

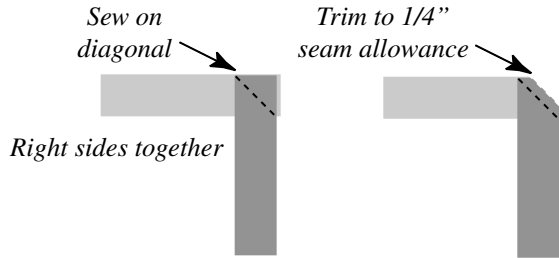
# My “All -By-Machine” Binding Method

## Cutting:

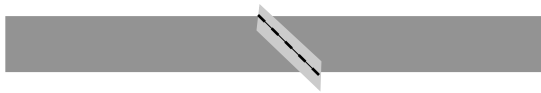
I like to cut binding strips 2.5” wide, on the crosswise grain, the full width of the fabric. This way, I don’t have to struggle with it when turning it to finish.

## Preparation:

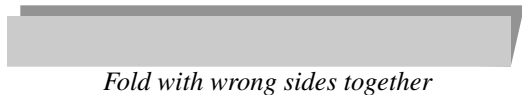
1. Sew strips right sides together at a 45° angle, to make one long binding strip. Cut-off the extra fabric, to leave a ¼” seam allowance.



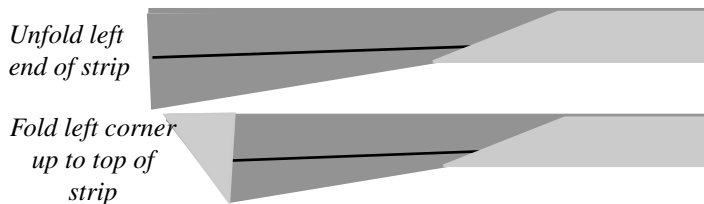
2. Press seams open.



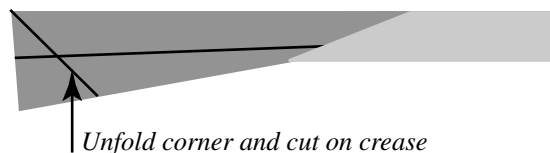
3. Fold long binding strip in half, wrong sides together, and press.



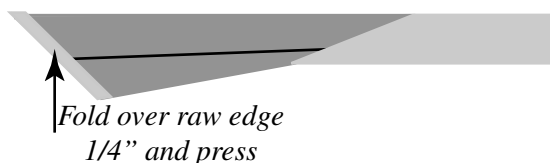
4. Unfold left end of the strip only. Turn left bottom corner and align with upper edge, press.



5. Unfold and cut-off a 45° angle along this crease.



6. Fold the raw edge a ¼” to the inside. Press.



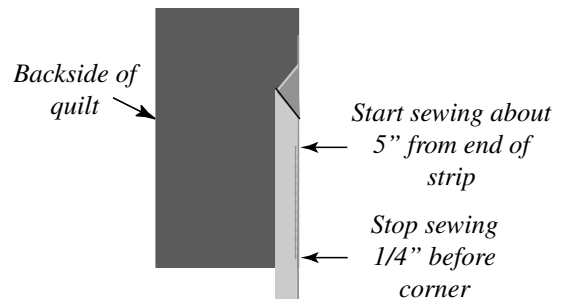
7. Re-fold and press again.



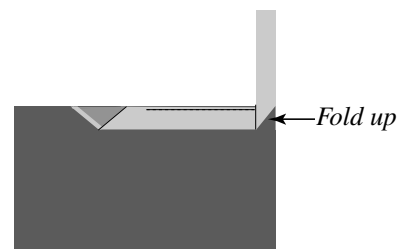
## Process:

1. **VERY IMPORTANT!** Please note, you’ll begin pinning and sewing the binding on the **BACK SIDE** of your quilt. This is the most important trick to successfully do an all-by- machine binding.

