



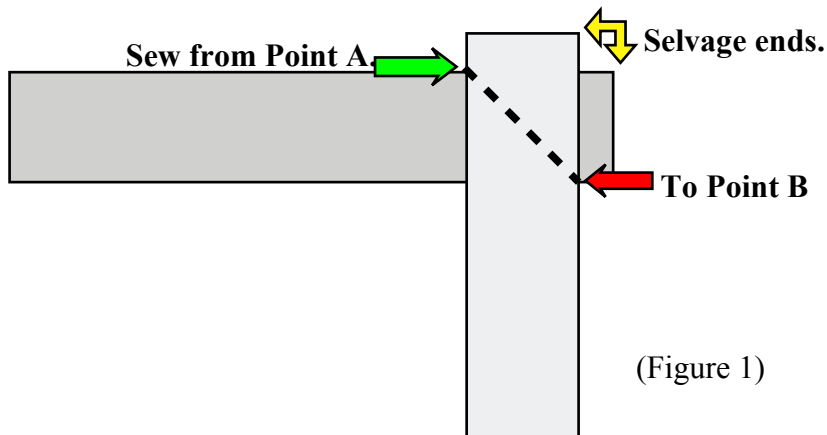
Burning The Midnight Oil Quilts by Heather Finnell

Binding

1. Cut your binding strips. Most patterns call for 2 ½" strips. This works well for new quilter's or if you have a bulky quilt. You want to have enough fabric to wrap around the edge and just cover the stitching line. You should have enough fabric past your seam allowance to fill the inside of you binding. Meaning, when you finishing sewing your binding down, your quilt sandwich should be felt all the way to the fold of your binding.

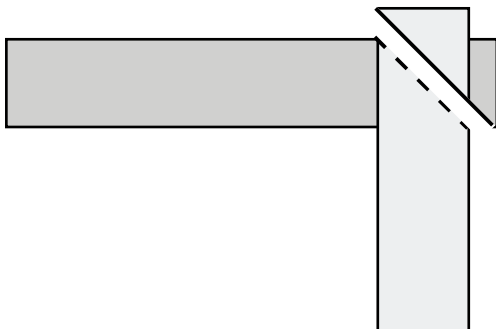
If your binding always seems to large, cut your strips to 2 ¼". Binding should only come as far as the stitching line on the back. If it extends past that too much when using the 2 ½" strips then you definitely want to use 2 ¼" strips.

2. Sew your strips together to make one long strip. I miter the ends together to help distribute the bulk when folded in half and sewn down. I like to leave the selvage edges on to help see my starting and stopping points. Make sure that you clear both selvage ends. Pin. Draw a line from corner to corner if you need to. Eventually you will be able to just eye it. (Figure 1)

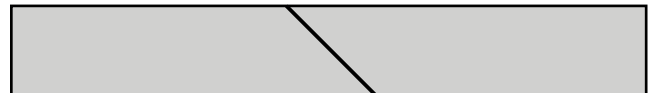


(Figure 1)

3. Trim ¼" from seam allowance. (Figure 2) Keep adding strips in this fashion until you get the desired length. Press seams in one direction. (Figure 3) I don't like to press seams open because you have a greater chance of seeing the threads. I also think the seam pressed in one direction is stronger.

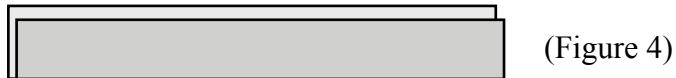


(Figure 2)

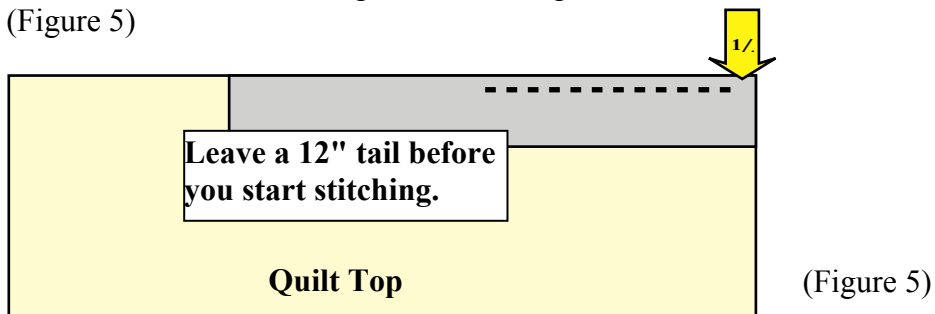


(Figure 3)

