

Block of the Month - Binding

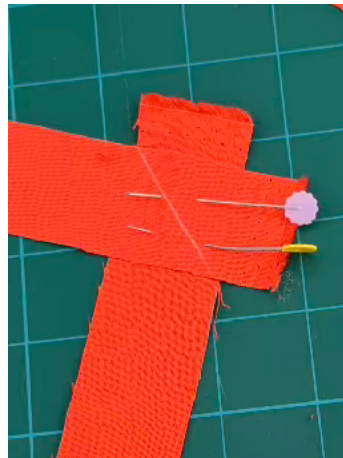
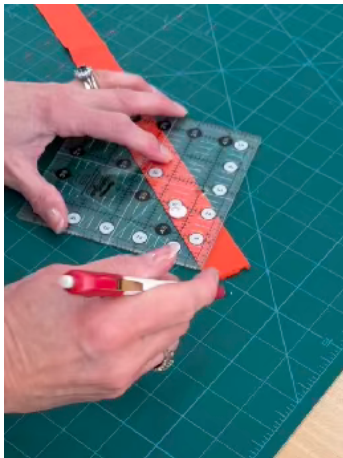
The final step to finish your BOM quilt is the binding. This encloses the raw edges of the quilted blocks. You can use the same fabric as the sashing which will frame the blocks or an alternative fabric.

The length of the binding needs to go all the way round the 4 sides of the quilt plus about 12 inches to account for the corners and joining the strips. Cut the strips to the desired width. For a double binding a common width is 2 1/2 inches, but if you want to do a single binding you can use 1 1/4 inches.

These instructions show how to do mitred corners, but if you prefer, you can use other methods such as straight binding or flange binding.

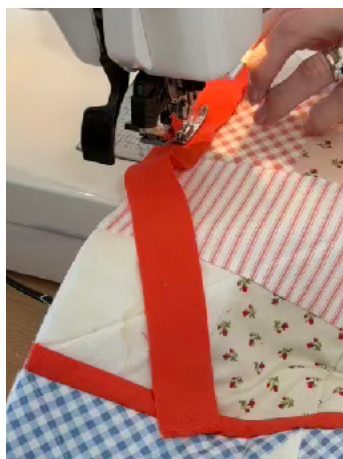
Joining the strips

Using a ruler, draw a pencil line on the wrong side of the fabric, at 45 degrees across one end of the first strip. Place this strip on top of the second strip, right sides together, as shown below and pin in place. Sew on the pencil line. Repeat for subsequent strips. Trim the seam to 1/4 inch and press seams open. This will reduce the bulk in the binding when it is attached to the quilt.



Attaching the strip

If you are using a 2 1/2 inch strip, fold it in half. Place the binding strip on top of the quilt with the open edge of the folded strip to the edge of the quilt and stitch using a 1/4 inch seam. If you are using a single binding make sure that you sew with right sides together. Start sewing about 8 inches from the end of the strip - you will join the ends later when the strips meet.

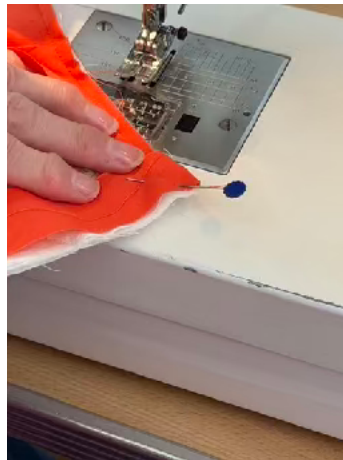


Mitred Corner

Sew the binding along the edge of the quilt, but stop sewing 1/4 inch from the corner. Pivot and sew diagonally to the corner of the quilt. You might find it easier if you use a ruler to find the point 1/4 inch in from the corner of the quilt and mark this with a pin. Fold the strip up as shown in the photo below, then fold back down so that the edge of the strip lines up with the next side. The fold at the top should line up with the edge of the first side.



Use a pin to feel where the folded edge is and pin along this line to hold the fold in place. Sew along the second side of the quilt, starting 1/4 inch from the end. Use the pin holding the fold in place to identify the starting position. Repeat for the other corners.



Joining the ends of the binding strip

When you get to the final edge of the quilt, stop stitching about 10 inches from the start. You should have two loose ends of the binding strip. Lay out the two ends so that they overlap. Make a small (1/16 inch) notch in the centre of the overlap. This will mark where the edge of the joining seam will be.



Using the notch as a guide pin the two ends of the strip together making sure that they are not twisted. It may be useful to mark the 45 degree angle with a pencil as in joining the strips. Sew the strip together. Check that it is sewn correctly then trim the seam and press open. Pin the edge of the binding strip to the top of the quilt. This will help to ease in any slight excess fabric. Sew the final part of the binding strip to the quilt.



Folding the Mitre

When the binding strip has been sewn into place, fold it to the back of the quilt. As you open out the corner you will see the miter on the front of the quilt. Fold the binding to the back and stitch into place. If you don't want to stitch it by hand you can use one of the fancy stitches on your machine .

