

RECTANGLE FUN QUILT-ALONG

Angie's method for attaching the binding

We are nearing the end of this project. All we have left is the binding and label. In my case, I use different binding methods depending on the project at hand. In this post, I will share a few tips as to what I like to do when it comes to attaching a binding by machine for a bed-size quilt (I do things differently for wall hangings and other small projects).

1. On a quilt like this where the quilting does not go all the way to the border, I like to stabilize the edge before trimming. I square off my corners and mark my cutting line along all edges with chalk.



2. I then baste stitch about 1/8" inside the marked line.



3. And trim along the marked line.



4. For bed quilts, I use double binding. I cut mine 2 1/4" wide across the grain of the fabric and join the ends with a diagonal seam. Fold in half, starch and press. When making a lot of binding, as is this case, I wrap the binding around an empty toiled paper tube. (As I attach the binding, this helps me keep the roll of binding in my lap and not all tangled up and dragging on the floor.)

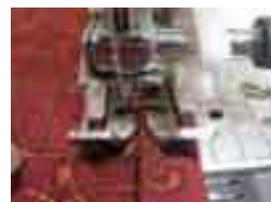
5. As opposed to the traditional method, I sew my binding first to the BACK side of the quilt, using a walking foot and a 1/4" seam allowance.



6. Then press the binding up, away from the quilt.



7. I then fold the binding over to the front of the quilt and stitch it down with a blanket stitch. The stitching should start with the needle down in the binding's back seam line, with the blanket stitch catching the edge of the binding every few stitches.



8. Make sure to use the reverse blanket stitch on your machine. On my machine, you can see that stitch #11 is what is normally used for appliqué. Stitch #12 is reversed. I set my stitch length to 2.5 and the width to 2.5 or 3.0. I prefer a shorter width, but still long enough to catch the edge of the binding securely.



9. I also clip the corners a little, to ease the bulk.

10. I really do like this way of finishing the binding. (I used to hand stitch it to the back... hours and hours of work!)



11. Alternatively, I often chose a decorative stitch instead of the blanket stitch. Looks pretty. (:



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