4. Press your binding strip in half Wrong Sides Together. (Figure 4)

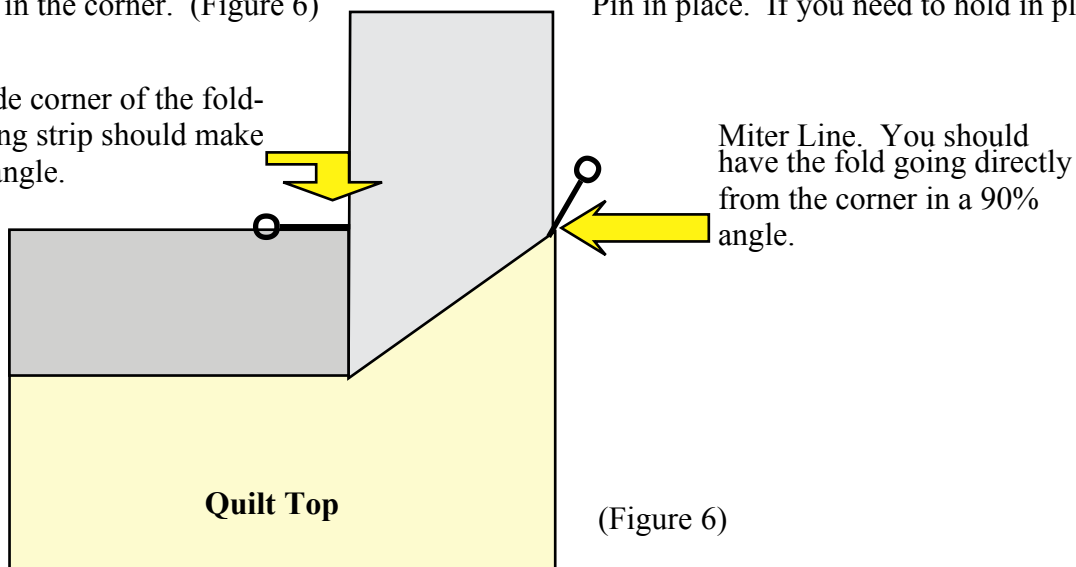


5. We are going to sew the binding down to the quilt top. Use a $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam and a walking/even feed foot if you have one. This will allow us to feed all the layers nicely. I like to use a schmetz 90/14 microtex needle. I like to start on the bottom center of the quilt. Place the binding raw on the quilt top matching the raw edges. Leave a 12" tail before you start sewing. You are going to need a tail to work with when finishing off the binding at the end. Sew to the corner. STOP $\frac{1}{4}$ " from the end. (Figure 5)

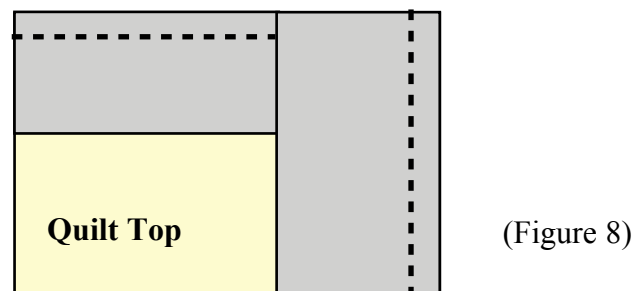
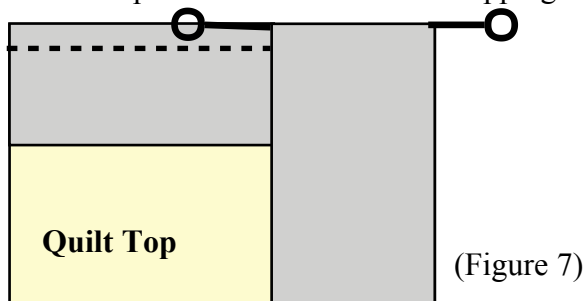


6. Fold the binding strip straight up away from the quilt top at a 45% angle. You should see a nice miter line in the corner. (Figure 6) Pin in place. If you need to hold in place.

