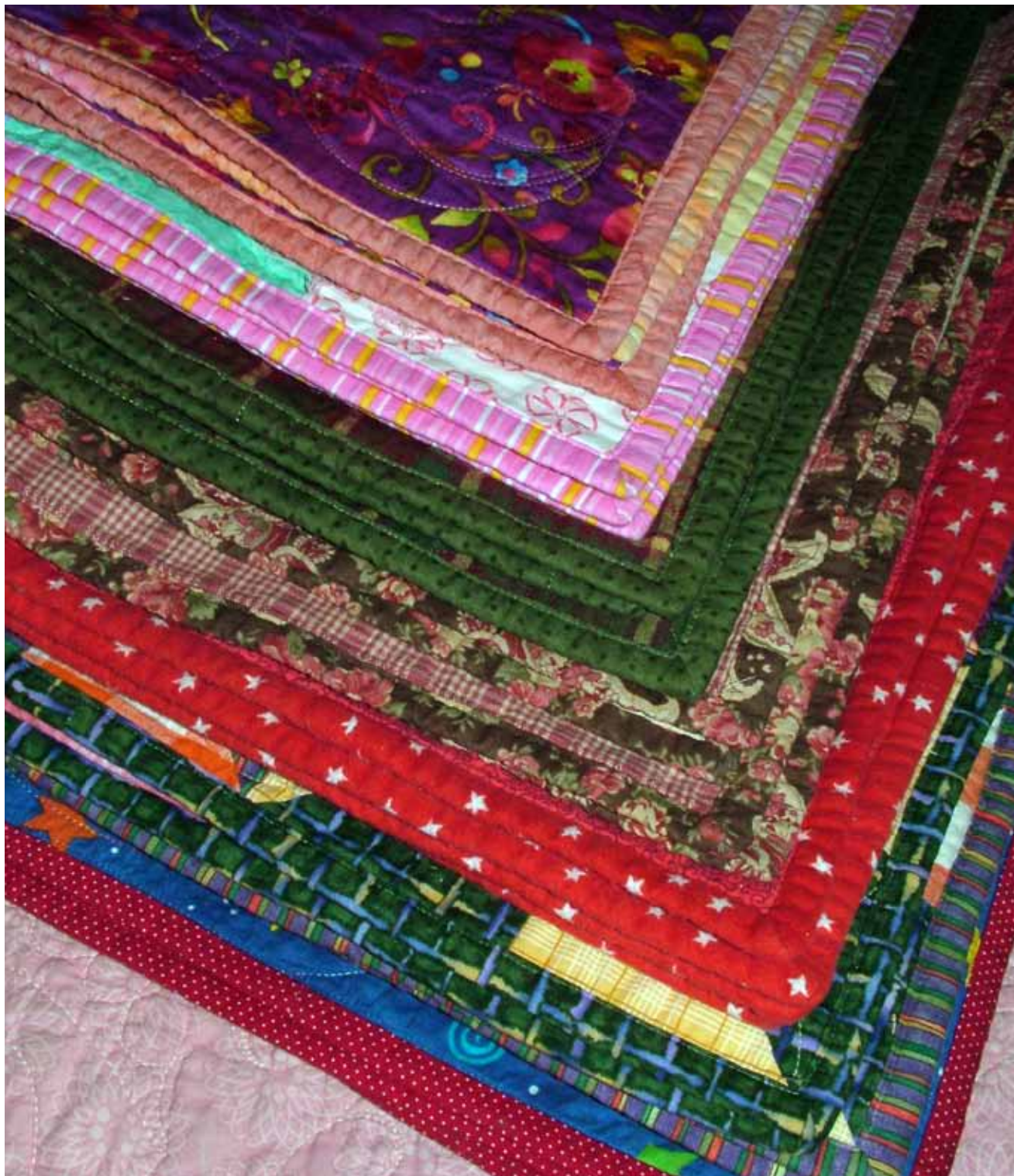


# Machine Binding

Tutorial by Konda Luckau



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[www.moosequilts.com](http://www.moosequilts.com)

## Supplies Needed for this project:

Enough fabric to go around your quilt. Usually it takes between 1/2 yard and 1 yard of fabric to bind a quilt. Here is how you figure out how much you need:

- ~Measure the number of inches around your quilt.  
(For example, if your quilt is 50" x 60", then the perimeter of the quilt or the distance around is  $50+60+50+60$  or 210".)
- ~Add 10-12" for turning corners and starting and ending.
- ~Divide by 40 (the width of your fabric) --  $210/40=5.5$
- ~That is the number of strips you need, round up 5.5 to 6.  
I cut my strips 2-1/2." That is a common width.
- ~If we need six 2-1/2" strips, then that means we need 15" of fabric so round up to 1/2 yard.

