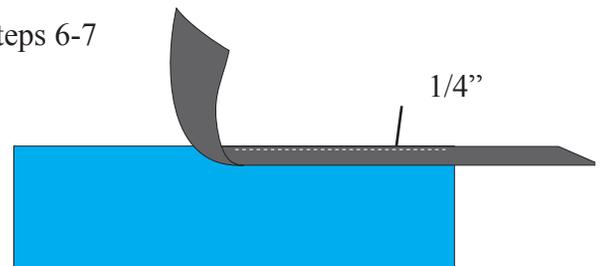


Binding

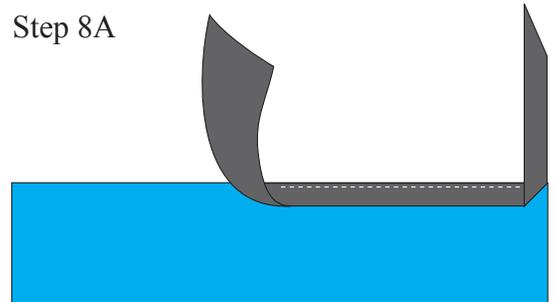
These are instructions for a standard 1/2" double-ply binding -- sometimes called a French binding.

1. Measure each side of your quilt. Add the measurements together to get the total length of binding that you'll need. Add at least 8" to this measurement, for insurance.
2. From the binding fabric, cut enough strips 2-1/2" wide to get the total length of binding needed, plus an additional 2-1/2" of length for each strip. If your quilt has only straight sides, you can cut these strips on the grain. If there are any curves, cut them on the bias (45-degree angle across your fabric).
3. Trim the ends of all the strips at a 45-degree angle, all in the same direction. (This is why you added the extra 2-1/2" in the previous step). Join all the strips end-to-end to make one continuous strip. Press the seams open.
4. Press the strip in half lengthwise with the right side of the fabric on the outside.
5. If you haven't already done so, square up the edges of your quilt.
6. Starting in the middle of a side, place the binding strip on the front of the quilt with the raw edges aligned at the raw edge of the quilt. The folded edge of the binding will face toward the center of the quilt. Pin, leaving about 6" loose at the starting end. Place the last pin exactly 1/4" before you reach the first corner of the quilt.
7. Using a 1/4" seam, sew from the first pin (remember to leave 6" loose at the starting end) to the corner. Stop exactly 1/4" from the first corner and backstitch. Remove the quilt from the sewing machine.
8. Now make a mitered corner: (A) Position the quilt on the table in front of you so that the side you just sewed runs from left to right. Fold the binding strip up (away from you) right at the stitch where you stopped sewing; the raw edge is now in a straight line with the side of the quilt that you will sew next. (B) Fold the binding straight down, matching the fold with the raw edge on the side where you just sewed the binding. Align the raw edge of the binding with the raw edge of the side you are about to sew. Pin from this corner to the next corner.
9. Stitch the binding all the way along the new side, and stop exactly 1/4" before you reach the corner.
10. Repeat Steps 8 and 9 until you have turned all the corners.
11. When you sew the last side, stop stitching about 6" before the starting point.

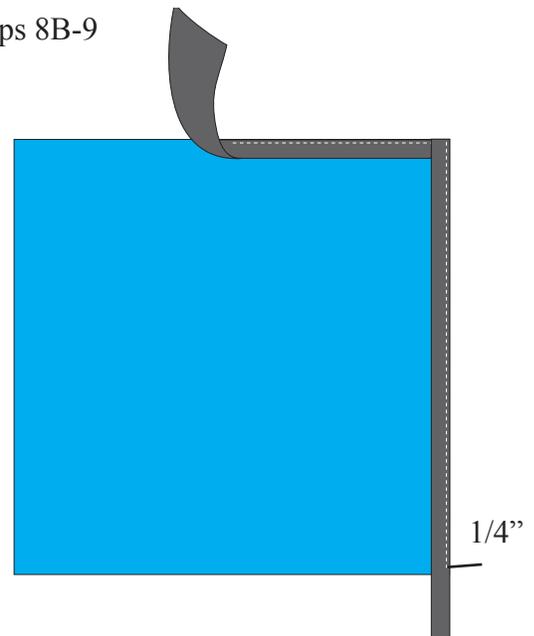
Steps 6-7



Step 8A



Steps 8B-9



12. Unfold both ends of the binding. Lay the open ends face-down on the quilt, aligned with the edge. The finishing end should be underneath the starting end. Use a ruler and pencil to mark where the starting edge lands on the finishing end.

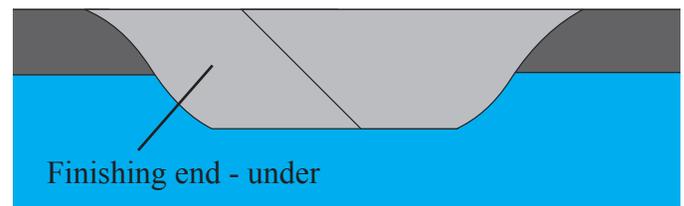
13. Fold back the starting end. With the ruler, mark a second line on the finishing end $1/2''$ toward the starting end, so that you are *adding* $1/2''$ to the marked length on the finishing end. Double check that you have marked in the right direction. Trim the finishing end on the second line. The starting end and the finishing end now overlap by $1/2''$, or two $1/4''$ seam allowances.

14. Pin both ends right sides together and sew them together with a $1/4''$ seam allowance. Press the seam open.

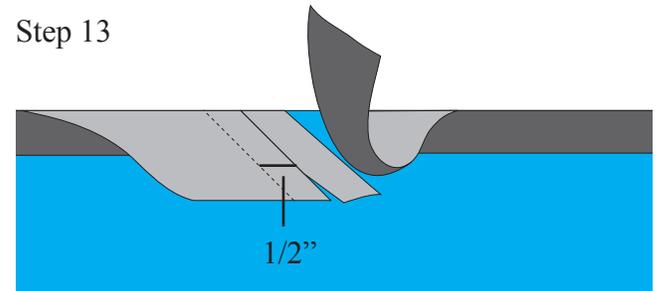
15. Re-fold the binding and finish sewing it to the edge of the quilt.

16. Flip the folded edge of the binding to the back side of the quilt and hand-stitch over the seam line. When you reach a mitered corner, fold it over the corner so that the diagonal fold on the back is on the opposite side from the diagonal fold on the front. (This distributes the bulk evenly.)

Step 12



Step 13



Step 14

