

# Quick Machine Binding Tutorial

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## Step 1: Cutting the Binding



Figure out the circumference of your quilt. (Measure both sides of your quilt, multiply that number by 2), Add 14 – 20" to the circumference. If you want – you can use this handy app from [Robert Kaufman](#).

Decide on the width of your binding. If there are points on the sides of the quilt that I don't want to lose, I cut my binding at 2". If there isn't, I cut it at 2 1/4". For this tutorial, I cut the binding at 2 1/2" because it's flannel on both sides and a little thicker than most quilts and I don't want to have to fight with it.

## Step 2: Joining the binding



Join binding into one long piece with a 45 degree angle. You can mark it or "eyeball" it. Chain each piece of binding to the next.



**Quick Tip #1:** Do NOT cut the chains apart (unless you want a huge tangled mess.) **Leave the chain joined together.** I know this is not the way most people do it – but try it!



**Quick Tip #2:**  
Do NOT fold binding in half

Do NOT press the binding in half

Your quilt is about 1/16th of an inch thick. By folding and pressing the binding in half –

you are forcing the binding to fold in a position that is actually pulling it to one side. It will naturally lie smoother if you do not press it in half.

### Step 3: Sewing the binding onto the quilt

Fold the binding in half (**DO NOT press the binding**).

Leave approximately 8-10" of a tail on the binding. Start attaching the binding to the **BACK** of the quilt. Use a  $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam. Sew about 3". Cut the thread. Check to see where the fold lands on the front. It should cover the stitching, but you don't want a lot of extra binding with no batting in it. On this quilt I moved the needle over to the left so it was a wide  $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam. {Janome 6500 – needle position 3.0, using the  $\frac{1}{4}$ " foot}

**Quick Tip #3:** \*\*\* It's a good idea to put a pin in approximately 16" from where you started so that when you sew around the quilt, you leave a good amount of space for joining the binding. \*\*\*



When approaching the corner, stop  $\frac{1}{4}$ " from the edge. Cut the thread.



This picture shows me folding the binding up at a 45 degree angle. Place a ruler on the side of the quilt and line the binding up along the ruler. This will help to ensure a perfect 45 degree angle.





This picture shows the binding folded down. Begin sewing approx. 1/8" from the end and sew to the next corner.



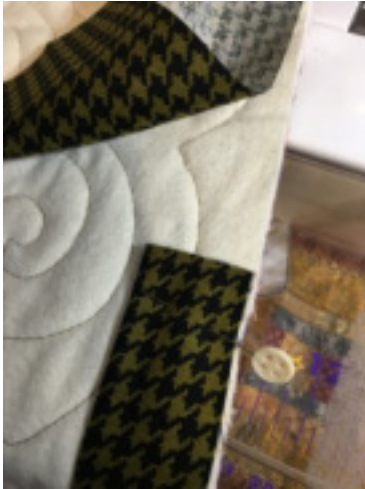


**Quick Tip #4:** As you reach the joined edges of the strips, use a pair of scissors and trim at approximately  $\frac{1}{4}$ " from the seam.



Finger press the seam open (sometimes it helps to hold this in place with a pin)  
Continue to sew binding on, stopping approximately 16" from where you started.

## Step 4: The final joining of the binding

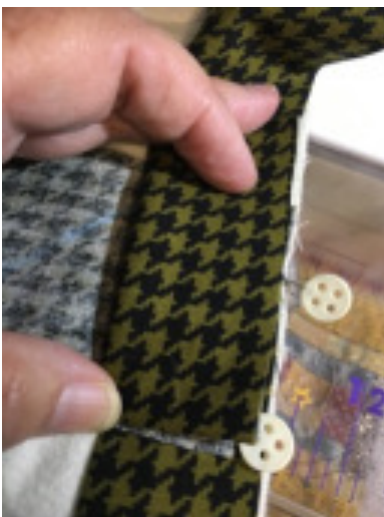


Pin the original tail in place



**Quick Tip #5:** Take a piece of binding and place the width of it over the tail – having ~ 1/8" over. (This helps the binding to be "tight" and not loose and sloppy when you sew it on the quilt.

You can measure this if you want ... it's the width of the binding, subtracting 1/8"



Bring the left over binding down to the bottom of the overlapping width of binding. Trim the left-over binding at the bottom edge.

Join the binding together with a 45 degree seam (as you did when originally joining the binding strips). Finger press seam open and finish sewing the binding onto the quilt.



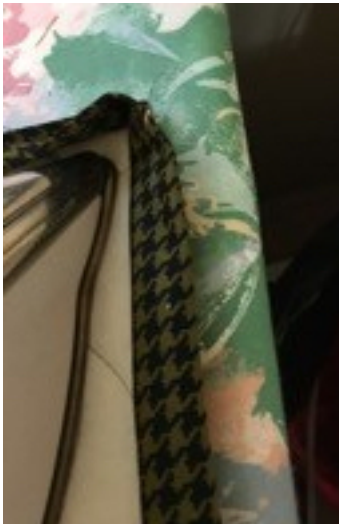
## Step 5: Clipping the Corners



**Quick Tip #6:** On each of the corners, fold back the binding and clip the quilt top, batting and backing. It's a small clip, but it makes the world of difference when you are turning the corner of you binding!

\*\*\* Just be careful to not clip the binding \*\*\*

## Step 6: Press the Binding



**Quick Tip #7:** On the back side of the quilt, press the binding away from the quilt, ensuring that you do not press a fold in the binding.

## Step 7: Glue the Binding in Place



I use Elmer's School Glue (diluted 1:1 with water). Start at a corner and on the right side of the corner (middle picture) run a stream of glue on the binding. It tends to "bead up" as you can see in the picture. Fold the binding over and iron in place.



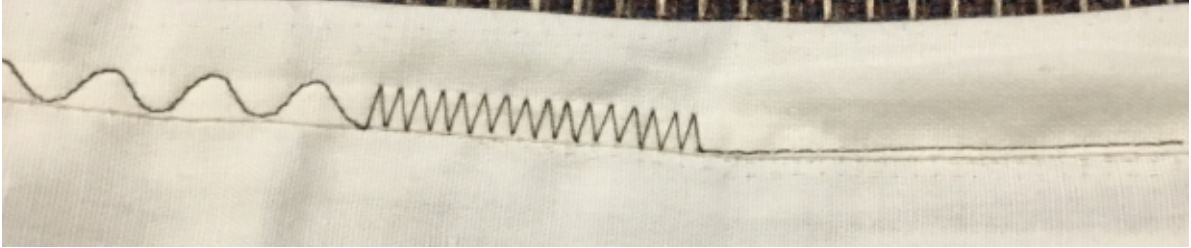
Glue the top binding down.

Ensure that you fold all of the corners in the same method. This will ensure that you don't have a "bump" as you sew the binding down .



## Step 8 Sewing the Binding onto the Front

With the binding glued into place, this step is simple, simple, simple! You can use a variety of stitches to finish the binding. When I first started sewing binding on by machine, I used a serpentine stitch. It's like a curvy zig-zag. Other choices include a zigzag, a blanket stitch and a straight stitch or ??? Your choice.



**Step 9 Congratulate yourself –  
your binding is on and DONE!!!**