

Foot of the Month > Piped Potholders

Use your Brother Sewing Machine along with the Brother Piping Foot to make perfect piped potholders. We will show you how to cut and sew bias strips for piping, and then use the piping foot to decoratively finish the potholders with piping. Accent your potholder with an embroidered monogram, built in decorative stitches, or make a trio like ours using both techniques. Use pre-quilted fabric for a jump start on this project and you will be finished in no time!

Materials and Supplies

- [Brother Sewing Machine](#)
- [SA192](#) Brother Piping foot.
- [Brother Embroidery Thread](#)
- [SA5810](#) Brother Pacesetter® Medium Weight Tear Away Stabilizer for embroidery and decorative stitching.

For the Embroidered Monogram:

- [Brother Machine with Embroidery Capability](#)
- [4-inch X 4-inch Embroidery Hoop](#)
- Built in lettering and frame pattern or [Brother Embroidery Lettering Software](#).
- Basic sewing notions including sewing thread to match fabrics, and a fine wash out marker or chalk pencil.
- Seam sealant for treating raw edges.

Fabric Requirements for each square potholder:

- Double faced, pre-quilted fabric, one piece measuring 9-inches square for front side of potholder.
- Quilt weight cotton fabric, two pieces measuring 9-inches square for back side of potholder.
- Thin cotton batting, two pieces measuring 9-inches square for filler.

Fabric Requirements for each round potholder:

- Double faced, pre-quilted fabric, one piece measuring 9-inches square for front side of potholder. You will cut the circle for the front after decorative stitching is completed.
- Quilt weight cotton fabric, two 9-inch circular pieces for back side of potholder.
- Thin cotton batting, two 9-inch circular pieces for filler.

Note: Use a compass and paper to make a 9-inch circular pattern for the round potholder pieces.

Supplies for piping on three potholders:

- Quilt weight cotton fabric for bias strips, one piece measuring 15-inches square.
- Piping filler cord, 3/16-inch in diameter, three yards.

Instructions for Monogram & Decorative Stitching on Potholder Fronts

1. Create a monogram and frame combination to fit the 4-inch embroidery hoop. We used the Brother BES® Monogram Suite Software program for the featured combination design. *See **Figure #1a** and **1b**.



Figure #1a

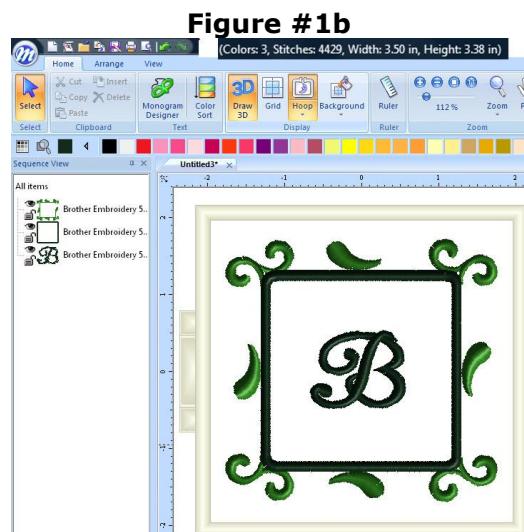
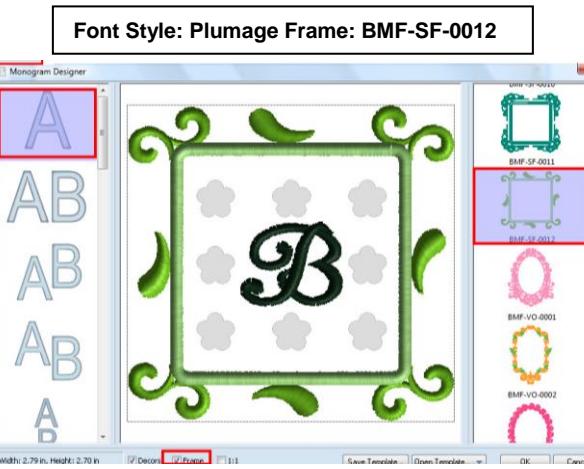


Figure #1b

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2. Embroider the monogram in the center front of the 9-inch pre-quilted square. Use an object such as the edge of a coffee cup to round off the corners on the square. Round off each of the square potholder pieces in the same manner. Set pieces aside for later use. See example of the top piece below:



3. Set up machine for decorative stitching using foot "N". Draw lines for decorative stitching on a 9-inch pre-quilted square, referring to the final photo for placement of lines. Place a piece of stabilizer on the underside. Choose a variety of decorative stitches. Stitch rows beginning at the center of the square and working out towards the end. You may want to experiment with various stitches on fabric scraps. Remove stabilizer and markings. Lightly press. Use the paper pattern to cut the square into a 9-inch circle. Set circle aside for later use.

Tip: If your Brother machine includes laser technology, you can use it as an aid for lining up 7mm wide decorative stitches. Begin by lining up the center of the presser foot with the drawn line. Set the laser, also known as the Guideline Marker to a position of 3.5. Sew rows of decorative stitches having the guideline marker in line with your marking on the fabric. Using the laser helps keep your decorative stitch centered on the marked line. *See **Figure #2**.

