

Binding a Quilt - Cheryl Petreman

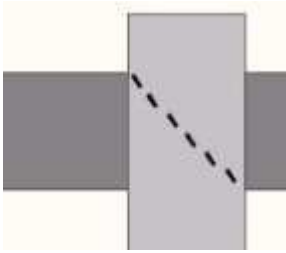
Cutting the binding

The width to cut your binding strips depends on personal preference, but it must be at least 6 times the seam allowance (usually 1/4") plus twice the thickness of your quilt.

I generally cut my binding to be 2 1/4" wide, but cut it wider for bulkier fabrics (ie: flanel) or batting.

If the quilt edges are straight lines, then the binding strips may be cut on the lengthwise or crosswise grain of fabric. For curved quilt edges (i.e. Double Wedding Ring), the binding *must* be cut on a 45° bias.

Joining Strips



Place the end of two strips right sides together, forming an L. Stitch diagonally across. Cut off the corner, leaving a 1/4" seam allowance. Iron the seam open to reduce bulk to a minimum. Fold the binding in half (wrong sides together) and press.

Starting Out

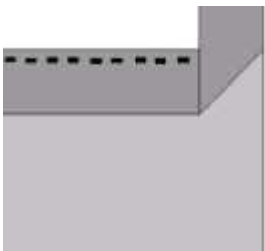


Cut the beginning of the binding strip at a 45° angle. Turn the edge in 1/4" and press. Lay the binding strip (point side down) on the quilt top, aligning raw edges of the binding and the quilt. Open the binding strip and sew through only one binding layer (plus all quilt layers) for the first couple of inches. Stop sewing and remove needle from the quilt.



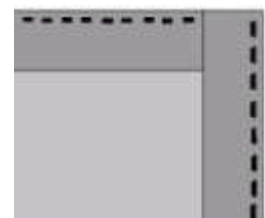
Fold 2nd binding layer so that it aligns with edge of quilt and continue sewing (through all layers). The starting V will act as a pocket for the end of the binding.

Mitering Corners



Stop sewing 1/4" from the corner. Remove the needle from the quilt.

Fold the binding perpendicular to the seam just sewn.

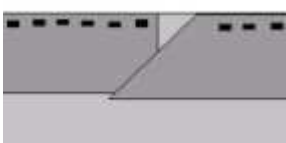


Now fold it back so that it lies even with the unbound edge of the quilt.

There will be an unsewn, folded triangle of fabric which will be large enough to cover the corner of the quilt.

Begin stitching at the edge and continue sewing.

Finishing



When nearing starting point, cut binding and tuck the end into folded strip. Continue sewing until edge is well caught.

Turn the binding to back of the quilt covering the previous line of stitches. Blindstitch to the backing.

Blindstitch the diagonal join of the first & last strips.