

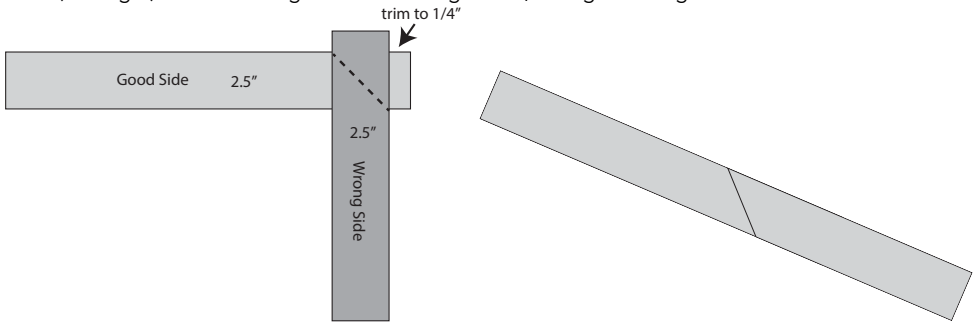
Making your binding

Cut 2.5" wide strips from your binding fabric. These may be cut on the straight of grain or the cross grain (from selvedge edge to selvedge edge).

To bind your quilt, you will want one long piece of continuous binding, so you will want to join your binding strips together with diagonal seams. The diagonal seams will not be as obvious as straight seams, once your quilt is done.

To do this lay your binding strips on one another, good sides together, forming a perpendicular overlap, as shown. You will then stitch a seam from the upper left intersection by your strips, to the lower right intersection, created by your strips.

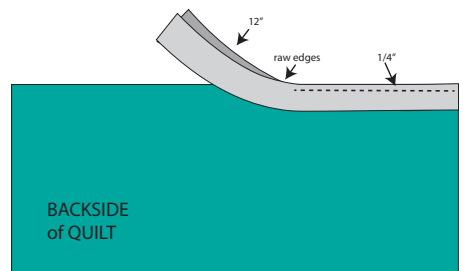
Once sewn, trim the seam allowance down to 1/4" and press open. Repeat this process until your binding strips are long enough to go all the way around the perimeter of your quilt, plus about 24" (or longer). Press the length of the binding in half, wrong sides together.



Attaching your binding to your quilt

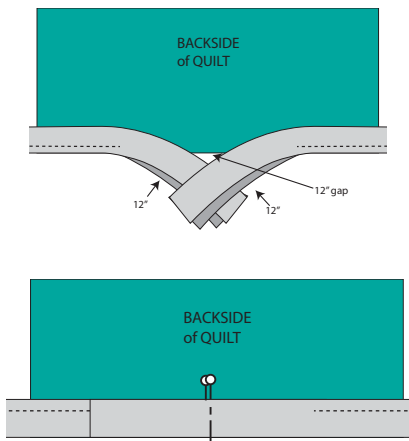
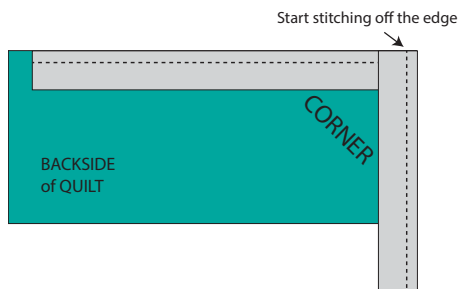
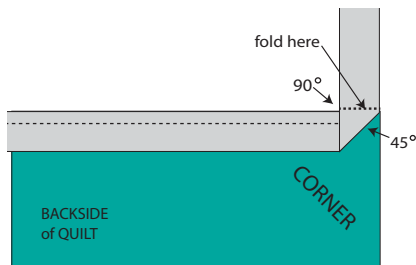
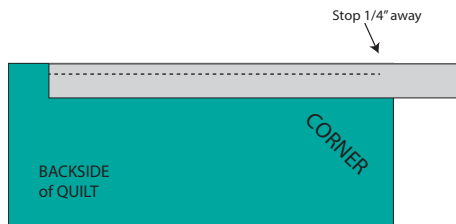
Your binding will be attached to the backside, of your quilt if you intend on finishing your binding by machine. If you wish to finish your binding by hand, you will attach the binding to the good side of the quilt. (The illustrations demonstrate the binding process if finishing the binding by machine.)

