

Holiday Ball Wall Quilt



The coverstitch and chainstitch are wonderful for hems but here's a fun holiday project using these versatile stitches as decorative and construction elements.

Happy Sewing & Serging!

The finished wall quilt is an 18-inch square. The holiday ball is a finished edge appliqué. I used a lightweight fusible interfacing for the finished edge appliqué, but you can use any lightweight fabric.

Supplies:

- Cover/chainstitch capable serger
- Sewing machine
- ¼-yard each of 3 fabrics for holiday ball
- ½-yard fabric for background
- ¼-yard accent fabric for borders
- ¾-yard fabric for backing and binding
- 1 ½-inch x 2-inch fabric for ornament top
- ½-yard lightweight fusible interfacing
- 18-inch square low loft batting
- 3 cones serger thread (*coordinating color*)
- decorative thread(s)
- all-purpose thread
- EL x 705 needles
- *Optional: buttons, beads; temporary adhesive spray*

Before coverstitching your project, test all settings. The stitch length should provide full coverage of the raw overlapped edges of each piece.

Tip: I lowered the differential feed to the lowest setting to minimize puckering on the curves.



Deni-Fuse

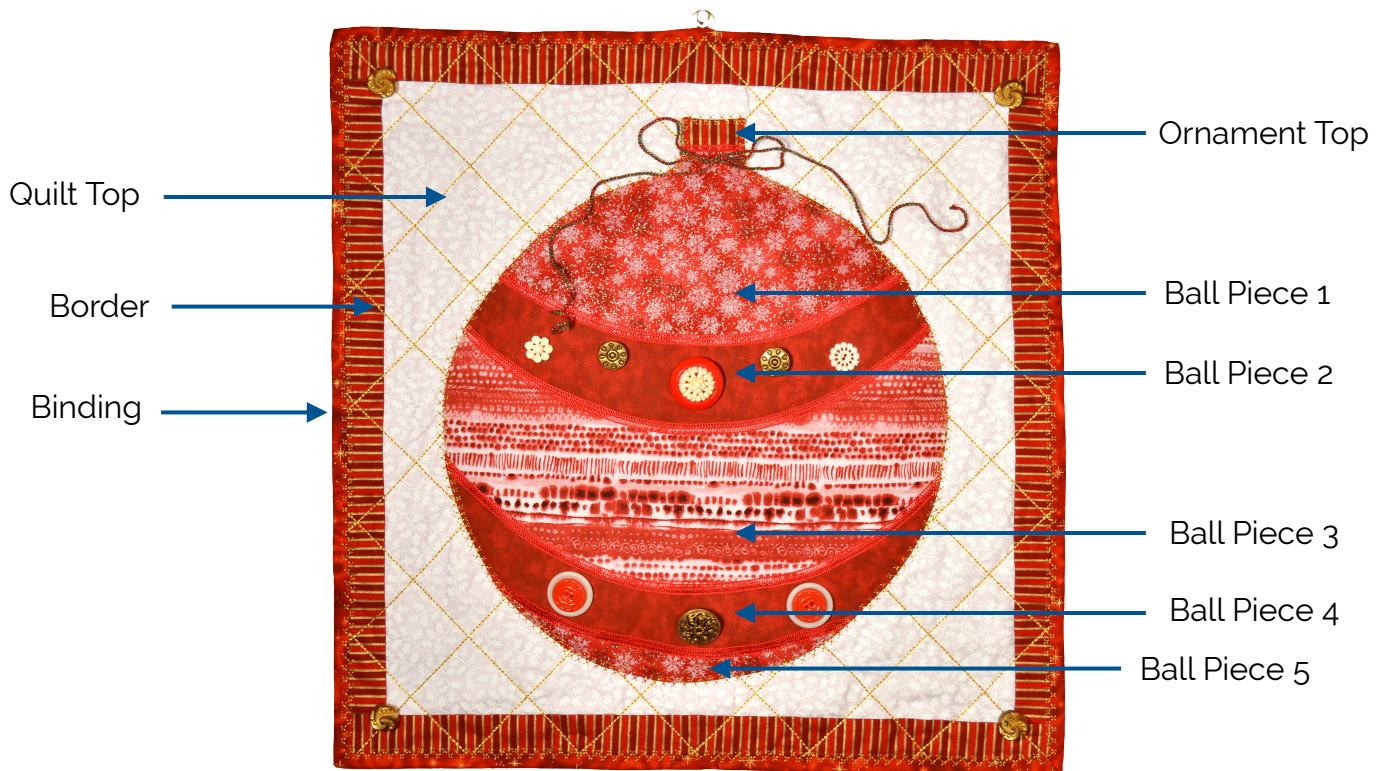
I absolutely love this interfacing and use it frequently. Deni-Fuse is 100 % micro denier polyester weft insertion fusible interfacing that works beautifully with felted wool sweaters as well as woven fabrics like linen, silk, cotton, rayon and blends. No pre-shrinking necessary. It won't change the hand of your fabric but will stabilize it while maintaining softness and drape.

