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Classic Baby Bumpers with Piping

by Vanessa Goertzen



Girl bumpers:
Art Gallery
Fabrics

Boy bumpers:
Michael Miller
Fabrics

*fits a
standard
27 x 52"
crib



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Basic Materials:

- 1 pkg Fairfield NU Foam Baby Bumper Pads (six pads measuring 1x10x26" each)
- 2 yds cotton fabric for bumper exterior
- 2 yds cotton fabric for bumper interior
- $\frac{3}{4}$ yd cotton fabric for fabric ties

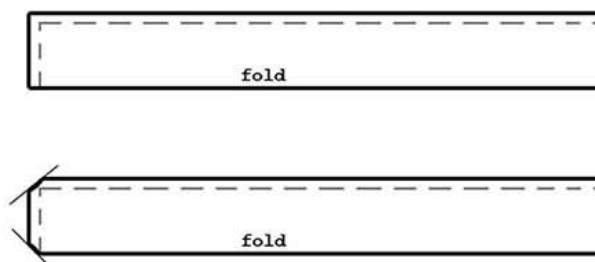
Piping Materials:

- $\frac{3}{4}$ yd cotton fabric for piping
- 14 yds 6/32" cotton filler cord
- Matching cotton thread

Instructions:

1. Cutting: From each bumper fabric, cut six 11 $\frac{3}{4}$ x 27" rectangles. For the fabric ties, cut twenty-four 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 16" strips. From the $\frac{3}{4}$ yard of piping fabric, cut 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ " strips on the bias. Join the bias strips end-to-end to make six strips of 75" length. Cut six 75" lengths of cotton filler cord.
2. Fabric ties: Fold each 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 16" strip in half lengthwise, right sides together, and iron the fold in place. Using $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance, stitch along one short side, pivot ninety degrees at the corner. Stitch along the long side, leaving the remaining short side open (diagram I). Trim the corners of the stitched short side, careful not to cut into the seam. Turn the strip right-side out by using a dowel or other skinny tool. Iron the strip flat. Repeat until all fabric ties are finished.

diagram I



3. Piping: Fold each 75" bias strip in half lengthwise (wrong sides together) with a cotton filler cord inside. Line up the raw edges of the bias strip and pin to hold in place. Install the zipper foot with the needle positioned appropriately. Leaving the first and last 6" of the piping unstitched, stitch as close to the cord as possible, constantly checking to make sure that the raw edges of the strip stay lined up (a). Trim all loose threads and repeat with the other five bias strips and cords.



4. Adding Ties and Piping: Lay an exterior bumper rectangle right side up. Pin two fabric ties on each short side, 1" away from the corners (b). The unfinished end of the tie should be lined up with the raw edge of the fabric.



5. In the middle of a long side of the bumper, line up the raw edge of the piping with the raw edge of the bumper fabric and pin in place for the first couple of feet. Leave the first 6" of piping unstitched and sew the piping to the bumper fabric (c, d). Stitch as close to the piping as possible while also checking to make sure the raw edge of the piping continues to line up with the raw edge of the bumper fabric. Clip the raw edge of the piping to help it move around corners (e). Continue sewing until you are a few inches past the fourth corner.



6. Trim the end piece of piping to overlaps the starting piece by exactly 2" (f). Join the two ends at a bias by first unfolding the strips and flattening them. Overlap them about 1/8" (right sides together) at a ninety degree angle. Pin in place and draw a diagonal line (g). [Switch to a regular presser foot and center the needle to] stitch along the diagonal line (h). Trim below the seam (i) and fold the strip back in half, wrong sides together. Trim the cotton filler cords to fit continuously and hide them back inside the folded strip (j). Line up the edge of the piping with the edge of the bumper and pin in place (k). Re-install the zipper foot, reposition the needle, and finish sewing the piping to the bumper. Repeat with all exterior bumper rectangles.



7. Assembly: Carefully lay one bumper interior rectangle on top of an exterior rectangle, right sides together. Line them up at their corners and pin in place. Continue pinning along the sides, making sure the raw edges line up. Sew around the perimeter, leaving one long side unstitched (diagram II). Make sure the presser foot is kept as close to the piping bulk as possible (l). Trim off all four corners (m). Turn the bumper pad cover right-side out through the open side and slide in a Nu Foam pad (n). Handstitch the bumper cover closed using the matching thread (o).

diagram II



Special thanks to Art Gallery Fabrics and Michael Miller Fabrics.