

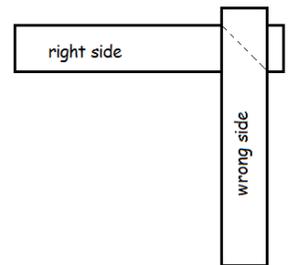
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Binding Tutorial

1. Determine how much fabric you need for your project. Measure the length and width then add them together. Multiply times two and then add 20 to allow for the angled seams and the overlap at the end. This will give you the total number of inches you need. Divide this number by 40 (approximate width of fabric) and round up to get the amount of width of fabric strips you will need to cut. Then multiply this by the width of your binding to find the total amount of fabric required. I would suggest 2 1/2".

Example: If your quilt is 50" x 60" then add 50 plus 60 to get 110 and then multiply by 2 and add 20. Your total length needed is 240. Divide this by 40 and you will know that you need 6 strips of binding. Multiply 6 time 2.5 for a total of 15 inches of fabric which is just under 1/2 yard needed for the binding.

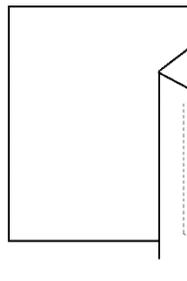
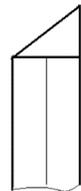
2. Cut your fabric and sew the strips together for your binding. When sewing the strips together attach them at an angle to reduce the bulk. Trim 1/4" from the seams and press the seams open. Then fold the strip in half along the length with wrong sides together and press.
3. Determine whether you will be finishing your binding by hand or machine.



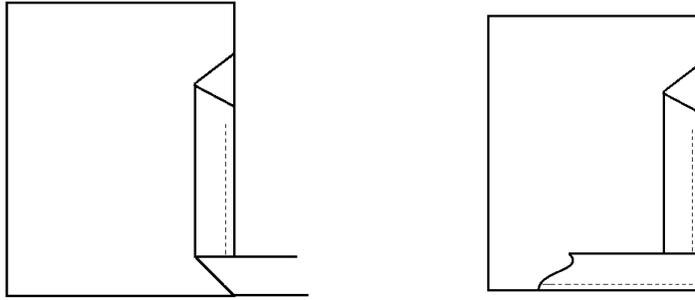
If you will be hand sewing, you will sew it by machine to the **front** of the quilt and hand sew it to the back.

If you will be machine sewing the entire binding you will start by sewing to the **back** of the quilt and then finish by sewing the front down. Once you know which side you are sewing on to start with the process is the same.

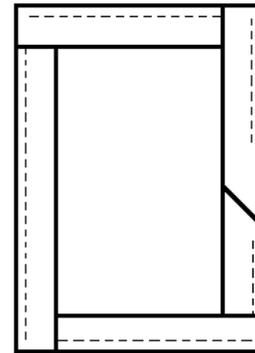
4. Open the crease and fold the end that you will start with at an angle and trim it as shown. Re-fold the crease in the center and then place it along one edge of your quilt with the raw edges together. Begin sewing just past the folded end. You will tuck the end in there to finish it. Stitch along the edge with a 1/4" seam. Stop sewing 1/4" from the end of that side and back stitch a couple of stitches. Cut the thread and remove from the sewing machine.



5. Create the mitered corner by folding the binding at a 45° angle as shown and then folding it back on itself in a straight line. Pin in place and start stitching the next side ¼" from the end. Stop ¼" from the end and repeat the process for the next corner. Continue until you have all the corners completed.

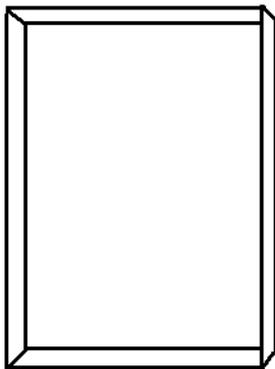


6. When sewing the last side down, stitch until you are close to the beginning of the binding then lay the binding over the top of the beginning and trim it so that it will stop just before where you began stitching. Tuck the end into the fold as shown in the picture and pin it in place. Finish stitching it down.
7. Fold the binding towards the edge and press. This will help the binding lay flat while you are sewing it to the other side.

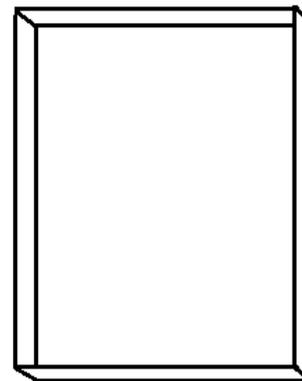


Finishing by machine

Fold the binding around to the front of the quilt and pin or clip in place. When you reach a corner continue pressing the binding flat forming a 45° angle. Then fold the next side in creating a mitered corner. Clip or pin.



Right side is folded to the front.



Bottom is folded to the front.

You can pin the entire thing before sewing or pin as you go. When you start stitching, stitch close to the edge of the binding. Go slowly and try to keep your stitch line straight. Using a walking foot will make it easier to control your

stitching. When you reach the corner, Pivot the piece with the needle down and continue with the next side. Continue until complete

As an alternative to straight stitching, you can use a zigzag or decorative stitch sewing across the edge of the binding.

Finishing by hand

In this method you will fold the binding around to the back of the quilt. I suggest using wonder clips or binding clips to hold the material in place. This will keep you from sticking your fingers as you are working. Thread a needle with about 18" of thread doubled. If you work with longer pieces it is more likely to get tangled and knotted. Insert the needle under the folded binding and bring it up very close to the edge of the binding. Push the needle into the back of the quilt very close to where you brought it out of the binding. Push it through under the back of the quilt for about ¼" being careful not to go all the way through to the front. When you come up through the back again catch the edge of the binding. Then stitch through the back of the quilt again for ¼". Come back up and catch the edge of the binding again. When you come to a corner fold it as shown in the directions for machine finishing. Take a couple of stitches close together to be sure that the corner is secured. Continue around the edge until complete.

Curved edges

If you have curved edges then you will need to use bias binding to get a smooth finish. Bias binding is cut on a diagonal angle from the fabric and has a lot of stretch. It can be sewn on the same as shown above but you will get the best results using the hand sewing method for finishing.

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