

MACHINE TRAPUNTO DIRECTIONS  
References from Hari Walner and Diane Gaudynski  
Compiled by Pat Masterson  
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A. Adds dimension and interest

- Can be used to “stuff” appliqué, printed designs, or designs created by a quilting Motif.
- Need to complete the appliqué before stuffing it. The quilting motif needs to be drawn or marked on the quilt before proceeding with the technique.

B. Technique

1). Basic Method

- Mark the design if necessary.
- Place a thick piece of polyester batt under each design to be stuffed.
  - Check to be sure your scissors will cut it.
- Pin the batt in place. (Be sure it covers the design)
- Lower feed dogs (no backing on batt-I have found it not necessary)
- Use free-motion quilting foot and technique and sew around the OUTER edge of the design using WATER SOLUBLE THREAD. (This will wash out later.)
  - Do not lick fingers or wet end of thread to thread machine-thread will dissolve.
  - Store thread in a sealed bag to prevent moisture from damaging it.
  - Diane recommends water soluble thread on the top and in the bobbin. (I have used a regular dark thread (with dark fabric) in the bobbin which makes it easier to see when you are trimming excess batt from the back.)
  - When finished with water soluble thread, remove from machine to avoid forgetting and using it on something else later.
- Turn top over and carefully trim away excess batting that is NOT under the design, leaving each design with an underlay of batting.
  - Trim as close to stitching as possible -want a nice sharp dividing line between stuffed and unstuffed.
  - batting scraps can be saved and used later to stuff pillows, toys, etc.
- Layer quilt the usual way with batting and backing, baste and use favorite thread to quilt the layers, being sure to go over the designs previously outlined with the water soluble thread.
- When finished, submerge the quilt in cool water and the water soluble thread

will dissolve and disappear.

- Diane recommends cotton batting which will shrink when submerged and enhance the stuffed area.

- I do not like to wash my quilts-I slightly spritz the area stitched with water soluble thread and it disappears-also steam works. I use whatever batting in the quilt that suits me . A light weight batting behind a thick piece of polyester will make a noticeable difference.

- Design must have a continuous outer edge .

- Start with a simple design that is easy to trim.

- Be careful not to snip through the quilt top-scissors with blunt tips work well.

- “Stuffing” may not show on designs that are too small and very small, tight areas are difficult to trim.

### C. Some considerations

- Too much trapunto in a large quilt may create a very heavy quilt and become too puffy to roll up and fit in a domestic sewing machine.

- Trapunto “pops” when surrounded by smaller quilting or stippling. If there is too much in the border, the center of the quilt may balloon and vice-versa,

- Too much in the center can cause a wavy border.

- Be sure batting is easy to trim with scissors and does not beard. If there is a right or wrong side to poly batt-place smooth side up.

- Be sure batting is slippery and will move well in bed of your machine. You will be stitching around the design with feed dogs lowered and no backing. Test ahead of time.

- When winding the bobbin, use slower speed to prevent breakage.

- Reduce top tension slightly to prevent breakage.

- Use a new # 60 or #70 Microtex Sharp needle in your machine.

- Run your machine slower than you normally do for free motion quilting.

- Check your tension as you go along-too tight-design will pucker.

- design should be smooth and flat-snip a stitch or gently tug corner if necessary.

- Place stitches on marked line or just inside it.

- For trapunto to be noticeable and effective, it must be surrounded by closely spaced background quilting. Stippling, straight lines 1/4”. Echo quilting, cross hatching, etc. Quilting needs to come up close and touch edge of design.

HAVE FUN!