Instructions for Creating Bias Strip for Piping

1. Use this tried and true method for making bias strips to cover the piping cord. With this method you can make a little over 3-yards of 1 ½-inch wide bias from a single 15-inch square of fabric. This is a fabric saving option worth mastering. Refer to the photos provided here, following each step in the exact order listed below.
- Place the 15-inch square on a cutting surface and draw a precise diagonal line across the piece. Cut the piece in half along the diagonal line. *See **Figure #3**.
- Bring lower edge of the cut piece to the top, placing straight edges and right sides together. Match raw edges from end to end. The resulting layered piece will look like two crossed triangles. *See **Figure #4**. Sew a ¼-inch seam along the top edge. Press seam open.
- Lay the piece flat, wrong side up. Next, use a quilt ruler and a pencil or fine marker to draw five cutting lines, evenly spacing the lines 1 & ½-inches apart. You will have a small amount of excess fabric to trim just beyond the last line.*See **Figure #5**.

Figure #2

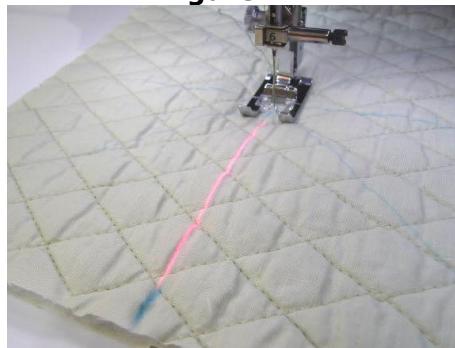


Figure #3

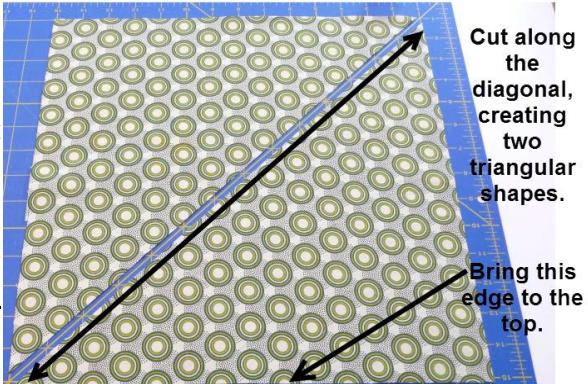


Figure #4

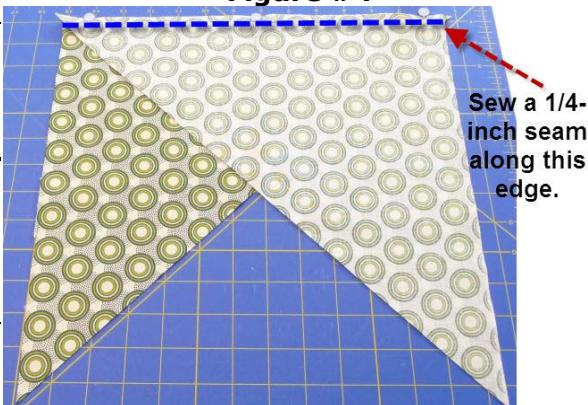
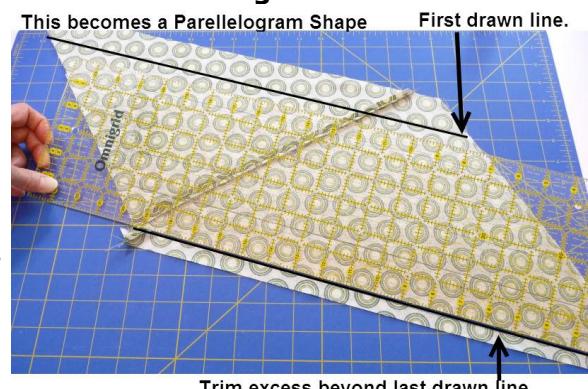


Figure #5



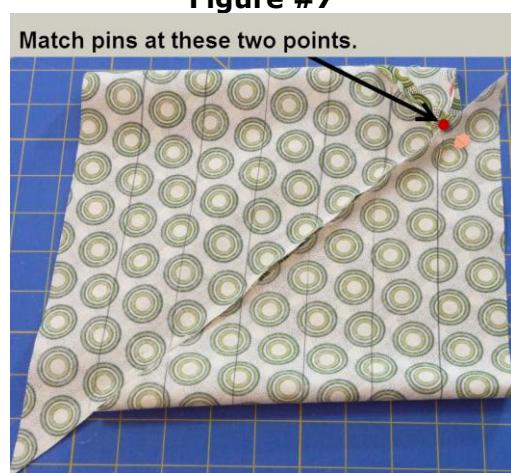
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- Turn the piece so that the right side of the fabric is facing up and the sharp points are at the upper left and lower right hand corner of the piece. You need to sew one more seam before cutting the bias strips. This final seam will form a tube shaped piece. It is important to match up two precise points before sewing this seam. Place a pin at the points indicated in **Figure #6**.
- To sew the final seam, bring the two short edges together, matching the pins. The resulting tube will appear twisted. Adjust the fabric so that the drawn lines matchup exactly, having both ends offset by the width of one spaced line (1 & 1/2-inches). *See **Figure #7**. Prior to sewing the seam along this line we suggest pinning along the 1/4-inch seam line. Next, check to make sure your drawn lines will match up exactly. If they do not match, adjust the fabric layers until they line up perfectly. Next, pin securely and stitch a 1/4-inch seam along this edge.
- Press the seam open. To cut the strips from the resulting tube of fabric, begin cutting at one end and continue to cut along drawn lines, cutting in a spiral fashion until you reach the opposite end. *See **Figure #8**. Re-press all seams open to make certain they lay flat.