Visit gailpatrice.com for more info on this product.

Cutting Instructions:

Note: All ball template pieces should be placed right side up on fabrics.

- Cut (1) of each holiday ball pieces (1 - 5).
- Cut (1) ½-inch x 2-inch fabric for ornament top.
- Cut (2) 15-inch squares of fusible interfacing.
- Cut (1) 16 ½-inch square for quilt top
- Cut (4) 1 ½-inch x 18-inch strips for the border
- Cut (1) 18-inch square for the backing
- Cut (1) 18-inch square of batting
- Cut binding strips 1 ½-inch x 80 inches. (*Binding does not have to be on the bias.*)



Note: Not shown in picture, 18-inch square for backing, 18-inch square of batting, 15-inch squares of fusible interfacing



Serger Chain, Cord or Ribbon:

(for Bow around the ornament, optional but very cute)

Set up your serger for a chain stitch. Thread the chain looper with decorative thread and thread the needle with a coordinating color. Begin stitching on

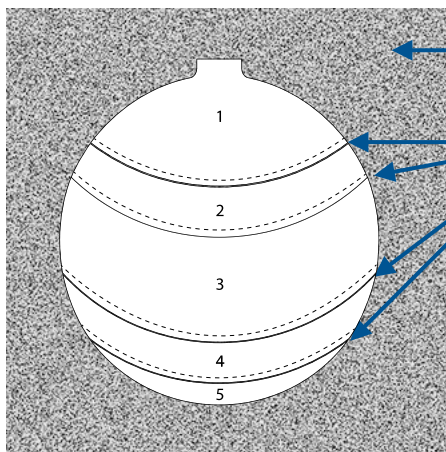
scrap fabric. Chain off and continue forming a 24-inch long chain.

Note: If your serger won't chain off fabric with the chain stitch, stitch a cord with a rolled hem stitch.

Holiday Ball Construction

Place one square of interfacing fusible side up on a flat pressing surface. Overlapping the raw edges a scant 1/8-inch, position the bands on the interfacing. Fuse in place. Trim off excess interfacing. Press both the right and wrong sides.

Straight stitch each band through the interfacing on your sewing machine. This step will keep the bands together and act as guidelines for coverstitching.

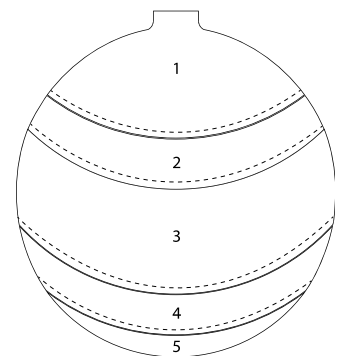


Interfacing

Overlap the holiday ball band pieces (1-5) a scant 1/8-inch.

Fuse in place.