Sewing Machine with a Walking Foot  
Coordinating Thread  
Polyester Invisible thread (optional)  
Pins  
Rotary cutter  
Ruler  
Cutting Mat  
Scissors



Walking Foot

## Preparation:

Cut your fabric into enough 2-1/2" strips as explained above.

Cut the selvages off of all your strips.







Step 1: Trick number 1 to binding -- diagonal seams.

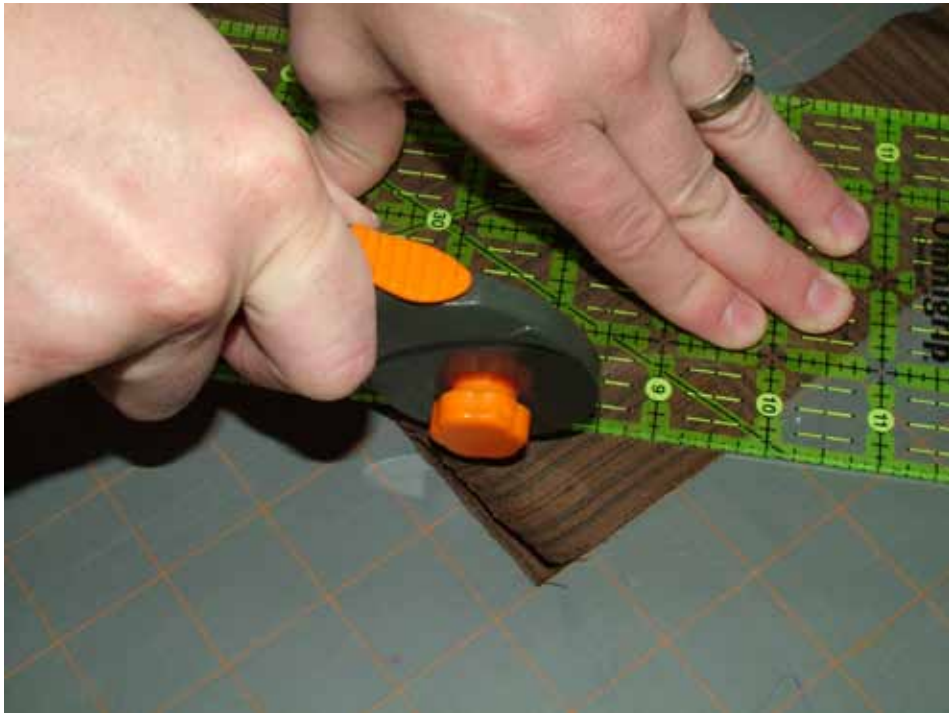
Sew all of the 2-1/2" strips together with a diagonal seam. (You can use a straight seam, but the diagonal seam lies much flatter and looks a lot nicer.)

To sew the diagonal seam, first lay two strips with right sides together to form a right angle as shown above.



Step 2:

Then sew from corner to corner as shown above. If it helps, you can draw yourself a line to follow and pin.



Step 3:

After all the strips are sewn together, go back and trim the seam allowance to 1/4."



Step 4:

Press or finger press the seam open.



Step 5: Now it's time to start sewing on the binding.

First, fold the binding in half with wrong sides together or right sides out. You can press this if you want. Some people do. I don't. (Shhhh . . . . Don't tell the quilt police.)

As the picture above shows, start sewing somewhere in the middle of one side of the quilt.