Instructions for Attaching Batting to Potholder Pieces

- To make the potholders more heat resistant, the back side contains two layers of batting. To form this double layer we attached the batting to a flat piece and then folded the piece in half. Using this method provides two benefits. First, this makes it easy to turn the finished potholder right side out. Second, you can slip your hand into the resulting open back and use it for grasping pot handles. Please be aware that these potholders are only mildly heat resistant. Follow instructions below to attach batting to each of the potholder back sides. Illustrations are for the round potholder. Repeat steps for the square.
- Layer one piece of batting against the wrong side of one back piece. Sew a straight stitch 3/4-inch from the outer edge. Trim batting up to the stitching line. Fold in half. Stitch 1/4-inch from folded edge.



Note: After attaching the batting you should have two folded back pieces for each round or square potholder.

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Add Piping and Finish Potholders

About the Brother Piping Foot:

The Brother snap on metal piping foot is designed to work with decorator size cording such as the type used for this project. This foot has a right and left groove to keep the piping in place while stitching. It includes a "notch" to mark the center of the foot and coordinates with the center needle position on the machine. This is the general position for stitching close to the piping cord. However, with your Brother computerized machine it's possible to adjust the straight stitch needle position by using the width key. With this option you can move the needle slightly closer, or further away from the cording. This is especially useful when your fabric layers are thinner or thicker than average. In addition, moving the needle position allows you to baste the piping a slight distance away from the cording. Begin with a center needle straight stitch and adjust as necessary.



1. Place the piping foot on the machine. For quality results with piping it takes three steps. Follow steps outlined below to add piping and then finish each potholder.
Note: round potholder is shown in the illustrations.
- To prepare the piping it is helpful to tape the excess cording at each end. Sandwich the cording inside the bias strip and place under the right hand side of the piping foot. *See **Figure #9**. Machine-baste a slight distance from the cord. Cut into three one yard pieces.
- Pin the piping to the first top potholder piece, beginning near the center of the top edge and leaving a small amount un-pinned at the top. Pin piping all round the outer edge, having raw edges matching. It is necessary to make small clips around the curves to ease the piping. For the circular potholders you will need to clip around the entire edge. Take care when pinning that you do not stretch the piping. If piping is not sufficiently eased around the outer edge it will be too taught when turned right sides out. Follow steps shown in **Figure #10** to join piping at the top of each potholder.
- Place the piping under the left hand groove of the foot and baste to the top potholder piece, removing pins as you go. *See **Figure #11**.

Figure #9



Figure #10

Remove basting stitches. Fold one end under $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch.



Tuck opposite end into folded edge. Trim excess cord.



Wrap bias around the cord.

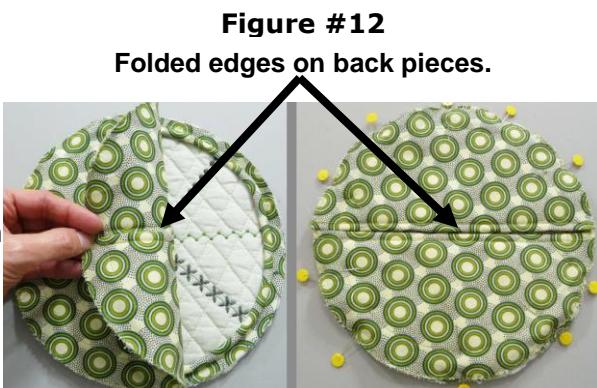


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- Layer front and back folded pieces having right sides together and raw edges matching. *See **Figure #12**.
- Sew the pieces together with the piping in the left hand groove, having the seam form close to the cording. *See **Figure #13**.
- 4. Trim seam to equal 3/8-inch. It is a good idea to finish the seams to prevent raveling. We used overcast foot "G" along with a medium width zig zag stitch. *See **Figure #14**.
- 5. Turn potholder right sides out and press. Close the folded opening approximately 1/2-inch at each end using small hand stitches.



6. Create hanger loops from leftover bias or straight grain strips. Attach loops to the back of the finished potholder. Treat raw ends with seam sealant See below:



Options and Ideas:

- Mix and match the techniques, stitching a monogram on the circular pieces and decoratively stitching the square.
- Make a set of matching monogrammed towels for a great hostess or bridal shower gift.

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