

Creative Living

with Sheryl Borden



Sewing & Fashion
Section II



6800 Series

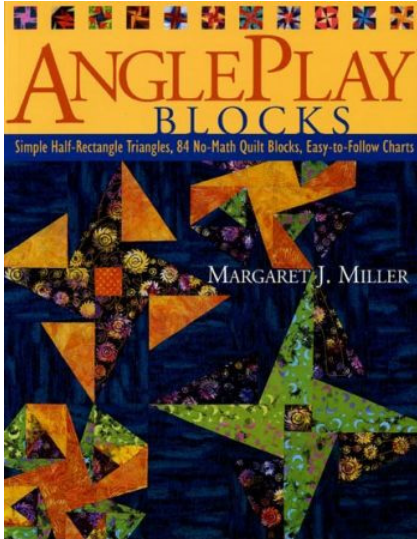
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Due to the size of this section, it has been separated into 2 sections in order for it to be downloaded more quickly. For instance, “Playing in the Grid - Fuse & Cut Technique” is in Section I on page 3, whereas “AnglePlay” is in Section II on page 9.

AnglePlay™



The long right triangle has appeared in many traditional quilt blocks, but it has been a challenge to piece due to the excess seam allowance of the “sharp point.”

The AnglePlay templates will solve that dilemma, and make the long triangle

accessible to people who love patchwork blocks and pieced quilts.

The “new angles” that AnglePlay makes so fast to cut and so easy to piece are going to “blow the lid off” traditional piecing. The new angles make undulating and even circular lines emerge in the pieced quilt, and they are all straight line piecing, with perfect piecing results every time!

Just one “new view” of patchwork blocks AnglePlay affords is “reinterpreting” traditional blocks: the same blocks quilters have known and loved for years are going to take on a breathtaking new look with AnglePlay.

Order your copy of Margaret's new book now - be one of the first to work with the next classic shape in patchwork - the half-rectangle triangle!!

- * 84 blocks, step-by-step how-to photos, great triangle-piecing tips
- * Work with ready-made AnglePlay™ templates, or make them from the book
- * Get show-stopping results, adding a lyrical dimension to traditional patchwork with these new angles
- * Create flowing, curving designs, all with straight-line piecing
- * Develop your own variations: Margaret shows you how

AnglePlay Blocks™ is now available directly from MillerQuilts.com - order your copy today!

**COURTESY: Margaret Miller
Miller Quilts, Inc.**

www.millerquilts.com

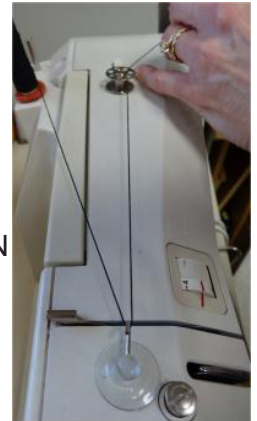
Take Your Flat Fabric Into a New Dimension!

Please remember that all machines are different. You may have to experiment to get the look you want. Elastic thread is very thin and is used in the bobbin. Don't mistake cord elastic with thread elastic. Cord elastic can be couched over and pulled tight for gather or shirring.

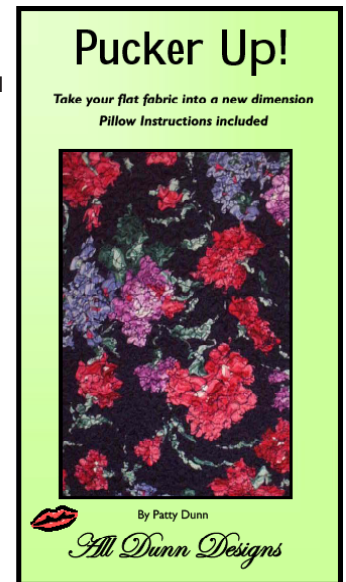


Thread Elastic

Wind the bobbin on machine at a slow speed, by-pass bobbin winder tension. Watch for even spinning and feeding. A SUCTION hook can be used in place of tension if no other hook is available. Find the threading that puts the least stress on the thread. (See right and below.)



Thread bobbin as you would using regular thread. Hold bobbin so it does not turn as you pull thread into tension. Bring up the elastic to the top of the machine by turning the hand wheel even if the machine brings up the bobbin automatically.



Always test on the same fabric you plan to use. Stitch 3 rows with a straight stitch side by side. STEAM elastic by holding the iron ABOVE fabric and watch it pucker up. Stretch the fabric to see if the elastic is soft and stretches back and forth.

