

Technique: Piecing with Gridded Fusible Interfacing

Gridded Interfacing is non-woven interfacing material that has a pre-printed grid on it. The interfacing has been manufactured with varying sized grids—most commonly 1", 1-1/2" and 2". This product was easily available in the 90's when "watercolor quilts" became trendy.

Commonly available is a 1" grid with brown lines, fusible and non-fusible, made by Pellon. The brand with black dashed lines is a better product but not as easily available since watercolor quilts have passed their heyday. Easier to find online than locally.

I most frequently use this technique for backgrounds. What I like about this technique is that I can place random squares out and arrange and re-arrange to achieve the desired and or best arrangement of the fabrics – thinking of colors, scale of pattern and print textures. Then because the interfacing is fusible, I can take the piece to the ironing board and press them in place. Then, do the sewing.

The interfacing stays in the quilt. When it is washed, it softens right up and you don't know it's there anymore. If it's a wall-hanging that doesn't need washing, the interfacing helps provide some stiffness for hanging.

Steps and Tips for Best Results:

- Arrange your squares to your favorite layout. Then go back carefully and line them to the inside lines with a teeny tiny gap between squares- just enough to see the line. Continue placing them carefully and when you have a few rows, fuse them to the interfacing. You can do as wide as the piece of interfacing, but it might be good to first practice with a 12" square.
- When all the squares are fused on, you will turn the first column to the second column, right sides together. Finger press the seam line. If any of the squares edges overlap, see if you can correct that. Sew down the length.
- Then fold the second seam in, to line up, right sides together and sew down that length.
- Continue across the piece sewing parallel seams.
- Turn the piece to the back side and begin to open the seam allowances. If your squares are lined up well, all you will be doing is cutting the interfacing, But some will overlap and it's not a big deal. Iron all those parallel seams open.
- Your iron will get gummy from the fusible. Bo-Nash makes an iron-cleaning sheet that works well, better than the tube. You can also use a fusible Teflon sheet under the iron to prevent gumming.
- Once the seams are ironed open, you will sew all the seams in the same parallel fashion.
- Cut open the seams and iron them. Turn over to see how perfectly the seams match!

Technique: Yet a New Way to Close your Quilt Binding

I learned this from a YouTube video. I take no credit- but it's on the video.

Here is the link:

https://m.youtube.com/shorts/F2N6QelobsQ?si=5KdyC9tYbv9RmST_&fbclid=IwZXh0bgNhZW0BMQAABHc_SWlu9sTWJGPfA6n1uUnyPPducRJ9af1sLmKoEGqKWZxpV5RKMgtkX_g_aem_D2ae2SRLwt5_ag4XnvFDsQ

- Attach your binding- (double thickness, straight-of-grain, joined to fit around perimeter) Leave a generous amount at the beginning, and stop sewing to have an opening about 8". Have a good-sized tail at the end as well.
- Fold the first binding back on itself press the fold firmly.
- Line up the second binding tail on itself, leaving a 1/8" gap between it and the first binding tail. Press the second one firmly as well. Fold and pin back the quilt to be out of the way.
- Open the two pieces—the pressing creates an X or intersection.
- With right sides of the binding pieces together, line up the two intersection folds to match. On on top of the other.
- Make sure you didn't twist your pieces. Pin if desired. Mark your 45° seam line across the top piece- (check that the two ends are both on the same side).
- Sew the 45° seam. Trim the seam- iron it open and tuck the seam allowance in.
- Check your line up on the quilt. It works!
- Finish stitching the binding down.