

Quilt As You Go Stained Glass

Fabric Selection

When selecting fabric for stained glass quilts I look for tone-on-tone prints to use in the design areas. Solid fabrics have been used by many, but I believe that mottled prints give the illusion of actual stained glass windows. Batik fabrics give the wonderful fluid appearance that I search for when designing the project.

The fabrics in this quilt are current as this pattern goes to print. Unfortunately, fabrics are forever being discontinued and new ones introduced. When searching for the perfect fabric for use in your quilt, please contact your local quilting shop; they are your best source for current fabrics.

Fabric Preparation

Many students, over the years, have come to class with unwashed fabrics. Their reasoning is sound - "this quilt is going to be a wall hanging; I don't want to wash away the soil resistance of the fabric sizing!" Unfortunately, this logic does not apply to stained glass construction.

Prewash all fabrics to be used in this project! This removes the sizing that may prevent the fusible bias tape from adhering properly. Spray starch and other fabric finishes should be avoided as they may also reduce the effectiveness of the fusible.

Background Preparation

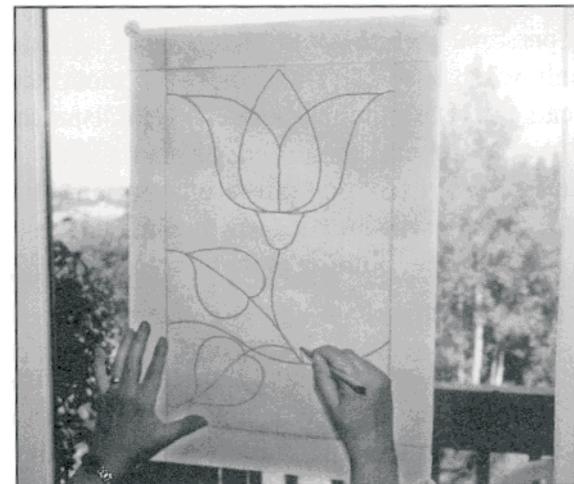
The background fabric serves as the base to which all other pieces of fabric are applied. The background fabric selected should be light in color. Medium and dark colored background fabrics will act to dull or gray the color of the fabrics applied to it, making your pretty flower fabrics appear dirty.

Press the background fabric. Do not use spray starch or sizing on either side of the background fabric as you press it.

Cut the background fabric 23" x 34". This is slightly larger than the pattern.

Center the background fabric, right side up, over the pattern and pin in place.

Trace the entire design onto the right side of the background fabric using a #2 pencil or an Ultra Fine Point Sharpie permanent marking pen. Use a ruler whenever possible to ensure straight lines. Do not transfer any numbers, boxes or circles to the background fabric. These markings may show through your design fabrics.



Woven Fusible Interfacing

After the design has been traced on to the right side of the background fabric, adhere a length of woven fusible interfacing to the wrong side of the background fabric, following manufacturers directions. Lots of steam is used to ensure proper adhesion. 100% cotton woven fusible interfacing produces the best result.

While this step is optional, I highly recommend it. The interfacing gives the quilt top added stability and firmness. This prevents the quilt from “buckling” when the bias tape has been stitched. It also eliminates the need for additional quilting.

Prewash the interfacing before applying it to the background fabric. This will prevent shrinkage of the interfacing as you press it with a steam iron. Hand wash the woven interfacing by carefully folding the interfacing. Soak in a basin of hot water (hot to the touch) for 30 minutes. Drain and squeeze out excess water, hang dry. This preshrinks the cotton fabric without damaging the fusible qualities of the interfacing. A few “beads” of fusible may brush off, but this is not a problem.

Freezer Paper Templates

While a number of methods exist for securing the appliqué pieces to the background fabric, I have chosen glue basting for this project. This method lends itself well to the needs of those who would rather hand stitch the leading in place.

Cut two 24” lengths of freezer paper and butt the 24” long edges. Splice the two pieces by placing masking tape on the paper (matte) side of the freezer paper. (Use masking tape - clear tape will melt when touched by an iron.) The resulting piece of freezer paper will measure approximately 24” x 36”.

