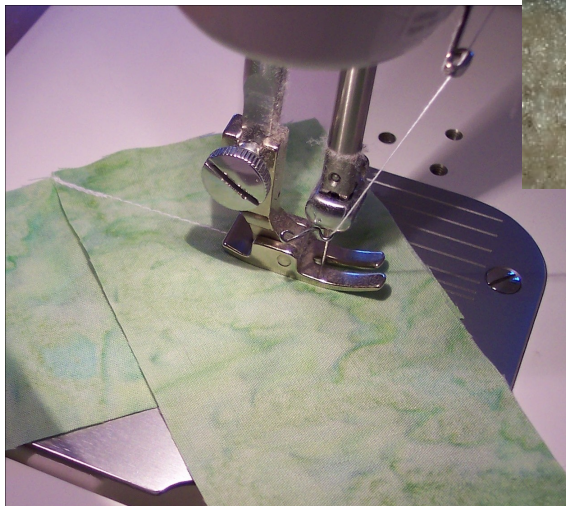


Tutorial

Making and Attaching Quilt Binding



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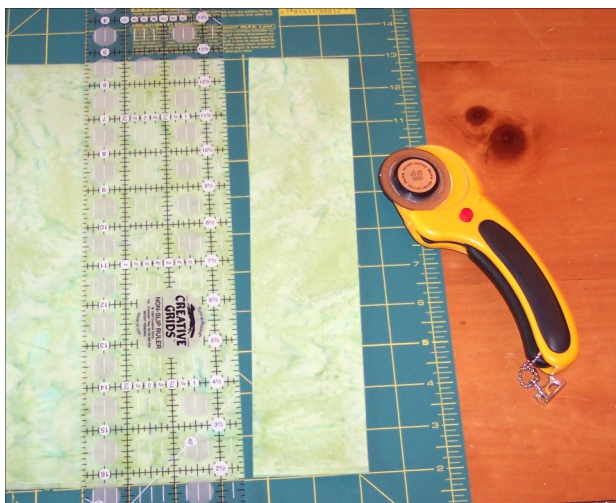


This tutorial will show you how to make your own binding and attach it on to your quilt. I am assuming that the reader has little or no experience in this, so I will do my best to explain each step involved. There are three main stages to this process, and this is how I've broken it down:

1. Making Your Binding
2. Attaching Your Binding To The Quilt Top
3. Wrapping Your Binding To The Back 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.

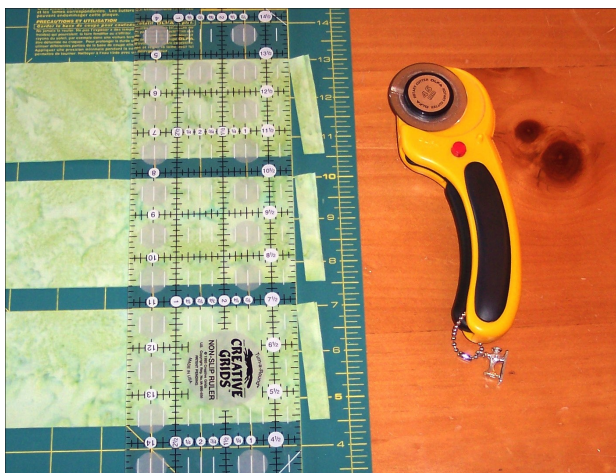
Example:

Baby quilt, 40" high and 50" wide.

