

A Beautiful, Basic Binding

After your quilting is complete, trim up edges using your rotary cutter and acrylic rulers. I prefer to square up my quilts to whole numbers. For examples: 30" x 40" or 84" x 84".

Measure the top edge of the quilt from end to end. Or, if you know the quilt is ten 8" blocks wide plus 4" borders, then the final measurement should be 88-inches horizontal. For this tutorial, a 40" horizontal by 30" vertical quilt will be used.

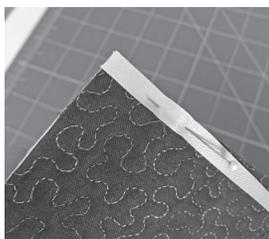
Purchase 1/4-inch wide polyester twill tape. It is commonly available in 4-yard packages from Wrights (also available at davidtaylorquilts.com).

It is best to iron out any folds in the twill tape. Steam press enough of the twill tape equal to the dimensions of the quilt (in this example: 4 yds). Trim a length of the tape to precisely 40 inches. Assuming the quilt has been squared-up properly, make a second 40-inch cut of twill tape.

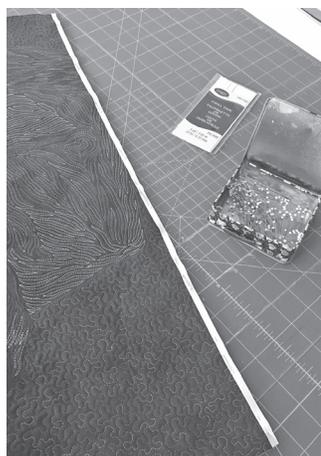


Work from the back side of the quilt.

Find the center of the top edge of the quilt and mark with a pin. Find the center of one length of twill tape and align along the top edge of the quilt, matching and pinning the centers. Abut each end of the length of twill tape into each top corner of the quilt. Pin in place.



Ease in any fullness along the edge of the quilt, while pinning the twill tape precisely every few inches.



Choose a zigzag stitch on a domestic sewing machine and adjust the stitch width to slightly less than a quarter inch. Increase stitch length slightly. (Be sure to put on a zigzag foot and stitch plate!)

Stitch from end of the twill tape, easing in fullness and precisely aligning the edge of the tape to the trimmed edge of the quilt. Backstitch or knot off the thread to secure on both ends.



Next, find the measurement of the vertical edges. In this example, the sides would be 30". Cut two lengths that are one-half inch less than the length. 29½" in this example.

Find the centers of the side edges of the quilt and mark each with a pin. Find the center of the lengths of twill tape. Align along the quilt edge, pinning precisely. Abut the vertical lengths of twill tape in the corners to the edges of the already applied horizontal lengths of twill tape, as illustrated. Do not add extra bulk in the corners by overlapping the twill tape. Use the zigzag stitch along the edges as previous edges.



When complete, there should be a secure framework of twill tape along all of the back edges of your quilt. This will ensure your quilt will always be square, always maintain its shape, and always hang evenly.

Apply a 2-inch, traditional folded bias binding to the front edges of the quilt. The binding should be cut on the bias to ensure a tightly-sewn application.



Use a quarter-inch foot when applying the folded binding to the front edges of the quilt; raw edges to the outside. On the back side of the quilt when complete, the machine stitching along the edge should be just outside the edge of the twill tape.

Press the binding to the outside and wrap around to the back side. Hand stitch the folded edge of the binding to the back. Use an invisible appliqué stitch and use the twill tape as an accurate guide for stitching in place. The binding will be straight, tight and full every time. Perfect!

DAVID
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davidtaylorquilts.com