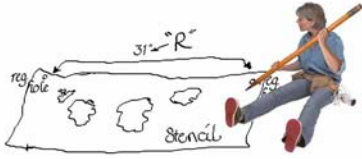


Tip 9

Fitting a Border



Measuring for a border repeat

Measuring for accurate border placement is always the hardest part of the job for me. Math ability, after you've been out of school for decades, seems to fade from memory. Even the most basic calculations are sometimes quite confusing. Maybe I'm just too right brained. Regardless, I took a few hours out of my day to come up with this method of measuring and placing repeats for a continuous border in a room.

I prefer to have everything arranged ahead of time so that there are no surprises waiting when that last repeat goes up. With that in mind, follow the steps below.

1. Measure the room. Measure the stencil repeat, which is the distance between the registration holes on your stencil. Divide the room measurement by the length of the repeat. This will represent the number of full repeats in the room.
2. If there is a remainder, you can stretch or shrink the design by the following procedure:
 - a) Multiply the remainder by the length of the repeat. This gives you the total amount that you will need to take up by stretching the design.
 - b) Divide this measurement by the number of repeats and you end up with the amount of adjustment for each repeat.

Example: Length of repeat: 28 inches
Measurement of room : 450 inches = 16.07 repeats

$$\begin{array}{r} \text{Remainder:} \quad 0.07 \\ \times \text{Length of repeat:} \quad \times 28 \\ \hline \text{Amount of adjustment} \quad 1.96 \end{array}$$

Total adjustment: 1.96inches
Number of Repeats 16 =0.12 Inches or approx. 1/8" per repeat

Note: If the amount of adjustment would visually disrupt the design you may wish to shrink the border. In this case you would add one more repeat to your total above and squeeze the repeats closer together. You also may wish to simply end the design at a convenient break in the room.

To stretch:

1. On your stencil, locate the registration holes at the outside corners of the design.
2. When moving to the right, measure the amount of adjustment to the outside of the left hand registration hole and mark with a pencil on the matte surface of the mylar.
3. With your stencil on the wall, mark through the registration holes with a pencil. After stenciling one repeat, reposition the stencil at the next space of placement by lining up the new mark on the mylar with the pencil registration mark on the wall from the previous print. Make your new set of registration marks for the overlays.

4. Continue with this procedure around the room. Each repeat will be accurately adjusted by the correct amount and your border will fit beautifully.

To Shrink:

Follow above directions except:

2. Measure the amount of adjustment to the inside of the hole and mark with a pencil on the matte surface of the mylar.

Other fitting methods can work for larger repeats and designs that may look weird if a space is left in-between repeats. One of these is the Indian Frieze (407). Pretend that you are running a border at the top of a room. Because the depth of this frieze is 17", it may not fit as shown in the photo, above either doors or windows. In this case, you can adjust this design by starting with the feathers hanging to the left side of a door or window and stencil complete repeats working to the left. When you can no longer fit in any more complete repeats, continue with the pole alone over top of the doors or windows. Pick up where you left off at the other side of the door or window.

Sometimes it takes creativity to handle difficult situations, but just remember, you can tape off sections that you don't need, add leaves here and there or make adjustments in the corners of the room.

Speaking of corners...How do I handle stenciling corners? I run 1/2" masking tape down each wall right at the corner, then stencil right over the tape. When it is removed, a nice clean break is made. The eye won't really register that there is a break in the design and it looks much more professional than blotches of paint in the corners of your border.