

Making a Sleeve for Your Quilt

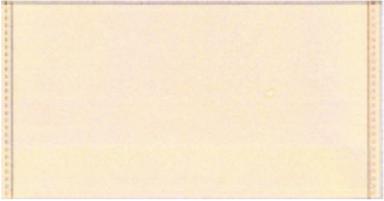


Figure 1



Figure 2



Figure 3

Method 1, Sew a Hanging Sleeve After the Quilt is Bound

1. Cut or piece together fabric to make a strip 10 ½" tall and the same width as the quilt.
2. Fold under short edges ¼" wrong sides together. Fold under again and sew a straight or zigzag seam to hem the folds. (Figure 1)
3. Now fold the strip lengthwise, wrong sides together, aligning its raw edges. Sew together with a ½" seam allowance, making a tube. Press the seam open. (Figure 2)
4. Place the open seam against the quilt's back. Center and pin the top edge of the tube to the back of the quilt, about ½" below the binding.
5. Use a whipstitch to sew the top edge of the tube to the quilt backing. Stitch into the batting occasionally to help strengthen the seam.
6. Smooth the sleeve downward along the quilt back, and then make a ½" fold along its length to create a pleat. Leaving the pleat intact, pin the sleeve bottom to the quilt,
7. Whipstitch the lower edge of the sleeve to the quilt. Remove pins. The sleeve will pooch out a bit to allow space for the hanging rod. (Figure 3)
8. Whipstitch the back sides of the sleeve opening to the quilt, leaving the front sides unsewn to allow for the rod insertion.

Method 2, Add a Hanging Sleeve Before the Binding

1. Once the quilt is quilted, trim the batting and backing to match the quilt top along the edge where the sleeve will be sewn.
2. Cut or piece together fabric to make a strip 10 ½" tall and the same width as the quilt.
3. Fold under short edges ¼" wrong sides together. Fold under again and sew a straight or zigzag seam to hem the folds. . (Figure 1)
4. Fold the strip lengthwise, wrong sides together, aligning its raw edges.
5. Center the folded strip along the top edge of the quilt, against the backing, aligning its matched raw edges with the edge of the quilt.
6. Sew the sleeve to the quilt with an approximate 1/8" seam allowance.

7. Smooth the sleeve downward along the back of the quilt back. Then make a $\frac{1}{2}$ " fold along the length to create a pleat. Leaving the pleat intact, pin the sleeve bottom to the quilt.
8. Whipstitch the lower edge of the sleeve to the quilt. Remove pins. The sleeve will pooch out a bit to allow space for the hanging rod. (Figure 3)
9. Whipstitch the back sides of the sleeve opening to the quilt, leaving the front sides unsewn to allow for the rod insertion.
10. Bind the quilt. If you plan to use the tuck method to end doublefold binding, start binding on a side without the sleeve to help avoid bulk from extra layers of fabric.

Quilt Sleeve Options

You can use any fabric for the quilt sleeve, from plain muslin to something that enhances the reverse side of your quilt.

Read quilt show rules for sleeve size requirements before making the sleeve for your quilt.

Use wide back fabric to make a long sleeve without piecing the strips of fabric. Use the same fabric you back the quilt with to make the sleeve blend with the backing.