Binding a Quilt

1. Layer the project, creating a quilt sandwich.
   - Place the backing, wrong side up, on a firm surface.
   - Securely tape the backing to the surface, using Sewer's Fix-it Tape or masking tape.

   ![Backing, wrong side]

   - Center the batting over the backing.
   - Center the quilt top, right side up, over the batting.

   ![Back, Batting, Quilt top]

2. Pin the layers together.
   - Use Size 1 Curved Basting Pins to simplify pinning. These curved nickel-plated brass pins are just the right angle for easy, comfortable insertion, and they won't rust. Pin every 3" to 4".
   - Position the pins no closer than 1/2" from the seams to allow room for the presser foot when machine quilting.
• Remove the tape.

3. Quilt the quilt. Stitch in the ditch on the right side of the quilt, stitching along all the seams of the pieced quilt top, using monofilament thread in the needle. Or, use the following gridded quilting.

• Set up the machine for quilting.
  o Attach a quilting bar to the presser foot. This bar makes it easy to space the rows of stitching accurately and uniformly. Adjust the quilting bar so it is 1-1/2" to 2" (or the desired distance) from the needle.

• Adjust the machine for a straight stitch.
• Use a balanced tension.
• Engage the dual feed if your machine has that feature. Or, use a Walking Foot so the top and bottom layers feed evenly through the machine. This prevents one layer from shifting and ending up longer than the other.
- Using an erasable fabric marking pen, mark one vertical line and one horizontal line on the quilt sandwich, placing each at the center of the fabric section.

- Stitch vertical quilting lines.
  - Straight stitch along the marked vertical line.
  - Align and guide the quilting bar along the first row of stitching. Stitch the second row, sewing in the opposite direction of the first row to minimize fabric shifting.
Repeat, alternating stitching direction with each vertical row. Note: You may need to reposition the quilting bar so it is to the left of the foot on some rows.

- Stitch the horizontal rows, using the same technique, again alternating stitching direction with each row.

- Remove the pins after all stitching is completed.

4. Cut backing and batting the same size as the quilt top.
5. Bind the quilt.

- Prepare the binding.
  - Cut binding strips 2-1/2" wide. Join short ends of strips, right sides together, with diagonal seams to reduce bulk. Trim seam.
    - Cut one end of the strip at a 45° angle. Fold in 1/4" at trimmed end.
      - Optional: Press a 1/4" strip of paper-backed fusible web on top of the folded-under edge of the binding.
      - Fold binding in half, wrong sides together, meeting lengthwise edges. Press.

- Join the binding to the quilt.
  - Mark right side of the quilt 1/4" from each corner.
- Meet the angle-cut end of the binding to the right side of the quilt, meeting cut edges and starting in the center of one side. Stitch binding to quilt with a 1/4" seam, beginning 4" from the end of the binding and stopping at the marked point at the first corner. Lock stitches.

![Diagram]

- Fold binding up, creating a 45° angle, aligning cut edge of binding with cut edge of quilt.

![Diagram]

- Fold binding down, meeting binding fold to top edge of quilt and binding cut edge to side edges. Stitch 1/4" seam on side, beginning at folded edge.

![Diagram]

- Repeat at remaining corners.
• Join binding ends.
  o Remove the paper backing from the folded-under end of the binding.
  o Insert the free edge of the binding inside the beginning of the binding so binding is smooth and even with edge of quilt. Press to fuse binding ends together. Or, slip stitch ends together after binding is folded to the wrong side.
  o Unfold binding; trim excess. Refold binding.

  ![Insert binding end; stitch remainder of seam](image1.png)

  o Stitch remainder of seam.
• Fold and press the binding away from the quilt. Then fold the binding to the wrong side, covering the stitching line and tucking in corners to form miters.

  ![Fold binding to back](image2.png)

• Hold the binding in place with Binding and Hem Clips or pins.

  ![Secure with Binding and Hem Clips](image3.png)
Secure the edge of the binding by stitching in the ditch from the right side of the quilt, sewing in the well of the seam through all layers to catch the folded edge on the back of the quilt. Or, hand stitch the folded edge in place.