

Binding is the final step in completing your quilt. If you plan to hang your quilt, make a hanging sleeve before adding the binding. That way, you can sew it onto the quilt as you stitch the binding. And do not forget to add a label.

ADDING BINDING TO A QUILT

When binding a quilt you may choose from straight-grain or bias binding. The only time a quilt must have bias binding is when it has curved edges or rounded corners or if you use a striped or plaid binding and you want the look created by cutting the binding on bias.

Measure the length (l) and width (w) of your quilt. The length of your binding will be twice the sum. $2(l+w)$

1 – Cut the needed number of strips from selvage to selvage to go around the edges of your quilt, with an extra 14” for turning corners and joining the ends. (I have seen it suggested that you cut the strips 2 ¼” wide when working with thin batting and 2 ½” wide when working with thicker fabric (like flannel) or thicker batting. Use what you are comfortable with)

2 – Sew the strips end to end making a continuous strip. To join 2 strips, layer them perpendicular to each other with right sides facing. Stitch a diagonal seam across strips as shown in Diagram A. Trim the seam allowances to ¼” and press the seams open.

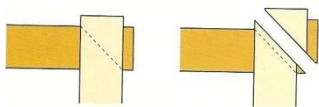


Diagram A

3 – Press the binding strip in half lengthwise with wrong sides facing as shown in Diagram B

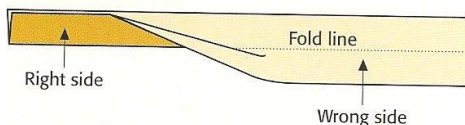


Diagram B

4 – Matching raw edges, position the binding on the front of the quilt all the way around the quilt making sure that none of the seams fall at the corners of the quilt.

5 – leaving an 8” to 10” tail at the beginning, begin stitching in the middle of any side and sew the binding to the quilt top with a ¼” seam allowance as shown in Diagram C.

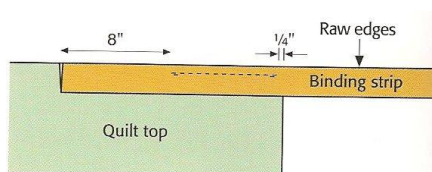


Diagram C

6 – When you approach a corner, stop $\frac{1}{4}$ " away from it. Backstitch, remove the quilt from the machine and clip the threads. Turn the quilt so that you will be stitching down the next side. Fold the binding strip straight up away from the quilt, making a 45 degree angle as shown in Diagram D

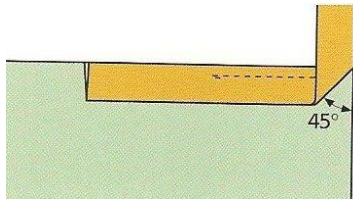


Diagram D

7 – Fold the binding straight down along the next side to be stitched, creating a fold that is even with the raw edge of the previously stitched side as shown in Diagram E

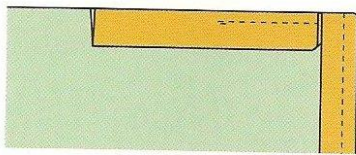


Diagram E

8 – Begin stitching at the top edge of the new side as shown in Diagram F. Stitch down the length of the new side.

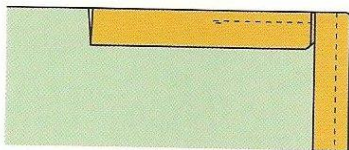


Diagram F

9 – Continue in this manner around the quilt, stopping 8" to 10" from where you began stitching. Backstitch and remove the quilt from the machine. Trim the binding so that the beginning and ending tails overlap by the width that you cut your binding strips. For example, if you cut your binding strips $2\frac{1}{2}$ ", the overlap should be $2\frac{1}{2}$ " as shown in Diagram G.

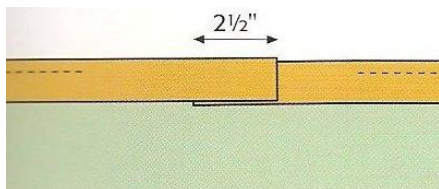


Diagram G

10 – Open and place the strips, right sides together, at right angles as shown in Diagram H.. Stitch on the diagonal. Trim the seam allowances to $\frac{1}{4}$ " and press the seams open. Refold the binding and finish sewing it to the quilt as shown in Diagram I.

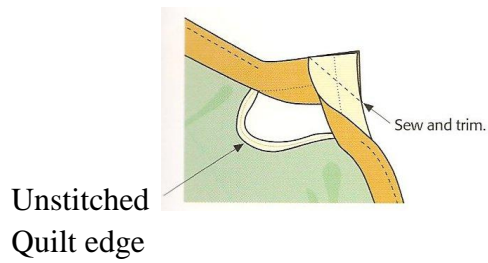


Diagram H

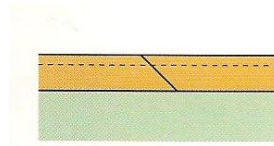


Diagram I

CLEVER TIPS

- 1 – Press the diagonal line on the binding strip before sewing the strips together. That way, you have a guide line to follow when stitching.
- 2 – Until you feel comfortable about the placement of the binding and the seam, pin the binding together and check that you have placed the binding together correctly and you will be sewing in the correct place.

11 – Bring the binding from the front of the quilt to the back and press. If desired pin it in place. Using a thread that matches the **binding**, blind stitch or whipstitch the folded edge to the back of the quilt. Be careful that your stitches do not go through to the front of the quilt. As you approach a corner, pull the binding out. With your thumbnail in the corner, fold over the unstitched binding edge, creating a miter. Secure it with stitches. Repeat for the remaining corners as shown in Diagram J,

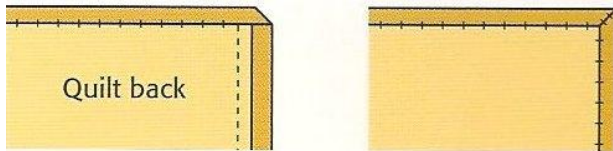


Diagram J