

# BINDING INSTRUCTIONS

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Congratulations! After spending many hours creating your quilt you are finally ready to bind. The binding on your quilt protects the raw edges and will take a considerable amount of abuse over its life. Quite possibly the binding will be chewed on by an infant or used by a naughty pet to drag the quilt across the room. Regardless of what lies in the future of your quilt, the binding will take the brunt of daily wear and tear. We recommend the French Fold Binding technique to provide a durable bound edge finish.

All seams in the binding are sewn on the diagonal, including the final closing seam. Diagonal seams reduce bulk and produce a smooth, professionally finished edge.

The thickness of the batting, fabric type, size of the quilt, and personal preference all play a role in your choice of binding width. The finished bound edge is usually  $\frac{1}{4}$ " to 1" wide. Our directions are for a  $\frac{3}{8}$ " finished binding, which works well for most projects. If you are unsure of your preferred binding width, make a small sample before binding your quilt.

This step of the quilting process can really add to the beauty of your finished project. We often hear quilters say that they dislike hand stitching, but we feel strongly that hand finishing the binding completes the quilt with class. You have invested many hours into your project and should take the time to relax and enjoy the hand-finishing process.

Finally, please don't forget to label your quilt with your name, date, location, and other important information so it can carry the story of your creative process.

Keeping you in stitches, Miki and Diane

## GENERAL DIRECTIONS

Please read all instructions before starting this project. All seams are  $\frac{1}{4}$ " unless specifically stated otherwise. Directions are for a standard quilted project with 90° corners. Yardage is based on a 40" usable fabric width.

## ABBREVIATIONS

- ✦ RST means right sides together.
- ✦ WST means wrong sides together.
- ✦ WOF means width of fabric, from selvedge to selvedge.

## CUTTING INSTRUCTIONS

### BINDING STRIPS:

Carefully measure all four sides of the quilt and add 20 inches. Divide this number by 40 to determine the number of strips to cut from your binding fabric.

- ✦ **Cut number needed** -  $2\frac{1}{4}$ " x WOF strips

### Sharp Idea!

*Always use an even-feed or walking foot to attach the binding to the quilt. This prevents stretching the binding and distorting your quilt.*

## PIECING INSTRUCTIONS

### BINDING STRIPS:

- 1) Place binding strips RST and sew with diagonal seams to form one long continuous binding strip. (Fig.1) Trim seam allowance to  $\frac{1}{4}$ " and press open to reduce bulk.
- 2) Fold the binding strip in half lengthwise with WST. Match long raw edges. Press to create a sharp crease on the fold.

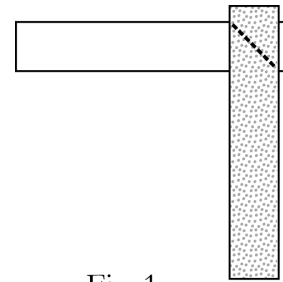


Fig. 1

## ATTACH THE BINDING

- 1) Place long raw edge of prepared binding along the raw edge of the quilt with RST. Leave a loose tail of fabric at least 10" long at the beginning of the attached binding.
- 2) Attach the binding strip to the quilt by sewing a seam  $\frac{1}{4}$ " away from the raw edges. Sew through all layers using a walking or even-feed foot.
- 3) Stop with the needle in the down position  $\frac{1}{4}$ " away from the edge of the quilt. Pivot the quilt on the needle and sew off the corner at a 45° angle. (Fig. 2) Clip your threads and remove the quilt from under your machine presser foot.
- 4) Fold the binding up and away from the quilt along the sewn angle and finger press the resulting 45-degree fold. (Fig. 3) The raw edge of the binding strip must continue the line of the raw edge of the quilt.
- 5) Fold the binding strip back down along the raw edge of the quilt. The new fold must align with the top edge of the quilt. The raw edge of the binding strip must align with the raw edge of the quilt. Starting at the fold, sew through all layers. (Fig. 4)
- 6) Continue attaching the binding strip and repeat Steps 3-5 at each corner of the quilt.
- 7) Stop sewing at least 10" before the starting point of the attached binding. The 10" unfinished space and the loose binding tails of at least 10" each are used to connect the binding.

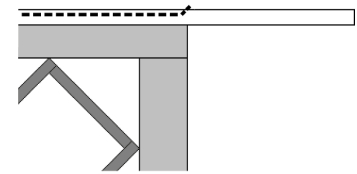
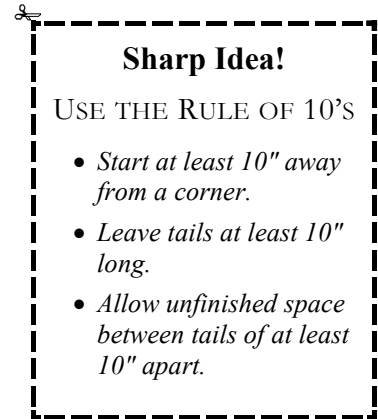