Line the end of your binding up with one of the edges of your quilt with the raw edges of the binding along the raw edge of the quilt. Move down the edge of the quilt/binding about 12" and start stitching your binding to the quilt with a 1/4" seam allowance. You may want to backstitch at the start of this seam to lock your stitches in place.



Continue attaching your binding to the quilt until you near your first corner. Stop when you get **1/4" away** from the first corner of the quilt. Backstitch to lock in place and cut thread.

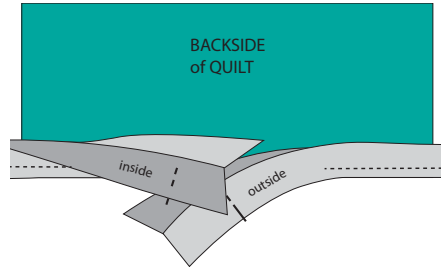
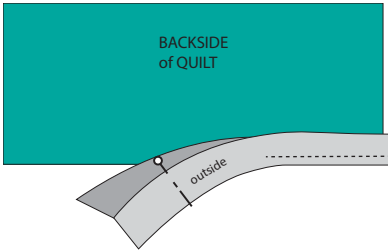
Rotate the quilt so that the binding-free edge of the quilt is facing in to the sewing machine. Fold the binding away from you, creating a **45 degree** angle between the bottom edge of the binding and the corner of the quilt. Hold that fold in place and fold the binding down towards you, so the raw edge now lines up with the new edge of the quilt. Start stitching this new side, starting from off the edge of the quilt. You will repeat this step at every corner you encounter.



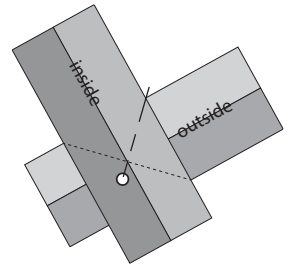
Once you have negotiated the last of the corners, you should now be back to the edge of the quilt where you started attaching your binding. Sew the binding down leaving at least a 10"-12" gap of unsewn binding between your start point, where you started sewing your binding down, and your end point, where you finished sewing your binding down. There should also be at least 12" of a binding "tail" flowing free at both the starting point and end point. If there is more than 12" at either point, you may trim this down.

Lay both binding tails on top of one another, as you intend your binding to appear when complete. Mark a point on the bottom binding tail, in the middle of the 12" gap, by placing a pin directly in the fold of the binding and pinning up through the top layer of the binding only. You should be able to open the binding and flatten it out even when pinned. Mark that same point on the top binding, pinning it in the same way.

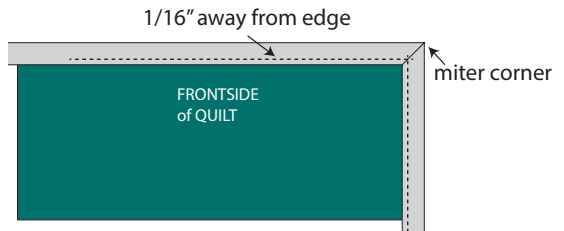
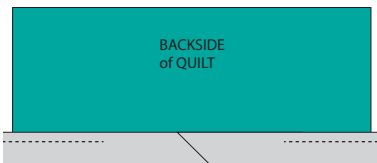
Unfold the right binding tail and splay it out so the binding's good side is up. Do the same with the left binding, however, you want the wrong side facing up. Be careful that when you do this, you do not put a twist in the binding.



Cross the binding tails on top of one another, lining up the centre points that are marked with pins on the fold of the binding. They should be laying perpendicular on top of one another, good sides together. If you find that you do not have enough "slack" in the binding to do this easily, you may fold your quilt to give you the "slack" you need. Pin the bindings together directly through that centre point, and remove the two pins that were previously marking the bindings.



Trace a line going from the upper inner intersection of the crossed bindings to the lower outer intersection, as shown. Stitch directly on this line. If you pull your quilt flat, the binding should now be joined with a nice diagonal seam, and no slack, or excess length in the binding.



If satisfied with your joint, you may trim back the seam allowance of the seam you just created, and press open. You may now press the unattached binding in place, and stitch down the unstitched section. Press the binding away from the quilt.

Pull the binding over the the right side of the quilt and top stitch it down about 1/16" away from the edge. Do this all around the perimeter, mitering the corners as you go.