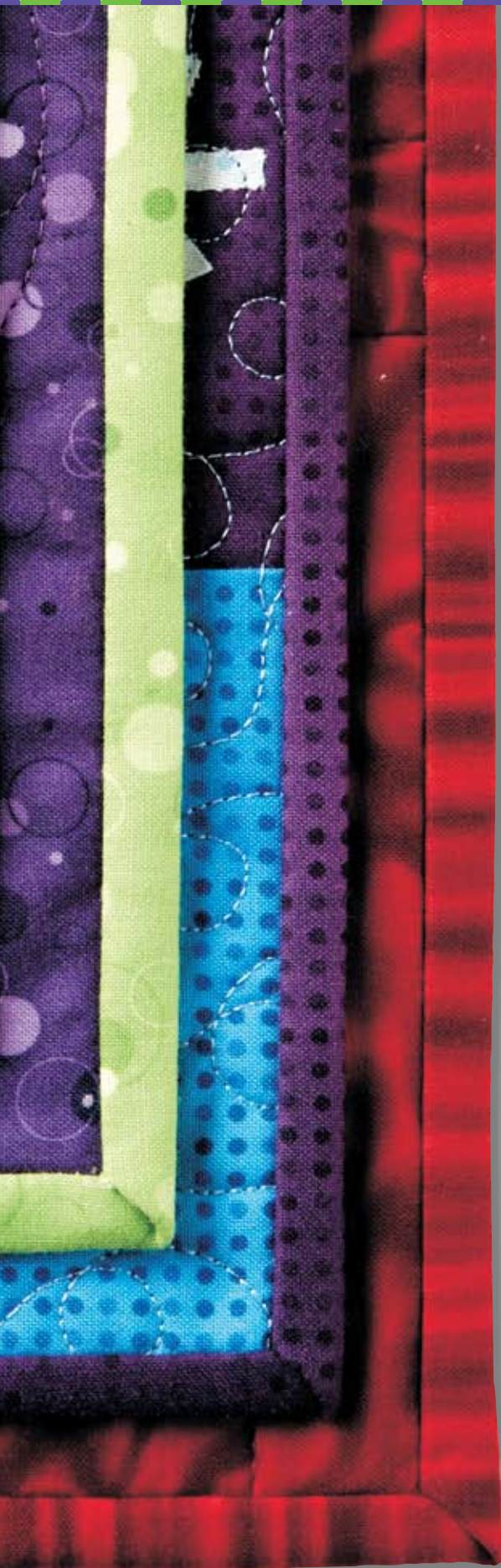


# Binding Basics

I have a little binding trick that I teach my students, and they always tell me that learning it is worth the fee they paid for the class. It involves cutting out a little of the bulk at the corners (similar to the way that clipping and grading works on a garment seam in fashion sewing).

I've seen many students who, after stitching their binding on, whack the corner off of the quilt with a diagonal cut beyond the seam line. What they removed with that cut was actually the foundation for a good corner. Don't do that! Instead, use my binding instructions to remove just a little bit that makes a big difference. These tips and techniques will help you get perfect corners on your binding.



1. Begin stitching the binding to the quilt approximately 6"–8" from the beginning of the binding strip, using a  $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance (*Photo A*).



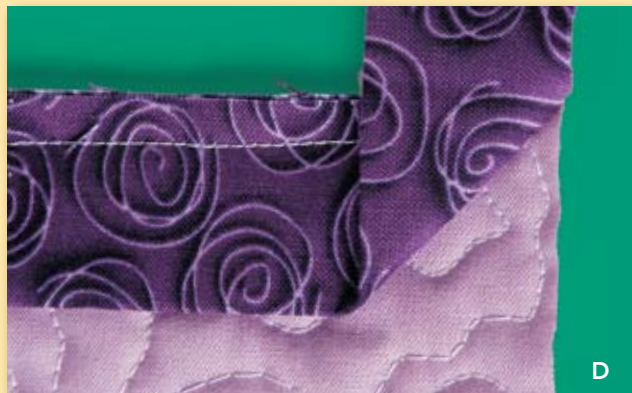
2. Stitch to  $\frac{1}{4}$ " from the corner; stop with needle in down position (*Photo B*).



3. Raise presser foot, pivot quilt, and stitch a line from this point through the corner of the quilt as shown in *Photo C*. Do not backstitch.