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

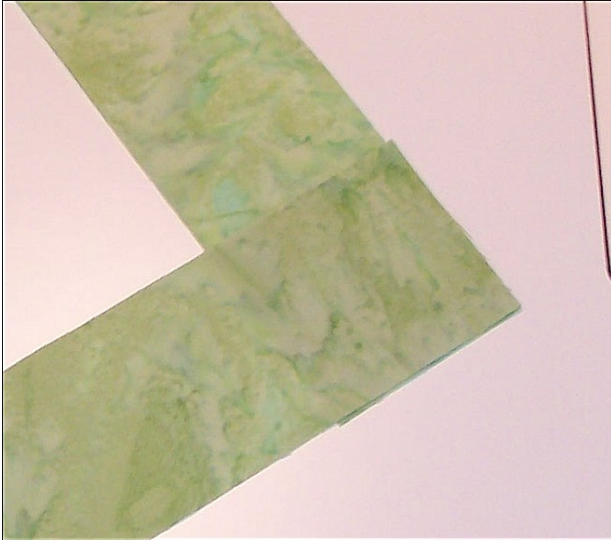
strips to cut = $180 / 40 = 4.5$, round up to 5, add 1

This quilt will need 6 strips of binding material.



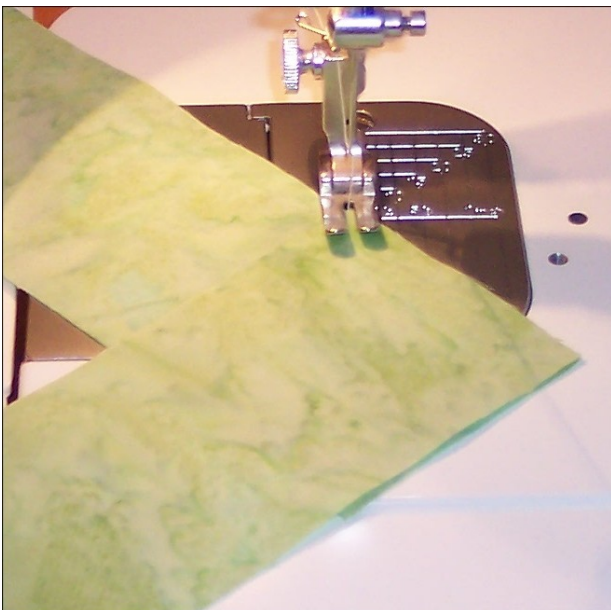
Step 2:

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



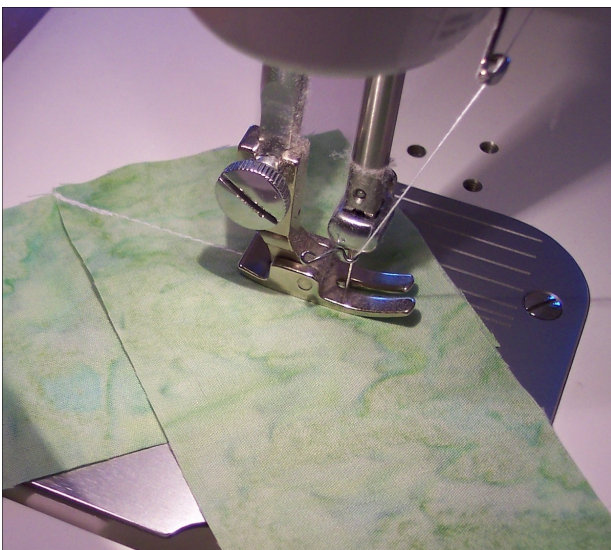
Step 3:

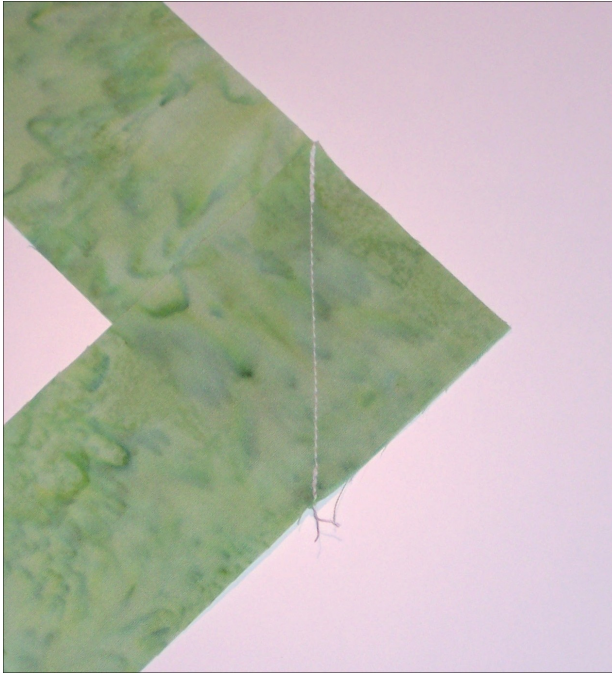
Next, lie your strips to make a 90 degree angle as shown here. Make sure your fabrics are lying right sides together, so that the print on the bottom strip is facing the print on the top strip.