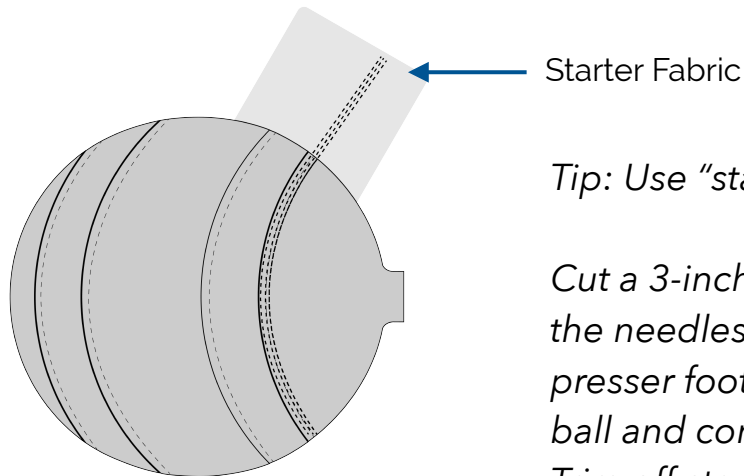
Straight stitch.



Trim off excess interfacing.

Coverstitch The Bands

Set up your serger or coverstitch machine for a triple coverstitch. Place serger cone thread in the needles and decorative thread in the chain looper.



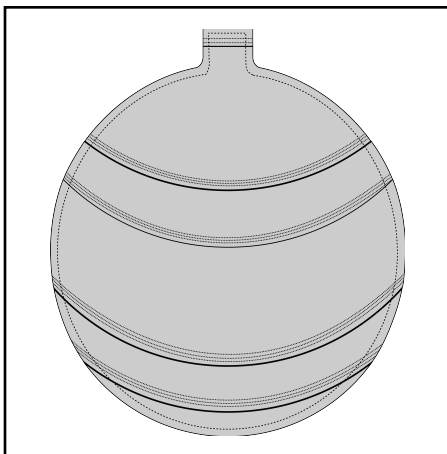
Tip: Use "starter fabric."

Cut a 3-inch square of scrap fabric. Lower the needles into the fabric and put the presser foot down. Butt the edge against the ball and continue stitching onto the ball. Trim off starter fabric after stitching each band.

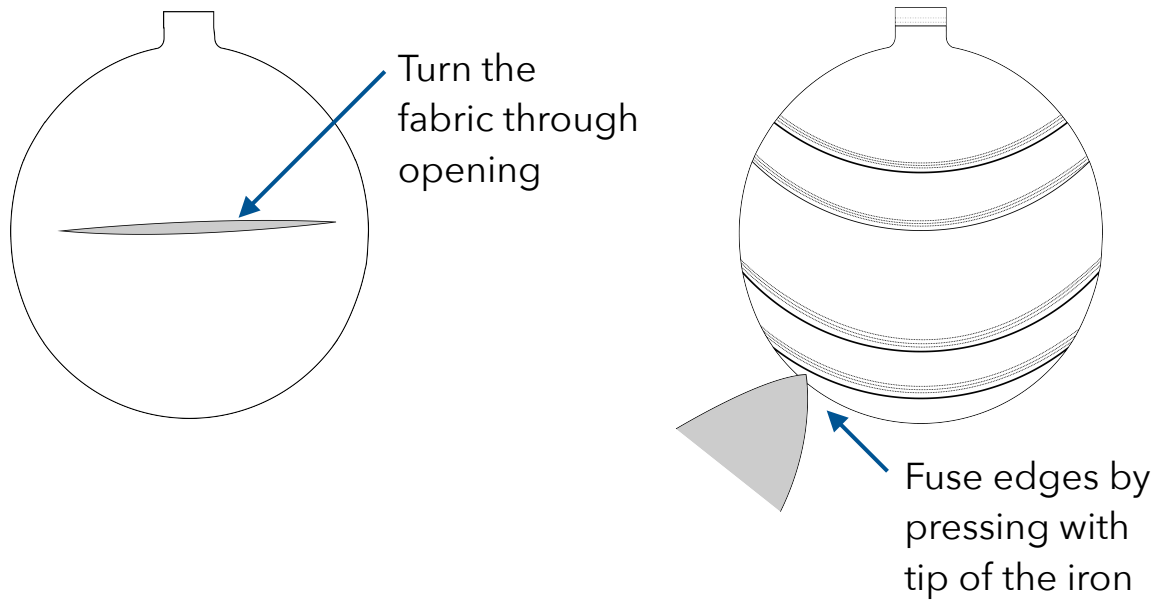
Stitch slowly with the interfacing side up and fabrics against the feed dogs. The stitched guideline should be aligned with the center needle. Repeat this process for each section.