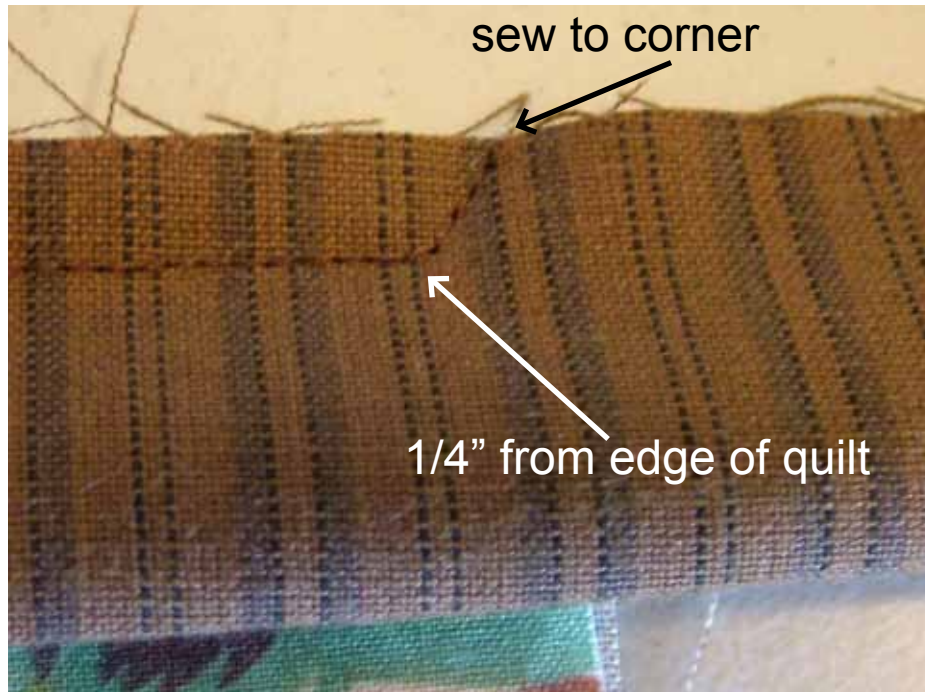
Also, start sewing about 8" down from the end of your binding. Make sure that when the end is straightened out, it is still in the middle of the quilt. You don't want to be close to any corners.

**\*\*Important note:**

If you want to finish the binding by hand, then first sew the binding onto the FRONT of the quilt.

If you want to finish the binding by machine -- like I am going to show you -- then first sew the binding onto the BACK of the quilt.





Step 6: Trick to binding number 2 -- the corners:

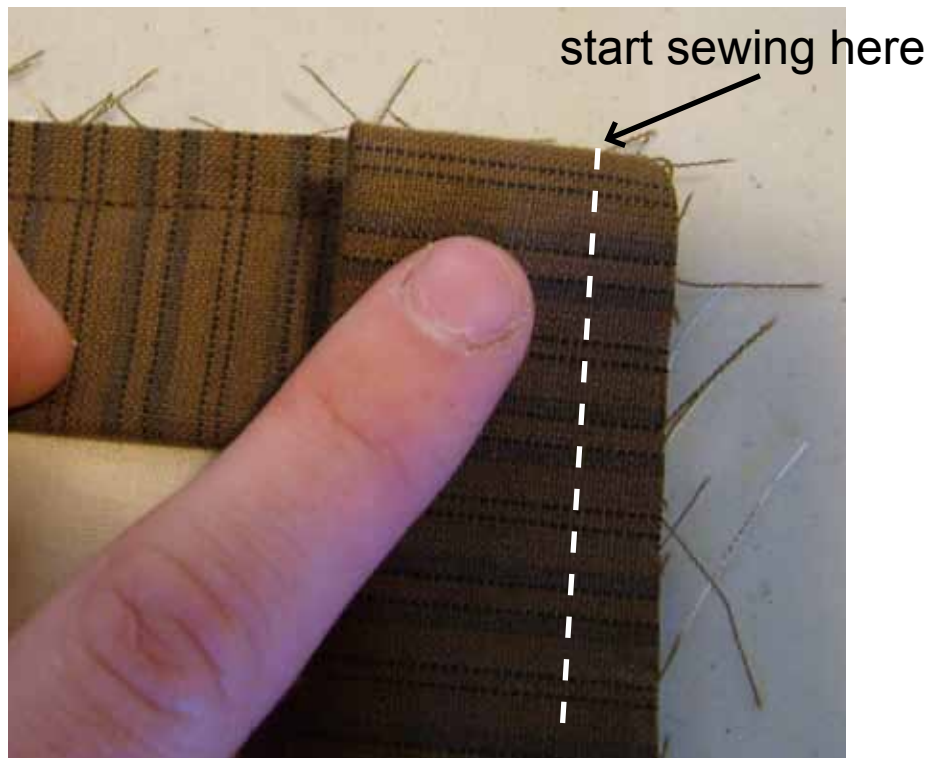
Stop 1/4" from the end of the quilt.

