

"Skinny Border Accents"

with Jan head

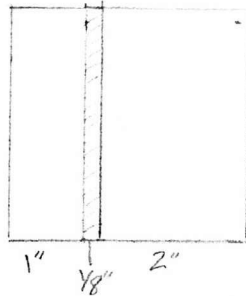
Jan Head will demonstrate the Sally Collins method of sewing 1/8" skinny accents for borders and block frames. The photo shows a quarter of her award winning quilt - with skinny accents around the central star and at the borders.



Very Narrow Borders (1/8")

Here's the idea. By oversizing the width of the border you want to finish 1/8", and the border that follows, you create a stable sewing sandwich. By very accurately trimming the 1/4" seam allowance between these two borders you create an accurate sewing guide when adding the next border. The success of the technique is in trimming that 1/4" down to an exact 1/8" and sewing very accurately along it.

Assume you want 3 borders to end up looking like this:



1. Decide on the number you want to use to oversize the seam allowances on the appropriate borders. Use this number consistently. I like to add 3/8" but it could be 1/2" or more, as long as you use the same number on both pieces.
2. Cut #1 border fabric 1.5" wide (1" finished width + 1/2" seam allowance = 1.5")
Cut #2 border fabric 1" wide 1/8" + 1/2" seam allowance + 3/8" extra = 1")
Cut #3 border fabric 2 7/8" wide (2" + 1/2" seam allowance + 3/8" extra = 2 7/8")
3. Sew #1 to #2 with 1/4" seam allowance. Trim this seam to a precise 1/8" with rotary cutter and ruler or draw a line and cut with scissors. Press seam allowance to #2.
4. Place #3 and #1-2 right sides together with #1-2 on top and edges aligned. Sew right along the just trimmed seam allowance edge. This creates the 1/8" border.
5. Trim the excess seam allowance 1/8 to 1/4" from the last line of stitching, press seam to #3.

