

Quilt-Along-With-Me! Part Five: Binding!

Pattern & Series by Amanda from 3and3quarters.net



Part Five finds us making a quick-ish 'cheater's binding' (ie. Straight-Grain Binding) that will then be attached to the raw edges around the quilt using sewing machine and hand sewing techniques.

Fabric Quantities:

For the binding you will need:

- 50cm (20") of a quilting fabric with a width of 112cm (44")

Notions:

- Sewing Machine with a walking foot attached (foot optional)
- Rotary Blade, Quilting Ruler and Mat
- Matching thread for the top and bottom of the quilt
- Fabric Scissors
- Iron and ironing board
- Binding clips or safety pins

Your choice of hand sewing notions: Needle, thread, thimble/thumbie and thread snips.

Squaring up the quilt:

Before preparing the binding, square up the edges of the quilt as best as you can using a long quilting ruler (I used a 60" ruler) and a rotary blade. This step allows you to trim off the excess batting and backing fabric as well as any thread tails left over from quilting. It also helps to make the edges and corners of the quilt as straight as possible, making it easier to sew on the binding.

Calculating how much binding you'll need:

This is how I work out how much binding I'll need to cut and make to fit around the whole edge of my quilt. (*Calculated using metric measurement.*)

- First, I roughly add up the lengths of each side of the quilt. In this case, the quilt we've made measures close to 1.5m squared. So if I multiply 1.5 by 4 it equals 6, meaning that the perimeter of the quilt is close to 6m.
- Secondly, I look at the width of the fabric I've chosen for the binding. As it measures a little over 1m wide, I know that if I cut x6 strips from across the width or straight-grain of the fabric, I'll end up with binding that will be over 6m long after I piece the strips together, end-to-end. And then just to be safe, I always cut one more strip than what is necessary to ensure I won't run out!

Making the binding:

- From the fabric you've set aside for the binding, you will need to cut x7 2.5" strips from along the width of the fabric.
- At the sewing machine, place the ends of two strips together, right sides facing, with one lying vertically and the other horizontal across it creating a right angle. Pin them together if you feel you need to.

- Sew a 45-degree line from corner to corner so that when you open them out, you will have created one long strip.
- Continue to sew on the strips in this way until you are left with one long strip of binding.
- Either using a ruler and blade or fabric scissors, trim down the excess fabric and selvedge edges from the back of the binding to a ¼" seam.
- At the ironing board, cut the selvedge edge off from one end, fold it over about a ½" and press into place. Then press the entire length of the binding in half, pressing the joining seams flat open as you come to them.

Sewing on the binding – Part One

When sewing on the binding, I find that using my walking foot will help to feed the quilt and the binding through the machine a lot easier than if using a standard sewing foot.

- Begin by placing the folded end of the binding along side one edge of the quilt, leaving the first 2" behind the walking foot. *Make sure to place the raw edge of the binding along side the raw edge of the quilt.*
- With the edge of the walking foot in line with the edge of the quilt and binding, patiently sew on the binding.
- When you come to corner, stop and make a small back-stitch about a ¼" before reaching the end of the quilt. Remove the quilt from the machine and turn it around to the next edge to be sewn.
- On a flat surface and with the binding trailing over your right hand, fold it back onto it's self, creating a 45-degree angle. Ensure that the tip of the fold matches with the corner of the quilt and that the raw edge of the binding aligns perfectly with the raw edge of the quilt. Fold the binding back over, leaving a straight fold along the top edge.
- Place the quilt back under the foot and make a small back-stitch at the beginning edge. Then continue to sew on the binding ensuring that the edge of the walking foot is in line with the edge of the quilt and binding.
- When you make your way back to where you begun, stop sewing about 4" away from the start. Cut off the excess binding, leaving enough that can be tucked into the beginning end.
- Tuck the cut end of the binding into the beginning end and sew over them, making a small back-stitch when you reach the start of the stitching you began with. Remove the quilt from the sewing machine.

Sewing on the binding – Part Two

- Fold the binding over to the back and clip into place along all four sides using binding clips or safety pins.
- At the corners, trim off the excess threads then bring the binding up over the corner. Place a binding clip onto the nearest edge to hold it into place

and then fold the corner edges over, one on top of the other, creating a mitered corner. Clip into place.

- With a sharp needle and a thread that matches closely to either the backing fabric or binding, slip-stitch the binding to the back of the quilt.

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This is only part five of six videos that will make up my *Quilt-Along-With-Me* series. Once the series is finished, the full pattern will be available for you to download and print off for free from my blog.

If you have any questions, feedback, completed blocks/quilts or ideas to share with me, feel free to send me an email to the following address:

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Happy Sewing, Friends!

Amanda.

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