Center the freezer paper, paper side up, over the pattern - pin or tape in place. Trace the entire design, right side up, onto the freezer paper using a #2 pencil or an Ultra Fine Point Sharpie. The border segments are traced and treated just as you would any other appliqué unit.

You may label each piece of freezer paper with placement and fabric selection information to simplify assembly of the design. Do not label the background fabric, as these numbers may shadow through the design fabrics.

Cut the freezer paper exactly on the pencil lines with paper scissors. Do not add seam allowances.

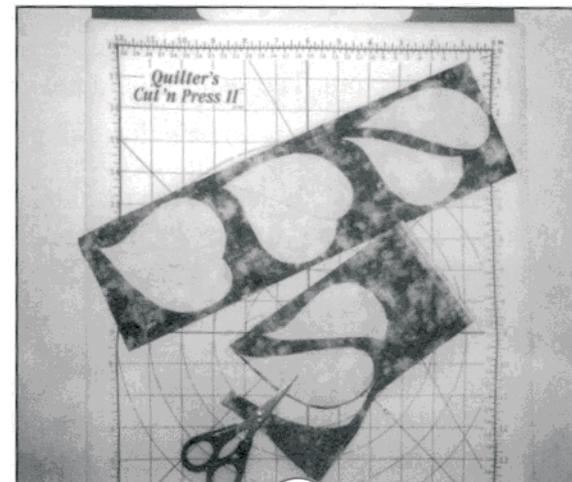
Adjacent pieces that are of the same fabric may be cut as one unit - such as leaf halves. Pay close attention to directional fabric. The resulting placement of a directional print may be undesirable.

Press the shiny side of the freezer paper to the right side of the selected fabrics using a warm iron. Avoid overheating the freezer paper; it may cause the paper to be difficult to remove.

Fabric grain lines are not important. Place freezer paper in such a way as to make the best use of a fabric design.

Cut the fabric slightly larger than the adhered freezer paper - 1/16” extra will allow the fabric raw edges to overlap a little when basting the pieces to the background.

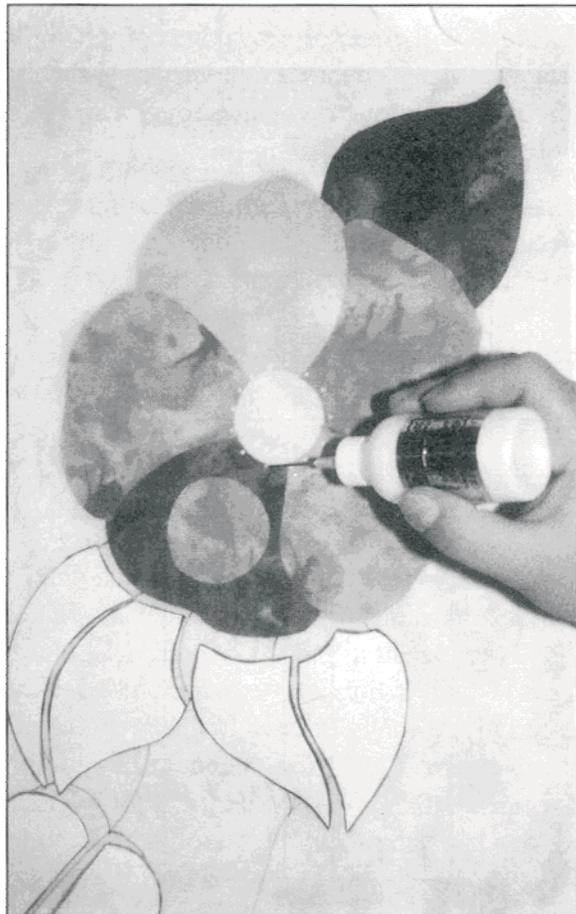
Remove the freezer paper from the cut fabric section. The freezer paper pieces can be saved and reused if you wish to make another project of the same design. Labeling the paper pieces is helpful.



Fabric Application

Place dots of basting glue on the background fabric along the outline of the piece to be placed. Glue basting is diagramed below using **Roxanne's Glue-Baste-It!**

Carefully position the fabric piece on the background fabric. All dots of glue should be covered by the applied fabric. Allow the glue to dry.



