



Piping

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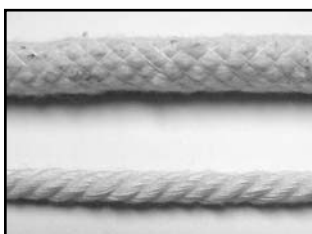
Page 1

Piping is a fabric covered cord inserted into a seam, or used as an edge finish. The covering can be cut on the straight grain or bias, depending on the use. Piped trim applied to curved areas must be cut on the bias; piping used on straight seams or edges may be cut on straight grain.

Corded piping may be purchased readymade in pre-cut lengths or by the yard, or you can make your own.

Inside Options

Piping is usually filled with some type of cording, either twisted cable cord or a scrim covered cord (1). Filler cords can range from yarn and string for baby-size projects, up to 2"-diameter cord used in home decorating items.



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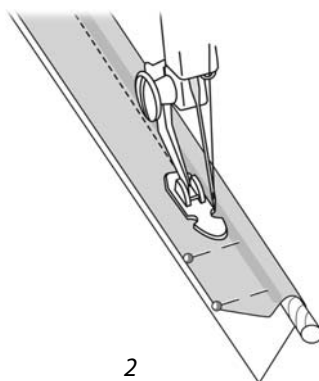
To create professional looking piping, the inside cord should be smooth and even. If that's not the case, lining or interfacing may be used under the fashion fabric to smooth the surface.

Making Piping

To determine the width of the covering fabric, measure the circumference of the cord and add two seam allowances. Some sewers prefer to cut wider strips and then trim to the size needed after covering the cord.

Cut enough strips to piece together the length needed for all the piping. Seam the strips together on an angle for an inconspicuous joining.

Cover the cord with the fabric right side out. Using a zipper foot, stitch close to the cord, but not snug to it (2). If you cut the



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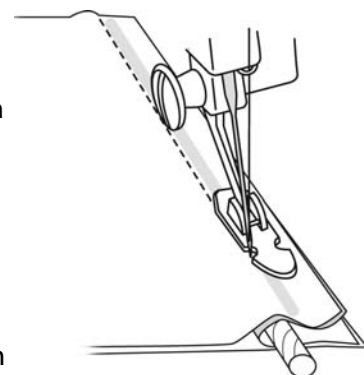
covering wider than needed, evenly trim the seam allowances.

Insert Piping

To apply piping, place the cut edges along the right side of the seam or edge. Using the zipper foot, stitch the piping in place over the stitching used to create it.

When piping goes around an outside curve, clip into the piping seam allowance and spread open. For square corners, clip into the piping seamline and spread apart to turn.

Once the piping is stitched in place, complete the project by joining it to the adjacent section right sides together, sandwiching the piping between the layers. Using a zipper foot, stitch the seam just inside the previous line of stitching used to attach the piping (3).



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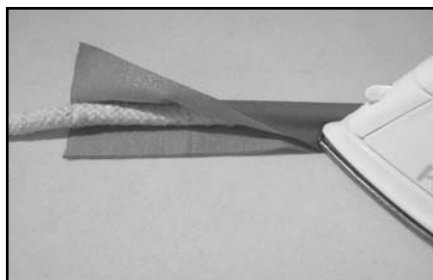
To finish an unfaced edge with piping, finish the piping/project seam allowance edges with zigzagging or serging to prevent raveling, then turn the seam allowances to the wrong side and topstitch close to the piping to hold in place. For a quicker finish, fuse the finished edges under using fusible web tape.

Fused Piping

Instead of stitching the piping covering in place, use a strip of fusible web cut to the same width.

Place it under the fabric strip and over the cord filler. Press in place to create

smooth, even piping (4).



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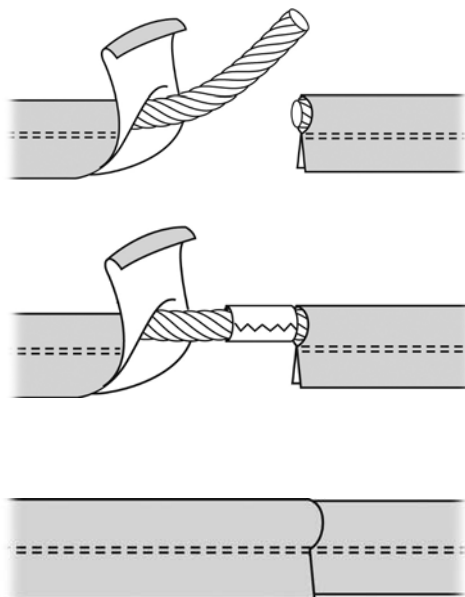
Piping Ends

Whenever possible, it's best to begin and end piping in a crossing seam. However, sometimes that's not an option, particularly on home decorating projects like pillows. There are several options for piping joints:

1. Use a small folded piece of fabric to cover the piping ends.

2. Taper the ends into the seam allowance.

3. Lap the fabric at the piping junction (5). When you apply the piping, begin stitching about 1" from the end, and stop 1" from the opposite end. Trim only the cord ends to abut and tape together. Cut the fabric covering 1" longer than the cord on the finishing end. Fold under the fabric cover 1/4" and overlap the beginning end of the piping. Continue stitching to apply the piping encasing the cord ends. 🖱



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Yikes Stripes!

Using striped fabric adds interest to piping trim. They can be used on the lengthwise, crosswise or bias grains for different looks. Pick the one you like best for your project.

