. Cut two pieces of fabric of your choice, for the number of shapes you require.
3. Pin shapes right sides together for each square, stitch around the edge, leaving a hole large enough to allow stuffing, turn to right side.
4. Stuff shapes to the desired amount and hand stitch opening with matching thread
5. Decoration may be added.
6. Assemble by attaching thread or ribbon and tie bows or knots.

