**On The Border**

When thinking about borders for a quilt, you must consider many things like size, the number of borders, and whether you want it to simply be a frame for the central design, or if you want it to stand out and be a strong contributor to overall effect of the quilt.

Embellished borders can be a unique addition, especially to a small quilt or art piece. They can be created using applique, either hand or machine, they can be embroidered by hand or machine, or they can have unusual additions like yarns and beads.

This month we are looking at using yarns of many types. The funkier and more varied the better. If putting them on a functional quilt that will be washed and dried, be sure to use a washable yarn. These will likely be have acrylic or polyester content. Always do a wash test first to be sure it is colour fast. If it is an art quilt when wash ability is not a factor then you can really experiment with silks and wools, especially if you are looking for a lot of texture. You can also use a variety or ribbons and cords to create an even chunkier effect.

To apply the yarn, cord or ribbon, you should have an open toed embroidery foot (this is standard on most machines) or a beading or piping foot. The chunkier the yarn, the more you need the beading foot. Finer yarns and cords work very well with the piping foot or the beading foot.

Your border is important, maybe even more so than the central parts of the quilt so think your choices through and by all means take a chance and try adding something new to your next quilt border.

  