Hanging Sleeve with Bound Buttonhole

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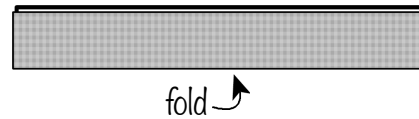
1 - Measure width of finished quilt at top edge. Use that measurement to cut a rectangle for the sleeve. Cut it 9" long.

fabric right side

9"

Width of quilt

2 - Press 3/4" hems along short ends. Tuck raw edges of hem to the inside to create a double-fold 3/8" hem. Press and stitch along fold of hem on each end of sleeve.
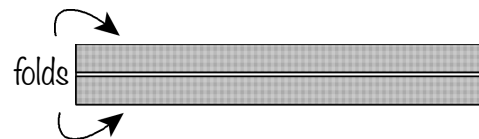
fold

fabric wrong side

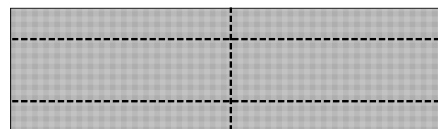3 - Fold sleeve wrong sides together, meeting long edges. Press a light crease to mark horizontal center.
Open up and smooth out, wrong side up.

fold

4 - Fold long edges to meet the crease in the middle and press sharp creases at the top and bottom folds. Open up and smooth out, wrong side up.
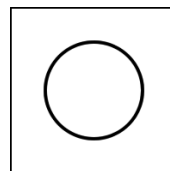
folds

5 - Fold sleeve wrong sides together, meeting **short** edges. Press a light crease to mark vertical center. Open up and smooth out, right side up.
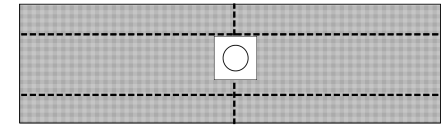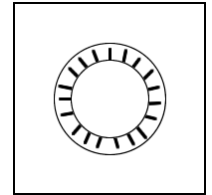
To make Bound Buttonhole:

6 - Mark a 2" circle, centered on the wrong side of a 3" square of fabric. Marking won't show — you can use a regular pencil.
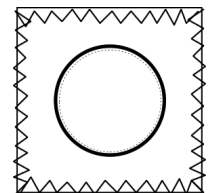
7 - Lay marked square on right side of sleeve, right sides together. Center horizontally, just below top crease (~⅛" down). Pin together thru each corner of square. Stitch on marked line, with a small stitch length (~2mm).

8 - Cut out hole, through both layers, about ¼" inside the stitching line. Clip seam allowance close to stitching, without cutting through the stitching. Press to set stitching.

9 - Dampen fabric near stitching line with spray bottle. From back of sleeve, pull buttonhole fabric to the back until a tiny bit of the sleeve fabric is visible at the edge of the hole. Press flat from the back and front. This seems a little tricky, but it's easier to do with damp fabric. Zigzag raw edges of buttonhole fabric to the sleeve.

10 - Refold sleeve long edges to meet in the horizontal center. Press well. Edgestitch along both long folds. This is optional, but gives a sturdy edge to make it easier to sew by hand to the quilt back. (Thanks to Robbi Joy Eklow for this great tip.)

11 - Bring raw edges of sleeve together, Wrong Sides Together, and sew a 1/2" seam. Press seam open. Side view of sleeve will look like a "D" — this will accommodate a PVC pipe or dowel rod and will allow the quilt to hang flat.

Side view of sleeve

12 - Pin sleeve to back of quilt, centered, about 1/2" below top edge. Flat side of sleeve (with exposed seam allowances) should be against the quilt. Hand sew sleeve to quilt back, catching back fabric and some batting, but taking care not to sew through front of quilt. Sew entirely around the sleeve, making sure to sew the short edges of the sleeve to the quilt too. This will ensure the dowel is always inside the sleeve and never between the sleeve and the quilt back. The Bound Buttonhole will allow hanging small quilts on one nail. It can also help support a large quilt hung from a curtain rod with a center support.