

# Binding a Quilt

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from a gluing tutorial by Deb Karasik  
a YouTube video by Sharon Schamber  
and a YouTube video by Cassandra Plotts  
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## Quilt Binding Measurement and Preparation

Traditionally, finished bindings are  $\frac{1}{4}$ " wide. Strips for  $\frac{1}{4}$ " finished double fold bindings should be cut between  $2\frac{1}{4}$ "- $2\frac{1}{2}$ " in width. If you prefer a wider binding, as I do, the rule of thumb for the measurement of the strips is to multiply the finished width by 6, then add  $\frac{1}{2}$ ". For example, for a  $\frac{1}{2}$ " finished, double fold binding, multiply  $\frac{1}{2}$  (.5) by 6. That's 3.0. Add another .5 for a total width of  $3\frac{1}{2}$ ".

Be sure to sew the wider binding onto the quilt using the finished measurement of the binding. (You can create a  $\frac{1}{2}$ " seam by setting your Stitch Width to 0.0, which will give you a  $\frac{1}{2}$ " seam from the right edge of the walking foot.)

Cut your binding strips and stitch them together on the bias. Trim the seams to  $\frac{1}{4}$ ". Fold and press them to form a double fold binding.

Make display sleeves now for wall hangings. Glue in place along the back of the top edge of quilt (using the method below) before beginning on binding.

## Attaching the binding to the top of the quilt:

Check to see that the binding seams won't be at the corners of the quilt.

Press the edge of the first side of the quilt. This gives you a nice, flat quilt surface to work on.

Lay the binding above the entire edge of the quilt along the length of the quilt, with the fold of the binding away from you, and the extra length of binding piled up toward the left. Plan to start stitching about  $\frac{1}{3}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$  of the way along one side of the quilt. The short end of the binding will remain free until you have attached the rest of the binding all the way around the quilt.

To glue, keep the binding up and away from the edge of the quilt. When gluing a  $\frac{1}{4}$ " standard seam, run the glue right on edge of quilt. For  $\frac{1}{2}$ ", run the glue about  $\frac{1}{4}$ " in. Lay the binding edge onto the edge of the quilt and PRESS the glued area. I find it easier to run the glue from left to right.

Glue and press in sections to the corner of the quilt on your left. Run the glue all the way to the corner.

Fold the binding toward you, so that the loose end of the binding comes toward you and is parallel to the edge of the quilt that will be glued next, forming a 45° angle in the binding. (You can use a ruler to help keep it straight.) PRESS THE FOLD. Then fold the binding again, away from you this time, laying it along the quilt edge to be glued next. The second fold should lie along the edge of the quilt you just glued. Press both folds and mark the 45° fold with a marking pencil so that you can see where to stop when stitching the seam.

Using the walking foot, stitch the binding to this first side of the quilt, stopping at the pencil mark. Backstitch and trim the threads.

Turn the quilt on the ironing board. Press the edge of the quilt. Refold the two folds at the corner of the binding and begin gluing. When you begin stitching at the corner, you can start right at the edge of the quilt.

Press and glue Sides 2, 3 and 4 as above, including creating more mitered corners. Bring the binding around that final corner, glue, and stitch for just a few inches. Be sure to stop stitching long before reaching the already stitched binding on Side #1.

#### Joining the binding edges:

Lay the first binding strip along the edge of the quilt. Lay the second binding on top of the first.

About halfway along the double stack, clip the binding fabric through all four layers, being sure to stay within the seam allowance. You are simply marking a spot along each piece of binding.

Open the top binding, placing it face up on the table. Find the clips.

Open the second binding. Lay it face down on top of the first binding at a 90° angle, matching the lower left clip of the bottom binding with the clip closest to you on the top binding (also on the left). Be sure the two pieces are not twisted and that they have their right sides together. That corner will have two clips, one in each piece of binding. The corner diagonally up from the two clips will have NO clips. Square up the angle of the bindings by matching the raw edge of the top binding with the clip in the top left edge of the bottom binding. If necessary, you can bunch up the quilt so that you have room to pin and stitch the seam.

Pin the two bindings together. Mark the stitching line from the corner with no clips diagonally down to the corner with two clips. Stitch.

Check the length of the now joined binding. It should match the length needed to complete the quilt. Trim the seams. Stitch the binding in place.

Attaching the binding to the back of the quilt:

On the top, press the binding outward away from the center of quilt.  
Turn the quilt over, fold the binding over the raw edge and press.

Run glue along binding stitching line and press as above.

At the corner, press the corner of the binding out flat. The end will be angled, not square. Glue it all the way to the edge of the quilt. Run some glue a short way along the next side of the quilt. Fold the next binding section over the line of glue, creating the mitered corner. Press.

Turn the quilt. Continuing gluing and pressing Sides 2, 3 and 4, until the binding is glued all the way around the quilt.

Hand sew the binding to the back of the quilt or stitch in the ditch from the front.

Websites:

[www.debkarasik.com/userfiles/file/DebKarasik\\_Binding\\_1.0.pdf](http://www.debkarasik.com/userfiles/file/DebKarasik_Binding_1.0.pdf)

(Deb Karasik, binding pdf file)

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=4PE0Yq9iGlc&list=PLAAF390EBC02BDD33&index=1](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4PE0Yq9iGlc&list=PLAAF390EBC02BDD33&index=1)

(Sharon Schamber, Quilting the Angel)

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=cuS76wVW210&feature=share](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cuS76wVW210&feature=share)

(Cassandra Plotts, Quilt Binding, the Final Connection)