Step 4:

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





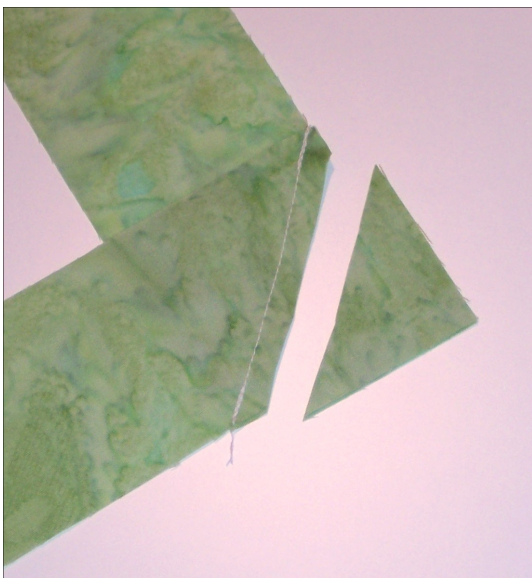
Step 5:

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.



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”.

Stage 2: Attaching Your Binding To The Quilt Top



Step 11:

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.

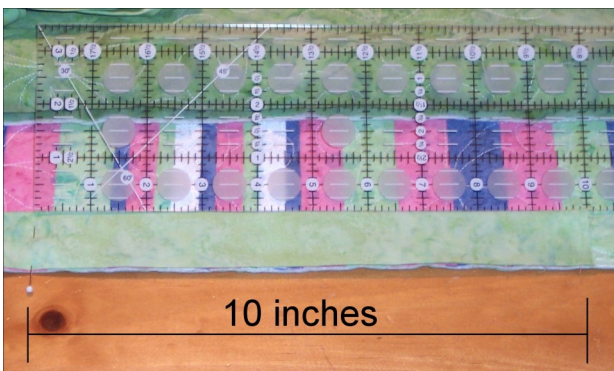
Tip:

I usually only trim one side at a time, this way I don’t have to worry about the edges of my fabric fraying while I’m working on other sides.



Step 12:

Also trim up about 2-4 inches along the next side of the quilt. This gives you both a visual marker of where to stop sewing as you attach the binding, but it also protects you from accidentally cutting your binding when you start trimming along the next side.



Step 13:

Beginning near the center of the quilt side, lay the binding strip so that the raw edges of the strip are aligned with the raw edge of the quilt top. 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 top.

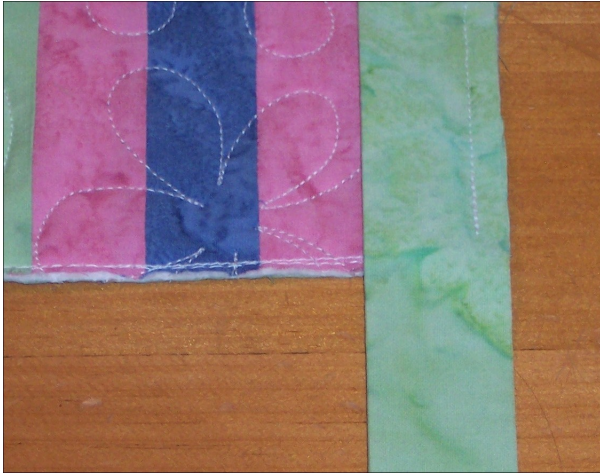
Starting at that first pin, sew the binding to the quilt with a full 1/4" seam. Leave the extra 10" of binding unsewn, we'll get back to that. Be sure to stop sewing when you are 1/4" away from the corner of the quilt.



