

THE CLEVER  
LITTLE BOOK

*of*

**QUILTY**  
KNOW HOW

**BINDING**

»» BINDING

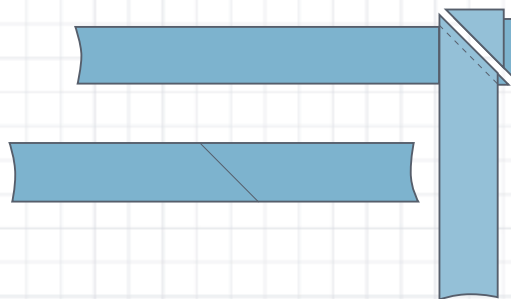
# MAKING BINDING

## DIAGONAL SEAMS

Sewing your binding with diagonal seams reduces the bulkiness of the seam, and is really easy once you know how.

**1** Take one binding strip and, using the 45-degree line on your ruler, draw a diagonal from one corner of the strip. Place this strip right sides together with a second strip at a right angle, forming an 'L' shape.

**2** Stitch along your marked diagonal line. Trim the seam allowance to  $\frac{1}{4}$  in. Open out your strips and press the seam open. Continue adding strips in this way, until you have one long length.



**3** Once you have a strip of binding, press in half along the length, wrong sides together. This will form a double fold binding, even though it is only folded once at this point. Once it is attached to the quilt and folded to the back, you have created the 'double fold'.

# BINDING MATHS

+ = \* ? x - !

Working out the amount of binding fabric you need is simple, once you have the length and width of your quilt! Follow the steps below to work out how much binding fabric you will need, and how many strips to cut.

## CLEVER TIP

*Always round up to the nearest whole inch to ensure you have enough fabric.*

## LENGTH OF BINDING (LOB)

(2 x length of quilt in inches)  
+ (2 x width of quilt in inches) + 15in

## # OF STRIPS NEEDED

$LOB \div 42$

## INCHES OF BINDING FABRIC

# of strips x width of strips

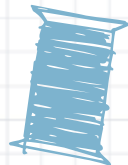
THE MOST COMMON BINDING  
WIDTH IS 2½IN, AND IF YOU'RE STILL  
GETTING TO GRIPS WITH BINDING, THIS  
IS WHAT WE'D RECOMMEND.

## TRAD TECHNIQUE

- 1** Trim away excess batting and backing around your quilt top, making sure your corners are square.
- 2** Unfold the edge of your binding and trim using the 45-degree line of your ruler. Press under  $\frac{1}{2}$ in along the short edge, and then refold the binding. Begin pinning the binding to the bottom of your quilt, with this folded edge near the centre.
- 3** Starting 4–5in away from the folded binding edge, machine sew the binding to your quilt, ending your seam  $\frac{1}{4}$ in from the edge of the quilt. Backstitch to secure.
- 4** Mitre the corner and continue attaching the binding to the remaining edges of the quilt.
- 5** When you reach the bottom edge again, pin the binding in place as before. Trim the end of the binding so it overlaps the beginning folded edge by about 1in. Tuck this end into the folded end of binding. Sew the binding in place, backstitching at the overlap to secure the seam.
- 6** Press the binding away from the quilt, then press the folded edge to the back, covering your machine stitches with the folded edge. Pin in place. Hand sew to the back using invisible stitches.

### CLEVER TIP

Use invisible thread for your hand stitching for a flawless finish.



# MACHINE BINDING

**1** To attach your binding fully by machine, sew your binding to the front of your quilt, as you would in the traditional binding method.

**2** Carefully fold your binding to the reverse of your quilt, pinning in place from the front. Ensure that the folded edge of the binding fully covers the stitching line.

**3** With your quilt right side up, stitch in the ditch next to your binding. This will catch the folded edge of the binding on the back, while keeping your stitches invisible on the front.

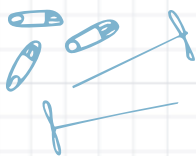
**4** Stop with your needle down in the corners, lift the presser foot and rotate the quilt before sewing again.

**5** Check the reverse of the quilt. If there are any areas where the binding wasn't caught, carefully unpick this section and sew in place again.

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ALWAYS USE A THREAD THAT MATCHES YOUR BINDING FABRIC WELL. IT HELPS TO HIDE THE FINAL ROW OF STITCHING ON YOUR QUILT TOP.

