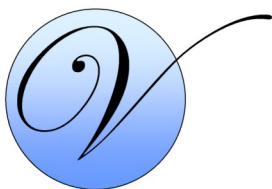
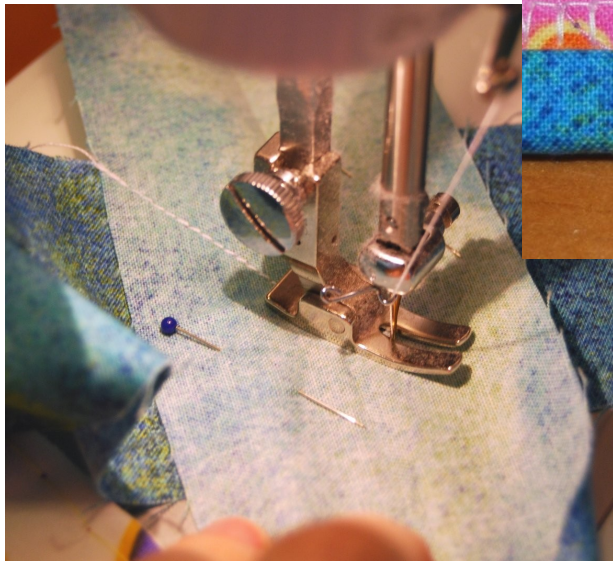


Tutorial

Quilt Binding By Machine



Valerie Custom Quilting

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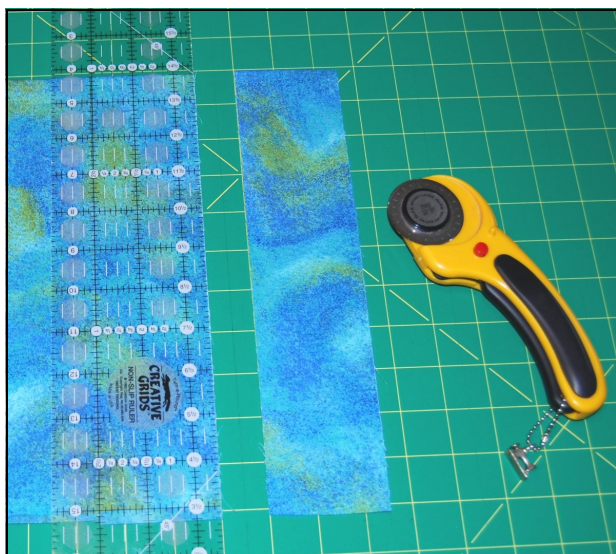
<http://www.ValerieCustomQuilting.com>

This tutorial will show you one way to make your own binding and attach it on to your quilt. I am assuming that the reader has little or no experience in this, so I will do my best to explain each step involved. There are three main stages to this process, and this is how I've broken it down:

1. Making Your Binding
2. Attaching Your Binding To The Quilt Back
3. Wrapping Your Binding To The Front And Securing

Happy reading, and happy quilting!

Stage 1: Making Your Binding



Step 1:

First, you must cut your fabric strips. To determine how many strips you need, first measure your quilt height and width. Add those numbers together and multiply by 2, this will give you the length of binding you need to make.

Most fabric is about 40" wide. To determine how many strips to cut, take the binding length you just determined and divide by 40. Round up if necessary, then add one to allow for seam allowances (it's better to have too much than not enough!). This will tell you how many strips to cut.

Cut your strips 2.5" wide.

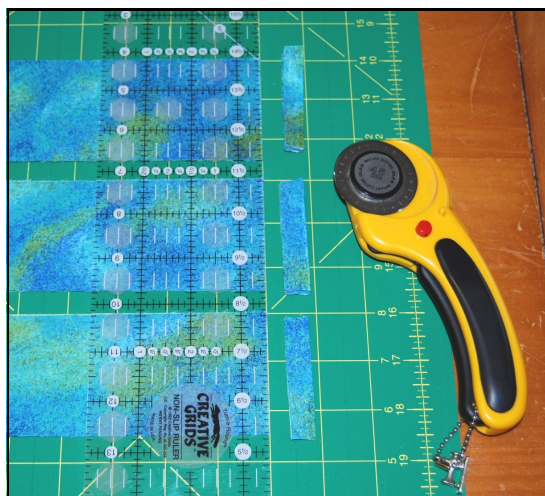
Example:

Baby quilt, 40" high and 50" wide.

