

“HOW TO” TUTE NO. 1

BINDING YOUR PROJECTS

BY *Shari Marie Creations*



This instructional tutorial will take you step by step on how to add binding to your projects. I will be binding this simple hot pad I put together for this tutorial. You can bind anything from a large quilt to a simple hot pad or placemat using these instructions.

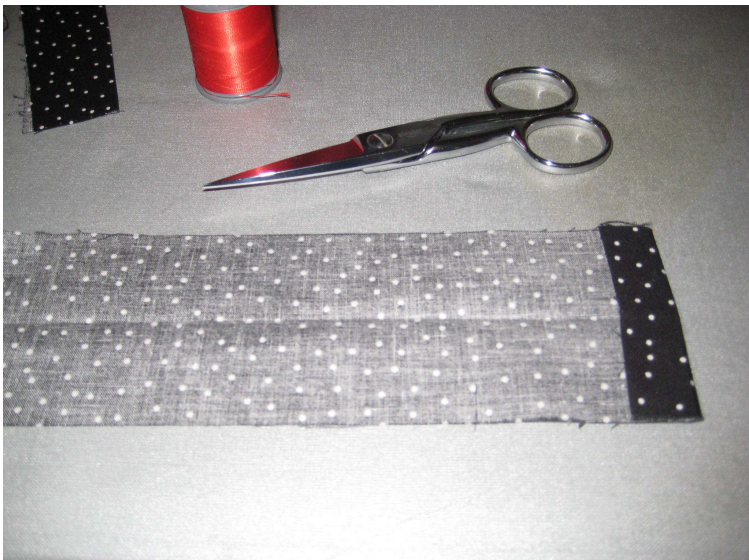
1. Measure your finished project all the way around each edge to determine how long your binding will need to be and add about six extra inches.

Do not cut your strips exactly to size of your project.

Those extra inches have a purpose. It is better to have a little extra at the end and cut it off than it is to run short and not have enough.

2. Cut 2 ½" X Width of fabric into strip(s). Cut as many is needed to go all the way around your project. This small hot pad will only take one strip. If your project requires a longer binding you will, sew the strips end to end and make one long continuous strip.

Press connecting seams open.

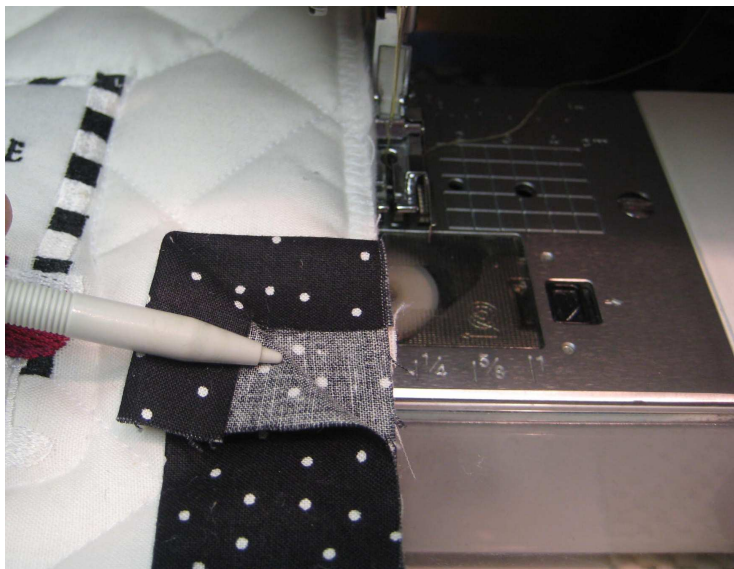


3. Fold one end of the binding strip ¾" or so and press with hot iron.



4. Now fold the long strip in half and press down the length of the binding.

There is now 1 folded edge and one raw edge.



5. Decide where your starting point will be. Start with the end with the fold and line the raw edge of the binding right along the edge of your project. Pin from that starting point to the first corner you come to. Do not pin all the way around, just to the corner.



6. Do not stitched down the first part. Later you will tuck the other end inside it. Sew using a $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance and start about $1\frac{1}{2}$ " down as shown. Later you will tuck the end of the binding into that nicely folded end.

*****Tute Tip***** Notice the nice clean lines of the hot pad?? If you can surge or zig-zag on the edge of the quilted projects before you sew your binding on, it makes all those layers come together ending in a nice, neat edge. I used the zig-zag on this little hot pad.



7. Sew towards the first corner but **STOP $\frac{1}{4}$ " from the corner.** I used yellow thread so you could see it easier.



8. Take it off of the machine and fold the binding back over the seam you have just stitched, creating that diagonal edge as shown.



9. Use your finger to hold the binding in place with that diagonal fold. Now fold that same piece back down over your finger. The first diagonal fold is now hidden. The second fold you just did should lay even with the first side you started on. Line things up on the right hand edge and pin to secure.

