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*Bound and Determined: Finish that Quilt!*

A binding guide from the editors of *McCall's Quick Quilts*
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How much binding do I need?
Measure the 4 sides of your quilt and add them together. Add an extra 10-12" for turning the corners.

What type of binding should I use—straight of grain or bias-cut?
The type of binding you should use depends on the outer border shape. If you have straight edges, cut your binding on the straight of grain. This binding method is quick and easy. How to piece strips for binding is shown on page 7.

If you want your outer border to have a scalloped edge (page 21), or rounded corners, you should plan to use a bias-cut binding. Cutting on the bias will allow the strips to stretch slightly and go around corners smoothly.

If you are using a stripe fabric for your binding, you may wish to cut it on the bias so the stripe looks like it swirls around the edge of the quilt continuously. Bias-cut binding also looks great in plaid!

What is the difference between single and double-fold binding?
Single-fold binding is a single layer strip with ¼" pressed to wrong side along one edge. The opposite edge is aligned with the raw edge of the quilt, right sides together, and stitched to the quilt through all layers. After stitching is complete, the folded edge is wrapped around to the back side and stitched into place. Only one layer of fabric is covering the edge of the quilt, thus the name single-fold binding. Single-fold binding creates a flatter edge than double-fold binding. This treatment is good for bias-cut binding that will be used for a curved edge finish. See page 9 for more information.

Double-fold binding is a strip of fabric folded in half lengthwise, wrong sides together, and pressed. The raw edges are aligned with the raw edge of the quilt front and stitched through all layers. After stitching is complete, the folded edge is wrapped to the back and stitched in place. With this method, two layers of fabric cover the quilt raw edges; this tends to wear better than single-fold binding.
How wide should I cut my bindings?

Quilters vary in their preference for binding widths. Single-fold bindings are commonly cut 1 ½” to 1 ¾” wide. Double-fold bindings are often cut 2” to 3” wide.

When determining width, it is important that the binding be snug against the edge of the quilt when brought to the back side. It is also important that there be enough fabric to wrap to the back and cover the line of stitching that attached the binding to the quilt front.

Experimenting to find the perfect width for a project is worth the effort, since loftiness of a batting and the characteristics of fabrics in a quilt can change the situation from project to project.

How should I prepare the edge for binding?

After quilting is complete (by either hand or machine), cut away excess batting and backing with scissors or rotary cutter and ruler, making a clean, straight edge.

If the quilting stitches are not close to the quilt’s edge and no basting is holding the 3 layers together, you may wish to add a line of basting along the edge through all layers. This stabilizes the quilt edge and keeps the layers from shifting.

What seam allowance should I use?

Most quilters sew binding to their quilts using a ¼” seam allowance. This creates a neat, fairly narrow binding. If a wider binding is preferred, increase the seam allowance; however, binding must be cut wider to accommodate the extra seam width.

Remember the goal is to wrap binding to the back side and hug the edge of the quilt snugly to create a firm edge, while also covering the machine-stitched seam line on the quilt back.

How do I prevent wavy edges?

Stitching binding to the quilt with a walking foot (even-feed foot) or integrated dual feed prevents the binding from pushing forward and warping the edge of the quilt. If stitching without a walking foot, pin as needed or baste binding in place before sewing.

How do I hand-sew the binding to the back?

To complete the binding by turning and hand-sewing it to the back of the quilt, use a thin, sharp needle and hand-quilting thread. Cut a single thread no more than 18” long. Tie a small knot at one end of the thread. Insert needle through back, batting, and binding and snap knot through to lock. Stitch binding to backing using a small blind stitch. To end thread, make a small knot and secure it under the folded edge of the binding or take a few backstitches just under the folded edge of the binding. In either case, insert the needle into the quilt layers to bury the tail.

*tips & tricks

Binding quilts is a personal thing involving many choices. There is no right or wrong way, so have fun finding the method that works best for you.

*tips & tricks

There are many fun and functional things to hold binding in place for stitching once it’s pressed to the back. Look at curved hair clips (the kind that spring open when bent the other way), girls’ butterfly hair clips, bobby pins, and large plastic-covered paper clips.
## Yardage Needed to Make Straight Binding *