Binding length = $(40+50) \times 2 = 180$ inches

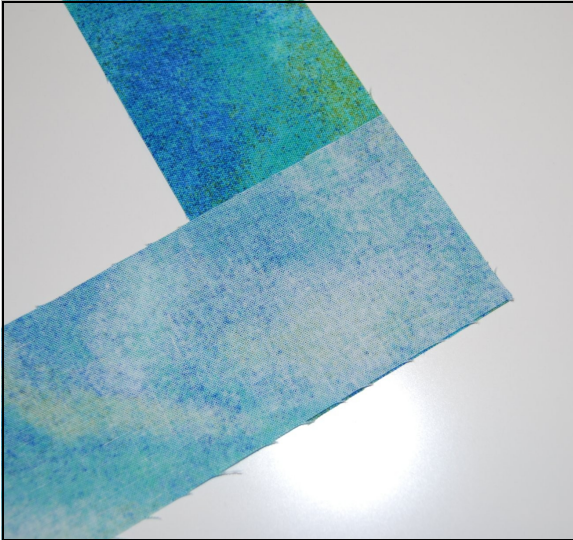
strips to cut = $180 / 40 = 4.5$, round up to 5, add 1

This quilt will need 6 strips of binding material.



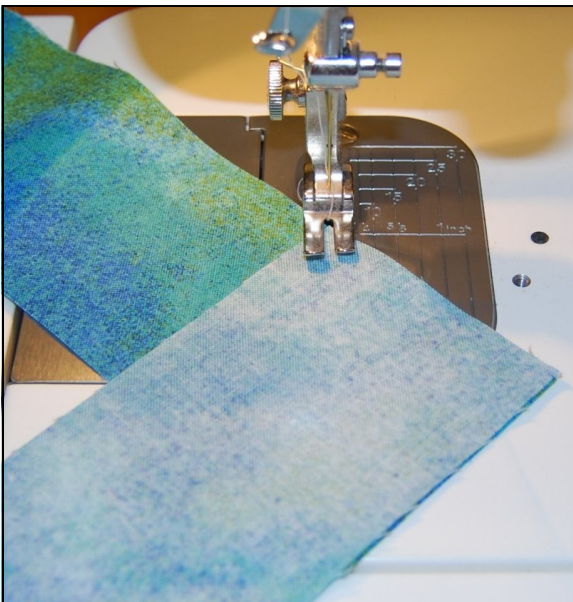
Step 2:

Next, trim off the selvage from the edges of your strips. Press your strips to make sure they're nice and flat.



Step 3:

Next, lie your strips to make a 90 degree angle as shown here. Make sure your fabrics are lying right sides together, so that the print on the bottom strip is facing the print on the top strip.



Step 4:

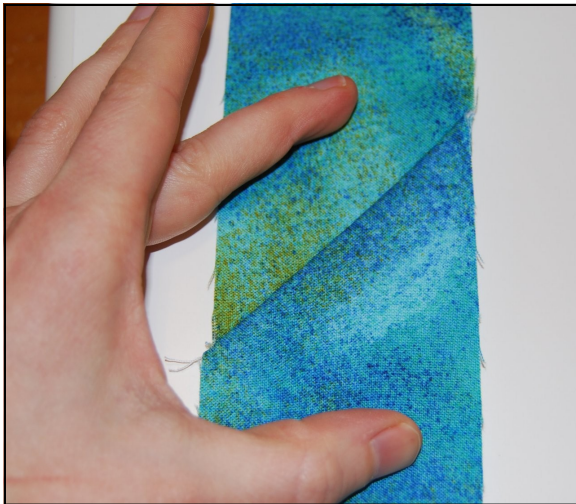
Starting from where the two fabrics intersect, you will sew a diagonal line across both pieces of fabric.





Step 5:

Here you see the completed line of sewing along the diagonal. Your piece should look like this when you have finished sewing.



