

Braid

12 inches by 12 inches finished

12 ½ inches by 12 ½ inches edge to edge

This is one of my favourite borders, and perfect for when you just want to put on some music and sew without having to think too hard!



Pick out three colours from your feature fabric. Don't use the background. Three fabrics will give you a nice mixed border. If you have an even number of fabrics, you will get a distinct border with a ragged line down the centre and two halves. This can look really nice, but it's not the effect we are looking for here.

Focus Fabric:

Cut one 8 ½ by 8 ½ inch rectangle

From each border fabric, cut rectangles 1 ¼ inches wide by 4 ½ inches long. I used about 14 of each for the two borders shown. In the full quilt, I used about 25 of each in extending the border.

Pile these rectangles up next to your machine in the order you are planning on sewing them.

Take the top rectangles from two piles. Place them at right angles so they make an L shape:

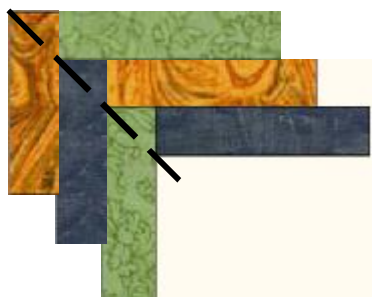


Sew the two pieces together where they meet. Press the seam towards the right.

Now add the next coloured strip so that it is in line with the first strip, and next to it.



Press towards the new strip.



Continue to add strips in this way until you have a strip that is long enough for the first side.

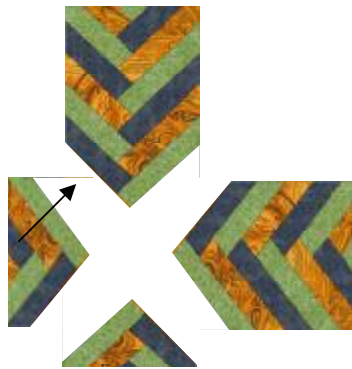
If you have done this correctly, you should be able to lay a ruler down the points of the braid and have them all line up.

You will end up with a point in the corner, but don't worry about this now

You need to make two long sections of braid – one to fit the left side, and one to fit the bottom (remember to make the bottom braid 12 extra inches if you are making the quilt shown in the sample). Then you need to make two short sections (about 5 rectangles each) for the corner. Finish with the same colours in the same positions for all braids.

Trim the braids to 4 ½ inches wide by laying the ruler down the centre of the braid and trimming 2 ¼ inches on either side of the line through the corners. Trim the ends when you have them attached to the blocks.

Lay the braids out as if they are already sewn to the block, with the pointed ends at the lower left corner.



Sew one small braid to each of the longer braids.

Now, sew the braids to the feature fabric, Mitering the corner!



If you are making the quilt – make the bottom braid at least 12 inches longer than you need. Sew it to the bottom of the block with a partial seam – leaving about 2 inches unsewn on the lower right corner.

Sew a 2 ½ inch border to the top and left side of the block.



To put the last section of the Sample Quilt Together, sew the remaining 14 by 12 section of the focus fabric, to the top of the unit you have just sewn.

Then sew last month's section to the right side, moving aside the bottom braid while you sew to the end of the section.

Now, move that braid back in place, and finish the partial seam.

You can now finish the quilting on this section, or put all four sections together.

A final plain border can be added, or you can put a narrow plain border and a pieced border – maybe your favourite of the borders we have done!

For the sample quilt, we put an eight inch border with some spinning stars at the lower left corner.