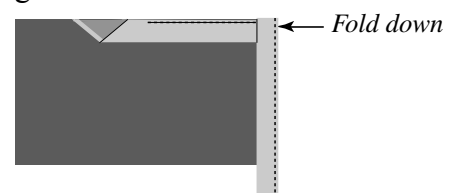
2. **VERY IMPORTANT!** Use a **WALKING FOOT** on your machine. Start sewing a ¼” seam about 5” inside the strip. The end of the long binding strip will be tucked into this beginning afterwards. So, make sure to keep it free ‘til later.



3. **Corners.** To achieve a neat looking binding, special attention has to be paid to accurately folding and sewing the corners.
  - a. **STOP** sewing ¼” away from the edge, secure your stitches, and cut the thread.
  - b. Fold back the binding on a 45° angle.

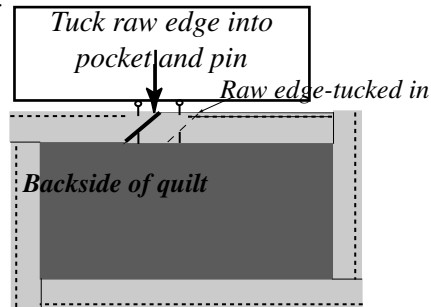


9. Fold back the binding over itself. Start sewing again on the other side of the binding, ¼” away from the edge.



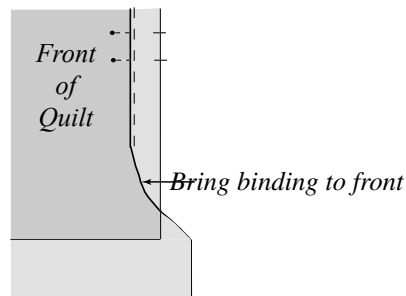
10. Continue sewing sides and corners until you are back to the first edge.

**11. End of the binding round.** Once you have sewn the binding all around the quilt, you're ready to finish it neatly. Cut the binding strip 1" longer than is needed, and tuck the raw edge inside the "pocket" you created at the beginning. Secure the opening with a pin, so it'll stay put when turning it to the front side.

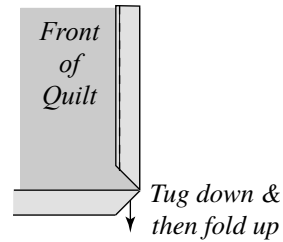


**Finishing:**

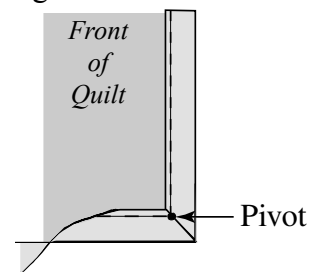
1. Now comes the exciting part! I love to do the binding, for it gives me a sense of accomplishment, of a job well done! **TURN QUILT OVER**, so the TOP (front) will be facing you. Bring binding over to the front and sew accurately as close to the edge as you possibly can, to fix it in place. (Diagram 9) There's no need to pin, except at the very beginning. Use your left hand constantly, to smooth out and tuck the quilt inside the binding for a perfect finish.



**2. Corners.** No need to stop for corners now, the front seam is worked in one stretch, uninterrupted. Bring your needle 2-3" before the corner and stop. Tug on the corner binding, to make a neat folded corner.



3. Carefully turn over folded corner to the front side. Sew to the inside corner, bring your needle down, pivot, and continue sewing.



4. Secure stitches. Bury thread tails inside batting. And... voilà! You have a professionally finished binding in no time at all!

If you're insecure or feel anxious about how straight your seam will look, there are several tricks you can use:

- a. Use a matching color thread. A tad darker is even better.
- b. Use mono-filament thread so your stitches won't show. This is also good when your binding fabric is multi-colored, and you don't want to change threads in mid-stream.
- c. Pin only a few inches ahead of your seam. Take out and re-position pins along the way.
- d. Sew only a few inches at a time, stop and check your progress. Don't be overly perfectionist. Nobody will notice a little crooked seam somewhere, and it shouldn't bother you either, you're doing just fine!