

NOTES ON BINDING NOVEMBER 2012 (p 1 of 2)

Binding should always fit snugly around the quilt edges and feel very firm.

Sew to the front of the quilt by machine and to the back of the quilt by hand using an "invisible" ladder stitch. There should be $\frac{1}{4}$ " or less between stitches.

Regular binding

For $\frac{1}{4}$ " finished binding, cut strips 2 $\frac{1}{4}$ " wide. Stitch with a $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam. Stop **EXACTLY** $\frac{1}{4}$ " from the corner, backtack and cut thread. Fold binding strip up at a 45 degree angle. At edge of quilt, fold down even with top and side of quilt. Start stitching **EXACTLY** $\frac{1}{4}$ " from corner. You can feel where the fold is. When you fold binding to the back, you will get a perfect miter in the corner on the front and with very little difficulty, also on the back. When hand stitching the binding to the quilt, always stitch both sides of the miter.

Straight or bias binding?

Binding can be cut straight across the width of fabric **EXCEPT** in the case of a curved edge on the quilt, such as scallops or rounded corners. In these cases, binding strips must be cut on the bias. See separate page on how to prepare bias binding.

Joining binding strips

Binding strips should be joined with a diagonal seam which is then trimmed to a $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam.

Double-Sided (Two-Color Binding)

This is most useful when no binding color matches both the front and the back of the quilt. See separate page for this technique.

Binding with piping or flanges

Cut piping or flanges off even with each corner, as they would make mitering the corners more difficult and lumpy.

Piping

Using a zipper foot, first stitch the piping to the quilt. Stitch as closely as possible to the piping cord with a thread to match piping. Place the pressed, folded binding over the piping, press fingernail to mark the edge of the piping and stitch on that crease. Fold binding to back as usual and stitch by hand to the back of the quilt.

Multiple rows of different colored piping

Using the zipper foot, first stitch the colors together with matching threads, then add binding above for a single row of piping.

