

How to Put a Facing on a Quilt (instead of a binding)

1. Square off and trim your quilted quilt (top, batting and backing) so that all layers are equal sized.
2. Measure the length and width of your quilt.
3. Choose a facing fabric that matches or closely coordinates with your top.
4. There are two options for the type of the facing strips:
 - Option A: single layer facing - cut facing strips 2 1/2" wide and press 1/4" to the back side along one edge
 - Option B: double layer facing - cut facing strips 4" wide then press in half matching the long raw edges as you would when making a traditional binding

* You can make these strips narrower or wider depending on the size of the piece you are facing and what feels comfortable to you.
5. Cut 2 facing strips that measure the width of the quilt for the top and bottom. Cut 2 more strips that measure **1" shorter** than the **length** of the quilt for the sides. Piece strips with diagonal seams if necessary to get the proper measurements.
6. Attach the top and bottom facing strips to the **front of the quilt** with the right side of the facing strip to the front of the quilt. Sew a 1/4" seam from edge to edge using a walking foot and a slightly smaller stitch length. You may want to stitch from the quilt side.
7. From the front side of the quilt press the facings up and away from the quilt top then turn the quilt to the back side and press the facings down over the back of the quilt. The seam line should be on the edge of the quilt or a bit onto the back side. This pressing is just to give the facing a "memory" of its final position.
8. Return the facings to their original location on the front of the quilt and place a few pins along the bottom edge to hold them in place.
9. Center and pin each side facing piece on the front of the quilt. The facings should be about 1/2" short at each end and will go over the top and bottom facing pieces.
10. Sew these side facings from quilt edge to edge backstitching at the ends. Stitch back and forth diagonally across each corner where the facing seams intersect. Trim off the corners outside the stitching line.
11. From the front press the **side** facings up then turn the facings to the back and hand stitch in place.
12. Turn the top and bottom facing strips to the back and push out the corners. Press and hand stitch.

YouTube has multiple videos showing variations of this technique.