

MAGICAL - ALWAYS PERFECT - QUILT BINDING INSTRUCTIONS

By Ellen Osten

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1. Set the machine up for regular straight stitching and attach a 1/4" foot. Join strips as shown, if necessary, using a 1/4" seam allowance. (Also shown is how to match a striped binding, like we used.) *If you want a bias (stretchy) binding to go around curved edges like an oval or rounded-edge placemat, you can use a quilter's ruler to cut the strips on a 45° angle or even a 60° angle selvage to selvage.*

2. Cut 2-1/2" wide strips as needed.

MATCHING A STRIPE:

Use a quilter's ruler to draw a 45° angle on the right side of one of the strips about an inch from the short edge. Press wrong sides together along this drawn line.



3. Position the pressed strip onto the other strip, matching the stripe.
(Photo above right.)

(Pencil eraser shows diagonal fold line.)

Trim the excess fabric on the right of the strips away, flush with the two strips.



4. Open up the folded, trimmed strip. You will be stitching along the pressed crease, and we have chalked ours so you can see it more clearly.

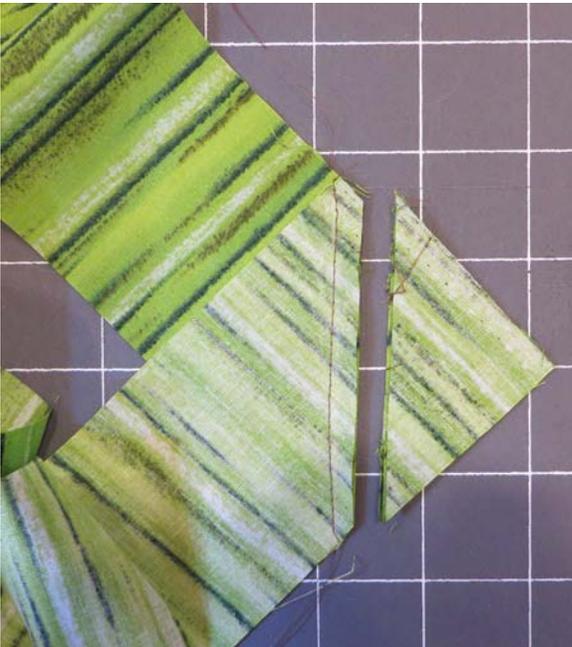




5. With a coordinating thread top and bobbin, use a short stitch length to stitch along the crease or marked line.

Continue this process for however many strips you need. (Perimeter measurement of all 4 sides, plus 24" for mitering and joining.)

6. Trim 1/4" from stitched line. Carefully press the seam open (this makes the strip less bulky).



7. Press the joined strip in half lengthwise, WRONG sides together. Trim short, folded edges even.



8. Place the raw edge of the folded strip along the raw edge of the bottom of the quilt, about 4" from the bottom, left corner (or wherever you prefer your bindings to begin and end. With this Magical Perfect Binding, you will find the ending much less obvious).

Leave about a 6" tail free. You will be using about 10" of binding for this process.

Place a pin to hold in place.



9. Ellen placed a piece of Tiger Tape™ at the end of the quilt, under the binding to remind her to stop exactly 1/4" from the edge of the quilt. *(There is about an inch of tape under the binding and about an inch extending out.)*

Start stitching about 4" from the corner (leaving the 6" tail unstitched) and stop exactly at the Tiger Tape or your exact 1/4" mark. *You can also use the quarter inch foot markings to tell when you are exactly 1/4" from the edge. But the Tiger Tape is more accurate, and accuracy is the secret to a perfectly mitered binding.*



10. Stop exactly at the beginning of the Tiger Tape with the needle in the fabric.



11. Pivot a right (90°) angle and stitch precisely along the Tiger Tape to the end of the fabric.

**DO NOT BACKSTITCH.
DO NOT USE YOUR FIX STITCH.**



12. Remove the quilt and binding from under the foot, and fold the binding strip to the left as shown below.





13. Fold the binding strip up at a perfect 45° angle as shown above and finger press.

14. Then fold it back down over the angle you just made, so the raw edges meet on the right, matching the top fold to the raw edge of the quilt. Start at the edge and stitch.