Step 14:

Now turn your quilt to the next side. Trim off the excess batting just like you did in steps 11 and 12.





Step 15:

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 16:

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 17:

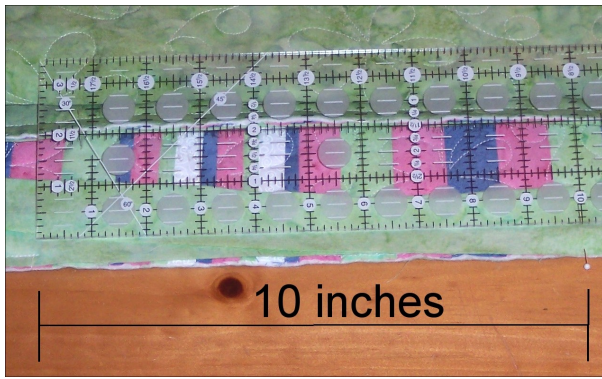
To finish the corner, fold the binding back so that it lies along the edge of the quilt. Your diagonal crease should still be intact, it will simply be underneath where the binding strip has been folded back.

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 13.

Repeat

Step 19:

Repeat steps 14-18 until you have sewn the binding onto all remaining sides EXCEPT the side where you started. Instructions on finishing that side begin with step 20.



Step 20:

When you return to the side where you started, turn the corner as in steps 15-17. 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 21:

Your binding should look like this when you are finished with the sewing in step 20. Notice the two "tails" that are left unsewn.



Step 22:

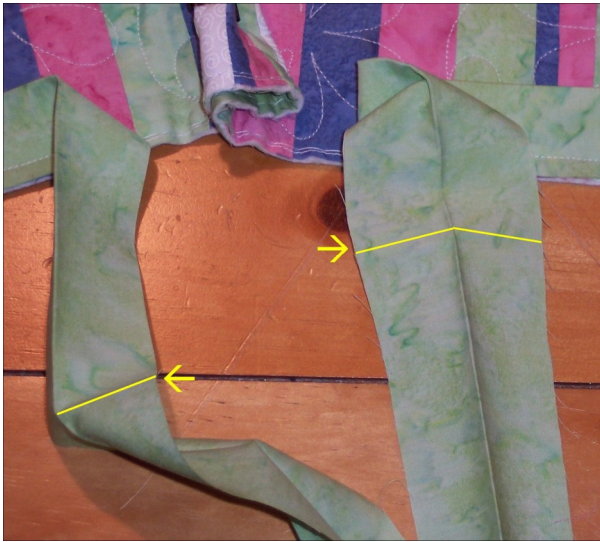
The next several steps will show how to sew the tails together and leave a clean, finished seam where they come together.

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.



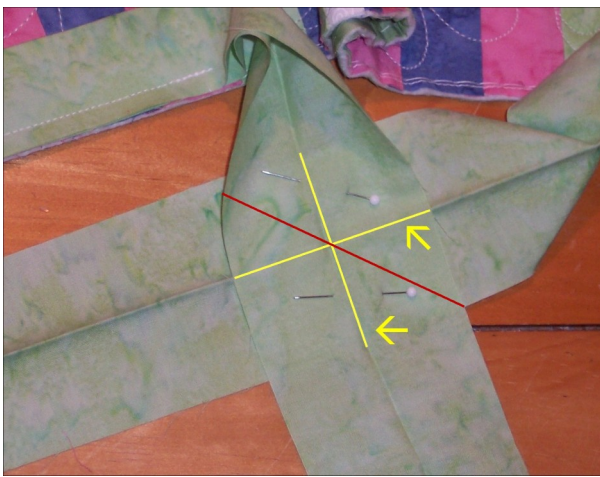
Step 23:

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 24:

