



Zeffie's Quilts

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www.OmahaMachineQuilting.net/store/

Machine Finished Binding

Supplies

Thread to match the binding

Thread to match the backing

Blind hem foot

Project with binding attached to the BACK of the quilt

Patience

This technique is not hard, but it takes a lot of patience to master it. Once you have learned how to do it, you can complete a king sized quilt binding from making it to machine finishing the edge in about 3 hours. I will demo the stitching in class and then you will have the chance to apply that technique to your own project in class with me to help you if you get into any difficulties.

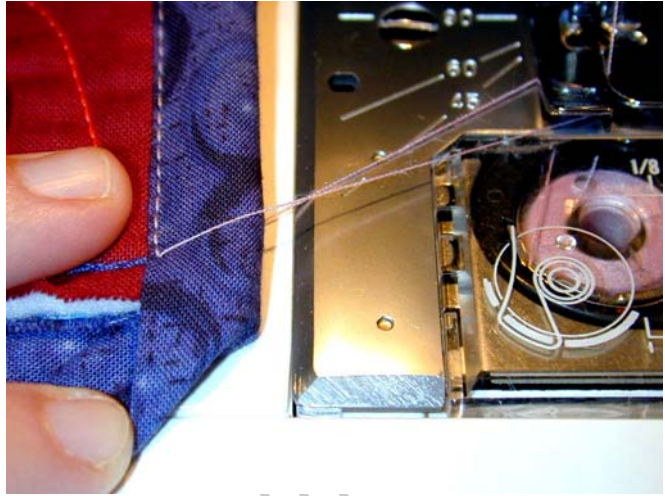
- Thread your machine with the thread that matches your binding.
- Put the thread that matches your backing in the bobbin.
- Put your blind hem foot on your machine.
- Set your machine to straight stitch.
- Set your stitch length to about 10 stitches per inch. On my Janome, this is a setting of 3.00.
- It is a good idea to press your binding flat against the backing to make all the creases nice and crisp.



- Start at one corner by pulling the binding over the edge of the quilt onto the front of the quilt. The edge should cover the stitching line where you attached the binding to the quilt originally. Fold half the miter and begin stitching at the inside edge of the binding just to the right of the creased edge (you may have to adjust your needle position a bit to get this in the right position) and about a quarter inch from the top edge of the quilt (this should be just about where the stitching line is where you attached the binding). Do not back tack this beginning line of stitching. If you need to make any adjustments when you are at the end, it is easier if you do not have the back tack in place. Sew down to the next corner. (I will be using a contrasting thread in this tutorial so you can see the stitching better.)



- Stop about a quarter inch from the edge of the quilt; back tack a couple stitches; cut your threads and remove your quilt from the machine.



- Turn the project to orient it to begin the next side of stitching.



- Fold the miter on that corner (pin the mitered fold in place if you need to) and begin stitching at the inside corner of the miter. After taking a couple stitches, back tack to the corner where you started and then continue to the next corner.



- Repeat to the end of the binding.
- When you reach the final corner (where you started), finish that miter fold and stitch until you go one stitch past the mitered fold. If the miter does not want to fold flat, take the first few stitches out of the beginning line of stitching, re-fold the miter; stitch to the corner; pivot with the needle down and complete the stitching where you just removed some stitches.
- Back tack a couple stitches and remove your project from the machine.
- You may notice some wrinkling of the binding (not tucks, just wrinkles) and this should straighten out with a good pressing in the opposite direction of the wrinkling. You can also use a spritz of Magic Sizing if desired.

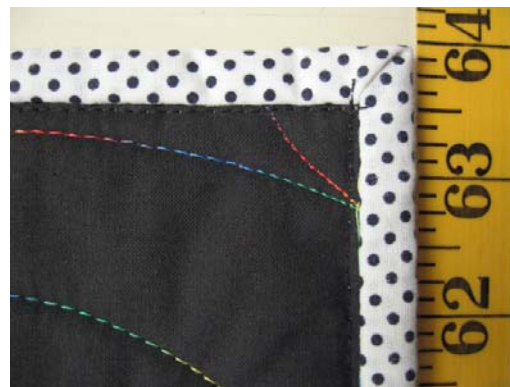
Here are some pointers:

- Take it very slow at first.
- Do not worry about the stitching on the back being spaced away from the binding edge. As you become more comfortable with machine finishing, you can work on getting it closer to the ditch.
- Try not to hunch over the project as you will just get sore shoulders and back aches.
- Try not to force the fabric under the foot. Let it be pulled by the feed dogs.

If you have a fussy binding and it just doesn't want to cooperate, try some of the following:

- Press your binding in the original position nice and flat, re-creasing the creases.
- Use some Magic Sizing or spray starch on the binding to make the edge very crisp and a bit slicker.
- Slow down your stitching until you are more comfortable.
- Lessen the pressure of your presser foot so the fabric can feed under the foot easier.

What your binding should look like after a little practice





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