You can backstitch and cut your threads or (like you see in the picture) sew diagonally to the corner of the quilt and then cut your threads.



Step 7:

Fold binding straight up as shown. The fold is along the small diagonal stitching.



Step 8:

Fold the binding straight down.

Start stitching, with 1/4" seam, at the top of the quilt. Backstitch when you start sewing.

Repeat with all four corners.



Step 9: Trick to binding number 3 -- the ending:

After you have sewn all the way around the quilt, stop at least 12" from where you started sewing. Cut your threads and lay the quilt flat as shown.



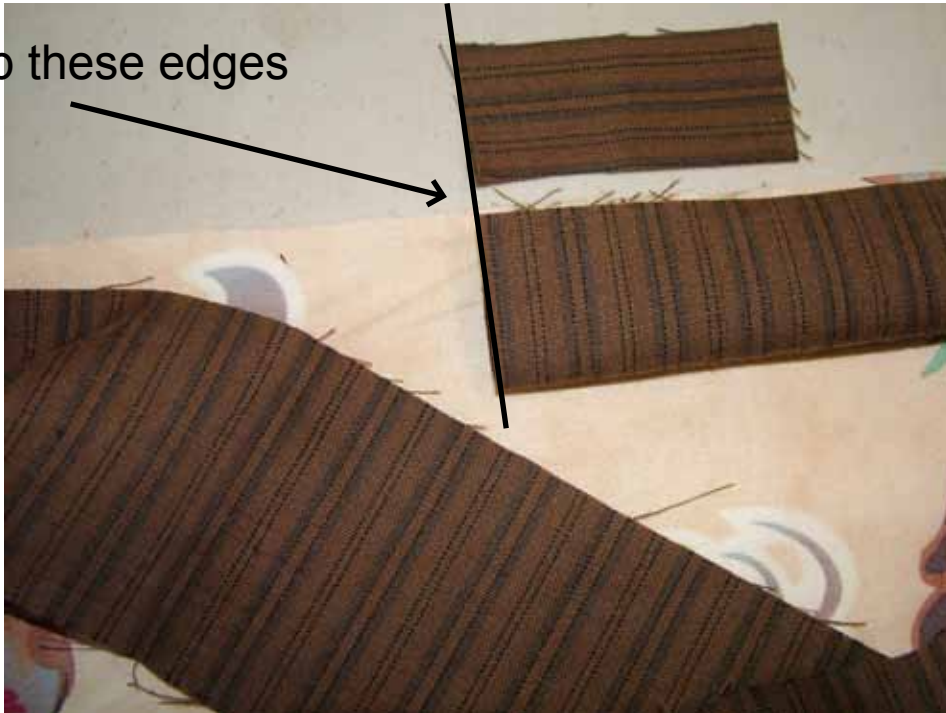
Step 10:  
Cut off a little from one end, doesn't matter which one.



Step 11:  
How much do you cut off? Just a little, about so big, maybe an inch. Why do we do this? That's next.

