

Cardboard Insert Finishing Instructions

You can turn just about any project into a stand-up picture with this technique. I hope this helps you enjoy your stitching projects even more!

Once your quilt or wool applique top is complete and ready for finishing, follow these simple directions to insert a piece of hard cardboard or tag board into you backing to make it stand up. Use with a decorative easel and you're all set!

I'll be using my free project, *July 4th*, as an example of how to finish any project. (This project was posted on my blog as a freebie July 4, 2020 and is still available as a free download.)

You can see photos and step by step instructions of this technique in my blog tutorial, *Cardboard Insert Finishing Instructions* posted on July 9, 2020. You can also search for it on my blog using the search icon and by typing Cardboard Insert Finishing Instructions.



Directions:

- *I began by adding a border to my finished wool stitchery background. I cut and sewed 1½" wide strips to the top. (Depending on the size of your project, you may wish to adjust the size of your border larger, or smaller, or omit it entirely.)
- *Cut a piece of scrap batting the same size as your project top.
- *Cut a piece of lining fabric the same size as your project top.
- *For a project this size, I cut (2) 1½" squares for the bottom corners of the back. Press them in half, diagonally, wrong sides together, to form triangles. (If your project is considerably larger, you may want to cut larger squares for larger triangles.)

*Cut a backing fabric the same size as your project top. With disappearing pen, on the right side of the fabric, mark a line $\frac{3}{4}$ " along the bottom edge. Fold the fabric, wrong sides together, along the marked line, and press. Top stitch $\frac{1}{4}$ " along the fold to finish the seam.

*Layer the pieces as follows: Project top face down, batting on top of project, lining face up, triangles in the bottom two corners, backing face up. Pin all components in place. Stay stitch around all four sides $\frac{1}{8}$ " from the edge to hold all pieces in place while adding binding.

*Calculate binding for your project as follows: $L+W+W+L$ inches, divided by 40 = number of strips to cut at the width you desire. For my July 4th project, you will need to cut (2) binding strips. I cut mine $1\frac{1}{8}$ " wide for single fold binding. Cut yours the smallest width you're comfortable using.

*Remove all the pins and stitch your binding on your project as you usually would.

*Cut a piece of stiff cardboard $\frac{1}{2}$ " smaller in length and $\frac{1}{2}$ " smaller in width than the size of your finished project. Insert the cardboard between the backing and the lining, tucking the corners inside the two triangles.

Voila! You're done!!

I didn't always want my projects to hang on the wall, or become pinkeeps or paper weights. I often want them to stand up as if they were framed, without the expense of having them framed, so this idea seems to be a good alternative. I hope it helps you find new ways to enjoy your many stitching projects.

I encourage you to follow me on my blog, HeartspunQuilts.Blogspot.com, where I post everything new coming from Heartspun Quilts! I host sew-alongs and have other freebie projects throughout the year. Sign up to receive my blog posts automatically via email so you won't miss a thing!

Follow me on [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#) for behind-the-scenes posts that don't appear on my blog.

Be well, my friends....keep on stitching!