

Tips & Techniques - Perfect Piping

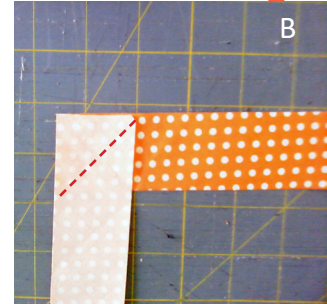
Piping is a wonderful way to enhance garments or crafty projects. The easy option is to purchase your piping ready made but sometimes you cannot find just the right colour or print. Not to despair - make your own!



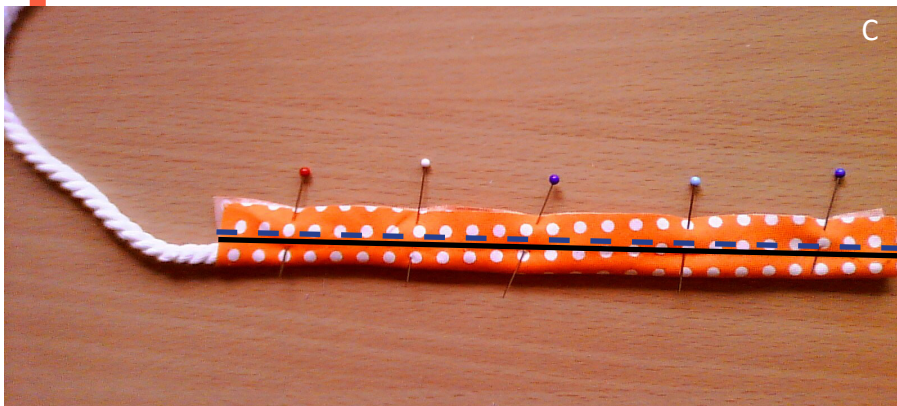
The secret to perfect piping begins with cutting bias strips of fabric. **Rule #1** - the fabric strips must be on the true bias which is 45° to the selvedge edge (A).

The width of the bias strips is determined by the thickness of your piping filler.

Square off the end of each strip and then join by placing them at right angles, right sides together (B). Stitch as indicated by the red dotted line. Then trim the seam allowance and press open.



Fold the bias tape over the filler cord. When you stitch the first time, don't try to stitch really close to the cording. The closer you stitch, the stiffer your piping will be, making it more difficult to ease it around corners. Instead, stitch about 2 to 3mm away from the cord. When you attach the piping to your project you will stitch right next to the cord.



In Picture C, the blue dotted line indicates the stitching line for making the piping. The black solid line indicates where you stitch when joining the piping to your project - a fraction closer to the filler cord.

When you pin around corners or curves, clip into the piping seam allowance.

You may find the piping does not lie nice and smooth (see Picture D). Don't worry, that's because the inside of the curve is shorter than the outside so the cord of the piping is bunched up into this shorter space. As soon as you turn the piping to the outer edge it will smooth out, as in Picture E.