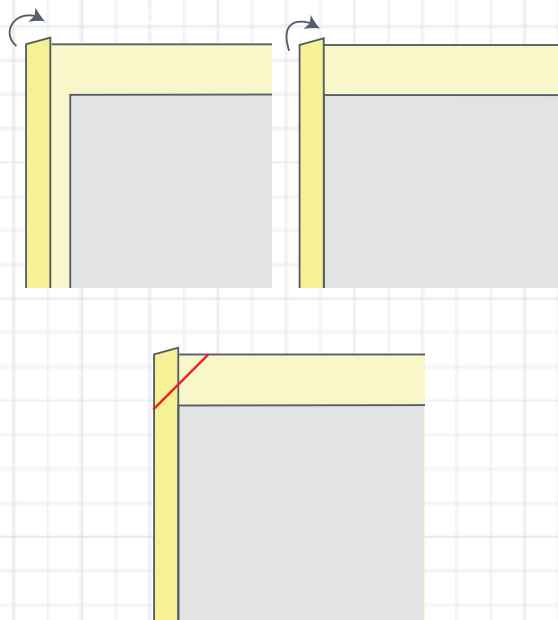
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# CHEAT'S BINDING

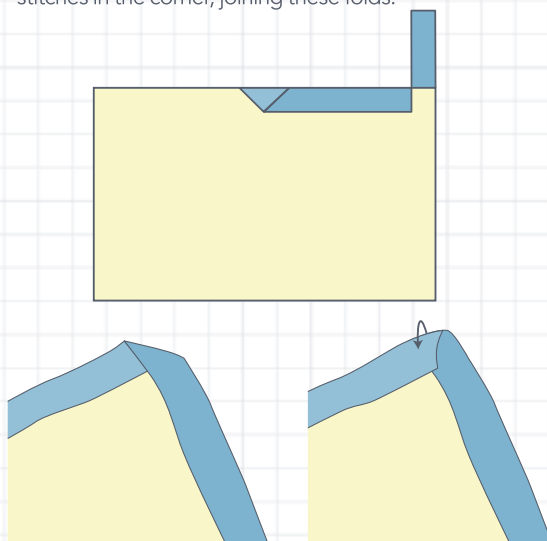
## USING THE QUILT BACK AS BINDING

- 1 Once you've finished quilting, trim away the excess batting. Trim the backing fabric to 1in outside the edge of the quilt, all the way around.
- 2 Fold and press one edge of the backing in to the edge of the quilt. Bring the folded edge up over the quilt and pin in place.
- 3 Using the 45-degree line on your ruler, mark the diagonal, starting at the outer corner of the quilt.
- 4 Repeat the last two steps along the remaining edges of the quilt. Sew the binding in place by hand or machine.



# MITRED CORNERS

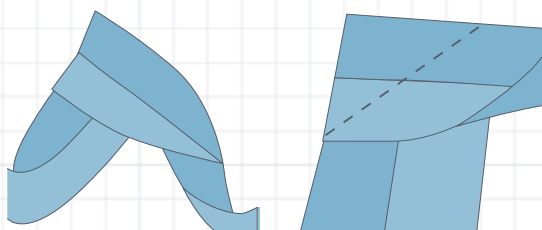
- 1** To mitre corners, attach binding to the first edge of your quilt, stopping  $\frac{1}{4}$ in from the edge of your quilt. Backstitch to secure the seam, and remove the quilt from your machine.
- 2** Pull your binding strip up so it forms a 45-degree angle. Holding this fold with one finger, bring your binding strip straight down along the next edge of your quilt and pin in place.
- 3** Begin sewing  $\frac{1}{4}$ in from the edge of the quilt along this edge, starting with a backstitch to secure your thread.
- 4** To finish the mitres, first press the binding away from the quilt on the front. With the back of the quilt facing up, fold the binding along one edge up over the quilt, extending the fold all the way to the end of the binding at the side and pin in place. Fold the next edge up over the quilt, completing the mitre.
- 5** When hand stitching your binding in place, take a few stitches in the corner, joining these folds.



# BINDING ENDS

## THE SEAMED METHOD

- 1** Start your binding leaving an unsewn 8in tail, and attach your binding around the quilt, stopping 8in before your previous stitching and backstitch to secure. If your binding is really long, you can trim it off, but leave another 8in at this end as well.
- 2** Lay one end of binding along the edge of the quilt. Trim the strip at about the halfway point of the unstitched edge, cutting the strip straight.
- 3** Place the remaining end of binding over the top, and mark where the strips meet. Measure a width of unfolded binding strip longer, and trim the strip at this point. So if you are using a  $2\frac{1}{2}$ in strip, the two binding ends should overlap by  $2\frac{1}{2}$ in.
- 4** Unfold the two ends, and place right sides together, so that the pieces are at a right angle to one another. Using the 45-degree line on your ruler, draw a diagonal line across one end, and pin along this line.
- 5** Refold your binding and check that everything lays correctly. This is important, as the last step can be tricky to get right the first time you try it. Once you are satisfied, sew along your drawn line.
- 6** Trim the seam to  $\frac{1}{4}$ in and finger press the seam open. Refold your binding and finish attaching to the quilt, overlapping your stitches from the start.







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Fabric shown is from the Petite Street  
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