

Faux Piped Binding Tutorial

By Trisha Chubbs



I learned a really cool binding technique at a make it and take it night at my quilt guild, Evergreen Piecemakers in Kent, Washington. It looks more complicated than it actually is. It is all done by machine so it is fast and easy.

So let's get started!

As you can see on my quilt I used a green polka dot for the binding and a yellow for the accent color. So we will start out by cutting our fabric into strips. You will cut the binding strips (green polka dot) $1\frac{1}{2}$ " and the accent strips (yellow) $1\frac{3}{4}$ ". Cut enough strips of the binding fabric to go all the way around your quilt plus about ten inches or more. Now cut the same amount of the accent fabric.



I like a bias seamed binding. I think it looks nicer and there is less bulk than a straight seam. So to do this you will place your binding strips right sides together end to end (at a right angle) and sew them together like you see in the picture to the left. I have three strips so I had to do this twice to make my



binding into one long strip. Then do the same with your accent strips, sewing them end to end the same way.

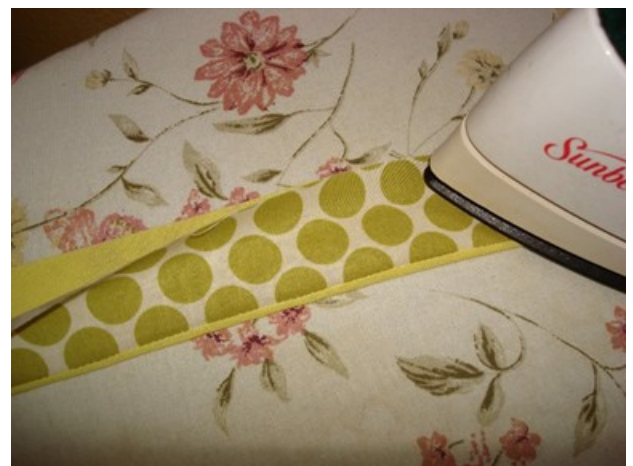
Trim the seams and then open it up and press the seams to one side. Do the same with the accent strip. So far we have prepared the binding and accent strips separately.



Now we are going to put them together. Lay your binding strip and your accent strip right sides together. Here is one of the places where it will be good to have given yourself extra binding length. You want to offset the seams so they don't hit at the same place. I left a couple inches in between to reduce bulk. Pinning your strips together to ensure that those seams don't creep toward each other when you are sewing is a good idea.

Now that your binding strip is all pinned to your accent strip go ahead and trim the ends nice and neat. Sew a $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam from one end to the other removing the pins as you go.

Ok here is where you have a choice. You can press the seam toward the accent fabric for a "stuffed" piping or you can press the seam toward the binding fabric for a "flat" piping. I am making a "stuffed" piping for this quilt.



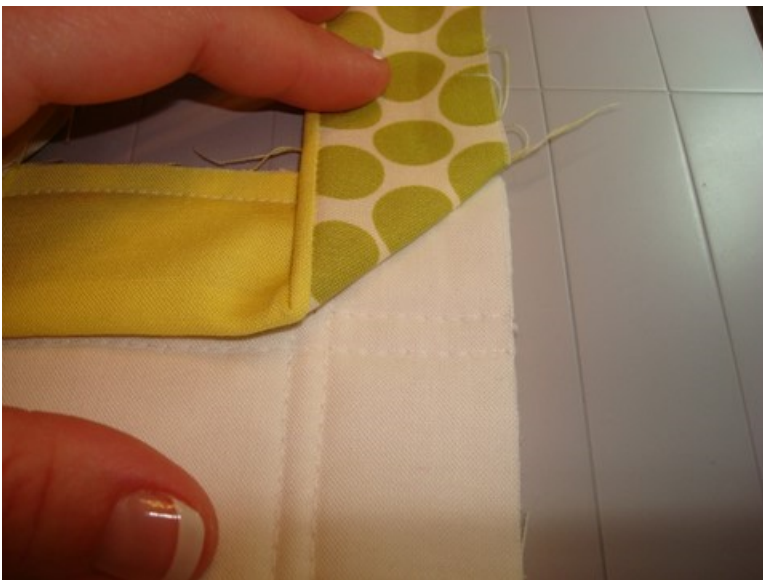
Now fold your binding in half with wrong sides together and press it.



