

FACED BINDING THE EASY WAY

Machine Quilling Unlimited Magazine – July\August 2014

Supplies:

- Your quilt sandwich, quilted, trimmed and squared
- Fabric for the facing
- Rotary cutter, ruler and mat
- Scissors
- Water soluble basting glue with a fine tip (Washable Elmer's School Glue with the fine tip works well for this technique)
- Hot, dry iron
- Spray Starch
- Cuticle Stick
- Polyester monofilament thread
- 50wt cotton thread for machine sewing
- Machine embroidery needles (Schmetz 75/11)
- Hand needles, thread and thimble for hand sewing

Step 1:

Lightly starch and press the fabric for the facing strips. Spray one side of the fabric, turn it over, and press it from the other side. This helps keep your iron clean, and will prevent any white flakes from getting on the fabric. Repeat 1-2 times on each side of the fabric.

Step 2:

Cut facing strips 2" wide, along the straight of the grain (parallel to the selvage). The number of strips needed will depend on the size of the quilt. Cutting along the straight of the grain will keep the binding strips more stable.

Strips can be cut the same length as the sides of the quilting when working on a smaller, or wall hanging size. For larger quilts, the ends of your 2" strips will need to be joined at 45-degree angles to cover the length of each side of the quilt. Press the seams of the joins open.

Step 3:

Turn and press over ¼" to ½" of one side of each facing strips. Each strip will have one turned edge and one raw edge per strip. This reduces the bulk that a folded binding would produce, and leaves the faced binding nice and flat.

Step 4:

Glue (use water-soluble glue) basting is used to attach each strip onto the quilt. This technique keeps the strips stable and accurate, and they do not shift as they are being sewn. Also, time is not spent putting in or taking out pins. Rest assured, the glue will wash out, and because the glue is heat set, it is perfectly safe for your sewing machine and needle.

First, draw a line of glue about 1/8" from the edge of one side of the quilt. Take one of strips and align it with the corner and edges of your quilt, right sides together. Heat set with a hot iron, dry iron for a few seconds.

Repeat on the opposite side of your quilt. These prepared strips should be even with the top and bottom edges of your quilt and parallel to each other.

Step 5:

Next, cut the last two strips 1" shorter than the sides of the quilt on which they will be placed. Then draw a line of glue along the edge of the quilt. Centre the strips so they are 1/2" shorter on each end of the quilt. Heat set in place.

Step 6:

Sew the facing strips down with a 1/4" to 1/2" seam allowance (the width of your preference). Begin at the top of one side and sew down to the bottom. Then start again at the top of the next side. This helps reinforce and secure the corners and also ensures that the corners will be square.

Step 7:

Sew across each corner, intersecting the seams on the diagonal to reinforce the corners. Clip the corners off, just a little bit past the diagonal seam.

Step 8:

Turn all four corners right side out. Use a cuticle stick to push the corners out so they will be nice and square. Be careful not to push the corners out too much as they could cause them to wing out.

Step 9:

Press the facing toward the back of the quilt on all four sides.

Step 10:

Beginning with the under-lapped facing strips, draw a line of glue about 1/8" to 1/4" from the edge of the facing on the wrong side of the strip. Turn the edge back over and hold the facing down with your fingers and heat set in place. Give the iron a few seconds to heat through the layers of fabric.

Repeat with the two overlapping sides.

Sewing by Hand:

The faced binding is now ready to sew. If the binding will be hand sewing, there is no need for any extra pins, clips or other contraptions. Use a matching 50wt. cotton thread and a hand sewing needle and thimble. I prefer to sew a ladder stitch, which makes the stitches virtually invisible. Bury the thread when you finish for a clean, professional look.

Sewing by Machine:

Another option is to sew the facing down by machine.

Set up your machine for a small zigzag stitch: 1.0 width, 1.3 length. Set the top tension to zero and use polyester monofilament thread in the top and bobbin. If you have a wing on your bottom case, pull the bobbin thread through it, as well. The author uses Schmetz 75/11 embroidery needle.

From the back of the quilt, fold one of the under-lapped sides of the facing under, so only 1/16" of the edge of the facing is peeking out. Place the quilt under the foot, and hand roll the needle into the fabric to check for placement. The key here is to catch just the edge of the folded side of the quilt, so only the fabric on the back of the quilt gets stitched through. Advance the needle one more time to make sure it zags over the edge of the quilt and onto the facing. The needle should just be on the inside edge of the facing, and should not go over the edge.

Stitch a few stitches, and then backstitch. Slowly and carefully sew down this side of the facing. Be sure to only catch the very edge of the quilt back, 2-3 thread fibers, of the zigzag. When you reach the corner of the under-lap, backstitch again. Take your time, and start this part slowly. Once you get the feel for where the needle needs to hit on the zig and the zag, your speed can be increased.

If you stitch too far on the inside of the quilt, a teeny tiny stitch on the front side of the quilt might be found. A few of these can be expected, but they should be barely noticeable. (Note: If you see that the edge of your facing is glued too closely to the edge, give it a little scrape with your fingernail to release the glue. This can be done as you go, because you will be sewing slowly.)

Stitch the overlapped sides of the facing last. Fold them under like the first two sides, and position them under your foot. The beginning and end of these side will be bulky, but if you are stitching slowly, you and your machine will be able to handle it.

Tie off and bury all of your threads, then give your quilt one final press with your iron. (Note: The monofilament threads can be clipped, but they are likely to unravel a bit and peek out. Tying off and burying them will keep them hidden.) A bit of steam from the iron can be used here. Steam will help replace the needle holes in the fabric, reducing their visibility. If the quilt is to be washed, the holes and stitches will also relax.

Your faced binding is complete, and looks gorgeous!