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## Finishing Your Quilt Project With a Single or Double Binding

A **double layer** of fabric over the edge of your quilt is the most durable binding and is commonly used on larger quilts. It will add durability to the edges of any quilted project that will get heavy use ... bed quilts and tote bags for example. A **single layer** of fabric makes for a less bulky binding and is most suitable for smaller projects that will not receive heavy wear ... wall hangings for example.

These instructions are for straight grain *not* bias binding. Bias binding is required around curved edges.

### Calculate requirements first!

Determine the **width of binding strips** required using the chart below:

Width of finished binding	Width of strips required for double layer binding	Width of strips required for single layer binding	Width of seam allowance when attaching binding
1/4" - for miniatures	1 3/4"	1 1/4"	scant 1/4"
3/8" - for small projects	2 1/2"	1 3/4"	scant 3/8"
1/2" - for throws & quilts	3 1/4"	2 1/4"	scant 1/2"

Calculate the **number of binding strips** required using the following formula:

$$(2 \times \text{length of quilt}) + (2 \times \text{width of quilt}) \div 42 = \# \text{ of binding strips that } 42'' \text{ long (width of fabric)}$$

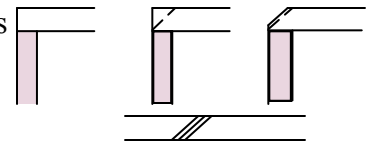
Calculate the **amount of binding fabric required** using the following formula:

$$\# \text{ of binding strips} \times \text{the width of binding strips} = \text{inches of binding fabric required (add extra for safety if desired)}$$

Cutting the binding strips: Cut the number of binding strips required cutting across the width of the fabric.

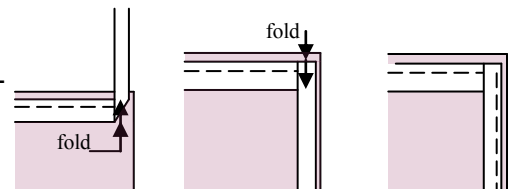
Preparing the binding: Join the strips together at a 45° angle. Trim off the excess and press the seams open.

*If making double layer binding, fold the binding in half lengthwise and press.*



Sewing the binding: Begin binding a quilt on a straight edge away from a corner. Working with the quilt right side up, carefully match the raw edge(s) of the binding to the edge of the quilt. Sew the binding to the quilt leaving a 5" tail of binding unattached. Use the seam allowance indicated in the chart above. Stop sewing one seam allowance from the corner and secure the seam.

Folded mitred corners: Fold the binding at the corner as shown in the diagram. Begin sewing one seam allowance from the fold, making sure to secure the seam. Continue to the next corner and repeat.



Joining the ends of the binding: Attach the binding around the quilt stopping 8" from the starting point. Lay the tails of the binding over each other. Trim the length of your binding strips so they overlap by ONE full width of the binding strip. Open the double layer strip. With right sides together, overlap the ends of the two strips as in the first diagram and join with a 45° angle. Check that the binding lays flat. Trim off excess, press the seam open and finish sewing the binding to quilt.

Finishing the binding: Fold the binding to the back of the quilt. For single layer binding, fold the raw edge so that the binding just covers the stitching line. Hand stitch the binding to the back of the quilt using a blindstitch or slipstitch. Work each corner into a neat mitre as you stitch.

**NOTE:** To avoid a rippled edge on your bound quilt, measure the width and length of your quilt top across the middle of the quilt rather than along the edge. Use these measurements to measure and mark the binding length before you attach the binding to each side of the quilt. Ease the quilt edge to match the binding length.