TROUBLE SHOOTING

Elastic does not gather at all:

- Check your bobbin. Re-thread just to be sure.
- Remember steam draws up the puckers so don't panic if you don't see them right after you stitch.
- Test it on a different weight fabric. If there is a lot of sizing in the fabric, it will not allow the elastic to draw up. Washing the fabric before you start the project will help.
- Check the elastic and make sure it has a good stretch. Old elastic can lose its stretch.

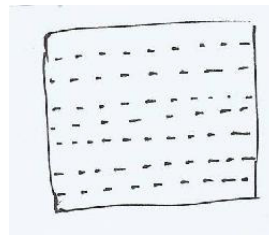
Elastic is gathering too much:

- If your fabric will not stretch because it is too tight. The bobbin tension is too tight on the bobbin spring.
- Re-thread the case to make sure it is not caught.
- Wind bobbin slower and by-pass the bobbin winder tension.
- Make sure when you wind the bobbin it is not under tension or stress in spinning off the spool or wrapping unevenly.
- If all else fails, remove bobbin case and adjust tension spring screw slightly to the left. If you don't like messing with tension screws, I suggest you purchase a second bobbin case for your machine. It's handy to have if you like to do bobbin work. Be sure and mark that bobbin case with finger nail polish or paint so you don't get the cases mixed up with your regular bobbin case.

Fabric:

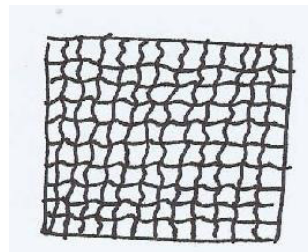
Use soft fabrics and always pre-wash before you start the project. To determine how much stretch to expect, cut two 10" strips, stitch several rows on one. Steam and compare the length to the one that is puckered.

Different ways to pucker:



Shirring: Stitching straight line rows will give a sheering look. Rows are from 1/2" to 1" apart. **At the end of each row lift the presser foot and pull out a thread tail and then

cut the thread. Do not use the automatic cutting system built into some sewing machines. The thread will draw back under the needle plate and it will make an extra step for you to re-thread.



Bubbling: Grid line stitching can be straight stitches or a running stitch on a longer length. First stitch horizontal lines, then vertical. All lines cross over each other.

Space the line distance according to how large you want the bubbles to be. Always do a test. Hit the fabric with steam to pucker it to the maximum.



Puckered Pillow

Pucker with elastic in the bobbin

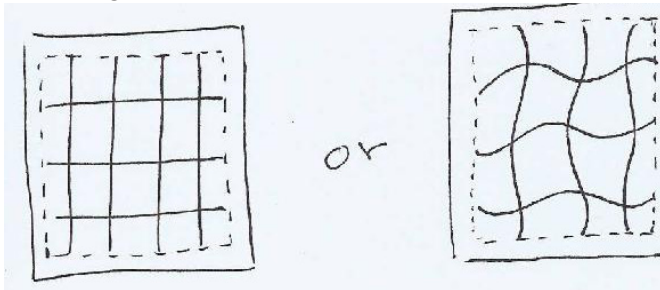
Cutting the fabric:

- Cut 1 square of fashion fabric 15" x 15" (pillow back)
- Cut 1 square of muslin or interfacing
- Cut 1 square of fashion fabric 21" x 21" (ruched top)
- Cut 1 square of muslin or interfacing 15" x 15" (underlining for top)
- Cut 3 strips 45" by 2 1/4" wide (ruched piping)

Save your extra scraps for front border.

Prepare the 21" x 21" square for Ruching:

- On the RIGHT SIDE of fabric mark 1/2" seam allowance on all sides of the square.
 - From marked seam allowance measure vertical lines 2" apart.
 - Mark horizontal lines 2" apart (see "A" pictured below) OR if you prefer slightly waved lines (do the waved lines free hand. See "B" pictured below).
- **Note** - the space between your marked lines will determine how big the "puff" will be. Wider squares will make a larger puff. Smaller squares will have a popcorn effect. Make the lines 1" apart if you want the "popcorn effect" OR you can follow the presser foot as a guide.



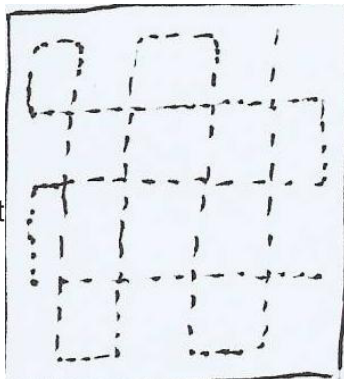
"A"—Straight lines 2" apart "B"—Curved lines 2" apart

Bobbin:

- Wind elastic thread as explained earlier.

