

# Dimensional DESIGN

Showcase different surface-embellishments on a simple-to-make quilt that incorporates colorful yarn, hand embroidery and built-in decorative machine stitches.

CONTRARY TO POPULAR BELIEF, you don't need a lot of different fabrics to make a quilt. Start with a single fabric piece, and use embellishment techniques to make each rectangle unique.

Finished size: 15" x 28"

## MATERIALS

- 1 yard of 54"-wide silk doupioni
- Yarn: ribbon, trellis (See "Sources" on page 51.)
- Embroidery floss
- Thread: contrasting, matching, monofilament (optional)
- Fabric-marking pen
- 17" x 30" rectangle of batting

Use a ½" seam allowance unless otherwise noted.

**Cut two 2½"-wide binding strips** across the fabric. Cut a 17" x 30" backing rectangle and a 4" x 14" rod-pocket rectangle. Cut six 8" x 10" rectangles. Cut six 6" x 8" rectangles that will be left plain; set aside.

## Embellish the Rectangles

**Embellish the six 8" x 10" rectangles** in the following manner:

**DIAGONAL.** Using the fabric marking pen, draw diagonal lines across the silk rectangle 1" apart. Select a decorative stitch on the sewing machine. Using contrasting thread, stitch along each line.

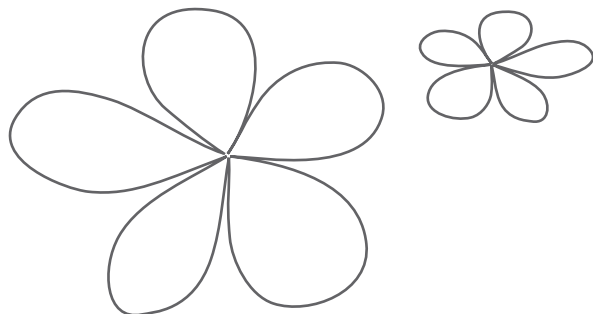
**TRELLIS.** Place ribbon-yarn lengths diagonally 2" apart on the silk rectangle. Straight stitch down the yarn center to secure. Repeat in the opposite direction for a lattice pattern, covering the entire rectangle surface.

**FLOWER.** Using the fabric marking pen, draw flowers on the silk rectangle, covering the entire surface. (Use the flower patterns at left and on page 51, or draw the flowers freehand.) Using two strands of embroidery floss, backstitch over the flowers. With six strands of embroidery floss, make French knots at the flower centers.

**STRIPED.** Place trellis-yarn strips vertically on the silk rectangle 1½" apart. Straight stitch the yarn in place down the center.

**SCALLOP.** Using the fabric marking pen, draw horizontal lines across the silk rectangle 1" apart. Select a decorative scallop stitch on the sewing machine. Using contrasting thread, stitch along each line.

**STAR.** Using the fabric marking pen, draw stars on the silk rectangle, covering the entire surface. (Use the star patterns on page 50, or draw the stars freehand.) Using two strands of embroidery floss, backstitch over the stars.



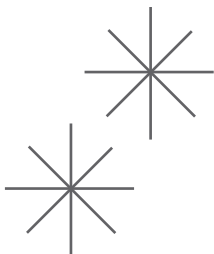
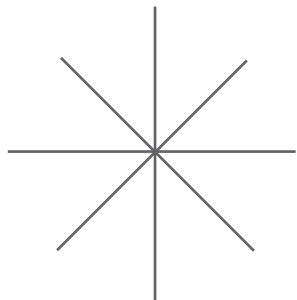


## the big picture

If you want to make a larger quilt, simply add more rectangles. Repeat some of the embellished rectangles or create new designs. A larger quilt gives you more opportunities to experiment. To make a 50" x 63" throw you'll need 5½ yards of fabric and a 54" x 65" batting rectangle. The instructions are the same. Cut the following quilt components:

- Five 2½"-wide binding strips across the fabric width
- Forty-five 6" x 8" rectangles
- Forty-five 8" x 10" rectangles





## Piece the Top

**Trim each embellished rectangle** to 6"x8". Arrange the rectangles, alternating the embellished and plain rectangles (1).

**Right sides together**, stitch the rectangles in each row. Press the seams to one side.

**Right sides together**, join the rows to form the quilt top, pressing the seam allowances in alternate directions to reduce bulk; stitch. Press the seams to one side.

## Layer & Baste

**Spread the backing rectangle** right side down on a large smooth surface and tape the edges in place, stretching the fabric slightly so it's taut and wrinkle-free (but not stretched out of shape). Smooth the batting over the backing. Center the quilt top right side up over the batting.

**Baste the layers together** with thread or secure them with safety pins—space the pins about 6" apart. (To eliminate basting, use fusible batting.)

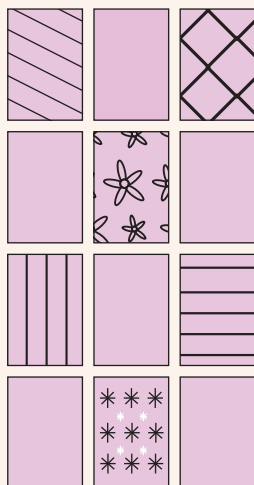
## Machine Quilting

**Thread the machine** with matching or monofilament thread in the needle. Attach a walking foot if available, or engage the even-feed mechanism. Set the stitch length for 3 mm.

