



ADDING BINDING TO A QUILT

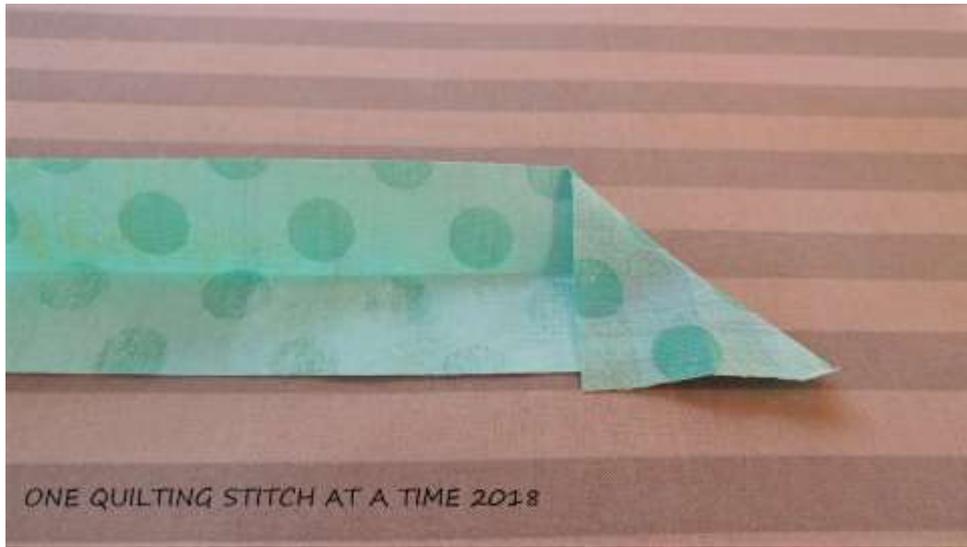
First let's start by calculating how many binding strips we will need to get the job done. For calculating purposes let's just say that our quilt measures 60" x 60". This is how I calculating how many strips I need: $60+60+60+60=240\text{inches} + 10" = 250"$. I generally use 44-45" wide fabric for my binding but I count on only 42" of useable fabric. So, divide $250" \div 42 = 5.95$. I make that six strips required to bind my 60" x 60" quilt. Now because the answer 5.95 I add an extra strip to that to be sure that I have enough binding to go all the way around. There's always a little leftover which goes into the scrap basket. Now we're coming to the fun part.

The first thing we do is join the strips together. I like to join them on the bias. This helps to spread the bulk.



Once all your strips are joined together you then need pressing in half. My preference is to press all the seams to one side but you can also press the seams open if you wish.

Once you have pressed the long strip of binding in half, I go back to the beginning and I flip down one corner of the binding and press



Now fold the binding in half again and press. Trim anything that overlaps past the raw edge of binding once it's folded. There's a reason why I fold and press the start of the binding. This reason will be revealed at the end of this little info sheet. Please note that you are creating a pocket.



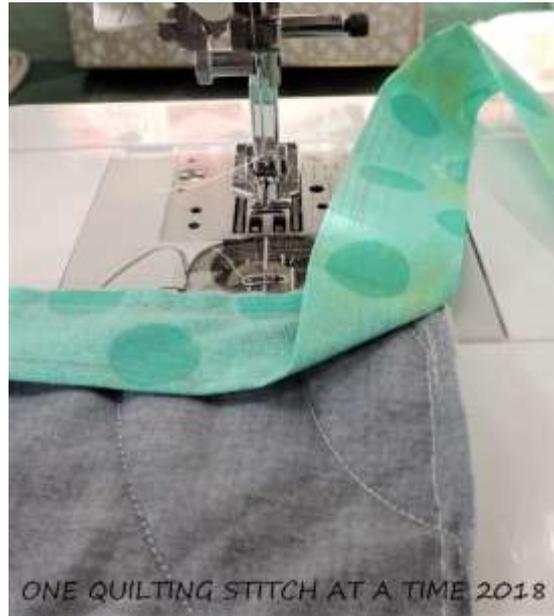
So now it's time to stitch the binding to the quilt. For most sewing machines, it will be a good idea to use a walking foot in order to feed all the layers thru the machine at the same rate. My preference is to start sewing the binding on about 6" away from a corner.



I carry on sewing the binding $\frac{1}{4}$ " away from the edge until I reach the next corner but when I see I'm approaching the corner I slowdown in order to be able to sew thru the corner as you can see in the following diagram.



I cut the thread, pull the binding up as you see in the diagram below.



Now I fold the binding back down lining up with the raw edge of the quilt side and top.



Now sew starting at the top as seen in the diagram below.



Carry on sewing the binding in place in this fashion until you've gone all the way around and are approaching the beginning. Just after you turn the last corner stop and work out where to cut off your binding strip by laying it across the start of the binding. Just be sure to cut it long enough so that it covers properly. Insert the end of the binding in the pocket you created at the beginning. Insert the end of the binding in the pocket and carry on sewing the binding in place. As seen in the next diagram.



I have inserted a chopstick to show you the pocket you have created to insert the end of your binding.



Now you just flip your binding to the back and hand stitch in place.

There are probably many ways to approach the task of sewing binding on a quilt. This method works really well for me. I hope this helps you.

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