Step 6:

Check your alignment. When you pick up your pieces and hold them straight, you should see a diagonal seam across the strip. The edges of the strips should match up for the most part. If the edges do not match up well enough (i.e. you're off by 1/8" or more), you should rip our your stitching and redo your seam.

You also want to make sure you have sewn your strips together correctly... i.e. one isn't wrong side up at this point. If you have, rip out the seam and try again.



Step 7:

Once you have sewn your seam and verified that it is accurate, trim off the excess material.



Step 8:

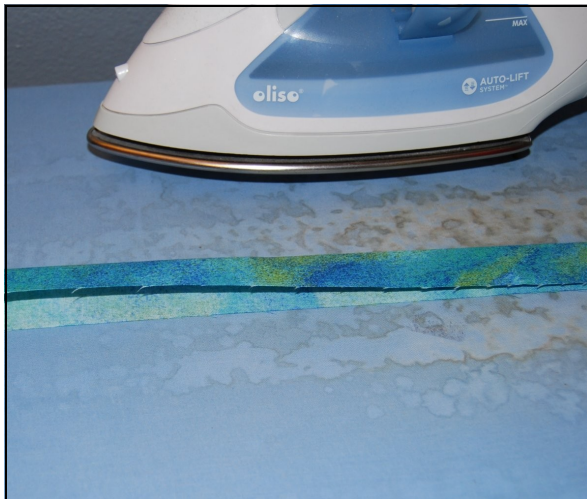
Press your seam open.

Normally, when quilting, you press your seam to the side to help in lining up blocks and to hide your seams. However, when sewing a seam on the diagonal, you want to press your seam open to reduce bulk and to keep your seam from warping.

Repeat

Step 9:

Repeat steps 3-8 until all your binding strips have been sewn together.



Step 10:

Now that you have your long binding strip, you need to fold it in half and press it. Make sure the two edges are aligned with each other as you press, the more accurate you can be the better. Also, be sure not to stretch the binding as you press, otherwise you could make your binding “wavy”.

(Please pardon the scorched ironing board cover. Can you tell that I iron a lot? Maybe it’s time for a new cover...)

Stage 2: Attaching Your Binding To The Quilt Back

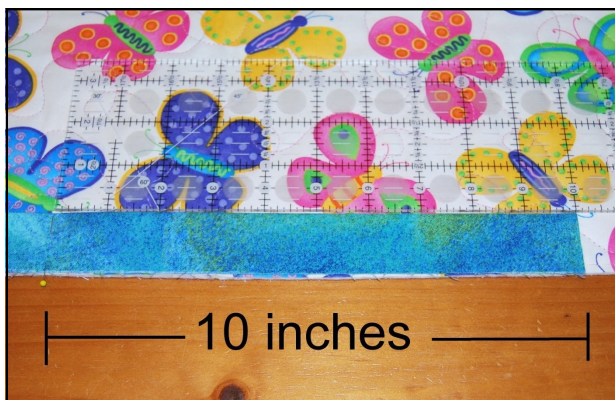


Step 11:

Yes, you read right, we’re starting with the quilt back.

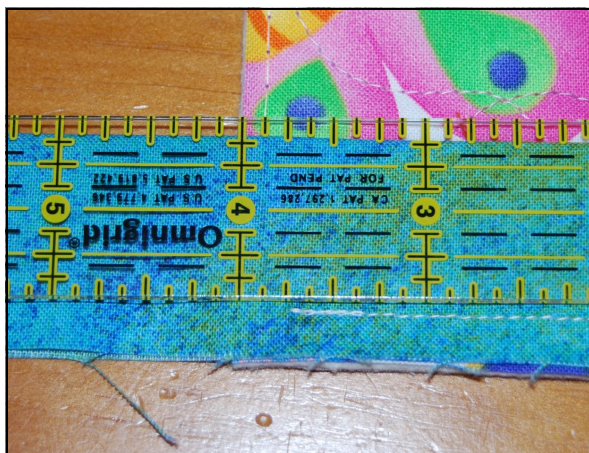
Before you can attach the binding to your quilt, you have to make sure you’ve trimmed off the excess batting and backing. Using sharp scissors, trim right along the edge of your quilt top.

