

## Binding & Finishing Quilts

All quilters have their own way of binding and finishing quilts and over the years I have read and seen all sorts of different ideas about this. In general it is up to the individual to decide how to do it. However, I thought I would write this tutorial for anyone who is interested or who is perhaps maybe new to quilting and would like some advice, so I hope this is helpful.

I always view the binding on a quilt as a sort of picture frame. It seems like a small detail, especially after you have just done a marathon project in making a quilt. However, it is actually the finishing touch that transforms the quilt top into something really special. I know some people don't like this part.... but I love it!

Choosing the binding fabric is really fun. I would usually recommend a reasonably strongly contrasting fabric to emphasise the edging on the quilt, but of course it is entirely a matter of choice. More often than not, quilters choose one of the fabrics already in the quilt and this can help to pull things together. Another alternative is to make a scrappy binding made up of all sorts of scraps that you have left from making the quilt. I love to do this and it is especially fun for children quilts. I always have an 'on the go' roll of scrappy binding - it helps keep the sewing room tidy and uses up left over fabrics. I just cut any odd pieces left into 2.5" strips and sew them on.



Whatever fabric you choose - you need to cut 2.5" strips. Enough to go around the edge of your quilt. To work this out you can use this little table to give you an approximate idea of how much fabric you might need.

SIZE OF QUILT	YARDAGE NEEDED FOR BINDING
Crib size quilt	quarter of a yard
Lap size quilt	quarter of a yard
Single bed size quilt	half a yard
Double bed size quilt	half a yard
King size bed quilt	three quarters of a yard