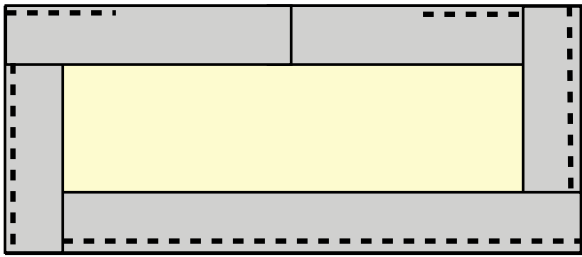
The inside corner of the folded binding strip should make a 90% angle.



7. Fold the binding strip back down on top of itself, making sure to keep that mitered fold in place. (Figure 7) Starting at the edge; sew binding strip down stopping $\frac{1}{4}$ " from the edge of the corner. Repeat mitered corner process at each corner. Stopping after the 4th corner. (Figure 8)

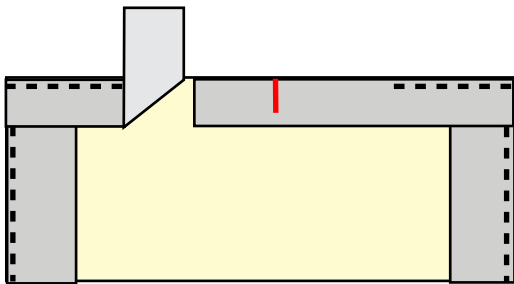


8. After mitering the 4th corner, Sew binding down stopping 12" - 18" from the starting point. As you get used to finishing off the binding, you will be able to use a smaller opening. It is easier to maneuver the strips if you have a larger area to work with. (Figure 9)



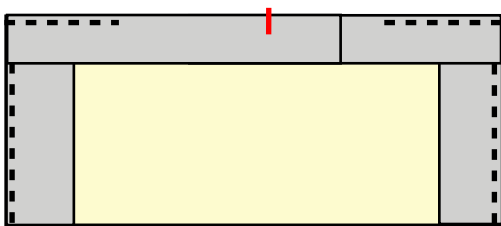
(Figure 9)

9. Lay your quilt top nice and flat. Make sure it is spread out. We don't want to make your binding too short! Fold the left side of the binding out of the way. Lay the right side of you binding out flat on the quilt top. Find the halfway point between the stitching line and make a mark. It doesn't have to be an exact measurement, you can eyeball it. (Figure 10)



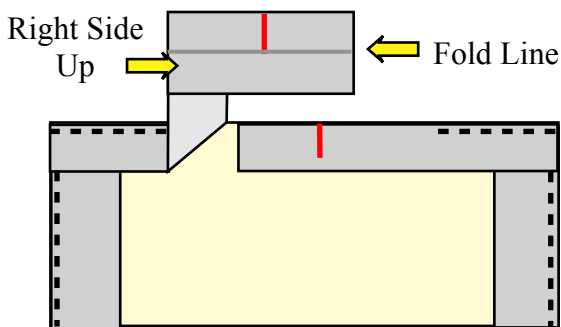
(Figure 10)

10. Lay the left side of the binding down over the right side. Mark the top binding at the same point you did the bottom strip, making matching marks. (Figure 11)



