



More Top Tips for Creating Cushions

Following our cushion feature in the last issue of *Australian Country Craft and Decorating* that covered the many options for cushion shapes and finishes, we now look at edge treatments for cushions – and there are lots of possibilities!

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Today, there are many wonderful options for embellishing cushions. As well as ready-made piping and cording by the metre, there are gorgeous braids such as fringing, pompom trims and giant ricrac for you to choose from.

HERE ARE JUST A FEW IDEAS TO INSPIRE YOU:

1. Ready-to-use fringing and pompom trims

These are a fast and easy way to edge cushions. The trick to stitching neat corners with these on square or rectangular shapes is to cut a mitre in the trim at each corner as you stitch, as shown in diagram 1.

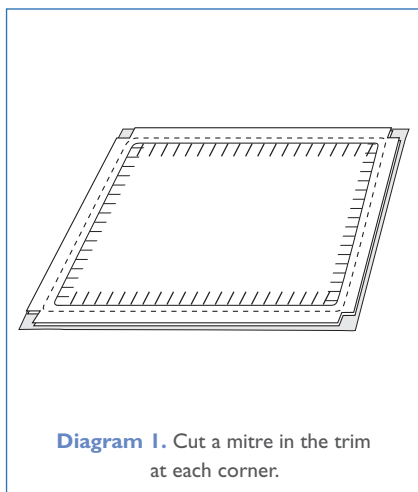


Diagram 1. Cut a mitre in the trim at each corner.

2. You can make your own piping from the cushion fabric or a complementary one. It can be flat or corded. Cord is available in assorted thicknesses and it's best to choose the appropriate size to suit the cushion. The width of the bias strips should be the circumference of the cord plus two seam allowances. For example, $\frac{1}{4}$ in diameter cord would need bias strips cut 2in wide. Find the true bias of the fabric as shown in diagram 2 and cut the strips, then join them on the straight grain. Press the seams open and wrap the strip around the cord with the raw edges together then pin it in place. Machine-stitch close to the cord in matching thread using the zipper foot. When the piping is covered, lay it on the right side of the

cushion top, aligning the raw edges. Stitch close to the piping, covering the first seamline. Cut the piping in the seam allowance as you come to each corner to ease it around it as shown in diagram 3.

To join the raw ends of the piping, trim the cord ends level with each other inside the covering and overlap the ends of it, curving them inwards, then sew through all thicknesses so they are caught in the seam.

3. Ruffles and frills are a lovely way to finish too. A single-thickness frill requires hemming and is good for thick, bulky fabrics. A double frill doesn't need hemming or binding, because it is folded lengthwise and the right side of the fabric shows on both sides.

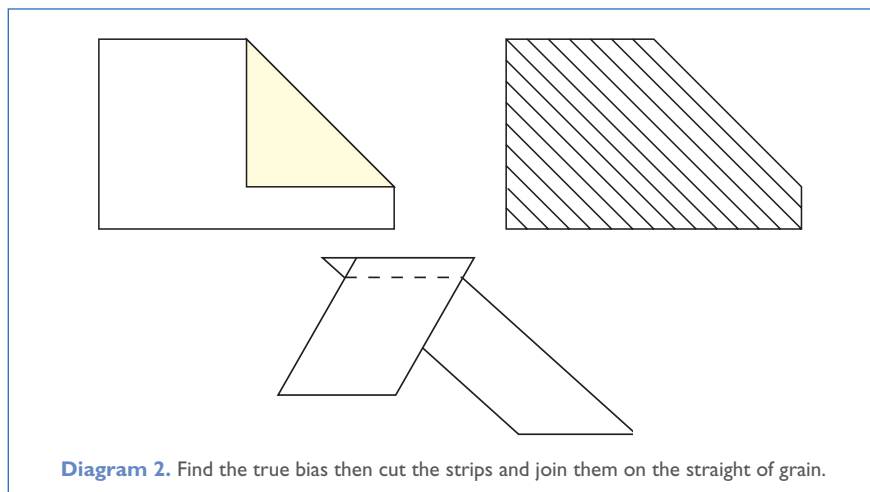


Diagram 2. Find the true bias then cut the strips and join them on the straight of grain.