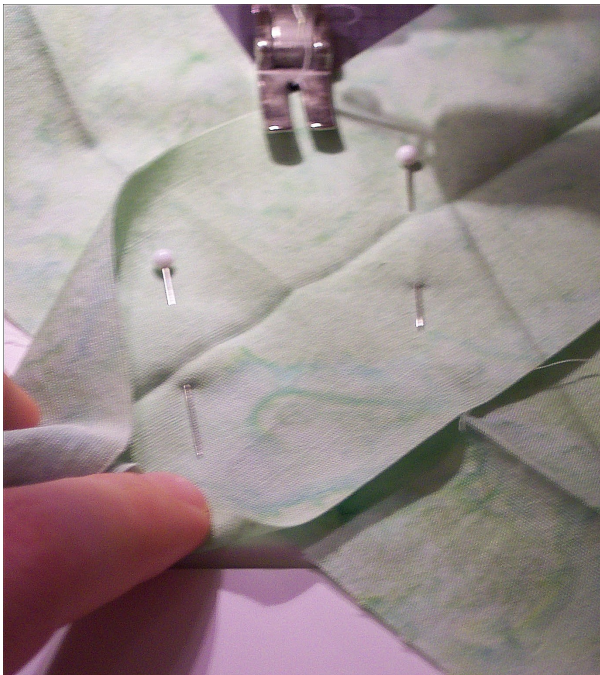
This picture illustrates the creases made in step 22 when finger pressing the folds. I have highlighted the location of the folds in yellow.



Step 25:

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 should intersect at the point where the two fold lines also intersect.



Step 26:

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 27:

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



Step 28:

This is how the finished seam should look.



Step 29:

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



Step 30:

Press the seam open.



Step 31:

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.

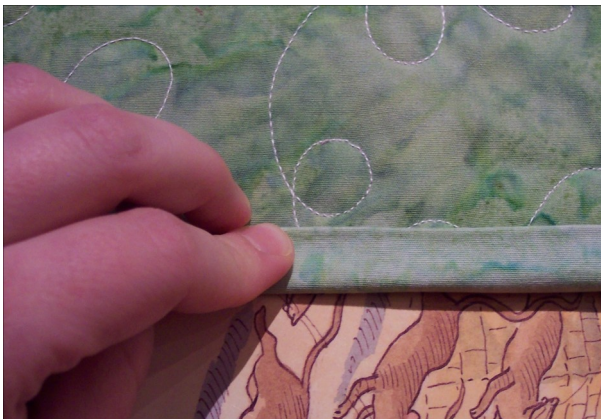
Voila! You have successfully sewn your binding to the quilt top! Now we just need to fold it around to the back and secure it in place.

Stage 3: Wrapping Your Binding To The Back And Securing



Step 32:

Place your quilt top-down on your work surface, and pull the binding towards you.



Step 33:

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



Step 34:

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

Repeat

Step 35:

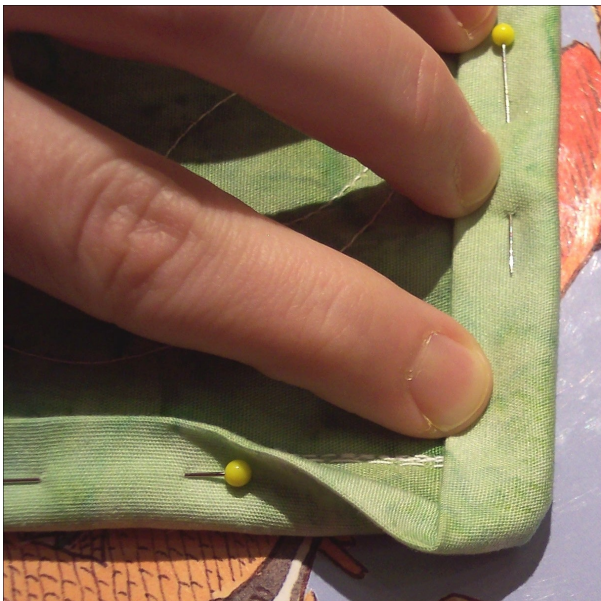
Repeat steps 33-34 to finish pinning the binding on one side of your quilt.



