

# Frame Facing

Some quilts are better faced than bound.

This method of facing keeps seams out of the corners and works well for art style quilts. I highly recommend purchasing 1/8" wide grosgrain ribbon and stitching it next to the edge of the quilt. This will stabilize the edge and eliminate "wavy" sides. When you stitch it down, just overlap the ribbon at the corners.

Cut the facing fabric strips 3" wide to fit around the quilt with a couple inches extra for seaming.

(See the illustration at the right.) Cut two strips to fit the sides. Then cut two more strips to fit between the side strips for the top and bottom.

Allow for a 1/4" seam at each end of the strips.

(I pin these in place, stitch, see how they fit the quilt, and then trim off the excess fabric.)

When you stitch the facing strips together, stitch to within 1/4" of the raw edge as seen in the illustration. Back tack. Press under 1/4" on the inside edges for the hem.

Place the facing on the right side of the quilt and pin it in place.

Use a 1/4" seam allowance to stitch the facing to the quilt.

Trim off excess fabric at the corners. Turn to the right side.

Push out the corners with a blunt stick.

(My choice is a chopstick.)

**Optional:** Pull the facing over the seam allowances and top stitch through the three layers. Get as close to the corners as you can. You will not be able to get all the way into the corners. (This is called under-stitching and helps to keep the facing in place.)

Pull the facing to the wrong side of the quilt.

Press the edges from the wrong side with a steam iron.

Hold the iron in place for a few seconds, then move along.

(Only let the edge of the iron come in 1" on the quilt.)

This will give the fabric a memory.

Hand stitch the facing to the back of the quilt.

Press again after stitching.

## Sleeve

Create a sleeve by cutting a piece of fabric 1 1/2" shorter than the width of the quilt by 8 1/2" wide.

Fold in half lengthwise, place right sides together, and stitch along each side toward the middle, leaving a 2" opening.

Trim excess fabric from the corners.

Turn to the right side using a blunt stick. Press.

Pin to the top edge of the back of the quilt.

Stitch the top and bottom edge to the quilt.

(You will automatically close the opening in the sleeve.)

Allow for about 1/4" of ease when you stitch the bottom edge.

(The stick will fit better in the sleeve.)

