

MATCHING BINDING TO PIECING

SYLVIA SCHAEFER



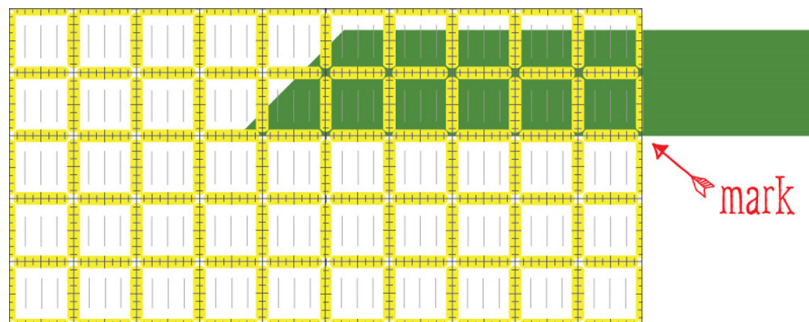
When your quilt needs a little bit of a frame, but you don't want it to detract from the lines in your design, matching pieced binding to your quilt can be a good solution.

MATCHING STRAIGHT BINDING

1. Measure the length of your finished segment after quilting (quilting, particularly dense quilting, generally shrinks your blocks to some degree).
2. Add 1/2" to account for seam allowance and cut your binding strip to that length. For example, if your quilt block measures 3 3/4" after quilting, you will cut a strip 4 1/4" by the width of your binding (I prefer 2").
3. Sew to other binding strips and press seams open to reduce bulk. Fold in half and press.
4. Pin the binding to the quilt, taking care to line up the marked seam intersections, and attach with a 1/4" seam.

MATCHING ANGLED BINDING

1. Measure the length of your finished segment after quilting.
2. Cut a binding strip 4-5" longer, and make a cut at a 45-degree angle at one end. If using a print with a defined right and wrong side, make sure the direction of your cut is the same as the direction on the block.
3. Add 5/8" seam allowance to the finished length and make a mark on your binding strip. (This measurement seems strange, but works out due to the geometry of angled cuts.)



4. Cut at a 45° angle using the mark on your ruler, repeat for additional blocks/binding segments, and piece the binding strips together using a 1/4" seam allowance, pressing seams open to reduce bulk.

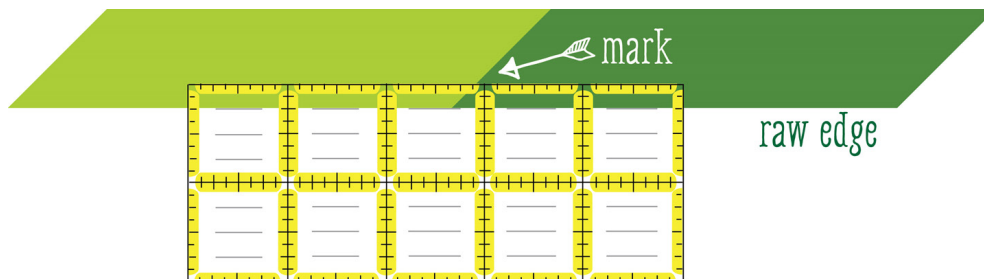


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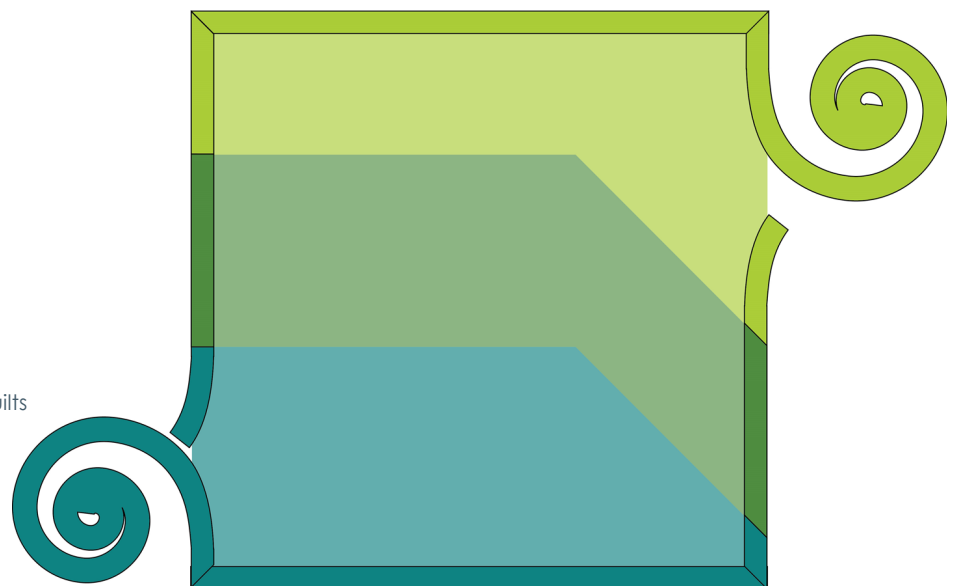


5. Mark the seam line on your binding and on the quilt top by lining up the raw edges with the 1/4" markings on your ruler.



6. Pin the binding to the quilt, taking care to line up the marked seam intersections, and attach with a 1/4" seam.

If multiple sides of your quilt have matched binding, you will gain the most accuracy by applying the binding in multiple strips. This just means you'll have more than one final join to make, which you can do using whatever technique you prefer. It is easiest to make those joins just above where a new binding strip begins, but if that is not possible you can attach the binding "backwards" (i.e. place the bulk of your quilt under the machine rather than to the left as is typical, and attach binding in a counterclockwise direction).



Sylvia Schaefer

www.flyingparrotquilts.com

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