

Endless Binding

Ann Anderson, Quiltwoman.com

My usual binding uses 2" strips of fabric cut across the width of the fabric (WOF). I cut the binding strips wider for thick quilts such as those made from flannel.

If the edges of the quilt are curved, as in a double wedding ring, the strips should be cut on the bias and this technique would not be appropriate.

The binding is machine sewn to the front and hand sewn to the back.

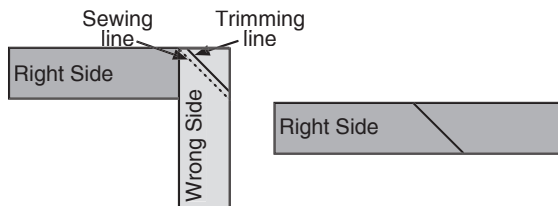
How much to cut?

Measure the total length of all the edges (usually 4) and add about 10". Divide that number by 40" to determine the number of 2" x WOF strips to cut.

For example, if your quilt is 60" x 80", you need $2 \times 60" + 2 \times 80" + 10"$ or 290". Divide by 40" per strip and that is 7 1/4 strips. I would just cut 8 strips.

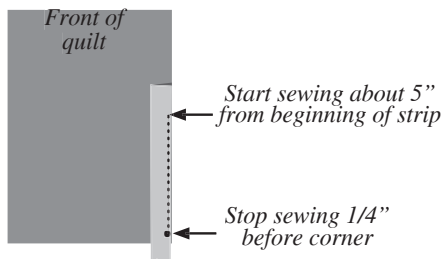
Sewing Strips Together

Sew strips together with diagonal seams. Press the seams open for a smoother, less bumpy binding.



Machine Sewing Binding to Edges of Quilt

Fold binding strip lengthwise with wrong sides together as you sew it to quilt - do NOT press ahead of time.* Starting about 1/3 the way down on one edge of the quilt, match raw edges of binding to quilt edges. Using a 1/4" seam, start sewing about 5" from the end of strip and stop 1/4" before corner.



* Why not press before sewing? Because the distance on the inside of the fold is less than the distance on the outside, so folding and pressing in half puts the pressed edge NOT on the edge of the quilt. Also it is less work to NOT press first.

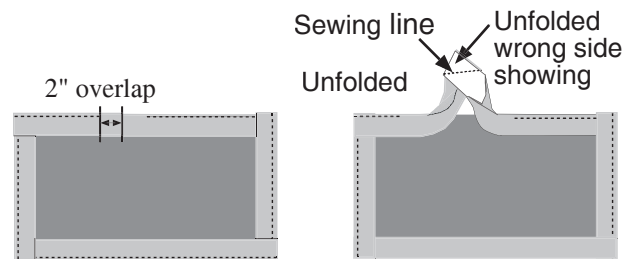
Making Mitered corners

Fold strip up forming a 45° angle. Next fold the strip back down and sew from edge to 1/4" from next corner. Repeat until you are back on the first edge.



Joining Final Ends of Binding Strips

Overlap the ends of the binding strips by 2" and trim. Unfold the ends of the binding strips. Put right sides together and sew a diagonal seam.



**If your binding is cut to a different width (not 2"), overlap the starting and ending ends of the binding by the width of the strip before trimming and sewing. For example, if the cut width of the binding strip is 2 1/2", overlap the ends by 2 1/2".

Trim the seam to 1/4". Finger press the seam open.

Replace the binding on the front of the quilt and complete the machine stitching.



Stitching to Back

Fold binding to back and blind stitch to back. Corners will miter as they are folded to the back.