YOUR FIRST PERFECTLY MITERED CORNER



15. Continue around the quilt mitering the corners in this same manner as you go.

16. Stop about 10" from where you began stitching on the bottom of the quilt.



17. Remove from the machine and place flat on a table.

18. Pin the first (original) 6" tail to the quilt matching the raw edges.

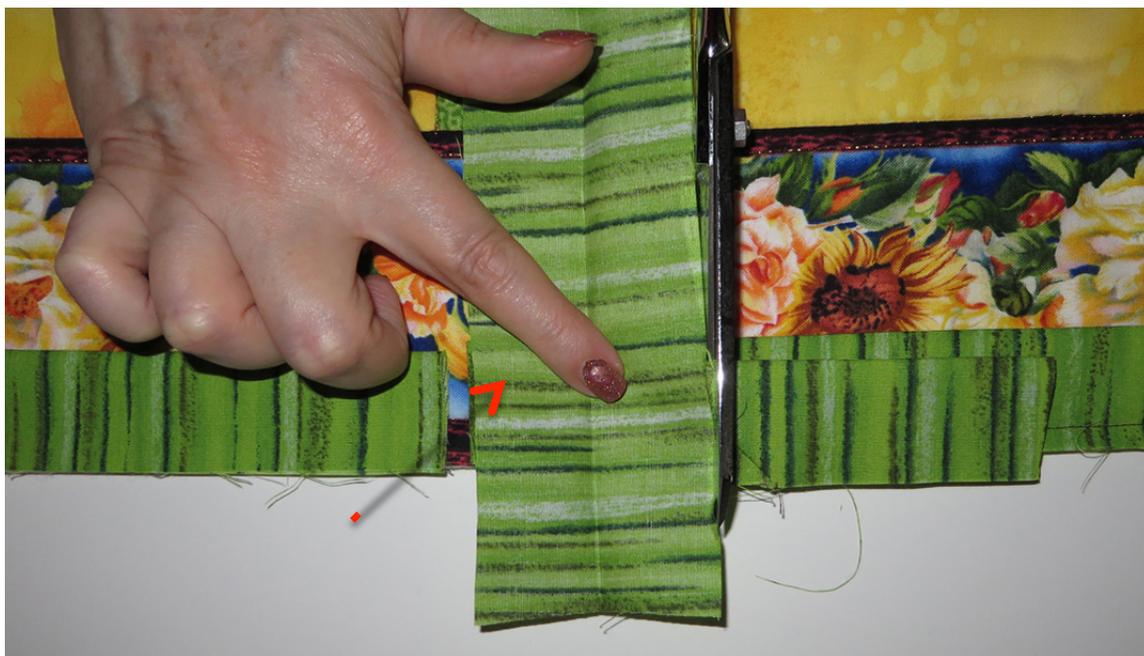
19. Bring the second tail to meet the cut edge of the first tail.

20. Fold the second tail back to form a 1/4" gap. Mark the fold with a pin.

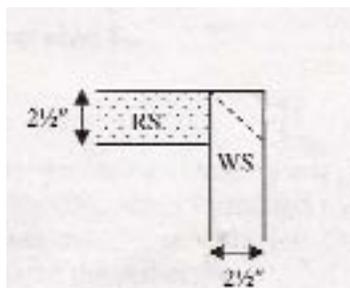


21. Measure 2-1/2" from the fold mark (because the strips were cut 2-1/2" wide); mark and cut binding along this mark. Here's the Easy Ellen way:

Unfold the binding and that is your perfect 2-1/2" measuring piece. Notice that one edge of the unfolded binding is along the fold (on the left – red arrow) and the right side is where she is cutting off the excess binding.



22. Open both ends. Place the right tail over the left tail at right angles to each other. Stitch just like you did when you pieced your binding before.





23. Stitch on the diagonal like you did in Step #5. Trim leaving a 1/4" seam allowance like you did in Step #6. Finger press the seam open.



24. Lay the binding back in place with raw edges even. Stitch through all layers using a 1/4" seam allowance.



PERFECT!

AND IT JUST SOUNDED HARD, IT REALLY WASN'T!

Even more magic...



Wrap the binding around quilt edges to the quilt back. No more pins and stuck fingers when sewing your binding on. These Clover Wonder Clips™ make it “sew” easy.

Stitch by hand or machine. Ellen likes to use Sulky 60 wt. PolyLite™ to stitch the binding by hand. Tangle free and it glides through the layers.

Or, you can use 1/4” wide Steam-A-Seam® tape to fuse your binding down on the back and just tack the corners if needed.