After glue-basting all fabric pieces to the background, use a pencil to retrace any lines covered by the fabric appliqué pieces that have been cut as one unit - such as lines between the leaf halves.

When applying colored fabrics to the background, I generally baste the border segments first. Then I progress to work on the leaves and stems, with the flowers being adhered to the background last. The layers that appear to be toward the back are applied first, the “closer” layers are applied last.

Because of the number of pieces involved, I work on the project one flower at a time to avoid confusion; I do not like to reassemble the puzzles created by cutting multiple flowers at one time. Each flower is cut from the freezer paper only when I am ready to work with it - this prevents template pieces from being mislaid or lost.

Bias Tape

Clover Quick Bias is the bias tape used in this project. This specific bias tape is used for a number of reasons:

- 1) Fusible web has been applied to the wrong side of the bias tape, allowing all of the bias tape to be pressed in place on to the project before stitching begins.
- 2) It is slightly narrower than the standard bias tape available and very flexible, allowing tight curves to be negotiated.
- 3) The fusible web allows the bias tape to be gently pulled from the design and repositioned for the desired results.

Clover Quick Bias is packaged 11 yards per spool.

NOTE: When using the **metallic** fusible bias tape, lower the temperature of your iron. This will lessen the possibility of damage to the bias tape caused by excess heat.

The bias tape yardage listed for the pattern is slightly larger than the actual amount used when creating the sample quilts. I would recommend starting your first quilt with 2 full spools of bias tape.

Homemade Bias Tape You are not limited to commercial bias tape. The ability to create bias tape specific for your project opens up a world of possibilities. Print fabrics can be used, introducing texture and interest to the bias tape. Homemade bias tape is very economical. It is a terrific alternative if commercially prepared bias tape is not readily available in your area.

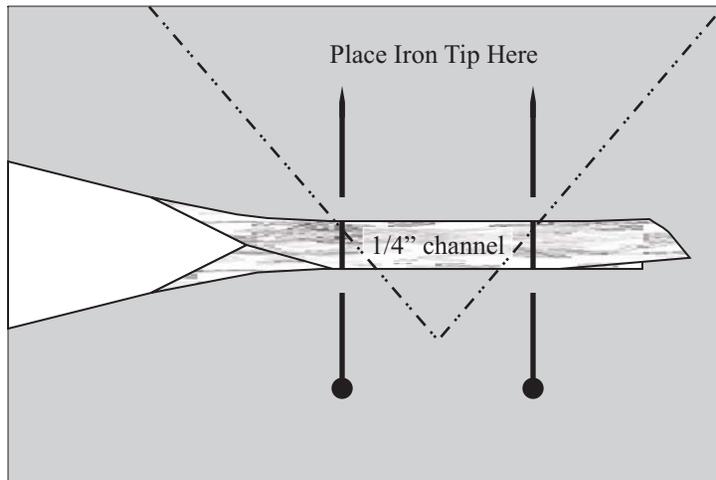
Clover Needlecraft has created a bias tape maker that allows a strip of paper backed Fusible web to be applied to the fabric strip as it is drawn through the device. Follow the directions included in the bias tape maker package to complete the process.

Bias tape can also be made entirely by hand without the use of any special tools.

Step 1 Cut bias strips 7/8" wide. One half yard of fabric will yield about 29 yards of 1/4" wide bias tape. Join the strips together using 1/8" diagonal seam allowances. Press open to reduce bulk.

Step 2 Fold one end of the bias strip into thirds and press (right side out). Fold and press 12" of the bias tape.

Step 3 Make a channel using two straight pins for the bias strip to travel through as diagramed below. A scant 1/4" channel is desirable.



