

# Binding a Quilt

9.240

Page 1



## SEW-lutions Guidelines

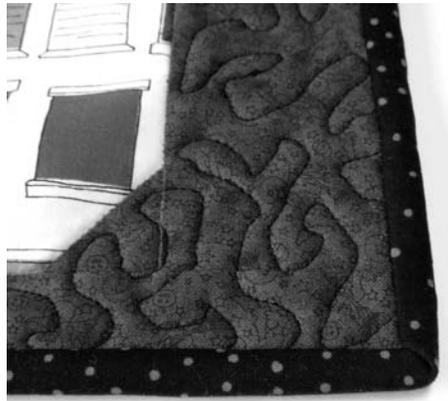
Your Guide  
to  
Successful  
Sewing

© 2008 Sewing & Craft Alliance  
Permission is granted to  
educators and retailers to  
reproduce these publications  
as-is as a handout for  
educational purposes only.  
They may not be altered,  
changed or added to in any  
manner. No commercial or other  
use, distribution, or  
reproduction is permitted.

Get free projects and  
more SEW-lutions  
Guidelines at  
[www.sewing.org](http://www.sewing.org)



You've pieced a beautiful quilt top, layered it up with batting, and quilted to your heart's content-- you're almost done, but not quite. The next step to finishing is to bind the quilt edges.



### Binding Options

If your quilt is square or rectangular, it can be bound with strips cut crossgrain. This option saves fabric over cutting bias strips.

However, if your quilt is round, has curved corners or scalloped edges, you'll need to cut the binding on the bias so it can be pucker-free around the curves—something the crossgrain strips can't do.

For information on cutting bias see Guideline 9.230 *Making Bias and Bias Binding*.

Most quilters prefer a double binding on their quilts, adding an extra layer of fabric to help stabilize the edges and add durability.

### Cutting Up

Cut enough strips (bias or crossgrain) to go around the quilt plus 8" for cornering and seams. Strip width can vary from 2" to 2 1/2" and even wider if you prefer a larger binding than the traditional 1/4" width.

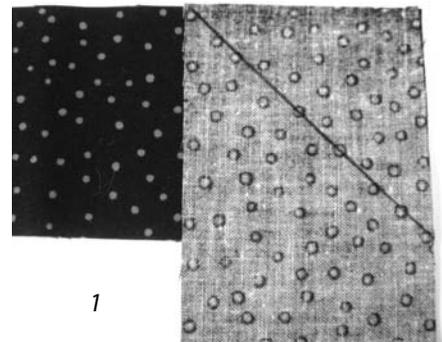
Quilt binding strips are generally sewn together with a diagonal seam for the most inconspicuous joining. This makes a flatter join as there aren't eight layers of fabric on

top of themselves which creates a lump when the binding is sewn to the quilt.

### Seam Savvy

To stitch a diagonal seam to join binding strips, trim the selvages and position the strips right sides together at right angles to each other.

Draw a 45° angle line across the upper strip overlap (1).



Stitch on the drawn line, trim excess fabric leaving a 1/4" seam allowance. Press the seam open.

### Binding Prep

Fold the seamed binding in half with wrong sides together matching the cut edges. Press the entire length of the binding fold.

Trim the starting end at an angle and press under 1/4" to neaten (2).

### In a Bind

Most quilters like to sew the binding to the quilt before trimming the excess binding and batting, but you can trim before binding if you prefer.

Begin binding in an inconspicuous place on the quilt—preferably not the center of either the top and bottom edge, or in the



exact middle of either side. Stay at least 3" away from the corner to reduce bulk.

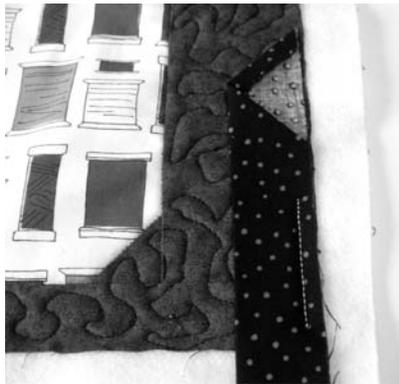
Right sides together, pin the binding to the quilt, matching the cut edges. Pin only from the starting point to the first corner.

Give the binding a quick visual check around the quilt to be sure that no seams will end up exactly at a corner—if they do, move the initial starting point a few inches to avoid the problem.

Begin stitching about 2" below the slanted finished end fold back.

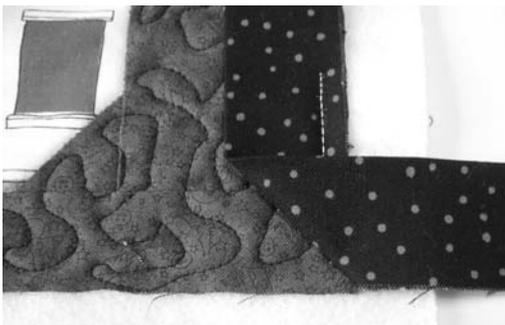
### Mitering Magic

To miter the binding corner, stop stitching 1/4" from the perpendicular quilt edge and backstitch (3). If your binding is wider than 1/4", stop at the seamline.



3

Lift the presser foot and fold back the binding straight back, parallel to the adjacent edge (4), then fold it down at a 45° angle so the raw edges align with the next edge (5).

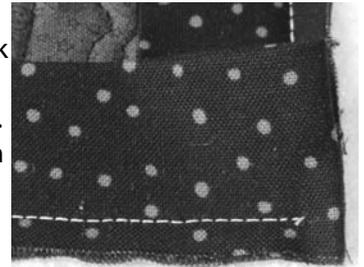


4



5

Begin stitching again where you left off, backtack and catch the folded binding in the stitching (6). Repeat this process at each corner.

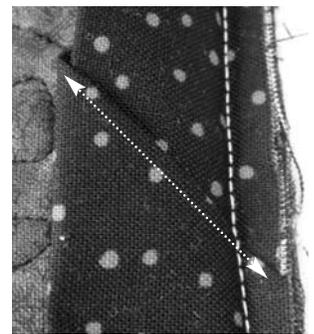


6

### Ending Up

There are multiple ways to end the binding—this one is called tucking.

When you get back to the starting point of your binding, cut off the excess length 1/2" beyond the finished slanted end. Tuck the end under the slanted fold and continue stitching to complete the binding attachment and meet the original stitching line (7).



7

### Finishing

If you haven't trimmed the batting and backing to match the quilt top edges, do so now before finishing the binding.

Fold the binding over the quilt raw edges and shape the mitered corners. Pin in the well of the seam (8).



8

Hand sew the folded binding edge to the quilt back, or machine stitch from the front side being sure to catch the binding underside. You can stitch with a straight, zigzag or decorative stitch to secure the binding.

---

*To evenly catch the binding underside, insert a 1/4" strip of fusible web tape under the binding fold and press in place to secure on the back side. Then stitch from the right side, either in the ditch, or through the binding.*

---

Your binding should be an even width around the quilt and corners should be mitered perfectly.

Press lightly to set the stitches. 