

TIPS:

1. This method works with fabric cut on the bias or the straight-of-the-grain, but bias cut binding will stretch unless handled carefully. Start with a smaller quilt and binding cut on the grain while learning this new method.

2. The only time I had problems is when I did the arithmetic wrong. Here are conversions of fractions to decimals so you can add it up on the calculator:

$1/8" = .125$; $1/4" = .25$; $3/8" = .375$; $1/2" = .5$; $5/8" = .625$; $3/4" = .75$; $7/8" = .875$

"Binding in the 21st Century"

Part 1: Accurate Machine Topstitched Binding

Between arthritis and time management, I don't always have time to blindstitch the binding by hand. But I still want a professional, clean finish with my binding. I figured out a way to use a shortcut but still have a great looking finish.

1. Use your favorite method to sew a double French fold binding to your quilt (or use my "Sew The Binding Into A Loop First" method). Cut and sew the binding so it will overlap the stitching line by about $1/8"$.
2. Turn the binding to the back of the quilt and pin. In a perfect world, the folded edge will always fall about $1/8"$ over the line, but if it doesn't, do what we do best: fiddle with it.
3. From the back of the quilt, hand-baste along the outside edge of the fold. Use large stitches ($1/4"$ to $1/2"$) and consistently stitch along the fold. This line will be the stitching guide from the front of the quilt.

Tip: Hand blindstitch the mitered corner, about an inch on either side of the miter.