Step 36:

The next several steps will show you how to get a nice mitered corner on your binding.

When you get to a corner, pin the binding down about 2 inches away on each side of the corner.



Step 37:

Pull the binding on one side to get it to lie flat, all the way to the corner of the quilt. Hold in place.



Step 38:

Gently fold the binding from the other side so it also lies flat all the way to the corner. The binding will fold over itself at the corner, making a nice, diagonal line. This is your mitered corner.



Step 39:

Pin the corner in place. I like to tuck the end of my pin back under the backing fabric, this way it doesn't poke me as I'm sewing.

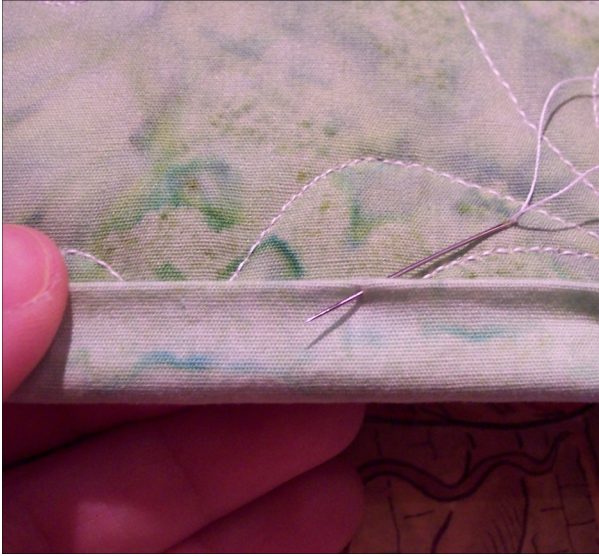
Repeat

Step 40:

Repeat steps 33-39 until all your quilt binding has been pinned in place.

Option:

If you have a larger quilt, you may want to work on only one side at a time. In this case, I prefer to pin an entire side, the corner at the end of the side, and about 8 inches along the next side. Once I have it stitched in place, I will pin the next side.



Step 41:

To begin stitching, thread your needle and knot the end of your thread. Poke your needle through the back of the binding as pictured, then pull the thread through until the knot catches on the back side of the binding.



Step 42:

Next, poke your needle through the backing material only, taking care not to go all the way through your quilt. Remember, you don't want your stitches to be seen on the front of the quilt.

I do my stitches a little differently than many quilters. I prefer to have my stitches "stand" straight up, so I poke my needle through the backing directly above the place my thread exited the binding. You can do a whip stitch instead, which means you poke the needle through a little to the left of where your thread exited the binding. It's all up to personal preference.



Step 43:

Angle your needle to the left and run it under the backing material, then poke it out from behind the binding as pictured. Pull your needle through and pull the stitch snug. Don't pull too tight lest you break your thread!



Step 44:

This is how your binding stitching will look after a few more stitches have been completed.

Repeat

Step 45:

Repeat steps 42-44 until you get to the corner. If you run out of thread before you get to the corner, tie off your thread behind the binding and then start a new thread as described in step 41.



Step 46:

When you get to a corner, first poke your needle through the backing material as usual. When you bring your needle back up, make sure you come up through the edge that has been folded over to make the mitered corner. Pull your thread through.



Step 47:

As before, poke your needle down directly above where your thread exited the binding, in this case you will be poking back into the binding along the side you just finished stitching. Be sure to get your needle under the backing material, then angle up along the next side of the binding, and come out from behind and through the binding as pictured. Pull your thread through and make your stitch snug.



Step 48:

After stitching your corner and continuing along the next side a bit, this is what your finished corner will look like.

Repeat

Step 49:

Repeat steps 42-48 until you have sewn down all of your binding.

Congratulations!

You have finished the binding on your quilt! It is now ready to be washed and used.
Enjoy!