Use either the triple or a narrow cover stitch to attach the ornament top. *(I used a narrow coverstitch for the ornament top.)* Press well.

Adjust your sewing machine stitch length to 2.5mm.



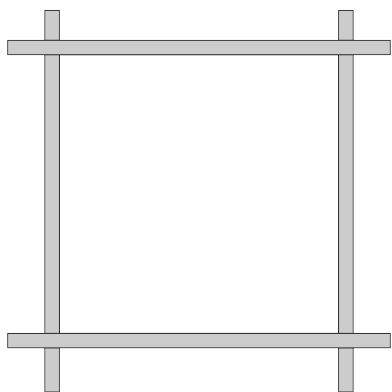
Pin the ball right side against the non-fusible side of the second piece of interfacing. Stitch a scant $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch seam allowance around the perimeter. Trim away excess interfacing around the ball.



Cut a 10-inch opening through the interfacing only and turn the fabric through right side out. Fuse the edges first by pressing with the tip of the iron. The interfacing or lightweight fabric should not be visible from the right side. After pressing the edges, place a press cloth over the ball and press carefully.

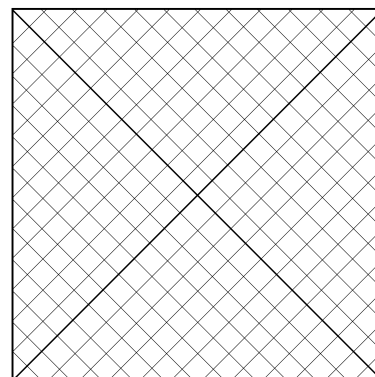
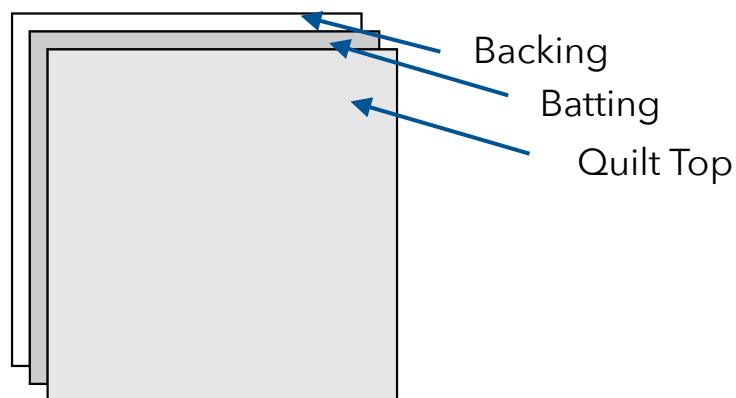
Tip: It doesn't matter if the interfacing creases when pressed. It will be hidden when the ornament is appliquéd to the quilt square.

The Quilt Square construction and quilting



Sewing machine stitch length: 2.5mm; ¼-inch seam allowance

Using your sewing machine, stitch the (4) 1 ½ inch x 18-inch border pieces to the 16-inch square. Press. Trim off excess length.



Create a sandwich with the batting and the backing fabrics.
 On the backing fabric, mark an "X" through the center from corner to corner.
 Measure and mark a 2-inch grid across the square. If you have a quilt guide, you can use it.



