



Bev McClune

.....BASIC TRAPUNTO.....

SOME HELPFUL NOTES

This is a great workshop to get yourself moving on your journey into machine quilting. Once you have completed the first workshop (Machine Quilters Journey – for beginners) then this is a great workshop to move you on in your journey.

This quilt as you go technique is a fabulous way to set yourself free with creating a quilt top knowing that you won't be "stuck" quilting such a large quilt once you finish because you are quilting manageable strips as you go and then joining them together at the end. You can decide how big you want your quilt to be by simply changing the length of your strips. For example measure how long your bed is adding on the extra length that you want to go over the mattress at the end and make that the length of each of your strips. Your strips can be made the same width as this quilt in the workshop but you just keep adding strips on until you get to the width that you like. Simple!

The strips in this workshop (if you are using the instructions above) will end up approximately 1.2m in length. Everyone's final length will be different depending on how much the trapunto and quilting has "shrunk" the length of your strip.

Choosing your fabric:- This is up to you and what you like! Just remember one thing – trapunto (that is the fattening up or stuffed up process) is so much more noticeable and a feature on lighter fabric. This is not to say that you can't use dark fabric but just remember that you are putting a lot of effort in to the trapunto so it would be nice to see it! You can choose that your quilt be all the one fabric or, choose 2 colours (as I did on the DVD) and make your grid strips one colour and your floral strips another colour. Be individual!

Grid strips (crosshatching):- make sure that you take your time to mark these strips. Try to place your strip on a large enough surface so that you can get a lot of your marking done without having to move your strip up or down so much. Remember to use the markings on your ruler (as shown on the DVD) to mark your grid lines correctly. You will be sewing the cording down every second line on the whole strip and if your grid lines are not straight then it will be very noticeable that the "diamond" shape created by the cording will not be running down the centre of your strip. I like to do all the cording of my strips so they are all ready for spray basting to your backing and wadding in preparation of doing the straight line quilting lines on the balance of your grid. These quilting lines are what holds your 3 layers together. Do all these strips and put them aside and move on to the trapunto strips. Do not trim back any of the strips until all your strips are completed for the entire quilt top.

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SOME HELPFUL NOTES (Cont)

Trapunto strips:- Mark the flower design up the centre of your strips as few or as many times as you like. On my quilt I marked the design 3 times but it is entirely up to you. The more flowers you mark the more features you have and will look fabulous. (Just a note of caution here – if you have too many flowers close together then your strip will be harder to manage. I would suggest that you keep a minimum distance of about 12 inches between your flowers and this will allow you to manage your strip quite well.) Pin your polyester batting behind your flowers and stitch down the very outside of your flower design with your water soluble thread as shown on the DVD. Once you have done all the outside lines of the flowers with the water soluble thread then you trim back the polyester wadding around the flowers with your scissors (duck bill or children's paper scissors are great for this) as shown. Your strips are now ready to be spray basted to your backing and wadding in preparation of the quilting of the layers together.

Choose a thread that you would like to use on your flower design. I chose a variegated thread to make a feature of the flowers but you could use a tone or tone thread if you like – again, you make your choice and do what you want! DVD). Do this to all the flowers on all your strips. You are now finished the trapunto. Quilt your flowers now from the centre of the design out making the vein lines in the flowers as you go (as shown on the DVD). Do this to all the flowers on all your strips. You are now finished the trapunto.

Move now to choosing a thread that you wish to use for your background quilting around the flowers. I chose a tone on tone thread for this and quilted a small easy design. Start your background quilting from the bottom of your strip going around the flowers as you go up the strip (as shown on the DVD).

Finishing your strips:- You need now to trim the width of all your strips to 8 inches width by measuring and marking (as shown on the DVD). The width of your strips will all be a little different because of the cording and background quilting so don't be alarmed if you a trimming more off some areas than others – it's all part of what machine quilting does to a quilt!

Now measure the length of all your strips writing on a piece of paper the length of each strip. Once you have measured them all you take the shortest measurement and trim back all your strips to equal the shortest measurement. If you need to trim back the corded strips remember to leave the top of your strip as is and cut back the bottom of the strip (as shown on the DVD).

Joining your strips:- You are now ready to stitch all your strips together as shown on the DVD. Take your time to mark your strips with pins so that they all come together evenly. I like to stitch my strips together first using a ¼" seam allowance then I place the cover strip on and stitch down the strip using a ½" seam allowance. This holds everything down firmly in preparation of hand stitching down the cover strip.

You have just created a masterpiece! Isn't it easy when you know how. Take what you have learned and challenge yourself to make another using a new technique. This is quilt that is part of your journey in to the wonderful world of machine quilting. Go for it!

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