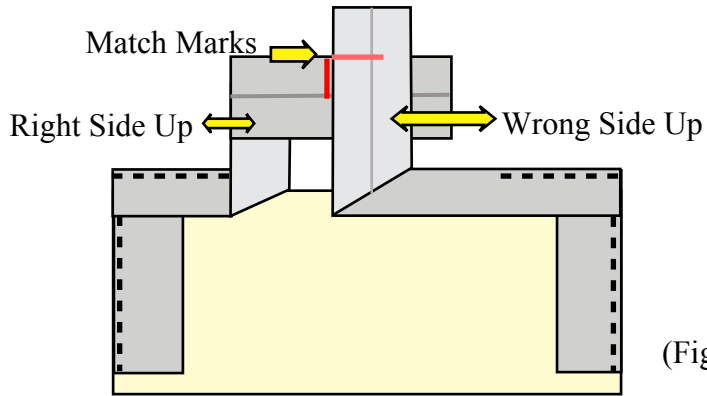
(Figure 11)

11. Open up the left side of the binding Right side up and place it horizontally. (Figure 12)



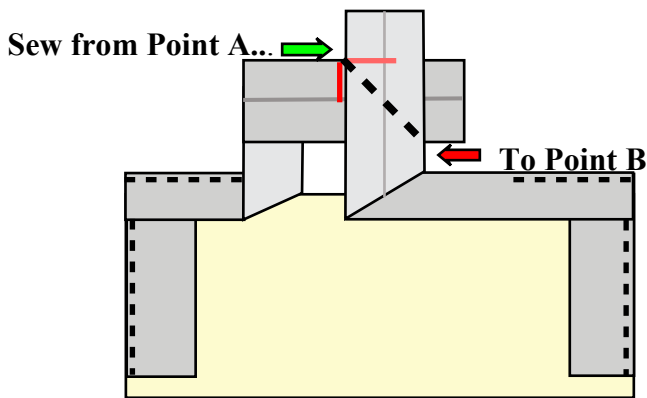
(Figure 12)

12. Open up the right side binding piece and place it Right Side Down on top of the left strip, standing up vertically. Matching the Mark that were made at the upper left corner. (Figure 13)



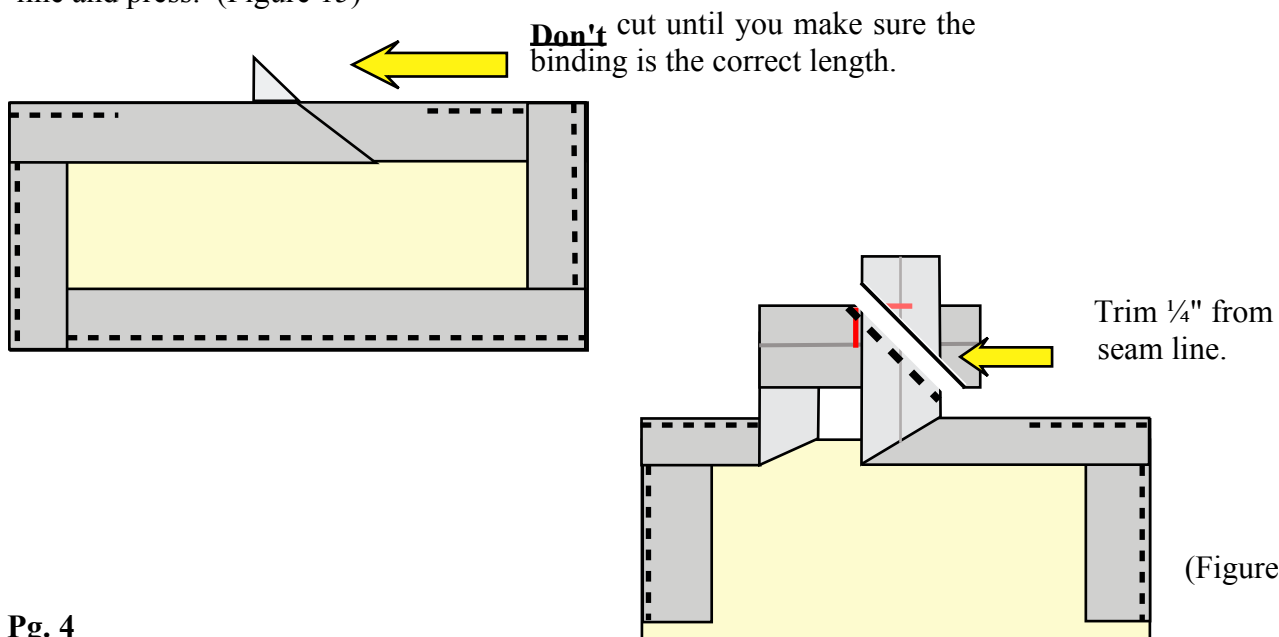
(Figure 13)