Set up your serger for a chainstitch. I placed metallic embroidery thread in the chain looper and coordinating color serger cone thread in the needle. Adjust tension settings if necessary. Test stitch length for the look you prefer. *(I set my length at 3.0 mm.)*

With the backing side up, quilt along the marked lines. *(The chainstitch is beautiful on the front side, isn't it?)*

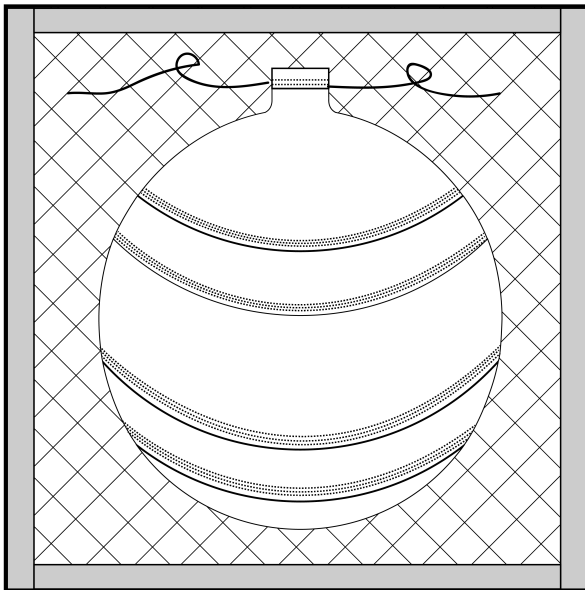
Appliqué the Holiday Ball



Set up your sewing machine with all-purpose or decorative thread in the needle. *(If stitching with metallic thread, a metallic needle is recommended.)*

Center the holiday ball on the quilt square. Position the bow cord under the ornament top (*as shown*). Pin or fuse in place.

Stitch around the perimeter with your favorite decorative or zigzag stitch. Because the edges of the holiday ball are finished, you have more appliqué stitch options.



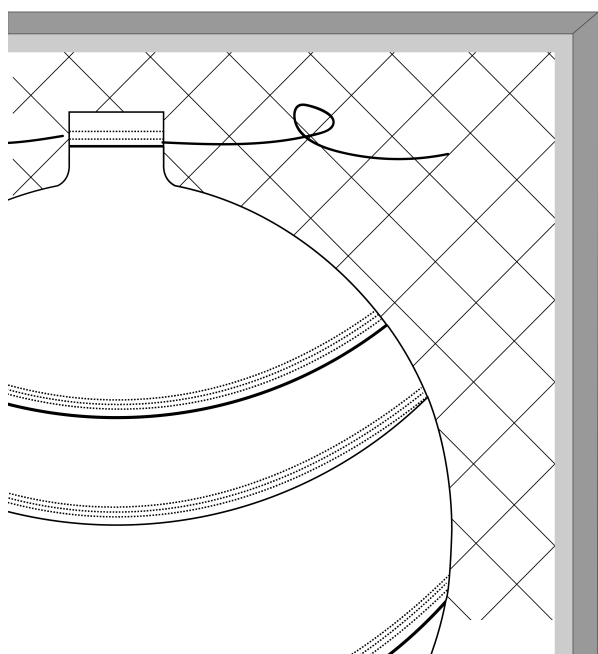
Binding

Bind the edges using your favorite method or follow the steps below.

Set your sewing machine stitch length to 2.5mm.

Join the binding strips together to create an 80-inch length. Wrong sides together and with the long edges even, fold the strip in half. Press.

Start pinning the binding strip to the quilt square 6 inches from one corner. The raw edges of the binding and square will be together. Leaving the first four inches of binding free, begin stitching $\frac{3}{8}$ -inch from the edge. Stop $\frac{3}{8}$ -inch from each corner and cut the thread.



To miter the corner, fold the binding strip up and away from the corner to form a 45° angle. Fold the binding strip down the second side of the square. Stitch. Repeat around all four sides.

Stop eight inches from the first stitches. Fold one end in $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch and press. Cut off the excess binding on the other end leaving enough length to tuck into the first end. Finish stitching.

Press the binding away from the quilt. Fold over the edges. Pin in place. Stitch in the ditch or select a decorative stitch to finish the binding process.

Optional:
Embellish with buttons, beads, hot-fix crystals.

Happy holidays!

PS: I'd love to post pics of your coverstitch creation.

Template Pieces