Fig. 2

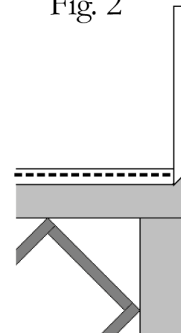


Fig. 3

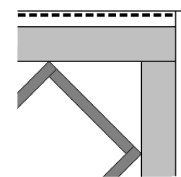
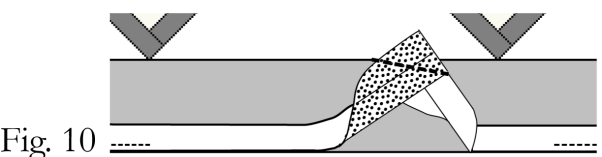
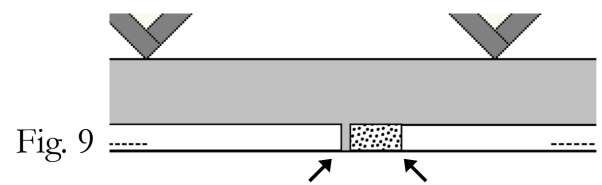
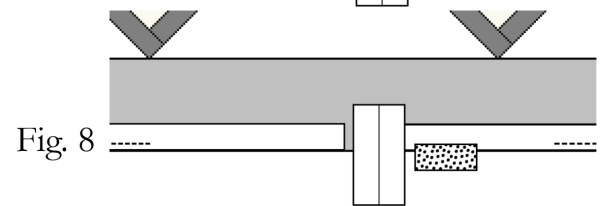
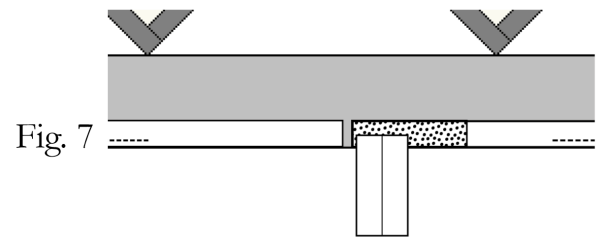
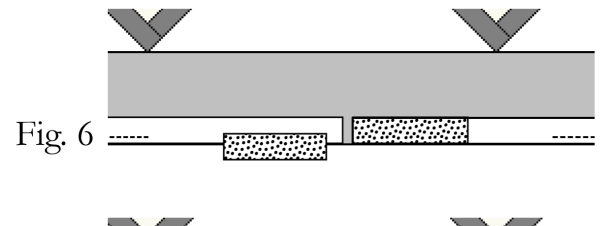
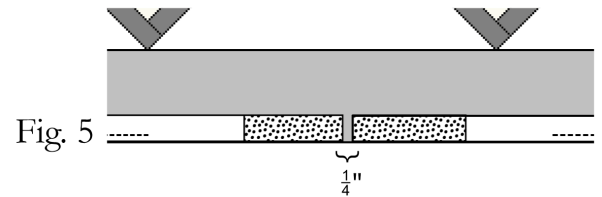


Fig. 4

## CONNECT THE BINDING

- 1) Fold each tail back leaving a  $\frac{1}{4}$ " space between the folded edges. (Fig. 5)
- 2) Cut the left binding tail exactly on the fold. (Fig. 6) Be careful not to cut the quilt. (Fig. 6)
- 3) Open the scrap of binding that was trimmed away from the left tail in Step 2. Lay the binding scrap on the folded right tail. Align the left edge of the scrap with the folded edge of the tail. Excess binding will be to the right of the opened binding scrap. (Fig. 7)
- 4) Using the binding scrap as a guide, trim the right binding tail equal to the width of the binding scrap. (Fig. 8)
- 5) Remove the binding scraps. At this point, both binding tails are trimmed to the exact length needed to complete the binding. Leave the right tail folded back as illustrated.
- 6) Take the lower right corner of both tails and place them right sides together with the tails at right angles to each other. Pin in place. (Fig. 9)
- 7) Sew a diagonal seam as shown. (Fig. 10) The binding should lay flat on your quilt sandwich without twisting. Once you have confirmed that the binding is flat, trim the seam allowance to  $\frac{1}{4}$ " and finger press the seam open. The final seam connecting the binding now looks like all the other seams in the binding.
- 8) Finish sewing the connected binding section onto the quilt.



## FINISHING

- 1) Wrap the binding around the edge of the quilt from the front to the back.
- 2) Use binding clips to hold the wrapped binding in place. Secure your thread with a buried quilter's knot.
- 3) Hand-stitch the binding to the quilt back using a blind stitch. Make sure the folded edge of the binding covers the seam line on the back of the quilt.

- 4) When you approach a corner, look at the front of the quilt to see which direction the miter fold is facing. Wrap the binding around the quilt at the corner so the miter fold on the back of the quilt is facing the opposite direction. Pin or glue in place.
- 5) Continue sewing the binding to the quilt back until the corner is reached. Blind-stitch the back miter fold closed and pass the needle through the binding to the front. Blind-stitch the front miter fold closed. Pass the needle through the binding at the seam line to the back of the quilt.
- 6) Continue sewing the binding to the quilt back and repeat Steps 4-5 at each corner.
- 7) Secure your thread with a quilter's knot.

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