13. Sew from top inside left corner where you made your marks, to bottom right corner. Draw a diagonal line if you need to. (Figure 14)



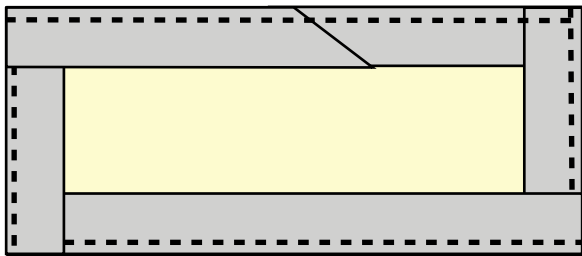
(Figure 14)

14. **BEFORE** you cut. Fold strip back in half and lay flat on quilt top. Make sure it fits and make any adjustments before cutting away the extra fabric. Once you know everything will fit, trim a 1/4" from the seam line and press. (Figure 15)



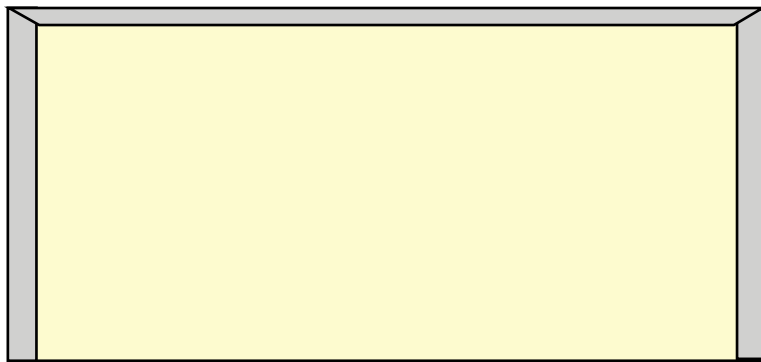
(Figure 15)

15. Fold binding strip in half and press again to reform the crease. Lay out on quilt top matching raw edges again (hopefully!) and pin if you need to. Sew the opening close. (Figure 16)



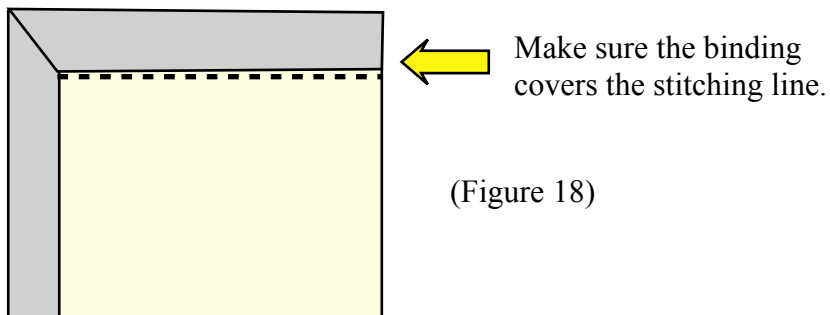
(Figure 16)

16. Press binding away from the quilt top. Fold binding over and pin down. I pin down or use binding clips as I go. Look for the miter in the corner of the quilt. (Figure 17) If you did your mitering right when sewing it down, it should look spectacular!!



(Figure 17)

17. Hand sew the binding down, making sure to just cover the stitching line. (Figure 18) Hand sew to the back of the quilt with a thread color that matches the binding.



(Figure 18)

If you have any questions give me an email at heathersquilts@gmail.com. And I will give you all the help that I can to get you going on your binding. Until then...

Happy Quilting!

Heather Finnell
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