

Perfect Fit Binding

Important – throughout this process the quilt edge is closest to you as shown in the photos.

STEP ONE

Start your binding in the middle of one side of the quilt. Leave an 8” tail of binding as shown. Apply the binding all the way around the quilt until you get to the side you began on.



STEP TWO

When you come all the way around the quilt stop stitching the binding a good 2-3 inches before you reach the binding tail (8” untacked from when you started). This will leave 10+ inches of quilt edge that will not have the binding attached. Remove the quilt from the bed of your sewing machine and lay flat on a table.

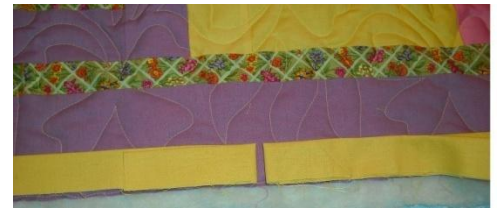
Note: the raw edge of the quilt is toward you.



STEP THREE

Now, lay out the binding strips on the quilt edge as if you had stitched them. Fold back the extra binding length on top of itself, making sure the fold is 5” away from the end of your stitching.

Now adjust the folds so you leave a ¼ inch space between the folded binding strips. Finger press.



STEP FOUR

Now, cut ONE of the binding strips at the fold. I cut the one on the right.

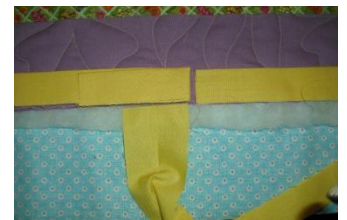
Next, take the piece you have just cut off and open it so you have the full width of the strip. This will be used to measure.



STEP FIVE

You will now measure to cut the other side of the binding strip, the one on your left.

Lay the cut & opened binding scrap, from step four, on the non-cut strip, lining up at the fold on the right. You are using the width for measurement. Draw a vertical line, at the left side, and then cut on the line.



STEP SIX

You will now get into the crazy part of this entire process. Getting the binding strips laid out and marked so they will join correctly.

Take the left binding strip, open fully, grasp the lower right corner in your right hand **and flip the strip up and over to the left**. Now place a pin in the upper right corner as shown. This pin will serve two purposes: (1) holds the binding in place (2) supplies the point you will draw your line to as shown in the next step.



STEP SEVEN

Open up the binding strip on the right. With right sides together (fold creases) lay the strip on the right over the strip you have pinned to the quilt.

Next, draw a diagonal line starting at the bottom of the top strip – and going to the pin you had placed at the top right.

Pin along the line, then test to see that the binding folds down correctly and is not twisted. *Do not proceed to the next step without pin testing*. If it is laying correctly proceed to the next step. If not, try again.



STEP SEVEN

Stitch on the drawn diagonal line
Trim, press seam open, press binding in half
Press to quilt, then stitch in place.

Ta da...you are done and it is BEAUTIFUL.

PS: a tip from a judge in the audience – use a smaller stitch length when stitching the diagonal line – you are on the bias and it will stretch otherwise. Also, make sure all binding seams are pressed open and you have used a matching thread or a thread of a similar color value.