You can either trim the whole quilt at this point, or you can trim each side individually. If you choose to trim each side individually, also trim up 2” or 3” along the next side so it doesn’t get in the way of the side you’re working on.

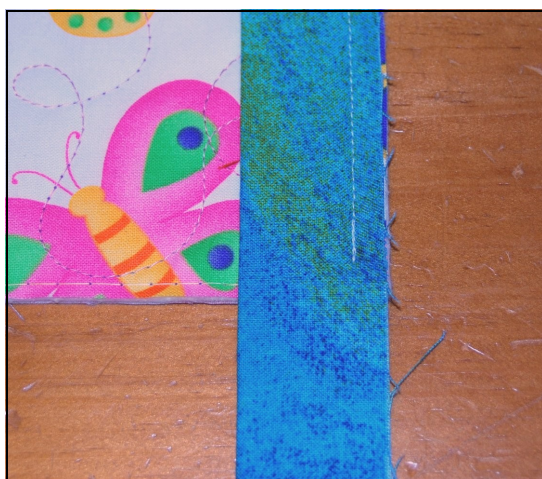


Step 12:

Turn your quilt over so the quilt back is facing up. Beginning near the center of the quilt's side, lay the binding strip on the quilt so that the raw edges of the strip are aligned with the raw edge of the quilt. Your first pin will be 10" away from the end of the binding strip. Continue pinning every 3-4" until you get to the corner of the quilt.



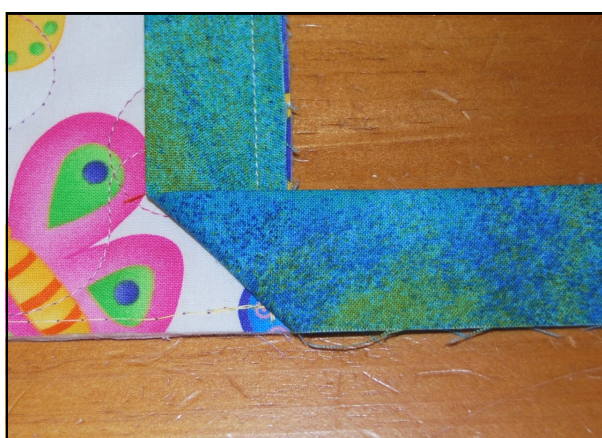
Starting at that first pin, sew the binding to the quilt with a full 1/4" seam. Leave the extra 10" of binding unsewn, we'll get back to that. Be sure to stop sewing when you are 1/4" away from the corner of the quilt.



Step 13:

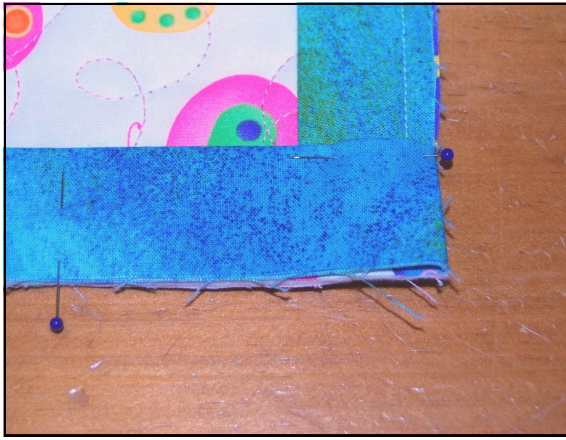
Now you're going to learn how to make a nice mitered corner on your binding. It is easy and looks fabulous!

First, make sure your quilt and the binding are laid out like in this photo.



Step 14:

Next, fold the binding to the right so that you get a diagonal crease as shown in the photo. You have done it right when the line made by the edge of your quilt is continued by the edge of the binding.



Step 15:

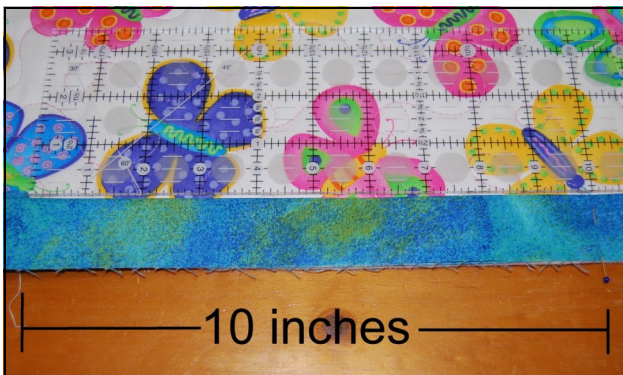
To finish the corner, fold the binding back so that it lies along the edge of the quilt. Your diagonal crease should still be intact, it will simply be underneath where the binding strip has been folded back.

