

getting started

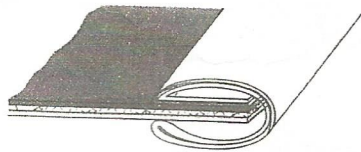
Binding Your Quilt

Cut your binding strips so they are parallel with the crosswise straight grain of the fabric rather than the lengthwise grain. The crosswise grain has a little more give and elasticity than the lengthwise grain.

DOUBLE-FOLD BINDING

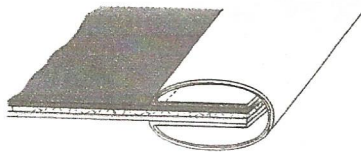
For most projects, you'll want to make double-fold binding because it's the most durable edging for a quilt that will be handled a lot.

Double-fold binding is cut four times the desired finished binding width plus $\frac{1}{2}$ " for seam allowances. For example, for $\frac{1}{2}$ "-wide finished double-fold binding, cut $2\frac{1}{2}$ "-wide binding strips.



SINGLE-FOLD BINDING

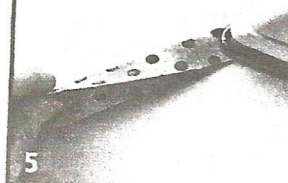
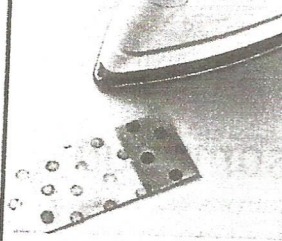
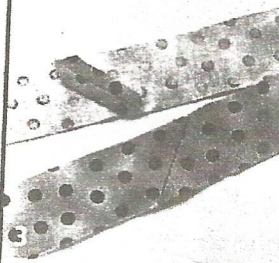
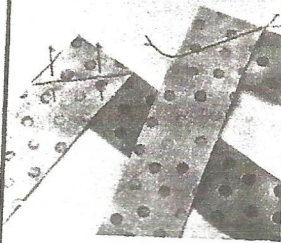
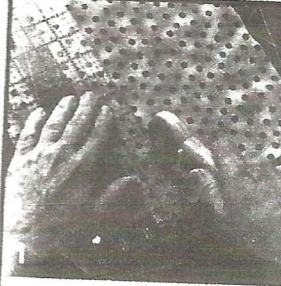
For projects such as wall hangings or miniature quilts, you may want to use single-fold binding. Cut the binding twice the desired width plus $\frac{1}{2}$ " for seam allowances. For example, for $\frac{1}{4}$ "-wide finished single-fold binding, cut 1"-wide binding strips.



Binding is akin to framing a picture. Whether you choose contrasting or coordinating fabric, it's the finishing touch to your quilt.

PERFECTLY BOUND

1. Cut enough strips to equal the total length needed.
2. Position and pin the strips perpendicular to one another with the raw edges aligned and the right sides together. Mark, then join the strips with diagonal seams to make one continuous binding strip.
3. Trim the excess fabric, leaving $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowances. Press the seam allowances open. Trim the dog-ears.
4. Fold under 1" at one end of the binding strip; press.
5. If you're making double-fold binding, with wrong side inside, fold the strip in half lengthwise.
6. Beginning in the center of one side of the quilt, place the binding strip against the right side of the quilt top, aligning the binding strip's raw edges with the quilt top's raw edge.
7. Starting 2" from the folded end, sew through all layers, stopping $\frac{1}{4}$ " from the corner. Backstitch; clip the threads. Remove the quilt from under the sewing-machine presser foot.



QUILTING tip

IT ALL ADDS UP

To determine how long your binding should be, lay your quilt flat and measure through the center of each border strip. Add the lengths of each side together, then add 15" to allow for diagonally seaming the binding strips together and joining the ends.

8. Fold the binding strip upward, creating a diagonal fold, and finger-press.

9. Holding the diagonal fold in place with your finger, bring the binding strip down in line with the next edge. Make a horizontal fold that aligns with the quilt edge.

10. Start sewing again at the top of the horizontal fold, stitching through all layers.

11. Sew around the quilt, turning each corner in the same manner. When you return to the starting point, lap the raw end of the binding strip inside the folded edge.

12. Finish sewing to the starting point. Backstitch to secure.

13. Turn the binding over the edge of the quilt to the back. Hand-stitch the binding to the backing fabric, making sure to cover the binding stitching line. Hand-stitch the folded edge of the binding down where the binding strips meet.

14. Fold a miter in each corner as you reach it. Take a stitch or two in each fold to secure it.