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Length of binding needed</th>
<th>Strip Widths</th>
<th>1½”</th>
<th>1½”</th>
<th>2”</th>
<th>2½”</th>
<th>2½”</th>
<th>3”</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>up to 40” (1 width of fabric strip)</td>
<td>⅛ yd.</td>
<td>⅛ yd.</td>
<td>⅛ yd.</td>
<td>⅛ yd.</td>
<td>⅛ yd.</td>
<td>⅛ yd.</td>
<td>⅛ yd.</td>
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<tr>
<td>41-80” (piece 2 strips)</td>
<td>⅛ yd.</td>
<td>⅛ yd.</td>
<td>⅛ yd.</td>
<td>⅛ yd.</td>
<td>⅛ yd.</td>
<td>⅛ yd.</td>
<td>⅛ yd.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>81-120” (piece 3 strips)</td>
<td>⅛ yd.</td>
<td>⅛ yd.</td>
<td>⅛ yd.</td>
<td>⅛ yd.</td>
<td>⅛ yd.</td>
<td>⅛ yd.</td>
<td>⅛ yd.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>121-160” (piece 4 strips)</td>
<td>⅛ yd.</td>
<td>⅛ yd.</td>
<td>⅛ yd.</td>
<td>⅛ yd.</td>
<td>⅛ yd.</td>
<td>½ yd.</td>
<td>½ yd.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>161-200” (piece 5 strips)</td>
<td>⅛ yd.</td>
<td>⅛ yd.</td>
<td>⅛ yd.</td>
<td>⅛ yd.</td>
<td>½ yd.</td>
<td>½ yd.</td>
<td>½ yd.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>201-240” (piece 6 strips)</td>
<td>⅛ yd.</td>
<td>⅛ yd.</td>
<td>½ yd.</td>
<td>½ yd.</td>
<td>½ yd.</td>
<td>⅜ yd.</td>
<td>⅜ yd.</td>
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<tr>
<td>241-280” (piece 7 strips)</td>
<td>⅛ yd.</td>
<td>½ yd.</td>
<td>½ yd.</td>
<td>⅛ yd.</td>
<td>⅛ yd.</td>
<td>⅛ yd.</td>
<td>⅛ yd.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>281-320” (piece 8 strips)</td>
<td>½ yd.</td>
<td>½ yd.</td>
<td>⅛ yd.</td>
<td>⅛ yd.</td>
<td>½ yd.</td>
<td>⅛ yd.</td>
<td>⅛ yd.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>321-360” (piece 9 strips)</td>
<td>½ yd.</td>
<td>⅛ yd.</td>
<td>⅛ yd.</td>
<td>⅛ yd.</td>
<td>⅛ yd.</td>
<td>⅝ yd.</td>
<td>⅝ yd.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>361-400” (piece 10 strips)</td>
<td>½ yd.</td>
<td>⅛ yd.</td>
<td>⅛ yd.</td>
<td>⅛ yd.</td>
<td>⅛ yd.</td>
<td>⅝ yd.</td>
<td>⅝ yd.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>401-440” (piece 11 strips)</td>
<td>⅛ yd.</td>
<td>⅛ yd.</td>
<td>⅛ yd.</td>
<td>⅛ yd.</td>
<td>⅛ yd.</td>
<td>⅝ yd.</td>
<td>⅝ yd.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>441-480” (piece 12 strips)</td>
<td>⅛ yd.</td>
<td>⅛ yd.</td>
<td>⅛ yd.</td>
<td>⅛ yd.</td>
<td>⅛ yd.</td>
<td>1 yd.</td>
<td>1 yd.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>481-520” (piece 13 strips)</td>
<td>⅛ yd.</td>
<td>⅛ yd.</td>
<td>⅛ yd.</td>
<td>⅛ yd.</td>
<td>⅛ yd.</td>
<td>1 yd.</td>
<td>1 yd.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Based on 40” of usable width across the fabric.

## Joining Binding Strips with 45°-Angle Seams

Angled seams (Diagram A) are preferable when connecting several strips to make the binding, particularly when using the double-fold method. Press seams open to avoid a ridge from appearing on finished edge.

*Cut binding strips when cutting your quilt patches. Then make the binding and store it with your project so you won’t be hunting for the right fabric weeks later. When the quilting is complete, the binding is ready to go!*

*Diagram A*
How to Make Continuous Bias From a Square

1. Measure quilt to determine how many inches of binding are needed. Be sure to allow at least 10” extra for turning corners and for the finish. Refer to chart on page 8 to find the size fabric square needed.

2. Referring to Diagrams A, B, and C, cut square in half diagonally. With right sides together, sew the triangles together with a ¼” seam and press open.
3. On wrong side of fabric, parallel to the long edges, draw lines to make strips of your chosen binding width (see Diagram D). Our example illustrates 2½˝-wide binding. A long rotary cutting ruler works well, along with a fabric-marking pencil or pen.

4. Referring to Diagrams E and F, bring the short diagonal edges together, forming a tube. Offset the drawn line by one strip. Right sides together, align lines at the ¼˝ seam line so that numbers match (1 to 1, 2 to 2, etc.), and pin. Stitch seam and press open.