Pin the binding down, both at the corner like in the photo, and along the edge of the quilt. Sew from the edge with the folded corner, stopping 1/4" from the corner as you did in step 12.

Repeat

Step 16:

Repeat steps 13-15 until you have sewn the binding onto all remaining sides EXCEPT the side where you started. Instructions on finishing that side begin with step 17.



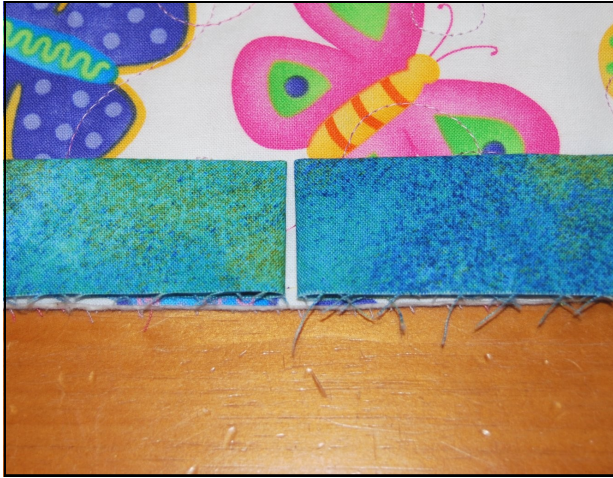
Step 17:

When you return to the side where you started, turn the corner as in steps 13-15. Continue pinning the binding to the quilt top, putting your last pin in place 10" away from where you began your first line of stitching. Sew from the edge of the quilt to this last pin, leaving the rest of the binding unsewn. Be careful that the "tail" left from the beginning is not accidentally caught when sewing on this length of binding.



Step 18:

Your binding should look like this when you are finished with the sewing in step 17. Notice the two "tails" that are left unsewn.



Step 19:

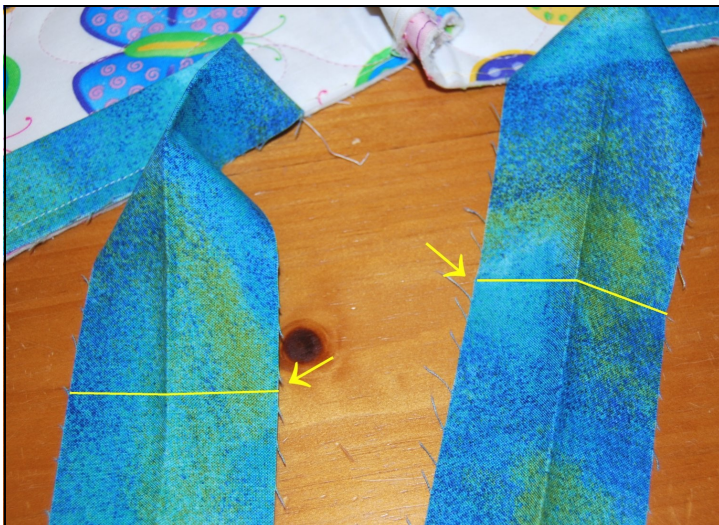
The next several steps will show how to sew the tails together and leave a clean, finished seam where they come together.

Fold back each tail so it lies back on itself. Leave a 1/8" gap between the folds, then finger press them to make a visible crease.



Step 20:

Take a clip of some sort, gather up some of the quilt, and clip it together. This will shorten the distance between the two tails and will make sewing them together much easier.



