

Crazy Quilting Lessons / Challenge 2008

HGTV Quilting Needle Arts Board

Presenter: Jody (hgtv board name: CQwannabe)

Contributor: Kathy (hgtv board name: MttlR)

Links to Annie Whitsed's blog and website

Links to Sharon Boggon's website - stitch instruction

Lesson 9 - Couching, Ric Rac, Braids, and Ribbon Rouching (Prairie Points to come)

Samples of Couching, RicRac, Fibers (braids) and Ribbon Rouching, stitched by CQwannabe

Supplies:

Sharp needle (size depends on type of fibers)

Fiber: silk ribbon/ribbon, Ric Rac-any width, Fibers (thicker than what you would stitch with ie: chunky yarn), beads, beading thread and or floss

Attach the heavy fiber to the fabric using a large eyed needled. Lay the heavy fiber on the seam/fabric and attach using a "couching" stitch. Use a finer thread for couching stitches.

Small, straight stitches are taken over the thick fiber and back through the fabric. Work along the thick fiber until you have completed the line.

When the seam is complete using a large eye needle thread the heavy fiber and stitch through the fabric so the fiber thread ends on the back of your block. Using your "couching" thread secure both ends of the heavy fiber with a few small stitches. Do not trim the heavy fiber too close, it might pullout and show on the top of your fabric.

The second thread can be arranged in patterns - as in laid work. Other types of couching involve using embroidery stitches such as herringbone, fly stitch, arrowhead stitch, satin stitch, detached chain stitch, buttonhole and numerous other embroidery stitches over the thread to be couched. Metallic thread, ribbons, fine cord or groups of threads twisted together can all be couched. *(Info from Sharon Boggon's website)*

Medieval embroiderers made full use of couching to be economical with expensive threads, such as gold thread, on the surface of the work. It is used, to this day, to attach threads which are too thick, or textured to pass through the foundation fabric. The term is from the French word 'coucher', which means to lay down. *(Info from Sharon Boggon's website)*

Ric Rac with bugle beads

Rick Rack embellished with beads seam treatment creates texture and sparkle on a CQ block.

1. Lay the rick rack seam, turn the cut end under and take a small stitch to hold it in place. I use clear or matching thread.

2. Attached the rick rack with beads. I used bugle beads following the angle of the rick rack.



3. Looking for other ideas I found Annie Whitsed's blog: <http://www.loopylace.com/anniescrazyworld>. Direct link to her sample of rick rack attached with "knotted cretan stitch": <http://www.loopylace.com/anniescrazyworld/?m=200703>. (Knot Cretan Stitch: <http://inaminuteago.com/stitchdict/stitch/cretan-knotted.html>)

Woven Roses with couched pearls

1. Using the information from Lesson 7 I stitched three woven roses. I created the "spokes" with perle cotton and "wove" with a heavy fiber. I didn't attach the heavy fiber to the fabric. I left a short tail and started weaving through the spokes catching the tail to hold it in place. To end the rose, I knotted the thread off under the finished rose.



2. Then, arranged a string of pearl trim. Couch the pearl trim in place. I used clear thread.

Couched Fibers and Ribbon

Select ribbon and arrange it on you CQblock. I like to twist the ribbon so that it stands up adding dimension to the block. I couched the ribbon with pearl beads

On this block I put the fiber on after attaching the ribbon. Cut a piece of fiber and arrange on the block and couch. I used clear thread on this block.



Rauched Ribbon (one of my favorite seam treatments)

I have used several types of ribbon, including the inexpensive ribbon that is available 3 for a \$1.00 at JoAnn's or Michael's.

1. Select your ribbon, I leave it on the roll if possible, it takes a bit to cover a seam. I would say 1.5"-2" of ribbon for .5" of a seam.

a) you can thread the ribbon in a large eye needle. Tie a knot in the end and bring it up from the back to the front of our CQ piece.

b) or start with your ribbon on top and take a couple small stitches to attach, the end, with your stitching thread.

2. Select your stitching thread. This thread can be matching or coordinating or clear. Depends on what you prefer, this thread doesn't show much.

3. Thread your needle and knot the thread. Bring the thread up from the back of your CQ piece.

4. Take several running stitches through the ribbon. These do not need to be exact/neat/tidy. When you have 1.5" - 2" of running stitches "scrunch" the ribbon.



5. Scrunch the ribbon as tight or loose as you like. I prefer to scrunch the ribbon tight so that is bunches in different directions.

6. When the 1.5"-2" of ribbon is scrunched take a stitch about a .5" from the start of your ribbon (or last stitch).

7. Repeat the running stitches, scrunching, and stitch until the seam is covered.

Option: Use beading thread and needle to make your running stitches and then add a bead before you take the stitch. Different sized beads work, each giving a different look.



Additional Ribbon Rauching and RicRak links provided by MttlR (Kathy)

<http://www.rosrushbrooke.com/how-to-ruche.html>

<http://nostalgicneedleart.blogspot.com/2007/09/ruched-ribbon-violets.html>

Rick Rack flowers

http://www.wrights.com/wrights/class/04_easter/rickrackflowers/rickrackflowers.htm