5. Referring to Diagram G, cut along continuous drawn line with scissors.

6. Use as single or double-fold binding; see What is the Difference Between Single and Double-fold Binding on page 3.

**How to Start and Finish the Quick and Easy Way**

1. **Note:** Double-fold binding is shown in the diagrams, but single-fold binding may also be used. Referring to Diagrams A, B, and C, fold beginning end of binding diagonally. Align raw edges of binding with raw edge of quilt top, pin in place, and sew through all layers.

2. After binding is completely sewn to the quilt top and the two ends are about to meet, lap the ending tail over the beginning angled fold approximately one inch (Diagrams D and E). Cut off excess binding strip and finish seaming.

3. Roll binding over raw edges to back side and stitch in place.
How to Attach Binding with Mitered Corners

1. Starting on any side (not too close to a corner), align binding and quilt raw edges. Sew through all layers until you approach the first corner; stop stitching ¼” from quilt edge, backstitching to secure (Diagram A). Remove from machine.

2. Fold binding strip up (Diagram B) and back down over itself (Diagram C), aligning raw edges on second side of quilt, and pin in place. Starting ¼” from edge of quilt (the same point where stitching stopped on the first side), sew binding to next corner dot, backstitching at each end. Remove from sewing machine; prepare and sew third and fourth sides.

3. After all sides are sewn, join ends of binding with the technique of your choice (see How to Start and Finish the Quick and Easy Way, page 11, and How to Finish with a Bias Seam, right). Wrap binding around to the back side, using your fingers to manipulate each corner and achieve a miter on both front and back sides (Diagram D). Pin and blindstitch in place.

How to Finish with a Bias Seam

Note: This method uses double-fold binding.

1. Make a 45°-angle cut at each end of prepared binding strip and press in half, wrong sides together (Diagrams A and B).

2. Allow a 10” tail at the beginning and a 10” tail at completion of attaching binding to quilt (Diagrams C and D).

3. Open ending tail and mark dots at the seam line ¼” from diagonal edge (Diagram E).

4. Open beginning tail, lap over ending tail, and mark dots on opening tail to align with previous dots. Though a little awkward, raw edges must be kept aligned when marking these dots (Diagram F).

Binding Each Side
Individually

1. This method is sometimes used on miniature or small wall quilts. Single-fold binding works best and is used in the diagrams.

2. From prepared binding, cut two side strips 2” longer than sides of quilt and two top/bottom strips 2” longer than width of quilt. Referring to Diagrams A and B, sew side binding strips to sides of quilt. Trim strips even with quilt at each end. Fold binding to back of quilt and pin in place (do not stitch yet).

3. Referring to Diagrams C and D, center and pin top and bottom strips to quilt so that 1” extends to either side. Wrap 1” flaps snugly to the back of the quilt and pin in place. Stitch seams.

4. Fold top and bottom binding strips to back, turning corners right side out. Pin binding to back of quilt and blindstitch all four sides to finish.

How to Finish with an Envelope Edge

Perhaps the simplest finish of all, the envelope edge is made by sewing the quilt top, batting, and backing right sides together, turning right side out, and stitching the turning opening closed. The most important thing to remember when using an envelope finish is that it is done before the quilting.

1. Layer batting, backing (right side up and centered on batting), and quilt top (right side down and centered on backing). Pin layers securely. Using ¼” seam allowance, stitch around all sides of quilt top, leaving an opening for turning. Trim backing and batting even with quilt top (Diagram A). Turn right side out and stitch opening closed.

2. Baste and quilt as desired.
How to Finish with Facing Strips

For a no-binding finish, facing strips can be sewn to all sides of a quilt, then turned and stitched to the back. After quilt top is completed, layer, baste, and quilt. Trim edges of batting and backing even with quilt top in preparation for applying facing strips.

1. Cut strips 2½" wide by 4" longer than each side of the quilted top. For example, for a quilt that finishes 60" x 72", cut 2 strips 2½" x 64" and 2 strips 2½" x 76".

2. Press ¼" to wrong side of 1 long edge of each strip. Pin right sides of pressed strips to sides, top, and bottom of right side of quilt, aligning raw edges. Trim ends even (Diagram A). Stitch ¼" from all edges, through all layers. Trim corners and turn facing to back of quilt. Hand stitch edges in place.

How to Create Prairie Point Edging

Edges of a quilt can be embellished with dimensional folded-fabric triangles, also known as prairie points. The folded triangles can be nested or overlapped, and spaced close together or farther apart, whichever best fits a quilt's dimensions and style.