Step 21:

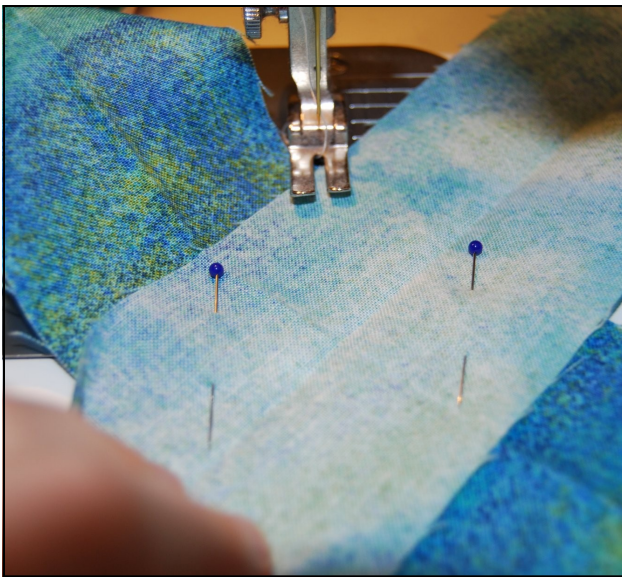
This picture illustrates the creases made in step 19 when finger pressing the folds. I have highlighted the location of the folds in yellow.



Step 22:

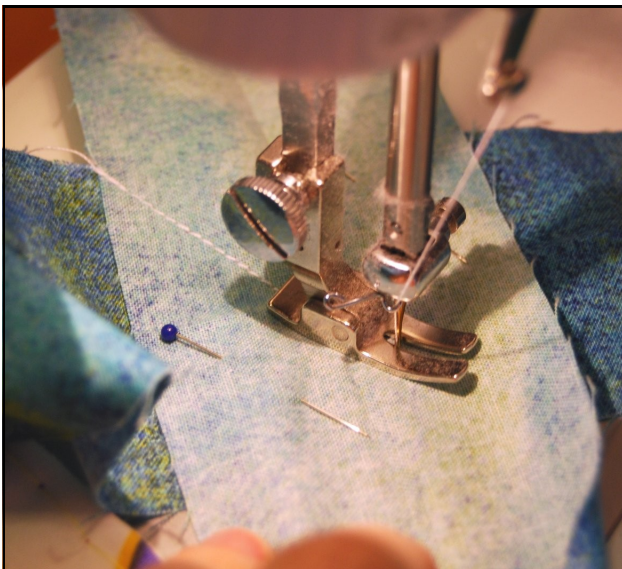
Matching the right sides of your binding strips together, make an “X” so that the fold lines meet up with each other. (I have highlighted the fold lines in yellow again in this photo.) Pin in place.

The red line indicates where you will be sewing your seam to join the two strips together. Notice how the seam line is parallel to the edge of your quilt, and how it should intersect at the point where the two fold lines also intersect.



Step 23:

Once the pieces are pinned together, it is time to sew. Starting where the two pieces meet, sew a seam diagonally across the “X”.



Step 24:

This picture shows the seam in progress, diagonally across the “X” made by the two tails of binding.



Step 25:

This is how the finished seam should look.



Step 26:

Trim the excess material, leaving a 1/4" seam allowance.



Step 27:

Press the seam open.

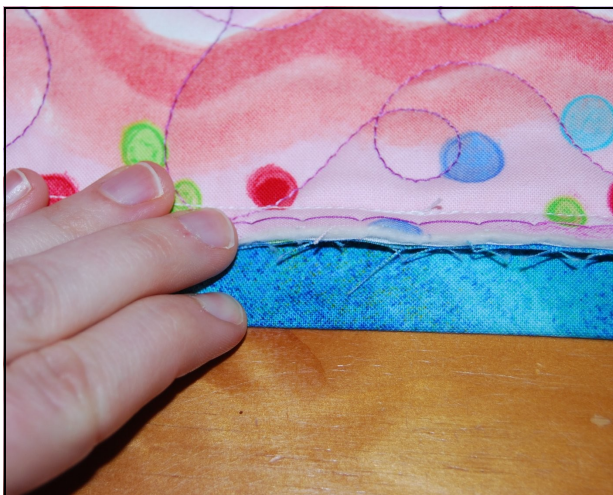


Step 28:

After the seam is pressed open, remove the clip and lay your quilt flat. Press the binding again to make sure your crease is nice and sharp, then pin into place. Sew the remaining binding down into place.