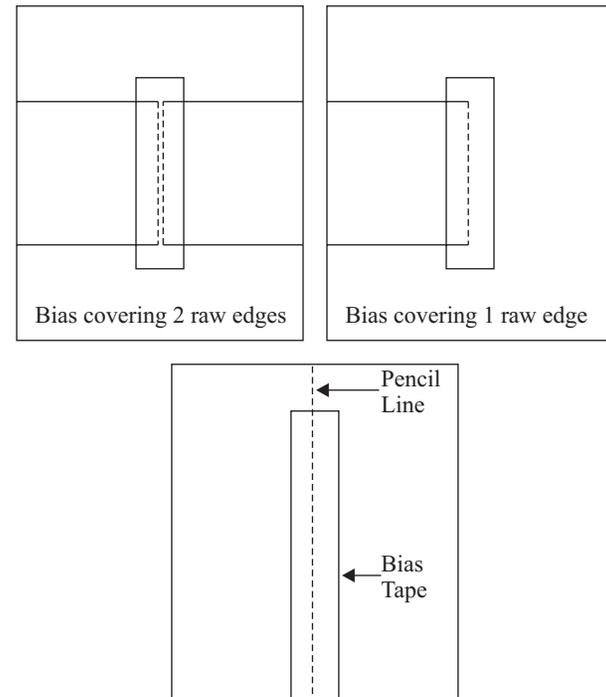
Step 4 Gently guide the strip through the channel, assisting the folding process as necessary. Once started, the strip should continue folding with only a little guidance. Position a warm iron over the folded strip to press it as the folds are formed.

Step 5 Wrap the newly formed bias tape around a cardboard to help the pressed 1/4" wide bias tape to hold its shape. Use dots of fabric glue to adhere the homemade bias tape. I find that Roxanne's Glue-Baste-It works well.

Bias Tape Application

The purpose of the bias tape is to cover the raw edges of all fabric pieces and to simulate stained glass leading.

Bias tape will cover all raw edges of the appliqué. The bias tape is centered directly over the junction of the appliqué raw edges, over a single raw edge or over the drawn leading line.



All bias tape ends must be covered! Be sure to plan ahead!

Bias Tape Size Clover Needlecraft produces two widths of fusible bias tape. The original Quick Bias measures 1/4" wide. 1/8" wide bias tape has been introduced to the market recently. I find the new narrower bias works well for detail accents. When the leading is diagrammed with a broken line as shown below, 1/8" is intended for that application. -----

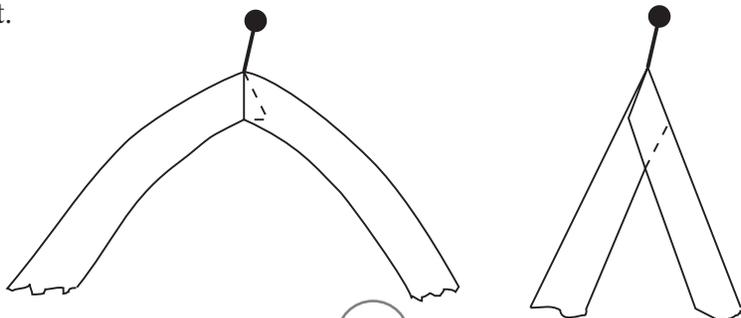
The **Bias Tape Numbering System** has been established to help you place bias tape in sequential order. This is not to imply that all pieces of bias tape will have a unique number in the sequence. Rather, there will be multiple pieces marked #1, multiple pieces marked #2, etc.

Lead all lines marked #1 first. Bias tape lengths marked #1 do not cover the raw end of any other piece of bias tape! All #1 pieces can be fused without disturbing the order of any other pieces. After placing all pieces marked #1, place all #2 pieces, which will cover raw ends of #1 pieces, and so on...

The only place that a raw edge - bias tape or fabric - is allowed, is at the very outer edge of the quilt. This will be encased in the quilt binding!

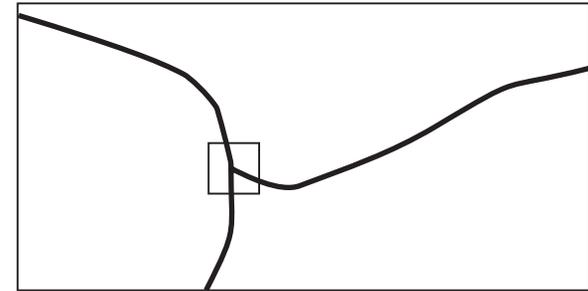
Mitered Corners

Miter the bias tape at each point. Press the fusible bias tape into place up to the point. Insert a pin into the edge of the bias tape where the point of the miter will be positioned. Pull the bias tape against this pin as you fold under the excess fabric, causing the mitered angle to form. In the case of a very sharp point the fold may lay along the outer edge of the bias tape as shown below-right.