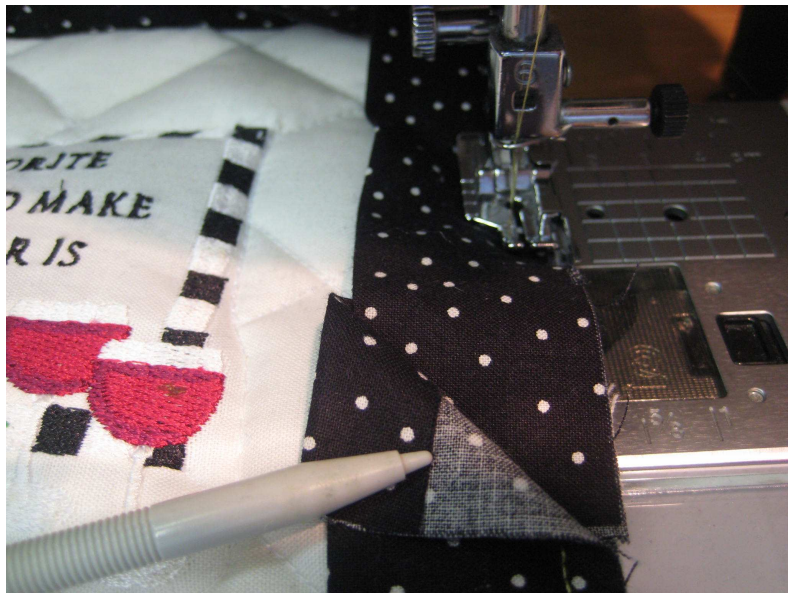


10. Start from the top of the folded corner and sew toward the next corner.. Continue to use a 1/4" seam allowance.



These funny little flaps of fabric that form in the corners are what you want to end up with.

Repeat for each remaining corner until you get closer to the beginning.



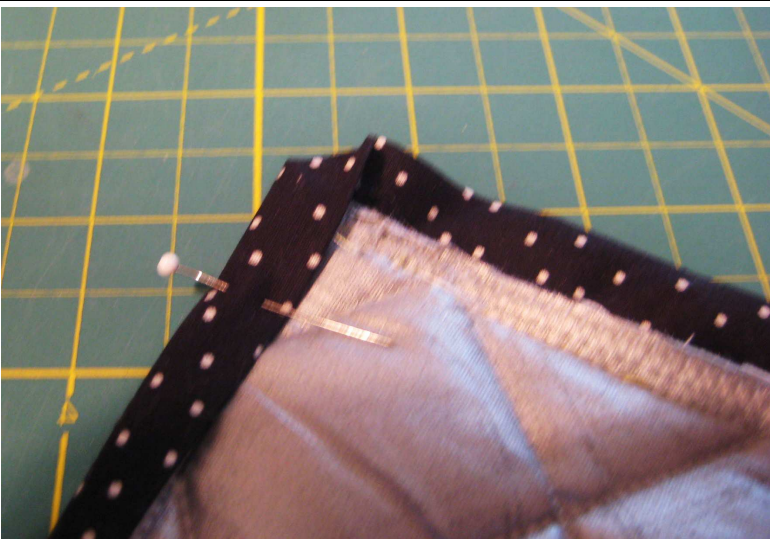
11. As you come within the last inch or so of your starting point, you are going to stop with your needle down. Open the folded end of the binding from your starting point and tuck the raw end into the first part of the binding. Align things up neatly and sew in place.



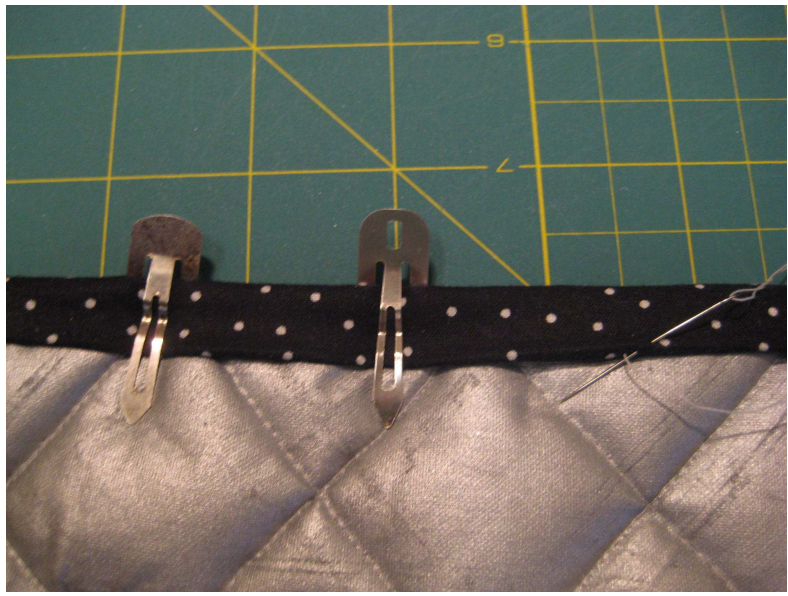
When you have finished stitching the binding all the way around, it should look something like this with those funky corners sticking up.



12. Fold the binding over to the back side of your project to cover the raw edges.



13. Fold down one edge and make a nice clean fold like this.
Now fold the adjacent side down to create a nice mitered corner. Pin or clip to secure that nice corner in place.



14. Use a hand needle to stitch the folded edge down.

Clips like these work very well. I use them every time I bind a quilt. Saves my fingers from getting stuck by sharp pins.

*****Tute Tip***** Quilt shops and fabric stores sell these handy little silver clips for quilting. You can save some money by getting the little girl hair clips at a dollar store or discount store. Who cares what color they are ??



I hope this has been a helpful "Tute"

Happy Stitch'n.

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