Voila! You have successfully sewn your binding to the quilt back! Now we just need to fold it around to the front and secure it in place.

Stage 3: Wrapping Your Binding To The Front And Securing



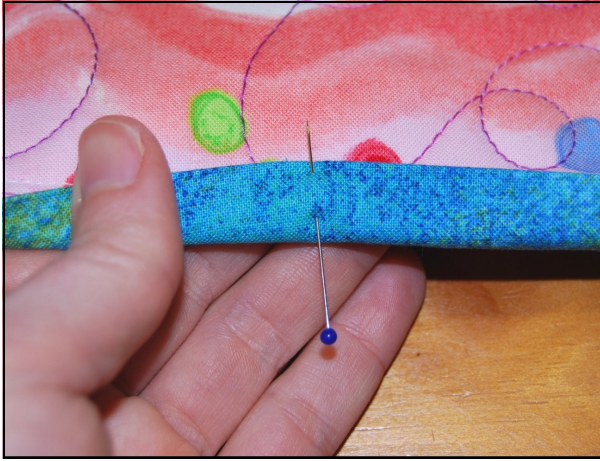
Step 29:

Place your quilt on your work surface with the top facing up. Starting near the right-hand corner (from your point of view) of the edge closest to you, first pull the binding towards you so it isn't under the quilt any more.



Step 30:

Now wrap the binding around the raw edge of the quilt so that it lies flat on the quilt top.



Step 31:

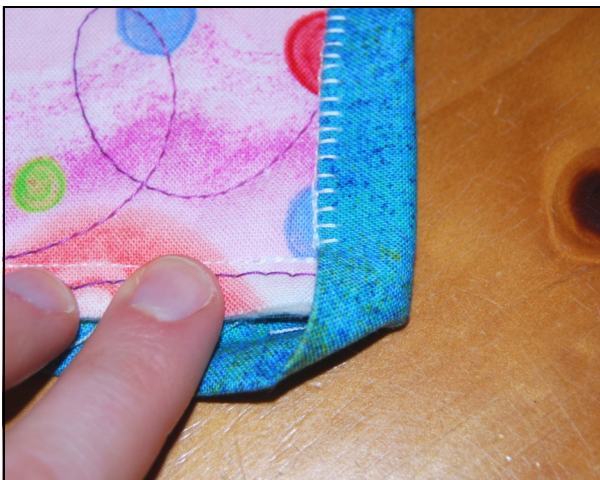
Pin the binding in place, making sure to catch some of the quilt top fabric with the pin.



Step 32:

This step will only have to be done to the first side of binding that you will sew in place. In order for the mitered corner on this first side to look right, you'll have to pin it in place along with a bit of the last side of binding that you will sew in place.

About 3" away from the corner on the side you will be sewing last, wrap the binding around and pin in place (the blue headed pin in this photo, or if this is printed in black and white, it's the top pin on the right side). Fold the binding up so that it makes a nice mitered corner and pin into place.

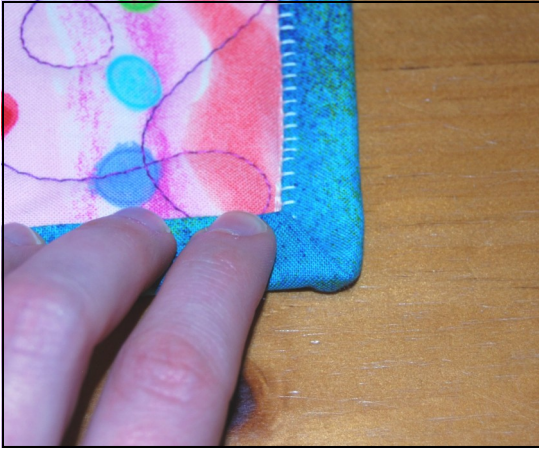


Step 32A:

I forgot to take pictures of Step 32, so I did it later in the process. This shows you how I got the nice mitered corner in the picture above.

First, imagine that the line of stitching is not on there, and there's a pin with a blue head holding that side of the binding in place. OK? Good. :)

Next, hold the binding down so that it folds over and makes a nice angled corner like the one you see here.



