

## Finishing a Quilt

These directions are for quilting and binding your quilt.

### Making Your Quilt Sandwich and Quilting:

Press the quilt top on the wrong side.

Cut the batting and backing fabric about 2 ½” larger than the quilt top. Press the backing fabric. Place backing fabric with right side down on a large table. Secure the backing fabric to the table with tape. Make sure there are no wrinkles in the fabric and that the fabric is lying flat and straight.

Lightly spray the backing fabric with temporary spray adhesive. Next, place the batting on top of your backing fabric, making sure the batting is smooth and wrinkle-free.

Lightly spray the batting with the temporary spray adhesive. Place the quilt top, right side up, on top of your batting. You want the quilt top to be centered on the batting and backing fabric.

Even though I have sprayed the quilt with the adhesive spray, I still like to add safety pins to the quilt top.

Set up your sewing machine for quilting. I suggest matching your bobbin thread to the backing fabric and using clear thread in the needle. It is best to use a stitch that is 3.0 mm (you want your stitch length to be about 8-10 stitches to the inch). Also, if you have a walking foot for your machine, it would be helpful to use it during the quilting process. The walking foot will help to feed the fabrics through the sewing machine evenly.

Remove the tape and the quilt from the table.

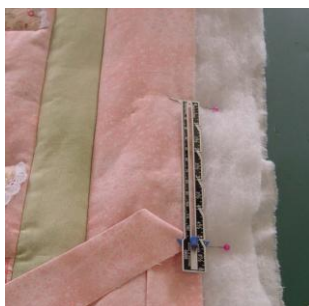
Now that you have your quilt ready and prepared, you can either stitch in the ditch with a straight stitch or quilt as desired.

### Binding Your Quilt:

Once the quilting is completed, trim batting and backing fabric to ½” from the raw edges of the quilt top.

To make the binding, sew enough 2 ½” x 42” strips of fabric together with a ¼” seam allowance so that you have one strip long enough to go around your quilt, plus a few extra inches. Press seams open. Fold and then press the long strip in half lengthwise with wrong sides together.

If you have a needle down position on your machine, engage it. Pin the binding raw edges along the raw edges of the quilt top. I like to start pinning this binding strip in the middle of one side of the quilt. Leave about 5” of binding unsewn and with a 3.0 mm straight stitch begin sewing with a ¼” seam allowance.



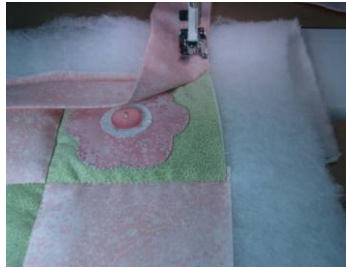
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When you get to the corner, stop stitching 1/4" away from the side, with the needle in the down position. Raise your presser foot. Turn your quilt so that you will be stitching down the next side. Place the foot back down on the fabric and sew backward 1/4" to the raw edge of the binding.



Raise the presser foot up, ensure needle is in the up position, and clip threads. Bring the quilt towards the back of the machine and out of the way. Adjust the binding to a 45 degree angle.



Fold the strip forward (towards you) so that the 45 degree fold is under the binding.

Make sure you now have the raw edges of the binding and the quilt lined up. Begin stitching at the edge, securing stitching at the beginning with a backstitch. Repeat this process until you have stitched the binding all the way around the quilt.



Once you reach the side where you started, stop stitching about 5" from the center.



Place binding together as shown. Finger-press the folds.



Open out the fold and with a disappearing marking pen mark the creases. Pin the strips together at the marked line. At the machine, sew on the line. Trim the excess binding to a ¼” seam allowance. Place the binding back down with wrong sides together and pin into place on the quilt raw edge.



Now sew the remaining binding into place along the raw edge.



Trim the batting and backing fabric to the raw edges of the binding strip.

From the back, fold the binding over the raw edges. At the corners the binding will automatically form a miter. Pin miters into place. Hand sew binding using a blind hem stitch.

