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One-step method: how to sew rounded corners on quilts Posted by Jenny on March 16, 2015, in quilting & sewing, quilt finishing, quilt tips, quilting 101, reproduction quilts



Have you ever noticed that in antique quilts, sometimes it's the little things that take a design from ordinary to extraordinary?



Occasionally you'll find an unexpected element—an off-center layout, an unusual motif, or a zinger of a color—in quilts of yesteryear. Whether the makers of these quilts chose these details out of necessity or for creativity (or both!) is hard to say. Either way, those surprising little features are part of what make antique quilts so appealing.

Taking their cue from the past, the design team known as Country Threads is big on the little things too. One little way they make their Civil War–inspired quilts stand out is by rounding the corners—and their technique couldn't get much easier.



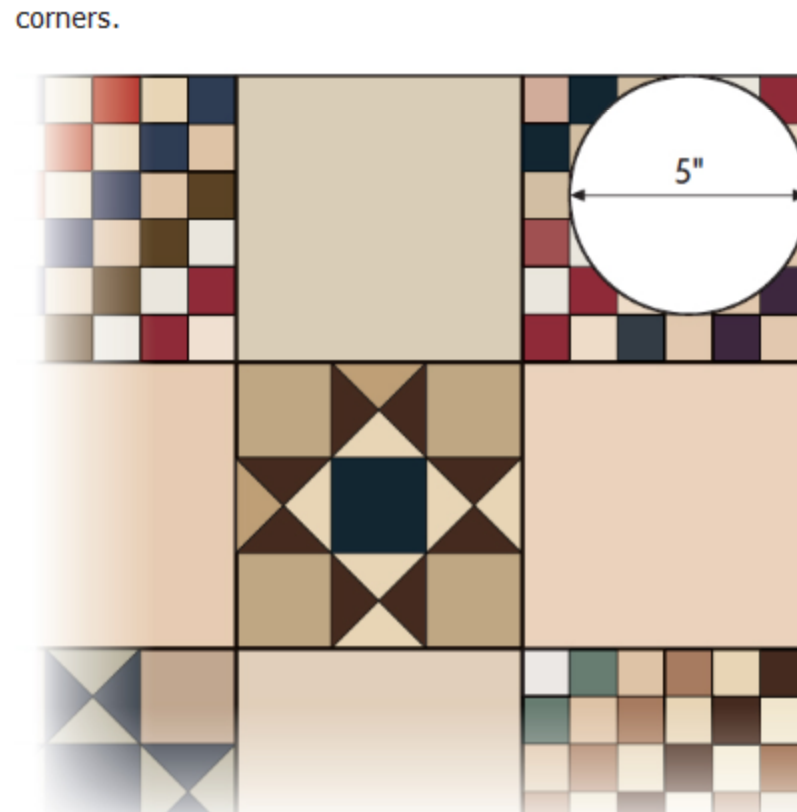
"Ohio Star Crossing" from The Blue and the Gray

See the one-step process below for rounding corners. Why not try it in your next quilt?

How to sew rounded corners on quilts

From The Blue and the Gray by Mary Etherington and Connie Tesene

To round the corners as we do, place a 5"-diameter plate or cardboard circle on a corner block and trace the curve. Trim the corner on the drawn line. Repeat for the other three corners.



Use this technique for pieced blocks and borders, as well as for single-fabric borders.

Bind your quilt as you normally would. The corner curves are wide, so no special binding techniques are needed, although using bias binding will make it easier to bind the corners.

Here are more beautiful examples of rounded-corner quilts from The Blue and the Gray:



"Gettysburg" from The Blue and the Gray

Blue and Gray quilt

"Blue and Gray" from The Blue and the Gray



"Battle for Glory" from Civil War Remembered

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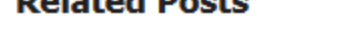
Which reproduction fabrics do you collect the most: 1800s or 1930s? Tell us in the comments!

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I have been collecting 1800's repros for quite a while as I hand piece and hand quilt little Civil War quilts. I have "The Blue and the Gray" as well as a couple of other books on little CW quilts. As only tiny pieces are required I only need to purchase small amounts so I now have over 100 in my collection. I loooooove them.

—Ondrea on March 16, 2015

I have joined 2 Civil War sewing groups and have fallen in love with them. In one we are making the Civil War Sampler as a year long project and at each meeting reading about the blocks, it is so interesting. I have been collecting 1800 reproductions for a while now.

—connie b on March 16, 2015

I love both collections. I have made little quilts in both kinds of fabric.

—Patricia D. Roberts on March 16, 2015

I am collecting fat quarters of the 1800's reproduction fabrics and using them in a Sylvia's Bridal Sampler Quilt. They are a lot of fun.

—Leslie Benoy on March 16, 2015

I admit I love both! I've spent the last two years working on a series of Civil War reproduction quilts that when finished I plan to display throughout my home. When all the scraps that "stash" has been exhausted or reallocated I can begin digging into the 30s stash and create a series of those quilts!

—Vivian on March 16, 2015

I absolutely love both that I can't pass either of them up. Such wonderful history when you see those pieces put together.

—Barbara Dolan on March 16, 2015

I have never made a Civil war quilt. The colors always seemed so dark to me...but a few ladies in my small quilting group are talking about making a sampler quilt from one book of Laurie Hird. It's all about civil war quilts and blocks. So, just have to start collecting some fabrics for it. Have already started collecting some and within a month we should start on our first few blocks. And one of the ladies just purchased this book "Civil War remembered", so who knows what we'll all come up with. So, I'll give it a try and see what develops...

—Jeanette Spellmeyer on March 16, 2015

I collect both but prefer 30's as the brighter colors really make my heart happy.

—mary on March 16, 2015

I round my corners as you suggest in your tutorial, but I don't cut the corners off until the binding has been stitched (first pass). This makes stitching much easier. 😊 Enjoyed the pictures. Thanks for sharing.

—paula dabby on March 16, 2015

Just beginning quilting. Time frame 1800's. Husband history buff. So trying to find fabric for the Underground Railroad.

—Robyn Sennette on March 16, 2015

Nether, but I do have lots of brown fabric that to me sing Civil War. Buy what you love,then you will sew what you love. Otherwise it may turn into a pillow case for the homeless at my house.

—Linda Christianson on March 16, 2015

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