

Fantastic Binding Finish



1. Leave at least 15" to 20" open with at least 12" tails of each side of binding. Meeting near the center of the opening, leave a smaller than 1/4" gap between each side. Fold back the binding and press to create a fold mark on each side.

5. Sew the seam across the binding strips. Consider basting this line of sewing if you are unsure.



2. Unfold the binding to reveal the + mark on each side. These marks help align the strips for sewing.

6. Check to make sure the sewing is correct. No twists or too loose. If basted, re sew it using a smaller stitch length. No need to remove the stitching.



3. Bunch up the quilt to help create enough room to maneuver the binding tails. I use a big clip.

7. Trim the seam allowance to 1/2" and then trim one side to 1/4" which is called 'grading'. It helps remove bulk and makes it easier to wrap the binding to the other side.

With right sides together, place the left side of the binding on top of the right side of the binding using the + to correctly align them.

Press the seam open and repress the crease of the binding.



4. Open the binding and continue to align the + for the correct placement of the bindings. Pin across the sewing area. Consider drawing a line on the wrong side of the fabric which may help visualize the line as you move to the sewing machine.

8. Continue sewing the final section of the remaining binding to the edge of the quilt.

Press the binding away from the seam around the entire quilt. It helps the binding wrap around the edge of the quilt. Finish sewing the binding on the other side of the quilt.



This is just one of many methods of finishing binding. This is MY way of connecting the binding. Get on the computer and take a look at YouTube at the many techniques demonstrated. Lots of quilting books have finishing techniques. Good Luck and remember that the more often you sew binding, the better it will look and the more confident you will become. Charity Comfort Quilts is a great way to practice your skills. Now, go forth and sew!

Updated Dec. 2020 by Su Scott

Fabulous Equation for Binding OR How many strips to bind your quilt?

Measure each side of your quilt. $1+2+3+4$ (remember these are in inches)

Add an overlap of about 10" to 20" for sewing it together. I like 15".

Now divide that number by 40 (which is the measurement of WOF – width of fabric -strip).

$$1 + 2 + 3 + 4 = \underline{\quad\quad\quad} + 20 = \underline{\quad\quad\quad} \div 40 = \underline{\quad\quad\quad}$$

So, if your quilt is 48" X 60", plug in the numbers:

$$48 + 48 + 60 + 60 = \underline{216} + 20 = \underline{236} \div 40 = \underline{5.9}$$

You need 5.9 strips (round it to 6).

If you require Bias Strips, you'll be cutting it differently.

How much fabric is that?

Depending on how wide you are cutting your binding, say 2 1/4" (2.25) is the size I cut. Some quilters use 2 1/2" (2.5), some like a 2" inch width. It's your call.

$$6 \text{ strips} \times 2" = 12"$$

$$6 \text{ strips} \times 2.25" = 13.5"$$

$$6 \text{ strips} \times 2.5" = 15"$$

Remove the selvedge and sew each strip end to end into a long single strip. I trim off the little 'ears' and the seam allowance to 1/2" and trim one of the edges to 1/4" to remove bulk. It's just me. Press in half lengthwise and apply the raw edge along the edge of the perimeter of the quilt.

NOTE:

I use my WALKING FOOT during the entire process of sewing binding to a quilt.

When I'm sewing binding for a quilt that will be well loved/used/washed or I don't know where it's going, **I sew the binding to the back and wrap it to the front for machine stitching.** The stitch can be one of the decorative stitches you have on your machine. NO hand sewing. Especially for children's quilts.

Make a small sample before you forget and keep it hanging up somewhere in your studio so you won't lose it. Then, you can reference it when you are finishing up a quilt.

Now, go forth and sew! Updated Dec. 2020 by Su Scott