

# Cut the Fuzz!

## *Tips on Binding a Quilt with a Minkie or Cuddle Backing*

In my studio, I generally do not trim quilts with Minkie or Cuddle backings because of all the fuzz. It can take a lot of time to vacuum up all the fuzz so it doesn't get on or into the next quilt. The dark colors are especially problematic. I recommend that my clients wait until they are ready to bind their quilts to trim. Sometimes tumbling the quilt in the dryer, or shaking it outside, can help. Here's another way I recently discovered to "cut the fuzz" when I bind quilts with such backings.

**Materials needed:** masking tape, approximately 2" wide. I used plain 3M professional grade tape; I have not tried the blue or green tapes or clear packing tape, but those might work too.

**Step 1:** Apply the binding to the front of your quilt as usual. On the back of your quilt, apply a strip of masking tape covering the binding stitch line. I try to have about half the tape on the quilt, and about half on the extra backing that will be cut off. Do this on all four sides of the quilt. It's okay to overlap the tape at the corners. (Figure 1)

**Step 2:** Turn your quilt to the right side, and using your rotary cutter trim the excess binding and batting. (Figure 2) You will be cutting through the tape at the same time, with part of the tape remaining on your quilt and part of the tape remaining on the backing that has been cut away. (Figure 3)



Figure 1

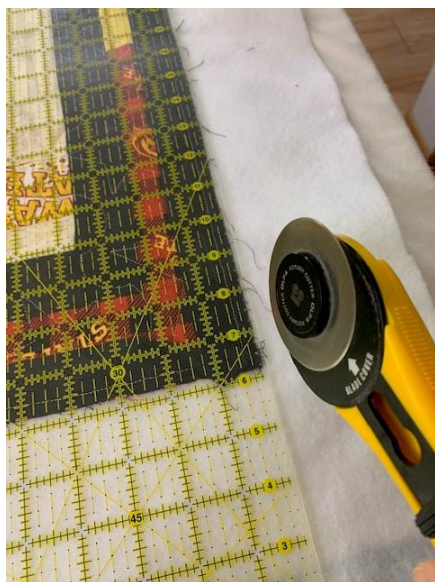


Figure 2



Figure 3

**Step 3:** Remove the tape, and the fuzz along with it! Figure 4 shows the tape being removed from the excess backing fabric. See how the fuzz sticks to the tape!

**Step 4:** Bind as usual. Figure 5 shows the binding turned and ready to hand stitch to the back. I remove the tape as I go, just before I encase the edge of the quilt with the binding. No fuzz anywhere!



Figure 4

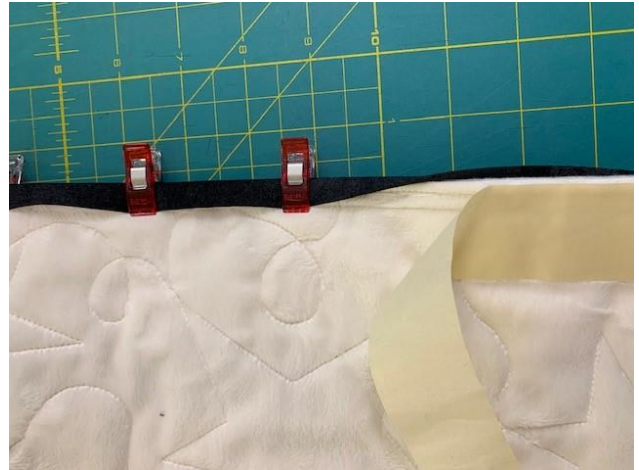


Figure 5

I hope you enjoyed these tips for binding quilts with Minkie or Cuddle backings!



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