Now your binding is all ready to sew onto the quilt. We are going to sew the binding to the **BACK** of the quilt, binding fabric side down, raw edge of the binding lined up with the raw edge of the quilt. I like to start in the middle of the side of the quilt and make sure to leave about five or six inches of your binding strip unattached to the quilt (for now). Don't forget to use a walking foot at this point. It will make it a lot easier.

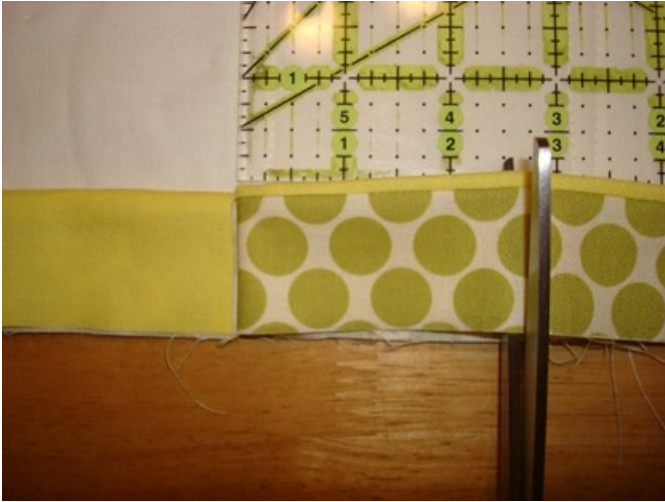
When you get to the corner of the quilt stop stitching a 1/4" from the edge and take a couple back stitches.

You are going to want to take your quilt off of your machine for this part. Flip the binding up so that it looks just like the picture below. Now you are going to fold it back down on itself.



Sew this side down continuing to use a 1/4" seam. Don't forget to backstitch that corner. Continue around the quilt until you are approaching where you started. You will want to stop sewing the binding down about ten or twelve inches from where you started.

We are going to sew the two ends together on the bias so the seam is just like the seams that we used to sew the strips together in the beginning. Lay your binding tails down so that one end overlaps the other. Fold the overlapping end back on itself so you see your binding fabric. Make sure the bend of the side you folded back lines up with the other end of your binding. Using scissors you are going to cut the binding that is folding back on itself $2\frac{1}{2}$ " away from the fold. Only cut the overlapping part NOT the binding that is resting against your quilt. You want to make sure you do all this at the midpoint between where your binding is stitched down so you have room to work.



Open up the binding and place the ends right sides together at a right angle (pictured above) just like we did in the beginning. It may be helpful to use pins to hold the ends together. This part can be tricky so you might want to use pins to act as your stitching just to test that you are sewing the ends the right way. I like to switch back to my normal $\frac{1}{4}$ " sewing foot for this part. Trim the seam.

This is how it should look after you have sewn the ends together.





Switch back to your walking foot and sew the rest of the binding down to the quilt with a 1/4" seam.

Now the pay off for all your hard work! Fold the binding around to the front of the quilt and you get to see how great it looks.



This binding method is sewn down by machine by stitching in the ditch between the accent fabric and the binding fabric. Make sure you cover the stitching (from sewing the binding to the quilt) with your binding. You will notice that when the binding is stitched down the accent fabric looks like piping and you can pull it back, so you want to make sure you can't see where you first sewed the binding to the back of the quilt.



Here is what it should look like all stitched down.



Here is how to fold and sew the corners.



Here is a picture of my quilt from the front.



And this is the back.



I hope this tutorial was helpful. If you try this method let me know. I would love to see it!