

Magic Continuous Bias Binding

Fabric for bias binding traditionally is cut diagonally, which requires more yardage than other binding types. For less fabric waste, try preparing bias binding using a single square of fabric.

1. Determine what size square you need for your binding length using the process, *below*. Cut a square of fabric to that size.

Multiply your quilt perimeter by binding strip width to find the total inches of bias binding you need. For example:

Quilt perimeter: 350"
Bias binding strip width: 2½"
350" × 2½" = 875".

Find the square root of the total and round up to the next whole number.

The square root of 875" is 29.6"; round up to 30".

Add 3" for seaming strips together.
30" + 3" = 33".

In this case, a 33" square of fabric would be needed for bias binding.

2. Cut the square in half diagonally to form two triangles. Align short triangle edges (Photo A).
3. With right sides together, sew short triangle edges together with a ¼" seam allowance (Photo B). Press seam open.
4. On the wrong side of the fabric, use a ruler and a fabric marker or pencil to draw lines parallel to long bias edges, spacing lines the desired width of binding strip (Photo C).
5. With right sides together, bring straight-grain edges together to create a tube. Align raw edges and offset corners so marked lines align (Photo D).
6. Pin offset raw edges together, keeping marked lines aligned. Sew pinned edges together with a ¼" seam allowance (Photo E); press seam open.
7. Cut fabric tube on marked lines in a continuous spiral (Photo F) to create a bias binding strip.
8. Prepare bias binding strip as a double-fold binding and sew it to your quilt.

