

Susie's Magic Quilt Binding: Creating a faux flange while adding the binding by machine



Magic binding is great when:

- You want a fancy finish or to repeat an accent color.
- You have an eminent deadline and don't have time to hand-stitch.
- You don't like to hand-stitch!
- The back of the quilt or quilted item will not be visible (e.g. wall hangings, table runners, etc.)
- Your quilted item will see major use and will be washed often.
- You don't have "quite enough" of the perfect fabric to make all the 2.5-inch-wide cuts you need for traditional binding.

For this technique, you will need a main binding fabric (outside edge) and an accent fabric (inside flange), plus thread to match your fabrics.

Outer Binding Strip: 1.5" wide* x circumference of quilt plus 10-12 inches.

Inner Accent Strip: 1.75" wide* x circumference of quilt plus 10-12 inches.

1. Trim the excess batting and back from your quilt. Then measure the perimeter and add 10 to 12 inches to determine the *finished* length needed for the binding.
2. Cut as many **1.5 inch strips** of the **main** (outer) binding fabric as you need to total the *finished* length of binding. Cut the same number of **accent** strips at **1.75** inches wide.*
3. Sew main fabric binding strips together using 45° angle to make one continuous strip. Trim seams and press them open. Repeat the process for the accent fabric strips.
4. Sew the main binding and the accent binding strips together, side-by-side, using **3/8"** seam*, taking care to stagger the diagonal seams to avoid bulk. Press to the main binding fabric. This will create a binding that is **2.5" wide**, with an **accent of .25" wide**.
5. Fold binding in half **WRONG** sides together, carefully matching raw edges, and press.
6. Clip/pin main binding fabric against **BACK** of the quilt, with the accent fabric facing up. Leave 5-6 inches of binding unattached at the beginning and 5-6 inches unattached at the other end.
7. Use a **1/4"** seam to sew the binding to the quilt, mitering corners as you would for regular binding, and leaving an opening of 10-12 inches between the beginning and the end.
8. Overlap the two ends of the binding by the width of the binding, (e.g. 2.5 inches), and trim. Open the binding ends and pin, being careful to match and pin where the seams cross each other. Sew open ends together at 45° angle, trim and press open. Fold binding in half, press, and finish sewing to the quilt back.
9. Roll binding to the quilt **FRONT** and clip/pin in place. Stitch "in the ditch" using a walking foot between the accent fabric and main binding fabric, or use a decorative stitch on the main binding fabric.
10. For a video tutorial, visit: <http://www.52quilts.com/2012/05/tuesday-tutorial-susies-magic-binding.html>

* **NOTE:** If you prefer a wider or narrower binding, adjust the seam width OR adjust the fabric widths when cutting: 1/4" difference between the two widths will give you 1/8" accent, 3/8" difference in widths will give you 3/16" accent, 1/2" difference in widths will give you 1/4" accent.