

5. Fold binding as shown in Figs. 50 and 51 and pin binding to adjacent side, matching raw edges. When you reach the next corner, mark $\frac{1}{4}$ " from edge of quilt top.

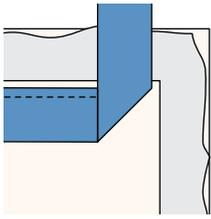


Fig. 50

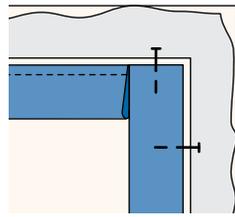


Fig. 51

6. Backstitching at edge of quilt top, sew pinned binding to quilt (Fig. 52); backstitch when you reach the next mark. Lift needle out of fabric and clip thread.

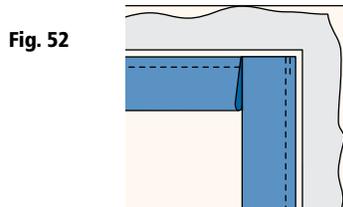


Fig. 52

7. Repeat Steps 5 and 6 to continue sewing binding to quilt until binding overlaps beginning end by approximately 2". Trim excess binding.
8. If using $2\frac{1}{2}$ "w binding (finished size $\frac{1}{2}$ "), trim backing and batting a scant $\frac{1}{4}$ " larger than quilt top so that batting and backing will fill the binding when it is folded over to the quilt backing. If using narrower binding, trim backing and batting even with edges of quilt top.
9. On 1 edge of quilt, fold binding over to quilt backing and pin pressed edge in place, covering stitching line (Fig. 53). On adjacent side, fold binding over, forming a mitered corner (Fig. 54). Repeat to pin remainder of binding in place.

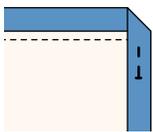


Fig. 53

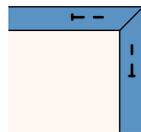


Fig. 54

10. Blind stitch binding to backing, taking care not to stitch through to front of quilt (see Fig. 21 on page 135).

MAKING A HANGING SLEEVE

Attaching a hanging sleeve to the back of your wall hanging or quilt before the binding is added allows you to display your completed project on a wall.

1. Measure the width of the wall hanging top and subtract 1". Cut a piece of fabric 7"w by the determined measurement.
2. Press short edges of fabric piece $\frac{1}{4}$ " to wrong side; press edges $\frac{1}{4}$ " to wrong side again and machine stitch in place.

3. Matching wrong sides, fold piece in half lengthwise to form a tube.
4. Follow project instructions to sew binding to quilt top and to trim backing and batting. Before blind stitching binding to backing, match raw edges and stitch hanging sleeve to center top edge on back of wall hanging.
5. Finish binding wall hanging, treating the hanging sleeve as part of the backing.
6. Blind stitch bottom of hanging sleeve to backing, taking care not to stitch through to front of quilt.
7. Insert dowel or slat into hanging sleeve.

SIGNING AND DATING YOUR QUILT

Your completed quilt is a work of art and should be signed and dated. There are many different ways to do this, and you should pick a method that reflects the style of the quilt, the occasion for which it was made, and your own particular talents.

The following suggestions may give you an idea for recording the history of your quilt for future generations.

- ❖ Embroider your name, the date, and any additional information on the quilt top or backing. You may choose embroidery floss colors that closely match the fabric you are working on, such as white floss on a white border, or contrasting colors may be used.
- ❖ Make a label from muslin and use a permanent marker to write your information. Your label may be as plain or as fancy as you wish. Stitch the label to the back of the quilt.
- ❖ Chart a cross-stitch label design that includes the information you wish then stitch it in colors that complement the quilt. Stitch the finished label to the quilt backing.

QUILT CARE AND STORAGE

To keep your quilt in good condition, keep it clean and air it regularly so dust and soil don't work into the fibers. Wash with a mild soap only when necessary. Dry cleaning is not recommended because it leaves a chemical residue. Never display a quilt in direct sunlight. Even indirect light through windows can fade the colors over time.

If you wish to store your quilt, you'll want to investigate safe storage methods. Attics and basements aren't a good choice because of extremes in temperature and moisture. Never store quilts in plastic, as it traps moisture and encourages the growth of mildew. If you have the space, roll the quilt around a tube covered in cotton fabric. Folding is potentially damaging to stored quilts, so layering crumpled acid-free tissue inside the folds helps support the fibers and protect them from long-term hazards. Fold it differently every time you replace the quilt after use. Wrap the whole quilt in a cotton sheet or pillowcase. ❖