Machine set up:

- Straight stitch at a stitch length of 3 or 4. (The longer the stitch the more it will gather). On a scrap of the same fabric do a test run. Sew several lines in both directions. If your fabric has a lot of body you may not see much gathering. Do a few test rows and place puckered fabric on the ironing board, hold a steam iron above, causing elastic to shrink up and pucker the fabric. Check out the information about trouble shooting if you are having a problem.
- Stitch the 21" fabric grid (right side up) following your marked line. Stop where the outside seam allowance is drawn. To make the project faster don't pick up the needle and replace it at the next line. Stitch over to the next line on the seam allowance.
- Stitch all vertical lines and then horizontal lines.

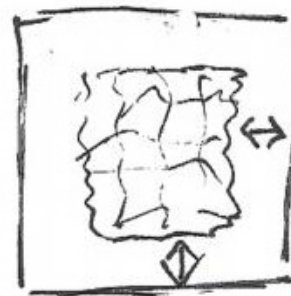
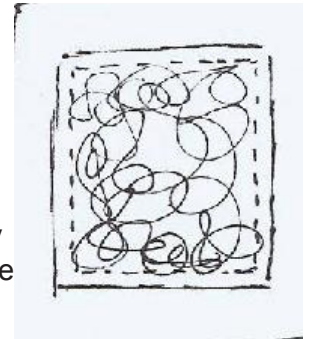


As your fabric begins to pucker, flatten it with your fingers while you are stitching. Try not to catch pleats in the stitching. Stitch across all intersections.

- Remove fabric from machine, leaving a tail of thread, cut and tie a knot on the back side of the fabric.

Stabilize puckered square:

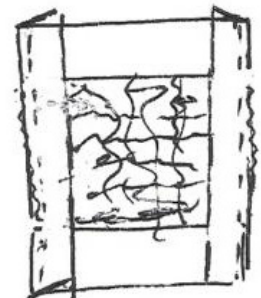
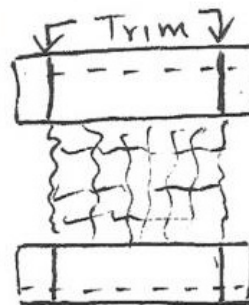
- Lay finished piece with right side up in center of the 15" X 15" square of muslin or interfacing.
- Straighten it so it is evenly centered and measure distance from all 4 sides. Because all fabrics pucker differently I can not tell you what the distance to the edge will be.



- Move puckering slightly in or out to make even and pin in place.
- With regular thread in machine top and bobbin, stitch around the gathered part of the square (marked 1/2" seam allowances)
- Measure side width and add 1/2". Measure length. Cut 4 strips that measure-

ment. Interface strips.

- Match raw edges of strip to raw edge of puckered fabric square.
- Stitch with 1/2" seam allowance. Flip the strip back so it meets the edge of the muslin base.
- Cut the extra even with the side of the puckered piece. Stitch sides from top to bottom with right sides together.



Cording:

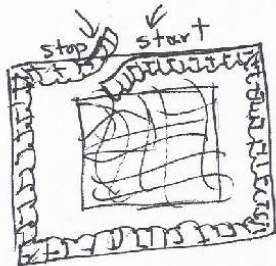
- Stitch two 2 1/2" strip lengths together.
- Place cord in center folding raw edges together.

- Using zipper foot on the sewing machine, start 2" down from the end of cord and fabric and place folded cord under foot with cord on left side of presser foot. Snug the foot up close to cord and begin straight stitching. After you have sewn about 3," place a safety pin through the cord and fabric where you began stitching. Pull the cord only slightly toward you. Continue sewing and stop every once in a while and continue to pull the cord. You will begin to see the cording gather at the back. Continue to the end gathering as desired.



Apply Cording:

- Pin piping to front starting 3" from corner leaving the piping that is unstitched to dangle. Pin all the way around the outside stopping 1" from the beginning.
- Using a zipper foot, stitch close to piping keeping the gathers as best you can. At corners allow cording to round out corner. Do not try and make a sharp point as it will not look good after it is stuffed.



- Meet the two cord ends.** On the side the seam is open, fold back fabric and meet cords together. Cut away extra cord so there is no slack in cording.
- Tape together or wrap a scrap of fabric around the two cords and hand whip thread through cording to keep together.
- Still working with the side that has the seam open, fold fabric end down 1/2". Place fabric from opened seam over the finished piping on the other side and



- Stitch the combined ends the rest of the way.



Back to Front:

- INTERFACE 15" BACK SQUARE.
- Lay front and back right sides together. Pin well.
- Stitch with piping side facing you.
- Leave an opening at the bottom to turn and stuff. As you stitch pull the top slightly (some shrinkage may have occurred when you put on the piping).
- Turn pillow right side out and stuff corners first, then center.
- Hand stitch opening closed.