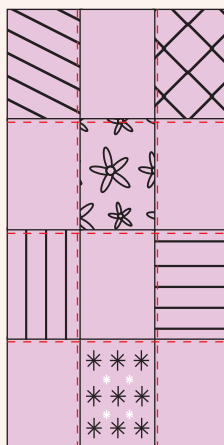
**Stitch in the ditch** along all seamlines (2). Begin and end each line of stitching with a backstitch.



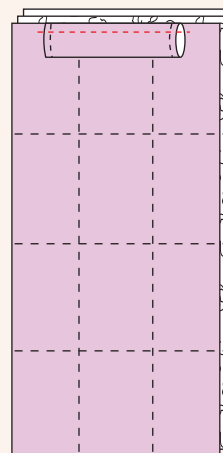
### 1 Arrange rectangles



### 2 Stitch in the ditch



### 3 Center and baste rod pocket



*Experiment with different thread and yarn colors.  
Use tone-on-tone shades for a subtle effect, or try  
contrasting colors for a completely different look.*

## Rod Pocket

**Double-fold  $\frac{1}{4}$ " to the wrong side** on each short edge of the rod pocket rectangle; press. Topstitch close to each fold.

**Wrong sides together**, fold the rectangle in half lengthwise; press.

**Center the rod pocket** on the upper edge of the quilt wrong side, aligning the cut edges. Baste the rod pocket in place (3).

## Bind

**Sew the  $2\frac{1}{2}$ " strips** together at a  $45^\circ$  angle at the short ends to reduce bulk when turned and finished. Trim and press the seams open. With the strip end wrong side up, fold the upper left corner down to create a  $45^\circ$  angle; press. Trim the allowance to  $\frac{1}{4}$ " (4).

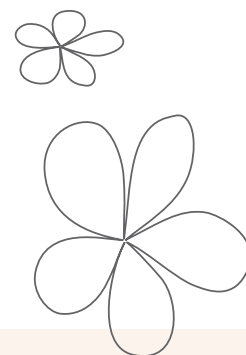
**Fold and press the binding strip** in half lengthwise with wrong sides together and raw edges aligned. Working on the quilt right side, pin the folded end at the center of one side with the

raw edges even. Begin stitching  $2$ " from the turned end using a  $\frac{3}{8}$ " seam allowance. Stop stitching  $\frac{3}{8}$ " from the edge at the corner; backstitch (5).

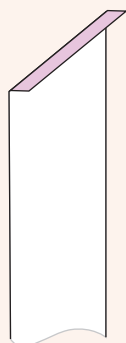
**Rotate the quilt  $90^\circ$**  and fold the binding strip up and then back down on itself, creating a fold even with the first edge. Align the binding raw edges even with the next side to form a mitered corner. Stitch from the edge to  $\frac{3}{8}$ " from the next corner (6).

**Repeat the folding sequence** and continue around the quilt. Trim the binding, leaving enough to tuck inside the binding at the beginning; complete the stitching (7).

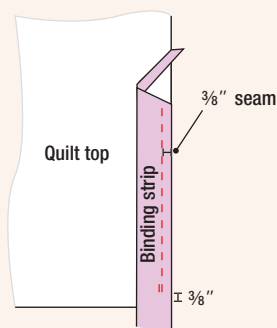
**Press the binding** toward the seam allowance, and then wrap it over the edge to the underside and pin in place over the previous stitching. Hand stitch to secure (8).



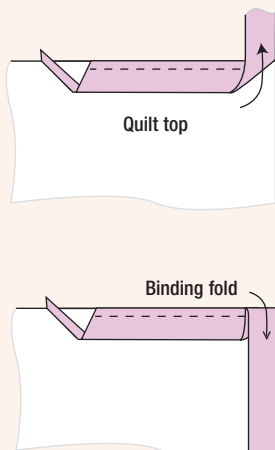
4 Fold down corner; press and trim



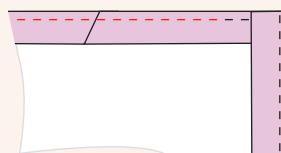
5 Stop stitching  $\frac{3}{8}$ " from next edge; backstitch



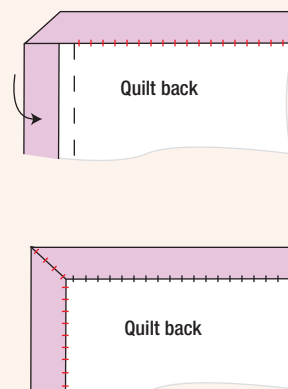
6 Fold binding strip up and then back down on itself; stitch from edge



7 Tuck binding strip into beginning fold; complete stitching



8 Wrap binding to back; hand stitch to secure



## Sources

**Exotic/Thai Silks**, [www.thaisilks.com](http://www.thaisilks.com), provided the 54"-wide silk doupioni in color #508 (lavender).

**Lion Brand Yarn Co.**, [www.lionbrand.com](http://www.lionbrand.com), (800) 258-9276, provided the Incredible Yarn in Carnival and the Trellis Yarn in Pastel Garden. ➤