

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.

NOTES ON BINDING NOVEMBER 2012 (p 2 of 2)

Flanges

Cut flange to desired width. Example: If you want flange to end as $\frac{1}{4}$ " on the quilt, cut the strips 1" wide. Press in half **WRONG** sides together (now $\frac{1}{2}$ " wide). Stitch to quilt with a $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam. $\frac{1}{4}$ " now shows on quilt. Place binding over flange and continue as above.

Binding with Facing Strips

This is a useful binding when you want nothing to show on the front of the quilt, possibly in a landscape so as not to distract from the scene. Cut strips the length of each side, about $2\frac{1}{2}$ " wide (narrower for smaller quilts). Stitch under $\frac{1}{4}$ " on one long edge. Pin finished side right sides together with quilt, stitch with a $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam, open flat and stitch through binding and seam allowance (allows binding to lie flat), turn to the back, trim ends even with quilt and hand stitch to back. Finish one edge before starting on the second edge.

Binding made from quilt backing

Trim backing so it is about $\frac{1}{2}$ " larger than front. Fold over $\frac{1}{4}$ ", then $\frac{1}{4}$ " again and bring to front. Stitch to front by hand or machine. A decorative stitch could be used here. This is a good binding for quick, casual or perhaps childrens' quilts. This is not a "formal" finish.

One Piece Flanged Binding

This is another casual style of binding. Cut flange fabric $1\frac{3}{4}$ " wide. Cut the binding fabric $1\frac{1}{4}$ " wide. Stitch together along long edge with a $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam. Fold **WRONG** sides together, press and stitch to the **BACK** of the quilt with a $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam (only the flange fabric shows).

Fold over to the front of the quilt, miter corners as usual. Stitch in the ditch **BETWEEN** the flange and the binding, **Note:** This row of stitching does show on the back of the quilt. This is a good place to use invisible thread in the needle and thread to match the backing fabric in the bobbin.

You may add rick rack, lace, etc to your binding in the same manner as piping or flanges.

LUMPLESS BINDING FINISH

Leave a long binding tail at the beginning when stitching to the quilt front (maybe even 12"). Stitch binding around the quilt, leaving another long tail at the end. Now **MEASURE** the width of both ends of the binding. You know what they should be; measure them anyway to be sure. Lay the ending binding over the beginning binding so that it overlaps by the exact width of the binding (trim off excess). Join ends with a diagonal seam (right sides together). Sew from upper left to lower right. Press. Fold binding in half wrong sides together and finish stitching to quilt. It should be exactly the correct length and lie flat with no lumpiness.

DOUBLE-SIDED BINDING

Great for when one color binding just doesn't work for both sides of your quilt!

Cut and measure carefully and it will be easy the first time you try it.

The numbers may seem "strange", but it works!

- Decide which side you want to call the front of your quilt.
 - Cut the required number of binding strips for the front $1\frac{1}{4}$ " wide.
 - Cut the required number of binding strips for the back $2\frac{1}{4}$ " wide.
 - Sew each of the colors into one long strip, using diagonal seams to join. You now have 2 long strips, one of each color.
 - Press the diagonal seams open.
 - With right sides together, sew the strips together lengthwise with a $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam.
 - Press the seam open. The 2-color strip should be 3" wide.
 - Fold in half lengthwise, wrong sides together, and press. The pressed fold will be on the wider back binding, not on the joining seam!
 - Place binding, right side against right side (front) of quilt with raw edges aligned and stitch with a $\frac{1}{2}$ " seam. **Note:** Not the usual $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam.
 - Mitered corners are not recommended and are more difficult with this binding, but they can be done.
 - To miter the corners, stop sewing exactly $\frac{1}{2}$ " from the corner, backtack, remove quilt from machine and snip threads.
 - Fold the corner as usual to get a perfect miter.
 - Place under needle and stitch the next side of the quilt, starting $\frac{1}{2}$ " from the corner and ending $\frac{1}{2}$ " before the next corner. Repeat around all 4 sides of the quilt.
 - End binding as usual.
-
- To use this binding without mitering the corners:
 - Stitch binding to sides of quilt starting at top of quilt and ending at the bottom.
 - Turn binding to back and pin.
 - Now stitch binding to the top and the bottom of the quilt..
 - When stitching the top and bottom bindings, leave tails at the end which you will turn in and tack by hand.
 - The second method is easier; the first looks better if you can handle mitering with the extra seam.

