

quite enough to close the corners neatly or to cover the seam used to secure it through all layers. Extra binding width is also very helpful when a high loft batting is used.

**3.** Join the strips with diagonal 45-degree seams. Trim the seam allowances to  $\frac{1}{2}$ in and press the seams open to help distribute the bulk. Fold the binding in half lengthwise with the wrong sides together and press lightly.

### Preparation of the quilt

**1.** Layer the quilt top with the batting and backing fabric and baste or pin the three layers together. Quilt as desired.

**2.** Trim the batting and backing along the edge of the quilt top, ensuring that all sides are straight and the corners are square.

### Attachment of binding strips

**1.** Begin at the centre of one side of the quilt and align the raw edges of the binding with the raw edge of the quilt top.

**2.** Leave an unpinned tail of at least 4in of binding at the beginning, then pin several inches of binding to the quilt through all three layers. Do a quick alignment around the rest of the quilt, without pinning, to check that no seam allowances in the binding will be at a corner of the quilt where they would create bulk. If a seam allowance falls at a corner, adjust the starting point and recheck.

**3.** Using a walking foot and  $\frac{1}{4}$ in seam allowance (or the seam allowance you chose when you made the quilt binding), sew the quilt binding to the side of the quilt through all layers, leaving the beginning tail free. Stop sewing  $\frac{1}{4}$ in (or the seam allowance you are using) from the first corner. Back stitch and cut the threads.

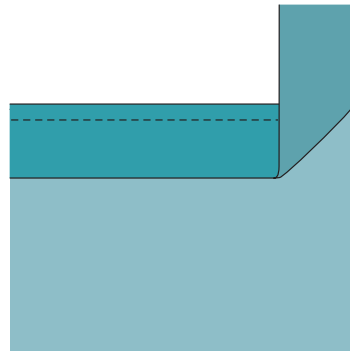


Diagram 1

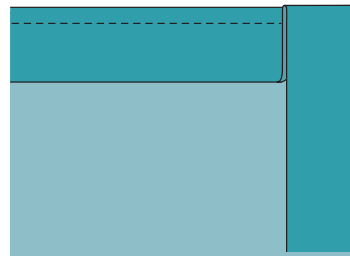


Diagram 2

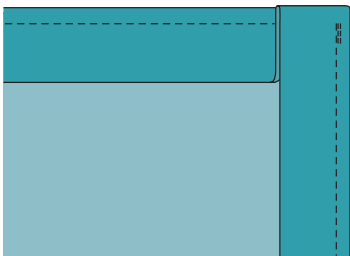


Diagram 3

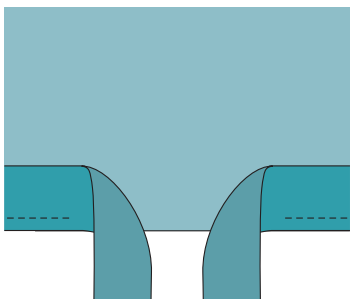


Diagram 4

**4.** Remove the quilt from under the sewing machine foot. Following Diagram 1, fold the binding upward and away from the quilt, creating a diagonal fold.

**5.** Hold the fold in place and bring the binding in line with the next edge of the quilt. Start sewing where the last seam ended, then sew one or two back stitches before continuing to sew down the side of the quilt. The 45-degree angle should be intact under the fold.

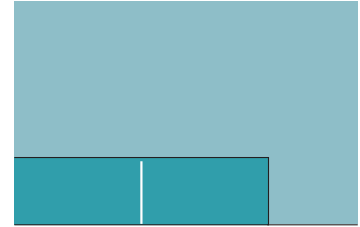


Diagram 5

**6.** Pin the quilt binding to the sides of the quilt or align it as you sew. Mitre the remaining corners in the same way as the first. On the final side of the quilt, leave an unstitched gap of 8in to 10in so it is easy to work with the tails of binding. Back stitch to secure the stitching.

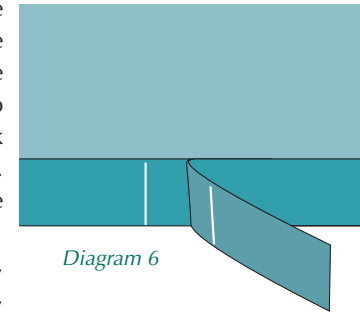


Diagram 6

**7.** Following Diagram 5, place one tail down flat and, with a chalk marker, make a line at the end equal to the total width of your binding (in my case, 2in).

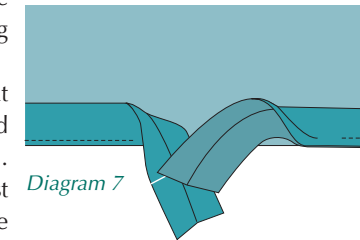


Diagram 7

**8.** Lay the second tail flat and very slightly stretched so it overlaps the first tail. The chalk line on the first tail will dust off onto the second tail (see Diagram 6). Trim the second tail at the chalk line.

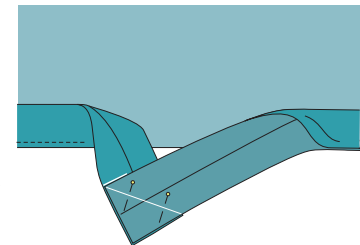


Diagram 8

**9.** Open out the ends of the tails (Diagram 7) and pin them, right sides together, at right angles.

**10.** Mark a stitching line at a 45-degree angle across the corner of the binding and stitch along the marked line following Diagram 8.

**11.** Trim the seam allowance and press the seam open to distribute the bulk.

**12.** Following Diagram 9, pin the binding flat along the edge of the quilt and stitch to complete the seam attaching the binding. The join hardly shows!

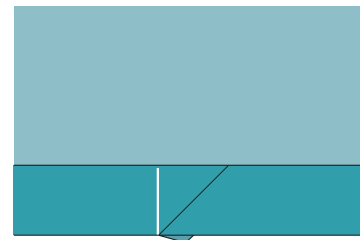


Diagram 9