

Traditional Binding

- If you are going to hand stitch the last step of the binding down, you will sew the binding to the quilt on the front with the machine and fold it over the back and hand stitch.
- If you are going to put the entire binding down by machine, you can sew the binding to the front or back. The preference is really yours. If you sew to the back and then flip to the front, you can easily see the edge and the stitching you use can be basic or decorative (straight, blanket, feather, etc). If you sew it on the front and flip it to the back so you can stitch in the ditch from the top, you need to make sure that it wraps far enough under that you will catch the edge when stitching in the ditch. If you choose the latter, you may wish to cut the binding strips at 2 1/2" instead of 2 1/4" to give you a little more wiggle room on the back.
- Unless your quilt has curved edges, it is not necessary to cut bias binding. Strips cut across the width of the fabric will work fine.

Piecing the Binding

- When piecing binding strips, always use a bias seam. To create this, lay the pieces in an "L" shape and stitch diagonally. Trim seam to 1/4" and ***press open***.

Stitch corner to corner

Starting the Binding

- Start the binding in the middle of a side, don't start at a corner or close to a corner if possible. Start the binding by leaving a tail approximately 10" unstitched. With raw sides even with edge of quilt, sew the binding down using a 1/4" seam. Backstitch at the beginning to secure.

Corners

1. Stop stitching 1/4" from the corner, turn and sew diagonally to the corner. If you change your stitch length to a really small number (1mm), this will help create the mitered point later.
2. Remove from the machine and cut the thread.
3. Turn the quilt clockwise.
4. Fold binding up and away from the quilt
5. Fold back down with the fold being even with the top edge of the quilt.
6. Change stitch length back to normal and start stitching 1/4" in from the top edge of the quilt, and sew to within 1/4" of the next corner and repeat.



Ending the Binding

7. Stop sewing approximately 12" to 15" from where you started and remove the quilt from the machine.
8. Lay the binding along the edge and overlap the ends.
9. Cut the binding off so that it overlaps by the width the binding was cut, in this case, 2 1/4".
10. Open the binding on both ends. Once open the wrong sides of the fabric is showing.
11. Flip the one on the right over away from you. The binding on the left should have the wrong side up and the strip on the right should have the right side up.
12. Turn 1/4 turn clockwise so that the short edge is at the top.
13. Lay the left strip of binding over the right piece in the "L" shape as you did when piecing and sew diagonally.
14. BEFORE TRIMMING THE SEAM ALLOWANCE.— Open to make sure you stitched in the right direction and it seems to fit properly.
15. Trim excess seam allowance, press seam open and binding in half.
16. Finish stitching binding down.
17. Fold over and stitch down as desired.



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