Use the following guide to help figure out the size square you will need to cut for each prairie point. Determine an appropriate height for the prairie point triangle (how far you would like the points to extend out from the edge of a quilt). Multiply the height of the finished point by 2, then add ½". For example, if you want your points to extend 1½ inches beyond the edge of the quilt, multiply (1½" x 2) + ½" = 3½". Cut the square for a 1½" prairie point 3½" x 3½".

Finishing The Quilt

Layer and baste quilt top for quilting method of your choice. When using prairie points, quilt no closer than 1" from quilt edges. Trim the batting and backing even with the quilt top. Fold back the backing and pin to secure. (Prairie points are sewn to quilt top and batting only.)

*tips & tricks

Learn and practice on doll or small quilts. It's a great way to try a new technique without committing your large quilt. For example, put a single-fold binding on one and a double-fold binding on another and compare the differences. Try 45°-angle seams for attaching strips together or cut bias from a square. Any new technique is fun to learn on a little quilt.
Prairie Points Assembly

1. After using the formula (page 17) to determine the size prairie points you will be using, fold squares depending on the type of points you want to make (see Diagrams A and B, below). After folding, press to complete prairie point.

2. With right sides facing, position raw edge of each prairie point along quilt raw edge. Working from the center to the corner, adjust overlap to position prairie points evenly. The two corner prairie points should be adjacent to each other and not overlapped. Pin all in place and stitch a scant ¼” from raw edges (Diagram C). Trim off batting and point of seam allowance on each corner. Turn seam allowance toward the back of the quilt. Prairie points will turn out along the edge (Diagram D).
Scalloped Borders
(Yes, You Can!)

1. Tape sheets of typing paper together until taped paper is the exact length of the border (from raw edge to raw edge). Trim the width of paper strip to width of the border.

2. Finger-press the paper strip in half, then in quarters, and again in eighths. Open paper strip up and mark each fold line with pencil.

3. Lay piece of see-through template plastic on one marked section of paper strip. Trace section shape and cut out to make plastic section template.

4. Mark a dot ⅓ of the way down on each short side of plastic section template (example: 2" down on a 6" border). Find the center of the section template and mark a dot ¼" down from top (Diagram A).

5. Fold section template in half and align side dots. Draw a soft easy curve from side dots to the center dot. Cut on drawn line through folded section template so both sides of curve are identical (Diagram B).

How to Create Prairie Point Edging, continued

3. Release the pinned backing. Fold edges under ¼ and finger press. Pin backing in place over the base of the prairie points, covering the seam line. Blindstitch in place (Diagram E). Complete quilting out to the edge, if desired.

* tips & tricks
Wrap folded binding into a loop large enough to slip onto your wrist. Place on wrist and allow the binding to unwind as you stitch it in place.
6. Open section template flat and position on paper strip, centering between marked lines and aligning edges. Trace curved edge of section template onto paper strip. When one section is marked, move template to next segment of paper strip (Diagram C). Continue tracing curve until entire strip is marked.

7. At corners, tape another section of paper, the same width as first strip, at a right angle to end of marked paper strip. Turn the plastic section template 90° and align with edges. Trace new curve over end curves. Smooth the lines as needed to make a round corner (Diagram D). Cut out the drawn scalloped edge on the paper strip.

8. Referring to Diagram E, align and pin the scalloped paper strip to quilt border. Mark or baste along the curved edge. If your quilt is square, repeat the pin/trace process on the remaining sides of your quilt top. If the quilt top is a rectangle, add additional marked segments to your paper pattern, and increase or decrease the segment size as needed to fit. Round corners as needed. Once scalloped border is marked, you are ready for the quilting.

9. When quilting is complete, check the marked scalloped lines. If the quilting process has distorted the scallops, repeat the marking process. See page 24 for tips on binding a scalloped edge.

*tips & tricks*

When storing binding for small quilts and projects, gently wrap binding into an oval, as you would with a cord. Slide into an empty paper towel roll to keep clean. For large quilts, wrap binding on an extension cord holder to store without creasing.
Attaching Binding to a Scalloped Border

1. Make bias-cut binding (see page 9 for Making Continuous Bias From a Square).

2. With right sides together, pin raw edges of binding along marked scalloped line on quilt edge and stitch $\frac{1}{4}$" from binding raw edge. Ease rather than stretch binding along outer curves (Diagram A).

3. Trim border, batting, and backing even with binding raw edges. Turn binding to quilt back and stitch in place.

* *tips & tricks*

Try sewing the binding to the back of the quilt first and then turn to the front. Stitch in place using a hand or machine buttonhole or decorative stitch.