4. Fold the binding up, along the diagonal stitching line (*Photo D*).



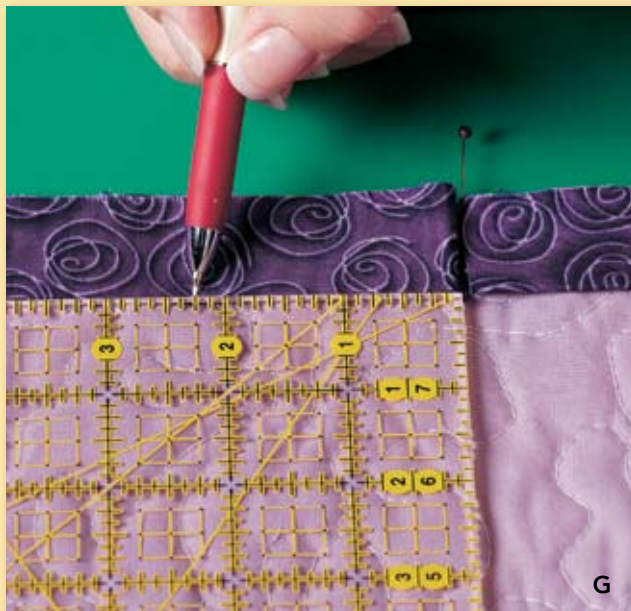
5. Fold binding down to align with the next edge to be stitched (*Photo E*). Continue stitching around the quilt, repeating steps #2–#5 for each corner.



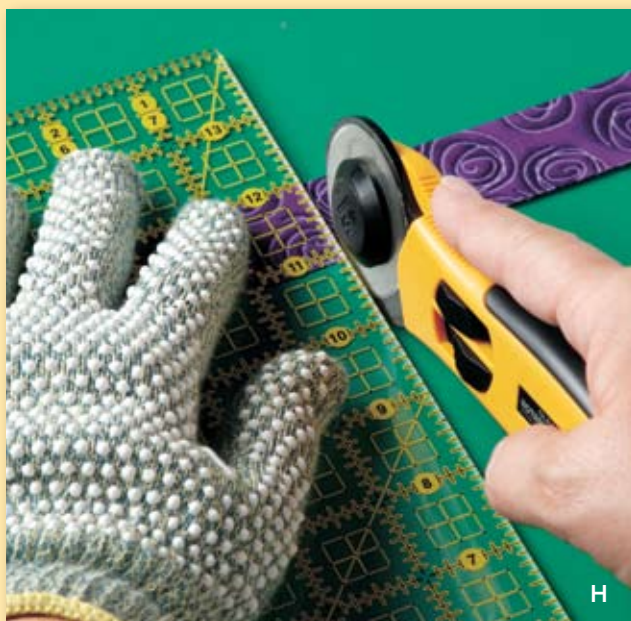
6. Stop stitching about 8"–10" from where you started. Fold binding back, butting the fold up to the beginning of the binding strip (*Photo F*).



7. To the left of the fold, mark the binding at whatever the measurement is for the width of your binding (*Photo G*). (For 2¼"-wide binding mark a line 2¼" to the left of the fold.)



8. Cut away the excess binding beyond the marked line (*Photo H*).



9. Open up the binding and place the two ends right sides together at a right angle as shown in *Photo I*. The wrong side of the beginning end of the binding should face up.



**10.** Pin the binding strips together and mark a stitching line from corner to corner (*Photo J*). Stitch along marked line to join the binding ends with a mitered seam. Trim  $\frac{1}{4}$ " beyond stitching. Press seam. Refold binding on crease. Finish stitching binding to quilt.



**11.** At each corner, slip the point of your scissors under the fold in the binding. Snip to the stitching line, but not beyond it. Lift up the seam allowance of the binding layers to reveal the diagonal seam stitched in Step #3. Remove the stitching of the diagonal seam (*Photo K*).



**12.** You have created a wedge of fabric that will be removed. (*Photo L*).



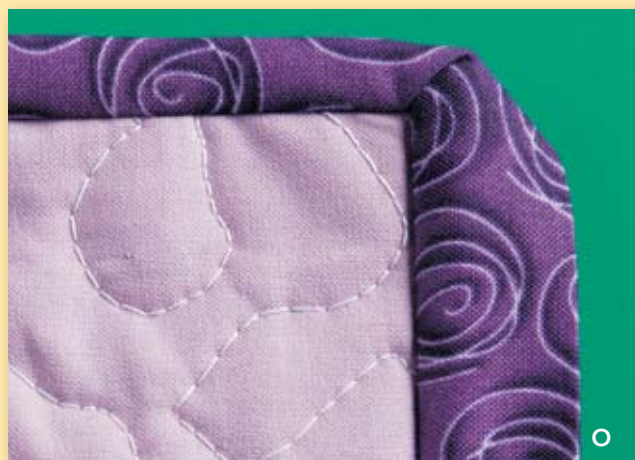
**13.** Pull the binding and the quilt seam allowances away from this wedge from above and below it (*Photo M*).



**14.** Cut away the wedge to the right of the seam line, being careful not to cut the binding or quilt (*Photo N*).



**15.** Press binding away from quilt top and turn to the back forming an angled fold (*Photo O*).



**16.** Pin or clip turned binding in place. Turn quilt to back side and turn the next side of the binding over as shown in *Photo P* to make a neatly mitered corner. Pin or clip binding in place and stitch to quilt back by hand. ★

