

Binding Basics

Binding can be either cut on the bias or across the width of the fabric. Stripe fabric cut on the bias is really cool looking.

Always cut fabric for binding that is going to be placed on a curved edge on the bias. You need that bit of stretch for the curve.

To figure out how much fabric you need for binding cut on the bias and how to sew “the tube” for the bias binding, go to the internet and search for an article for bias binding for quilt. Here is a site from McCall’s quilting that includes both a video and how to instructions as well as an equation to determine fabric requirements.

http://www.mccallsquilting.com/mccallsquilting/articles/continuous_bias

I always review an article to remind me how to cut and sew the bias binding. I personally cut all my binding 2 ½” wide.

To determine the amount of fabric required for binding you need to know the size of the quilt. If you are modifying the pattern for a larger quilt, be sure and guesstimate on the high side so you will have enough fabric.

Determine the perimeter of the quilt ((length + width) times 2). Divide this number by 42. This is how many strips of binding you will need. Always round up if the number is not a whole number. If by chance the fabric you are using is not at least 44 inches wide, factor in a shorter length than the 42 inches mentioned above. I always add about 5 inches to allow for cutting goofs.

Example quilt size is 60 by 75

$60 + 75 = 135$ $135 \text{ times } 2 \text{ is } 270 \text{ inches.}$ $270 \text{ divided by } 42 = 6.43 \text{ strips. (round up to } 7)$

Multiply the number of strips by the width of your binding strips and add 5 inches.

$7 \text{ times } 2.5 = 17.5 \text{ inches.}$ Add 5 inches = 22 inches which is approximately 5/8 of a yard.

Sew fabric strips together at right angles to each other. Make sure you either cut off the selvage edge or place the selvage edge beyond the stitching area. Mark a diagonal line and sew on the diagonal line. Sew from top left to bottom right. Add the next strip to the end of your new strip. Keep adding strips until all the required strips are pieced together.



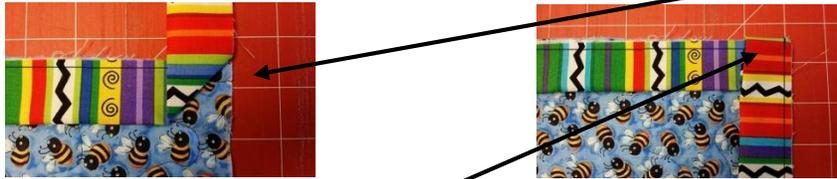
Trim the seam a generous ¼ inch and press to one side. Fold your strip together along the long side wrong sides together and press.

Determine if you are going to complete your binding by hand or machine after the binding is attached to the quilt. If the binding is being completed by hand, attach the binding to the front of the quilt. If the binding will be completed with the sewing machine, sew the binding to the back of the quilt.

Make sure the strip is going to be long enough and if any of the strip seams will be on a corner before attaching the binding to the quilt. Leaving a tail of about 12 inches on your strip pin about 10 inches or so from a corner of the quilt. Walk the strip all around the quilt as if you are sewing the binding on to see if there is a strip seam in a corner and if so adjust the starting point of your strip by moving the strip forward or backward at the original pinned spot. Once you are happy with the strip placement, stretch out your 12 inch tail and place another pin through the quilt to denote where you will stop sewing the binding on the quilt.

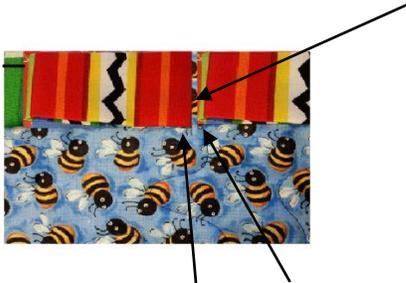
Use a walking foot to attach the binding to the quilt. Start sewing at the first pinned point. Backstitch a few stitches to secure the stitches here.

You will want to have a mitered corner so there will be enough fabric to turn to the other side at each corner. Stop stitching about 3/8 inch from the corner and backstitch a few stitches. Take the tail of the strip and fold it straight up making a right angle.



Then fold the strip straight down. (See pictures.) Start stitching from about 1/4 inch the end of the corner using a backstitch to the end of the quilt edge using the same seam allowance as before. After back stitching, just stitch along the side as before maintaining the appropriate seam allowance.

Once you reach the stopping point pin; back stitch and cut your thread. You should be about 12 inches or so from your original starting point. You now are going to join the two end pieces together using a diagonal seam. Take your two end pieces and fold them to within an 1/8th of an inch of each other about 1/2 way between your starting and ending stitching points. Finger press the folded strips.



Pull up the two ends and put a pin in the center of the two fold corners. Open the two strips up and place the two pieces right sides together. The strip on the left will be horizontal and the strip on the right will be vertical with the tail at the top just like when you sewed your original strips together. The only difference is that you have tails on both strips. That is okay. Make sure there is a pin right in the middle and then on each side of the stitching lines. Draw your diagonal line and stitch.



Open the strip and press the seam to one side. Fold the strip like it was originally and make sure it will fit in the area left on the quilt without puckers. If the fitting is good, cut the extra tails off. Press the pieced strip and sew to the quilt.

Press the binding to the outside of the quilt. When you get to the corners you want to make a nice crisp 90 degree angle. Pin and press the corner on the right first then overlap the corner with the left fabric. Since the left side is sewn first, you want that piece to be on top. See pictures below. Steam press the corners after pinning. Sew the binding to the front of the quilt using your walking foot. You can use a decorative stitch or a straight stitch. I prefer the blanket stitch.



Pat yourself on the back you have machine sewn a binding to your quilt.