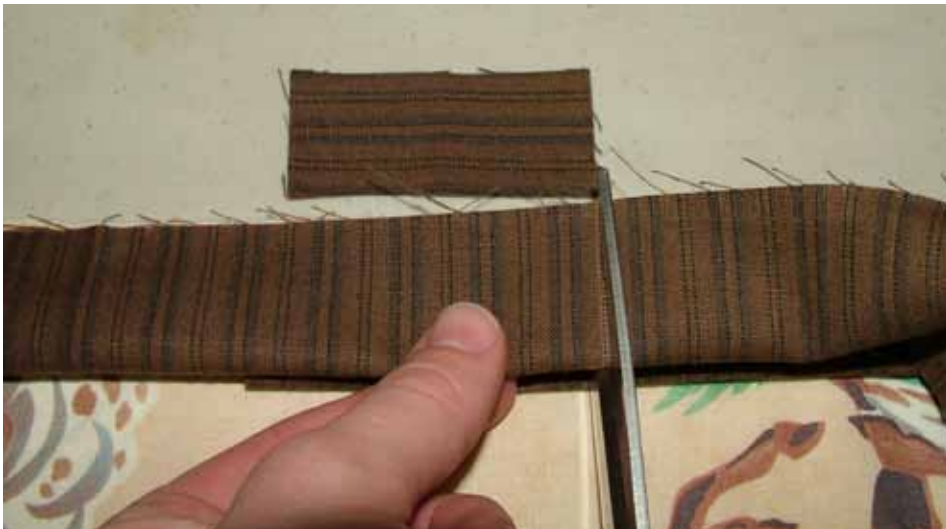


line up these edges



Step 12:

The part you cut off the binding is a "ruler." It is going to tell us the exact amount of binding we need. Open up the cut part and lay it next to the beginning tail of your binding that is laying flat along the edge of the quilt.



Step 13:

Take the second tail of binding and lay it along the edge of the quilt so that it overlaps the beginning tail of binding. Cut off this tail at the other end of the cut off piece of binding as shown.



Step 14:

There we go. The binding is now the exact right length to finish up.



Step 15:

Pull the two tails away from the quilt. Scrunch the quilt a little so the tails can meet at a right angle -- just like all the other seams. They need to meet with right sides together.

It is real easy for these tails to get twisted so be careful. I like to pin along the seam and then straighten the binding back out to test it before I sew. Just in case.



Step 16:

Once you are convinced it's not twisted, sew from corner -- just like all the other seams.

I like to straighten out the binding again just to admire it and to really be sure it isn't twisted.



Step 17:

Trim the seam allowance to 1/4."





Step 18:  
Press or finger press the seam open.



Step 19:  
Now really straighten out the binding and see how good it is going to look.  
I forgot to take a picture of the next step. That is to finish off that seam and sew the rest of the binding down.

Now the binding is half done. The next step is to flip the quilt over, fold the binding over the edge and stitch it down.  
You have some options with this. A friend of mine uses coordinating thread and a decorative stitch which is very fun. I am going to show you my favorite way of finishing it off, and that is to use polyester invisible thread.



This is the invisible thread I like to use. Notice it says "polyester." That is important. Some invisible thread is made out of nylon which can melt when exposed to heat. Polyester doesn't. Polyester also is breakable. This is actually good. This invisible thread is not like fishing line that may tear your fabric if pulled. There are some tricks to using invisible thread:

- 1) Only wind your bobbin half full.
- 2) Try it out on a test fabric. Play with the tension on your machine. The tension may need to be loosened a little.
- 3) My bobbin case has a tiny hole that my invisible thread likes to get threaded through (as shown in the picture), but my regular thread doesn't. Your bobbin case may or may not have one, but you might want to check.
- 4) Be sure to backstitch good.
- 5) You can also use regular thread in the bobbin if you want.

tiny hole for thread





Step 20:

Fold the binding around to the front. Start in the middle of one of the sides, and stitch the binding down. I top stitch using a straight stitch right next to the edge of the binding.



Step 21: The corner:

Fold the binding over just as you have been doing. Pull the binding straight down past the quilt as shown in the picture above.





Step 22:

Fold the binding past the corner straight up. Pin and admire your nice miter. So pretty!



Step 23:

Take the corner slow. Keep top stitching to the inside corner of the binding. You may need to raise the presser foot a little so the miter keeps its nice fold and doesn't get pushed open. Then lower your presser foot and take a couple more stitches. Remove the pin when you get to it, and then turn the corner as shown. Just keep stitching.

When you come to where you began, stitch past it and backstitch.

Then you are done and your quilt looks fabulous! Congrats!