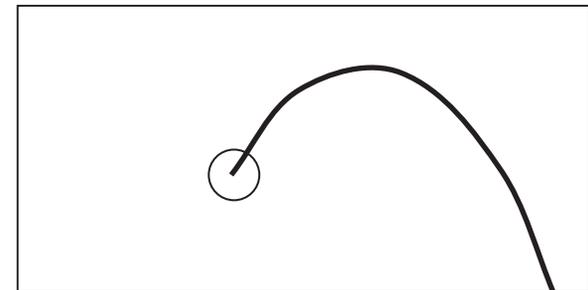
Boxed Intersections

The pattern may include bias tape intersections that are diagrammed enclosed by a small box. The box indicates that the first piece of bias tape applied will need to be released from the design and another piece of bias tape inserted. Occasionally this cannot be avoided. Heat may be applied to the bias tape to make it easier to lift.



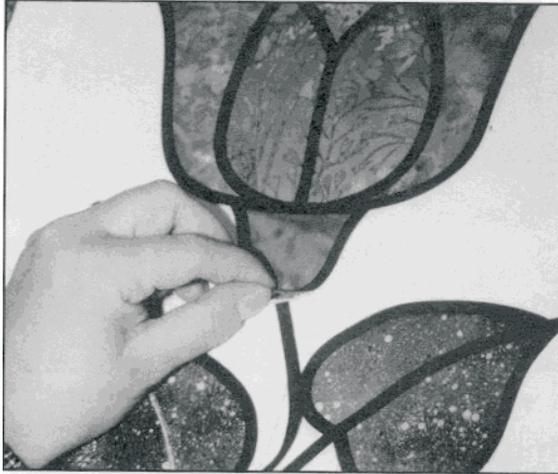
Circled Bias Tape Ends

Occasionally it is necessary for the bias tape to dead end in the center of a design without the benefit of being crossed by another piece of bias tape. At these points it is necessary to fold the raw end of the bias tape under itself to create a finished edge. Trim the bias tape 1/4" beyond the end of the drawn line and fold it under itself. The bias tape is very light weight and will fold nicely into place.

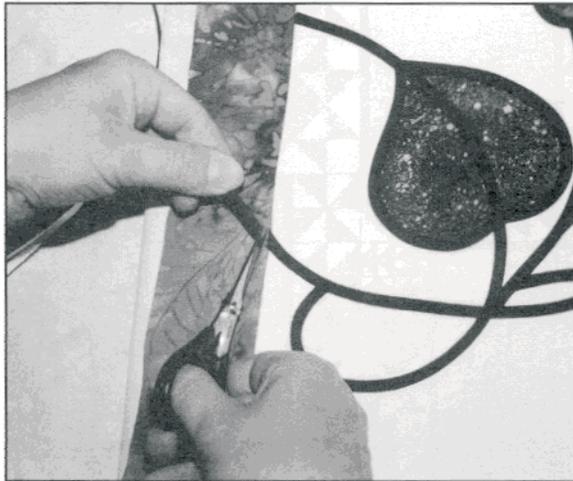


If you find that you have accidentally applied a piece of bias tape before its time, carefully pull the bias tape away from the appliqué to release just enough space to insert the next bias tape

end. You may use a pin to lift the prematurely-placed bias tape from the design. Heating the area a little with the tip of your iron may make the loosening process easier.



Trim the end of the bias tape along the leading line that is intersected. This will allow the raw end of the bias tape to be covered (overlapped 1/8") by the next piece of bias tape. This may mean trimming the end of the bias tape at an unusual angle to accommodate the leading line.



