

FINISHING INSTRUCTIONS

WATCH VIDEOS ON HOW TO FINISH YOUR QUILT:

For a range of FREE video resources on finishing your quilt, check the Quilting 101 page. [CLICK HERE](#)

1. PREPARE YOUR QUILT BACKING

Press all fabric well.

Assemble your backing if required.

Place each piece RS together and join with a ¼" or larger seam. Press.

TIP: When working with large pieces and long seams, it helps to fold the pieces in half, finger crease and then match centres and pin before sewing to avoid slippage.

SCRAP BACKING:

If you don't have a single piece large enough, consider piecing large scraps together to make a backing.

Remember, the quilt top potentially already has a lot of seams, so avoid adding more bulk to the quilt by creating lots of seams in the backing.

A scrap backing is also a great way to use up any remaining blocks or fabric from the quilt top.

2. MAKE YOUR QUILT SANDWICH

Lay your backing fabric WS up on a large surface (floor, table, bench...)

Fix in place using masking tape at each corner, and at intervals along each side

Don't pull the fabric out of shape, but make it taut and wrinkle free

Lay your batting on top and smooth it out

Lay your quilt top RS up on top of the batting and smooth out, making sure you have enough allowance on all sides.

If sending your quilt to be long-armed, check the required overage of backing and batting from your longarm service provider (4" or more on each side is sometimes required.)

Backing overage in this pattern is calculated using 4" on each side.

If quilting it yourself (hand or machine or a combo of these), ensure there is enough overage.

2-4" is often plenty, depending on the density of quilting you will be doing.

PRO TIP:

THINK ABOUT YOUR NEXT SCRAP PROJECT...

Can you get binding strips from the overage?

Can you align your quilt and backing so you have a wider, useful strip on one side that will be more useful for your next project vs (4) 1" strips all around your quilt?

3. BASTE YOUR QUILT

Basting is all about giving your quilt enough stability so you can quilt it without wrinkles or puckers.

I prefer pin basting – buy some good, curved safety pins in stainless steel.

They may cost upfront but you are going to be able to use these for a lifetime.

Alternatively, you can thread baste, or spray baste your quilt.

Create a grid of basting lines using your pins or thread spaced about a hand width apart (approx 4").

I find it easy to start at one end of the quilt and work methodically back and forth across the quilt, staggering rows of pins.

I close the pins after I have completed every second row.

FINISHING INSTRUCTIONS cont.**4. QUILT YOUR QUILT**

Think about...

- enhancing existing seam lines
- drawing the eye away from seam line
- capturing the eye with quilting lines in a specific direction.

If you have a backing with a motif, consider outlining the motif using a free motion foot on your domestic machine, or using a long arm machine if you have access to one.

You can keep it simple, make it dense, anything you like.

Consider adding some extra special quilting lines using thicker thread and/or hand stitches.

Perle cotton, embroidery thread or left over wool from knitting or crocheting projects can add something fun.

Consider thread ties, to enhance your quilting design, or to keep it minimal.

When machine quilting on my domestic machine, I like to use a 3.5 to 4 stitch length.

This makes quilting faster but also allows you to maneuver the quilt more easily.

If you have walking foot, use the guides that come with your foot to help you reduce the amount of marking you'll need to do on your quilt.

Hera markers or similar (I use a bone spreading knife), will do to make quilting lines.

Avoid pens, chalks and other 'washable' markers if you are unsure of how your fabric will react, and if they will really wash out.

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FINISHING INSTRUCTIONS cont.

5. TRIM AND MAKE BINDING

Choose a binding for your quilt:

Go scrappy here too, or choose a colour to match or offset your background fabric, or to pick out a specific color from your scraps.

Got left over binding from other projects? Use it up! This is a scrappy quilt after all. Experiment and see what happens.

Make your binding:

Cut your binding strips: 2.5" is my go-to width.

Place two strips RS together at 90deg to each other and sew a 45deg line across the ends.