Step 32B:

Fold the binding up so it lies flat against the quilt top, and so that the angled fold is preserved. Do you see it there in the picture?



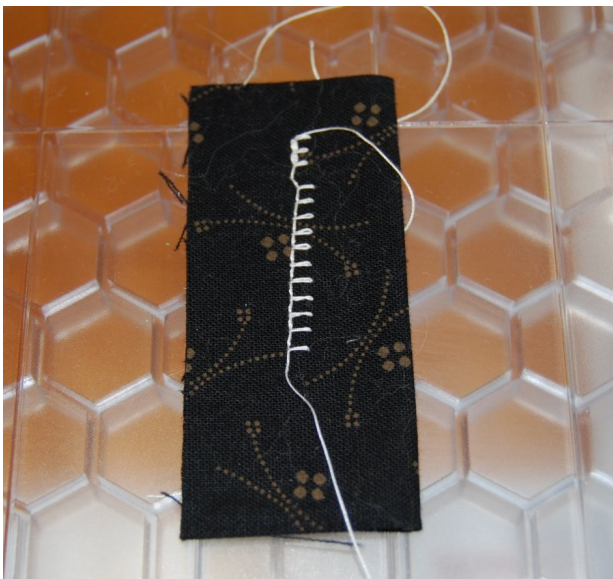
Step 32C:

Lastly, pin the angled fold in place. Voila, you have a nicely mitered corner. :)

Repeat

Step 33:

Repeat steps 30-31 to finish pinning the binding on the first side of your quilt.



Step 34:

Now you need to set up your machine to sew the binding in place. Select the stitch you will use. I like to use a buttonhole stitch, though a zig zag stitch or a straight stitch would work just as well. Or you could even choose a fancy decorative stitch. It's up to you!

Use a scrap of material to test your stitch settings, so it looks just the way you want it to look.



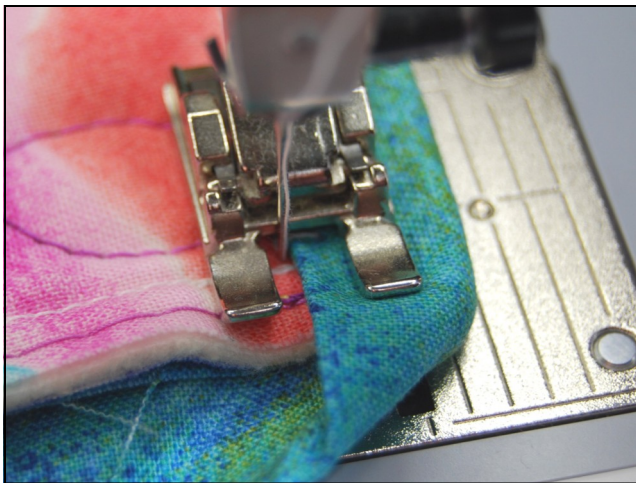
Step 35:

Starting at the corner that you've already folded over into a miter, sew a straight stitch next to the edge of the binding. You'll want to sew about 3-4 stitches forward and backward to lock your sewing in place. Then switch to your decorative stitch and start sewing the binding down.



Step 36:

Here's a front view of this process. You can use a walking foot to sew down your binding if you wish, personally I like to use this open-front foot so that I can see better where my needle is stitching. It's completely up to you which presser foot you choose to use.



Step 37:

When you get to the end of the side of binding that you're sewing in place, you will want to stop when your needle is right at or slightly before the line of stitching that has attached the binding to the back of the quilt.

Do you see it in this picture? The needle is inserted in the fabric just before the line of stitching from when I sewed the binding to the back of the quilt.

At this point, switch back to your straight stitch and sew backwards then forwards for 3-4 stitches to lock it in place. Cut your thread and trim off the tails.

When you come back to the last side of your quilt, the corner will already be folded over. Do this same technique, only stop when your needle is at or slightly before the binding. Straight stitch to lock the stitching as usual.

Repeat

Step 38:

Repeat steps 30-37 until all your quilt binding has been sewn in place.

Congratulations!

You have finished the binding on your quilt!



This is what your binding will look like on the front of your quilt.



This is what your binding will look like on the back of your quilt.



This is what your corners will look like.