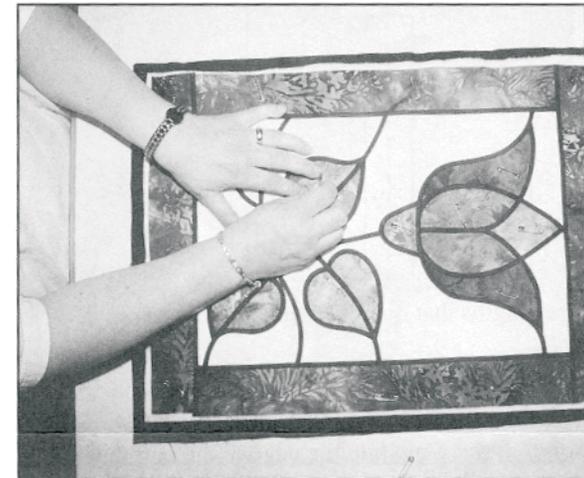
If you have positioned a piece of bias tape poorly, simply lift it from its place, reposition it, and press it in place with a warm iron.

Layering the Project

Layer the quilt with batting and backing. Cotton batting works best. The cotton fibers of the batting grip the quilt top and backing. This helps to prevent shifting and puckering.

The backing and bobbin thread should match the color of the bias tape. If the bobbin thread should happen to pop to the surface of the quilt, it will not be noticeable. Less than perfect stitches will hide if the bobbin thread and quilt back match in color.

Baste the layers together using safety pins. Quilt basting spray also works. I have used Sulky® KK 2000 Temporary Spray Adhesive with good results.



Stitching Bias Tape In Place

Insert a very fine needle into the sewing machine; size 60/8 works well. The holes left by the needle are very small, preventing the bobbin thread from popping to the surface.

Thread the sewing machine needle with a fine gauge thread to match the color of the bias tape.

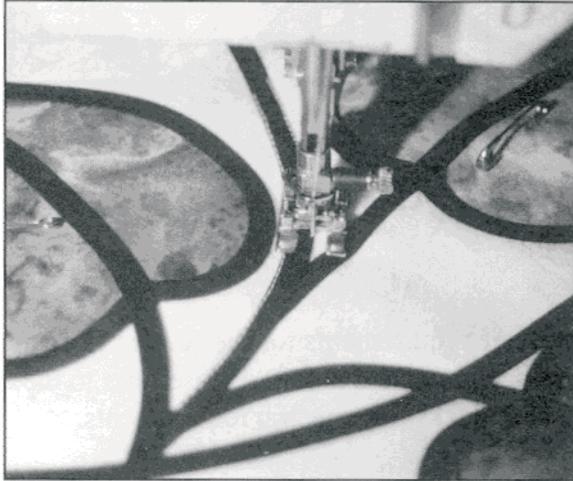
Sulky is a registered trademark of Sulky of America.

Bias Tape Thread Choices

Black Black Sew Bob (fine lingerie thread)
Smoke Nylon Thread .004mm

The bobbin thread may be cotton in a color to match the bias tape.

Use an open toe embroidery foot on your sewing Machine. It will be easier to see what you are doing.



Stitch both sides of the bias tape in place using a straight stitch. Back stitch at both ends to secure the seam. Stitch at the very edge of the bias tape to avoid an unsightly pleat of bias tape that is not secured. Either side may be stitched first.

Clip threads close to the surface of the quilt, front and back. Use a sewing awl to adjust and smooth bias tape if any puckering has occurred at tight curves.

If any bias tape should loosen as you are working, it can be secured again by gently pressing it back in place.

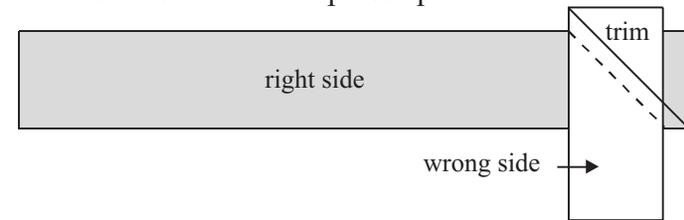
Additional Quilting

Stipple quilting may be added to some areas of the project. Large areas might benefit from machine quilting to stabilize the layers and prevent any possible sagging of the layers.

