

PRIZE WINNING BINDINGS

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Do NOT trim the batting and backing even with the edge of the quilt top.

Leave at least 1" of batting and backing beyond the edge of the quilt top all the way around.

1. Measure your quilt carefully across the middle both horizontally and vertically.

2. Cut 4 binding strips $2\frac{1}{2}$ " wide the length of the horizontal and vertical measurements plus 3 inches. If it is necessary to piece the binding, cut the ends to be joined at 45-degrees and press the seam open. Strips should be cut on straight grain of fabric unless the edge of the quilt is curved. Then the strips should be cut on the bias.

3. Fold and press the strips lengthwise, wrong sides together, carefully matching the raw edges.

4. Put a pin at one end $1\frac{1}{2}$ " from the end. Measure from the pin the measurement of the edge of the quilt and put another pin at that measurement. Make sure there is at least $1\frac{1}{2}$ " of the binding strip beyond the second pin. This works best standing at the ironing board.

5. Fold the binding in half, matching the two pins, and put a pin at the center fold. If the side of the quilt is very long, you might divide the binding piece in quarters and mark with additional pins. Fold the quilt edge in half, matching corners and mark the center with a pin, and at quarter marks if necessary.

6. Lay the binding on the quilt placing the raw edges of the binding even with the raw edge of the quilt. Pin the end, then the center and in between a few inches apart. Then pin from the center to the other end and then in between until the whole binding is pinned smoothly in place. Make sure there is at least $1\frac{1}{2}$ " tail of binding overlapping each end. (Figure A)

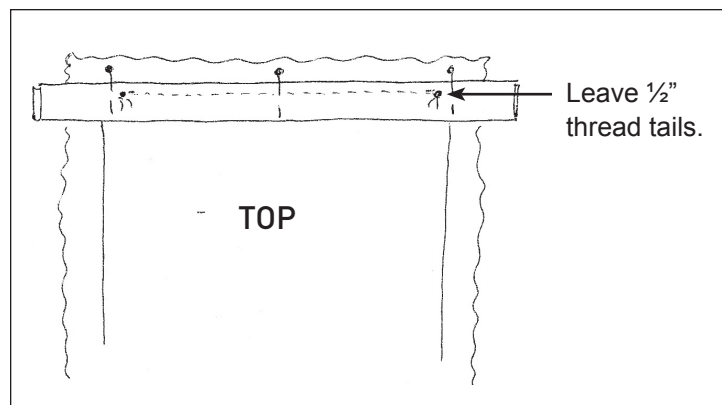


Figure A

7. Using the Corner Mark-It tool, or a ruler, mark the binding with an ink pen DOT $\frac{1}{4}$ " from the top edge and the side edge of the quilt top at both ends.

8. Using a walking foot, start stitching by bringing up the bobbin thread at the DOT. Stitch 2 stitches forward and back stitch 2 stitches, being careful to end exactly on the DOT. Stitch forward to the end of the binding, stopping exactly on the second DOT, back stitching to secure. Clip these threads being careful to leave $\frac{1}{2}$ " tails on the threads.

9. Fold first binding towards outside edge and secure with a pin. Stitch remaining binding sections on in the same manner.

10. Trim the batting and backing $\frac{3}{8}$ " away from the seam line, being careful not to cut off binding corner tails. The extra batting and backing will fill the binding to the edge when folded over.

11. Use the Corner Mark-It tool, or a ruler, to mark the 90-degree angle on the binding in ink on light fabric or use a white pencil on dark fabric. Fold the quilt and pin the two binding edges together. Starting at the outside folded edge, take one stitch forward, two backward and stitch forward to the point marked with ink. Back stitch once, take one stitch forward, with the needle down, turn the corner, stitch one stitch forward, one backward and then stitch to the seam line and back stitch three times. Clip threads leaving $\frac{1}{2}$ " tails. (Figure B)

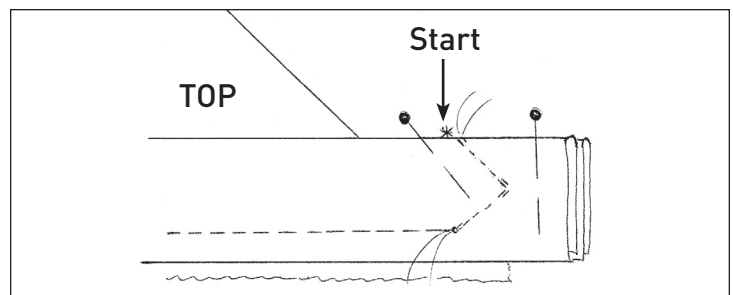


Figure B

12. Trim very close to stitching line. Use point turner to turn corner right side out. (Figure C)

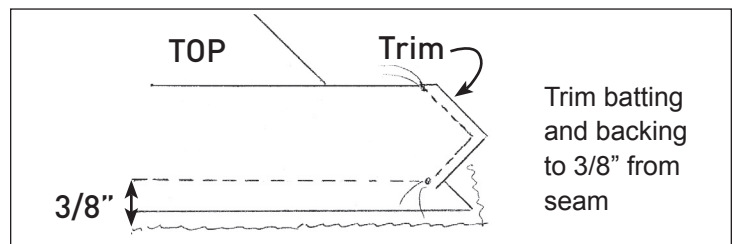


Figure C

13. Do all four corners in this manner.

14. Pin corners down onto the back of the quilt carefully to just cover stitching line. Using thread to match the binding, hand stitch using an appliqué blind stitch. Start two inches from the corner, securing the corner and continue around the binding. Tuck the $\frac{1}{2}$ " thread tails at the corners under the binding using a needle or toothpick. About 6" to 8" from the next corner, stop and carefully pin the corner in place and then continue to hand stitch the binding in place. (Figure D)

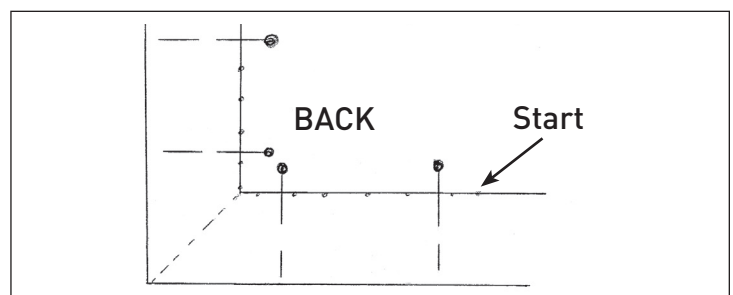


Figure D