Applying the Buttons

- Cover 2 large buttons according to the package instructions. ****TIP:** If you have a thin fabric it is a good idea to interface the center of the circle before you put the fabric on the button otherwise the metal might shine through. Interface only the center of the button so there is not added bulk.
- Place one covered button in center front, using a long needle threaded with cord thread (knot the end), enter at the center back and come out the center front.
- Insert the needle through the button shank and return the needle to the center.
- Come out the back and insert the needle through the other button shank.
- Insert the needle again through the back and come out the center front and continue to go back and forth through the shanks. Each time you pull the thread through, tighten it slightly to help bury the button into the pillow.
- Tie off the thread when you have returned in and out several times. Finished pillow is approximately 14" X 14."

Ruched Pillow Supplies

- 1 yd. of SOFT washed fabric - any content
- 1/2 yd. muslin
- 1/2 yd. interfacing
- 1 spool of thread elastic
- Topstitch thread to match fabric
- Regular sewing thread to match fabric
- 1 1/2 yd. cotton cording 1/2" or less (for piping)
- 1 1/2" covered buttons (2)
- Sewing machine & accessories (Zipper foot required)
- Extra bobbin case if available
- 18" or larger ruler
- Marking pen
- Stuffing for pillow

COURTESY: Patty Dunn
All Dunn Designs
www.alldunn designs.com



A Year's Worth of Jackets From One Great Pattern

Choose a basic Square Armhole Jacket pattern, like the Tabula Rasa Jacket from Fit for Art Patterns

Spring

- Light weight outerwear fabrics with a partial or full lining
- Choose lighter and brighter colors
- Make it reversible - perfect for travel
- Large silk prints used in the body and sleeves, solids for the sides and trim
- Mixed prints and polka dots
- Rain coat with added hood or hat



Summer

- Sheers with rolled serged edges; use the selvages for trim
- Light weight cottons, linens or blends, eye-lets and embroideries
- Shorten and widen the sleeves
- Use old cotton linens with lovely embroidery or table cloths
- Single layer cotton home decorator prints; choose a few that coordinate
- Put the seams on the outside and cover with a ribbon or trim

Fall

- Necklines that lend themselves to scarves
- Vests in heavier fabrics like boiled wool, denim or corduroy
- Try some collage or appliqué on a vest; work modularly
- Light weight outerwear fabric in dark colors or prints
- Strip piecing along the seam line; perfect for very small but precious scraps
- Sparkly fabrics and cut velvets for little party tops
- Narrow the sleeves and cuffs to accommodate a coat

Winter

- Quilt light weight wools or vintage fabrics to Thin-sulate™ or wool batting
- Line with flannel backed "Zeus"
- Wash wools and old sweaters for piecing
- Overlap the seams and stitch together with a decorative stitch
- Use felted wools or old blankets for jacket bodies
- Knit the sleeves for a cozy look
- Pair large challis prints with solids in the sides and trim
- Add flower pins or attached corsages for a hint of spring to come