Cmc Nov 2012

How to Make Continuous Bias

From a Square

Bias Strip Widths		
Length	2 1/4"	2 1/2"
Up to 110"	18"	19"
111-130"	19"	20"
131-150"	20"	21"
151-170"	22"	23"
171-190"	23"	24"
191-210"	24"	25"
211-240"	25"	27"
241-270"	27"	28"
271-300"	28"	29"
301-330"	29"	31"
331-360"	31"	32"
361-390"	32"	33"
391-420"	33"	35"
421-450"	34"	36"
451-480"	35"	37"

1. Measure quilt to determine how many inches of binding are needed. Be sure to allow at least 10" extra for turning corners and for the finish. Refer to chart on page 8 to find the size fabric square needed.
2. Referring to Diagrams A, B, and C, cut square in half diagonally. With right sides together, sew the triangles together with a 1/4" seam and press open.
3. On wrong side of fabric, parallel to the long edges, draw lines to make strips of your chosen binding width (see Diagram D). Our example illustrates 2 1/2"-wide binding. A long rotary cutting ruler works well, along with a fabric-marking pencil or pen.
4. Referring to Diagrams E and F, bring the short diagonal edges together, forming a tube. Offset the drawn line by one strip. Right sides together, align lines at the 1/4" seam line so that numbers match (1 to 1, 2 to 2, etc.), and pin. Stitch seam and press open.
5. Referring to Diagram G, cut along continuous drawn line with scissors.
6. Use as single or double-fold binding; see What is the Difference Between Single and Double-fold Binding on page 3.

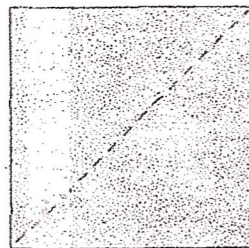


Diagram A

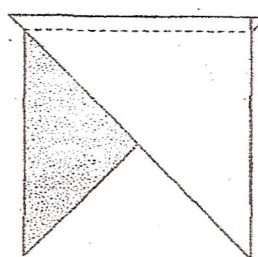


Diagram B

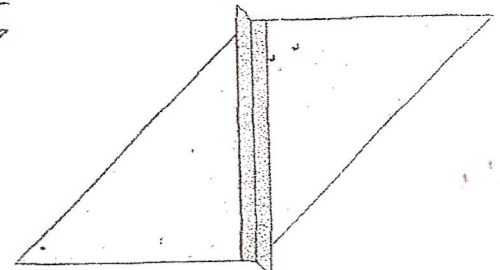


Diagram C

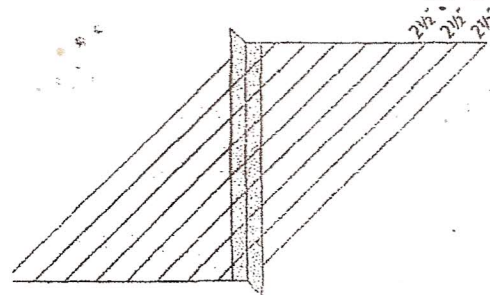


Diagram D

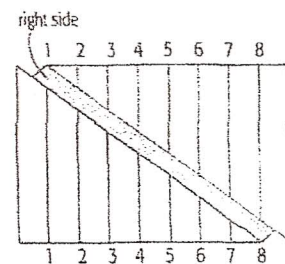


Diagram E

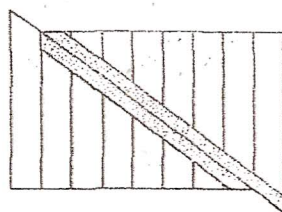


Diagram F

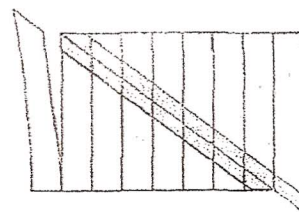


Diagram G