Binding

After all bias tape segments have been sewn, trim the completed quilt along the outer edge of the design.

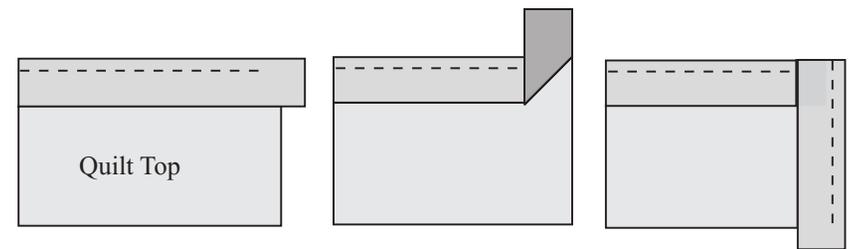
Cut 4 strips 2" wide of binding fabric. Make cut selvage to selvage. Stitch strips together on the diagonal as diagrammed below. Trim seams to 1/4" and press open.



Press the strip in half lengthwise, wrong sides together.

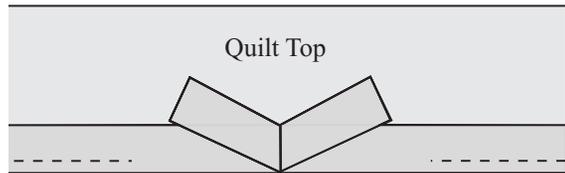
Position the folded binding strip so that its lengthwise raw edges are even with the raw edge of the quilt top. Leave 8" free, and begin stitching the binding to the quilt a few inches beyond the center of one edge. Stitch with a 1/4" seam allowance; back tack to secure the seam. Stop stitching 1/4" from the edge and back tack. Remove the quilt from the sewing machine, and snip threads. Rotate the quilt to prepare to sew the next edge.

Fold the binding strip up, away from the quilt, it will fold nicely at a 45° angle. Fold it again to bring the strip edge along the raw edge of the quilt top. This fold should be even with the top edge of the quilt. Begin stitching at the fold, stitch through all layers.



Continue sewing around the quilt in this manner until you are within 12" of the starting point; back tack.

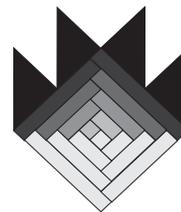
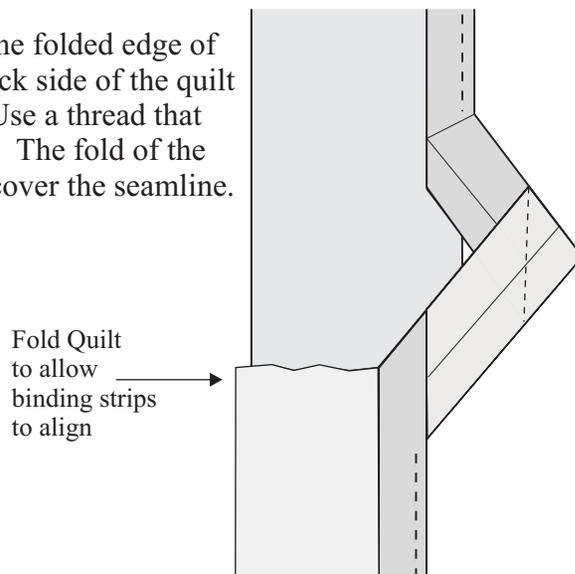
To finish the quilt, fold each strip back on itself so that the folds meet in the middle of the 12" gap. Finger press a crease at the folds. Trim the excess strip fabric 1" from both folds.



Open the folded strips and place the strips right sides together as diagramed at right. Fold the quilt out of your way to allow the binding strips to be aligned properly. Stitch the strips together with a diagonal seam. Trim the seam allowance to 1/4" and press the seam open.

Fold the binding strip together again and finish stitching the binding strip to the edge of the quilt.

Hand stitch the folded edge of the binding to the back side of the quilt. With a blindstitch. Use a thread that matches the binding. The fold of the binding should just cover the seamline.



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