

# BINDING

## *Finish your binding with an invisible mitered seam!*

I make most of my bindings out of 2½ inch strips of fabric that I piece together with a diagonal seam. I make it long enough to go all the way around my quilt top with an extra 20 inches or so. Press the seams open to reduce the bulk; then fold the fabric widthwise and press.

To reduce the chance of the layers of your quilt shifting, use a walking foot. Move your needle to a position that will give you a ¼" seam allowance and begin stitching your binding on the quilt 6 inches or so above the first corner leaving yourself about a 10 inch tail. Remember to backstitch to secure. Continue sewing on your binding using the familiar mitered corners technique until you have finished the last corner. Sew until you have a gap about 12-20 inches before you come to the beginning of the binding; back stitch to secure. The larger the gap, the easier it will be to sew your mitered seam. **Diagram #1.**

Lay your quilt out on a flat surface and spread the ends of the binding out in the direction that they will eventually be sewn. **Diagram #2.** Overlap the ends as shown with the bottommost portion laying on top of the uppermost. Measure the overlap by how wide you originally cut your binding; in my case it would be 2½ inches. Cut the bottommost portion of the binding at this measurement as is indicated by the dotted line.

Open out the ends, place right sides together with the uppermost binding piece lying on top; **Diagram #3.** Sew a diagonal line from one corner to the other as the dotted line indicates. Before trimming the seam allowance, make sure that the binding isn't twisted. Trim the seam allowance; press the seam open and finish sewing.

You may now fold the binding to the back and hand stitch or machine stitch as desired.