Repeat, joining all binding strips into a long snake.

Trim the excess fabric triangles off, and finger press the seams open.

Fold binding in half, WS together, and finger press.

Wrap binding around your hand making sure the raw edges of the binding match.

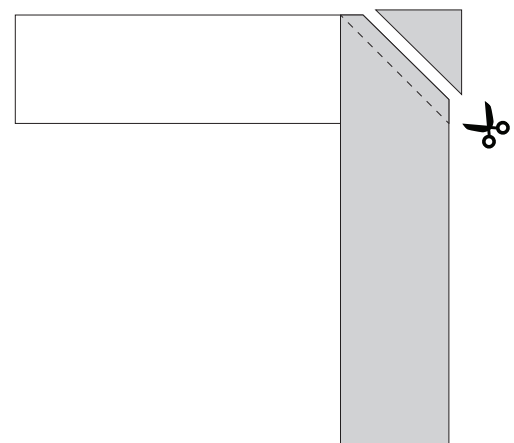
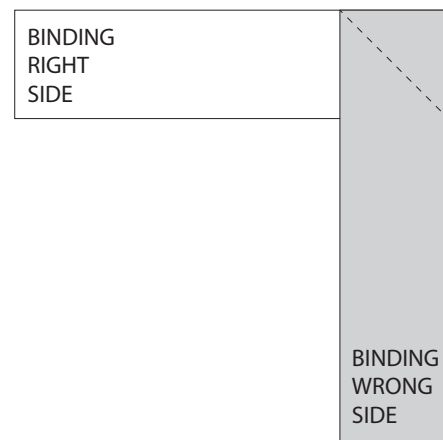
Place on the extra spool holder on your machine, or on an empty toilet roll.

Trim your quilt:

I never get too precise on this, you can use rulers to square your corners, and longer rulers to help you trim your sides.

I usually trim the backing and batting slightly larger than the quilt top, so the binding will be nice and full.

You can also attach your binding before trimming, or serge (overlock) the edge of your quilt before binding as well.



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6. BIND AND FINISH

Attach binding to the quilt.

Hand Sewn Binding:

On the **RIGHT SIDE** of your quilt sandwich:

Start with an approx. 8" tail, matching raw edges of binding with the raw edge of your quilt.

*Sew at ¼" along the edge until you get to ¼" from the bottom corner of the quilt.
Stop, pivot and sew off the quilt tip at a 45deg angle.

Pivot your quilt 90deg.

Fold you binding up at a 45deg angle a fold down again matching raw edges of quilt and binding

Continue to sew to the next corner.

Repeat * at next corner, and sew all round your quilt until you come to about 8-10" from where you started sewing.

Backstitch and snip your threads.

Overlap two ends of binding by the width of the binding ie if your binding is 2.5", overlap the two binding tails by 2.5".

Trim excess binding ends.

With the quilt raw edge towards you open out left hand tail RS up. Flip the right hand tail over towards you WS up and align at 90deg to the left hand tail.

Pin and flip closed to check the binding is not twisted before sewing

Sew at a 45deg angle as you did for creating the binding snake.

Check binding is not twisted before trimming the excess triangles and finger pressing the joining seam open.

FINISHING INSTRUCTIONS cont.

Align binding raw edge with quilt raw edge and sew the remaining binding to the quilt.

Flip quilt to the wrong side, and fold over the binding, encasing the raw edge of your quilt and covering the stitch line.

Sew closed by hand using a whip stitch.

Machine Binding:

Attach the binding to the **WRONG SIDE** of the quilt sandwich.

Attach binding as per instructions above.

Flip the attached binding over to the front of the quilt, encasing the raw edge.

Machine stitch binding to the front, covering the previous stitch line, or pin and stitch in the ditch from the back.

WOO HOO!!

YOU DID IT!

SHARE YOUR WORK**GET SOCIAL !!!**

I love to see your work!

Make sure to post your finished quilt on Instagram and tag it with

#allyryde
@allyryde