COURTESY: Rae Cumbie
Assn. of Sewing & Design Professionals
www.raecumbie.com

Fleece Edging Ideas

Fringe & Tie

Cut 1/2" - 1" wide & 4" - 5" long



Looped Fringe

Fold up 8" &
Cut 1/2" x 4" loops & tie



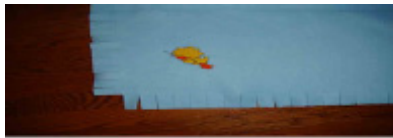
Pre - Fringe

Cut 1/2" slits about 1" apart
Wrap fringe through slit



Safety Fringe for Babies & Toddlers

To prevent a choking hazard, cut 1" wide and 2" long

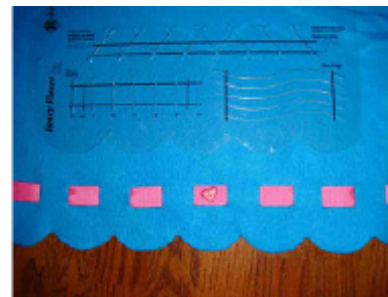


Olfa® Decorative Edge Blade

Wave Edge® Ruler

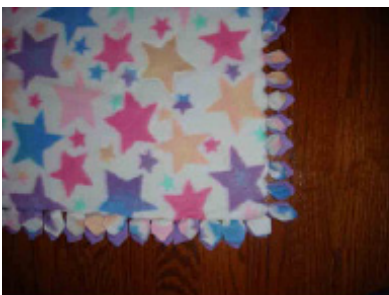


June Tailor® Fancy Fleece



Bunny Ears

Cut 1 1/4" wide x 2" long
Cut slit at top of fringe



Bow Ties

Cut 4" wide x 4" long
Tie up bow by hand or machine



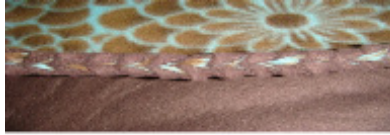
Laced Edge

Cut 1/2" slits about 1" apart
Wrap with 1/2" strips



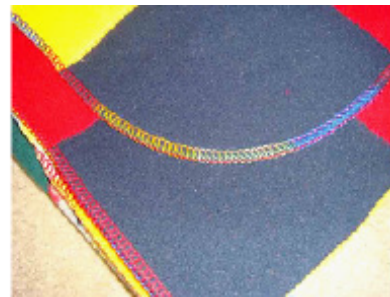
Braid Edge

Fold up 1 1/2" and stitch in place.
Cut fold into 1/2" loops and finger crochet



Edge Perfect Blade®

Decorative Serged Edge



COURTESY: Nancy Lovett
Sewing Instructor

Vintage Stumpwork Techniques



This booklet and CD shows an awesome new technique. It is the most magical type of embroidery. First you sew the dimensional petals but the twist is, there is no fabric involved - just thread! They are just so beautiful! I'm sure you will want to put them

will sew a placement line and stop and wait for you to position your first petal. Then you tell it to go (push the start button) and it stitches the petal down. Unbelievable!!!

There are thirteen designs in two sizes each. The small ones can be sewn in the 4 inch hoop.

The booklet is just sixteen pages but on the CD there are 82 pages of information for you to print out with step-by-step pictures of every move the embroidery machine makes so that you will know where to place your next flower petal.

Oh yes...you get a "Magic Wand" to help you place your petals and so you won't accidentally sew your tiny fingers into the design. Cost:

\$59.95.



COURTESY: Cindy Losekamp
Sew Artfully Yours, Inc.
www.sewingart.com

on lots of things.

Then you hoop up your garment or quilt and sew the background embroidery. The machine



Fringe Flower Machine Embroidery

Fringe flowers add additional dimension to embroidery designs. There are several types of fringe flowers that can be made with an embroidery machine.

One type of fringe flower that is the easiest is shown in Illustrations 1 and 2. After sewing all of the design, flip the hoop over. With small sharp scissors, cut away the bobbin thread to the long satin stitches that made the fringe. Don't worry as there is plenty of other stitching to hold one side of the threads in. Brush away the clipped bobbin threads. On the front side of the design, use tweezers to pull the thread loops to the top. Trim any unruly fringe threads on the front side. There always seems to be a few.



Illustration 1



Illustration 2

Another type of fringe flowers is shown in Illustration 3. It is created by cutting each side of the satin stitch bar on the backside creating a short stubby fringe.

These are tiny little things so be patient with them. Trim along each side of the satin stitch bar cutting the bobbin thread even with the fabric. This is a tight area so snip away at them patiently until they are cut. Leave the bobbin stitches and the embroidery thread "fuzz" in the center of the satin stitch bar. Do not brush that off the backside as it must remain to keep the front stitches in place.

On the front side, use tweezers to gently loosen the stitches on either side of the satin stitch bar. Gently rake under the stitches. Cutting the fringe this way creates more of a fuzzy fringe rather than loopy fringe like the other fringe flowers.

Trim any unruly fringe threads on the front side.

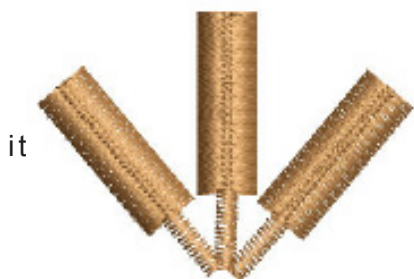
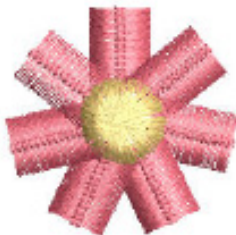


Illustration 3



For an added measure of security add a small piece of fusible interfacing to the back side of the fringe on this second type for fringe flower. I recommend "Fusi Knit" brand fusible because it is light weight, not scratchy, and stays fused.

To add the fusible, keep the design in the hoop. While adding the fusible to the backside of the work, the concave side of the hoop protects the design from getting crushed during the fusing process.

COURTESY: Laura Waterfield
Laura's Sewing Studio
www.LaurasSewingStudio.com

Sewing & Fashion Guests

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