



Binding Basics - Laura Blanchard

In this class you will learn how to make straight grain binding and apply it to a quilt that you have already quilted and is ready to be bound. Only quilts with straight sides (no scalloped borders) will be covered in class. If you don't have a completed quilt to bind, you can make a 24" quilt "sandwich" by pressing fusible batting between two layers of muslin (it does not need to be quilted).

***PREPARATION FOR CLASS: a. Your quilt (twin size or smaller) should be quilted and squared up so that all three layers are even (meaning you have cut away the excess of the backing and batting with a rotary cutter). If you have not quilted the outer border to within an inch of the outside edge, baste the layers together along the edges of the quilt - this can be done by hand or machine. It will be easier to apply the binding if you have sealed the three layers together along the edge.

b. Cut the number of 2 1/2" strips needed to bind your quilt (see formula below for figuring number of binding strips needed for your quilt).

SUPPLY LIST:

BRING TO CLASS WITH YOU: (in addition to your quilt)

--Book: "Happy Endings" by Mimi Dietrich

--Sewing machine

--1/4" presser foot

--walking foot (if you have one). It is preferable to use one when applying binding.

--thread to match your project

--straight pins with round (ball) heads

--pencil or chaco-liner (whichever will show up on the wrong side of your binding fabric)

--1" x 6" Omnigrid ruler

--rotary cutter

--cutting mat

--6" x 24" ruler

--Fabric for Binding: The following is a formula for figuring out how much fabric you need for binding your quilt:

Length of the four sides of your quilt + 12" ÷ 42 x 2.5 = yardage for binding

Example:

*If your quilt measures 52" x 70", the length of the four sides of your quilt would measure 244".

*Add 12" (to allow for joining ends of binding). 244" + 12" = 256"

*Divide 256" by 42" (the width of the fabric). 256" ÷ 42" = 6.09 (# of strips needed for binding)

*Round 6.09 up to next highest number, which is 7. You would need 7 binding strips.

*7 strips x 2.5" (width you will cut the binding strips) equals 17.5" (this is the exact amount you will need to make binding for a 52" x 72" quilt. But you should buy a little more.) That's about a half yard, but round that up to 5/8 yard to make sure you have enough fabric for squaring up, cutting mistakes, etc.

[NOTE: If you are using a plaid or striped fabric, allow at least 3/4 yd. for a lap size quilt or smaller and I will show you how to cut the binding on the bias in class.]

If you have reserved one of our shop machines to use in class, please also bring the following:

- Machine needle appropriate for your class. Please take your needle home with you at the end of class.
- Thread - Please use only good quality thread in our machines. We prefer Mettler or Aurifil for piecing. No WalMart thread, no cotton-covered polyester, please.
- We will provide you with one bobbin for use in class. If you prefer to buy your own, we also sell the bobbins here.

Notes:

- Please do not arrive more than 10 minutes before the start of class to allow the teacher and shop staff time to prepare the classroom. If your class requires a sewing machine, try to arrive a few minutes early to get your sewing machine set up.
- If you have reserved one of our shop machines, we will provide bobbins for your use. We do not provide thread. If you want a particular needle for your class, please bring it; otherwise you will be using whatever needle was left in the machine.
- In consideration of other students and employees with allergies, please limit your use of scented personal products when attending one of our classes.
- If your class requires a sewing machine, please be sure that you are familiar with its operation, it is in good working order, and bring your manual along to class just in case!

- Cancellation policy: If the class minimum is not met within seven days prior to the class, it may be cancelled and you will be notified and will receive a full refund. Please keep this possibility in mind when you purchase supplies for your class. No refunds of class fees will be given if student cancels within the one week prior to class.