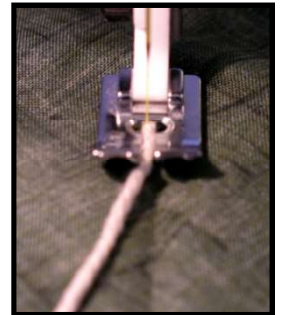


# Binding Barb's Way!

*Note: This is not intended as a replacement for hand sewing a binding, simply a method for quickly & easily attaching a durable, machine-sewn binding.*

## Prepare binding:

- Cut binding strips, either bias or selvage-to-selvage, as appropriate for the quilt you are binding. I like a wide finished binding, so I cut my strips 3" wide, usually on the bias, but you can cut the strips as narrow as 2¼". Seam strips together as you usually do, to make one continuous binding strip, long enough to cover the perimeter of your quilt, plus approx. 24".
- Measure enough cotton cord (Lily Sugar 'n Cream or similar - see sample) to fill the binding strip.
- Press the binding strip in half lengthwise.
- Sew the cotton cord into the binding strip, using a grooved presser foot (such as a cording or beading foot) and offsetting the cord just to one side of the center of the strip. I use a straight stitch and coordinate the thread color to match my binding material.
- Optional: Press the binding strip again - this makes it easier to handle as you sew it onto the quilt edge.



## Sew binding to quilt front:

- Sew the binding (with stitching on the top side) onto the front of your quilt, as you would normally do, leaving a 9-10" tail at the beginning. Use your walking foot, if necessary, to avoid shifting and wrinkles on the back. The size of your seam will vary, depending on the width of your cut binding. Sew a few inches of binding onto your quilt, then secure your stitches. Remove from the sewing machine and fold the binding over the edge of the quilt to check if the seam is the appropriate depth. The edge of the binding with the cord should cover the seam line on the back, without extending too far beyond the seam line.
- At the corner of the quilt, miter the binding as you normally would.
- Stop stitching approx. 10-12" from where you started, secure your stitches and remove from your sewing machine.
- Join the ends of the binding as you normally would, usually with a bias seam, pin onto quilt front and continue sewing. Be sure to clip the cord out of the seam allowance where you join the tails of the binding - otherwise the seam will be too bulky.



## Turn and pin the binding:

- Fold the binding over the cut edge of the quilt and pin along the "ditch" next to the binding, from the front of the quilt. Check to make sure that the binding edge (with the cord) extends beyond the "pinning line" on the back of the quilt. Also be sure to bury the ends of your pins into the quilt - otherwise you will wind up bleeding on your quilt at some point! Place pins with the points going counter-clockwise around your quilt (from the front) - that way you will be able to easily remove them as you reach them with the presser foot. I usually pin approx. 3" apart, more closely at the corners.
- Miter the corners as you normally would, with the bulk of the back binding laying away from the bulk of the front binding. Pin well.



## Final stitching of binding:

- Attach an edge-joining foot to your sewing machine (these are available for most brands or as a generic foot - contact your sewing-machine dealer for more information). Use thread in the bobbin to coordinate with your binding fabric, and thread on top to match your quilt top.

Stitch in the "ditch" next to the binding - the edge-joining foot's "spine" should ride between the curve of the binding on the top of the quilt and the edge of the binding with the cord inside on the back of the quilt. Remove pins as you stitch.

- You're done! No hand-stitching necessary! The binding will appear to be "stitched in the ditch" on the front and "top-stitched" on the back, with one stitching.



Front



Back

If you have any questions, don't hesitate to call or e-mail me:

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