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Speedy Binding Attachment with your Longarm

Hurry...that baby's coming whether the quilt is done or not! Is graduation really next weekend? The charity quilt auction is next Wednesday? If you find yourself up against a tight deadline, use this method to quickly attach the binding to your quilt.

For those of us who push quilting deadlines, this timesaving method is just the trick we need to get the binding on a quilt in record time. This method is quick, but perhaps best saved for those quilts where "done" is better than "perfect."

Since the quilt is stretched on the frame when you add the binding, it's possible that the edges could ripple once it's removed. To reduce this tendency, choose quilting designs that spill off the edges of the quilt as a way to stay-stitch the sides. You should also plan ahead, and load the quilt using a "floating method" so that your quilt top rests on the batting and backing instead of being secured to your take-up roller. You can also use your longarm machine to baste all the

sides of the quilt before you add the binding.

Follow these easy steps to use your longarm to attach the binding to your quilt:

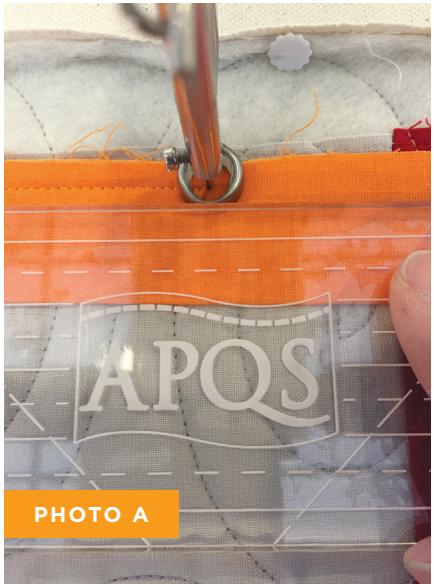
Step 1: Prepare binding strips using your favorite method. Mark the center of the long binding piece with a pin.

If the quilt is not squarely loaded or the edges are inconsistent, stitch a straight reference line across the top and sides of the quilt. A directional stitching lock (often called a channel lock) makes that process easy.

Match the center of the binding with the center of the quilt's top edge. Pin the binding to the quilt top along the stitched reference line, working from the center out to the edges.

Step 2: Align the needle $\frac{1}{4}$ " away from the raw edge of the binding. Stitch the binding to the quilt, working from the center out. If desired, use a longarm ruler and base as illustrated in *Photo A*. Be sure to keep the binding edge aligned with your reference line, not the edge of the quilt. If you have directional locks, use them for this step too.

Step 3: When you reach the corner of the quilt, stop sewing $\frac{1}{4}$ " away from the side reference line (*Photo B*). I added a pin on the side reference line. When the left edge of the foot reaches the pin, stop and backstitch to secure the corner.



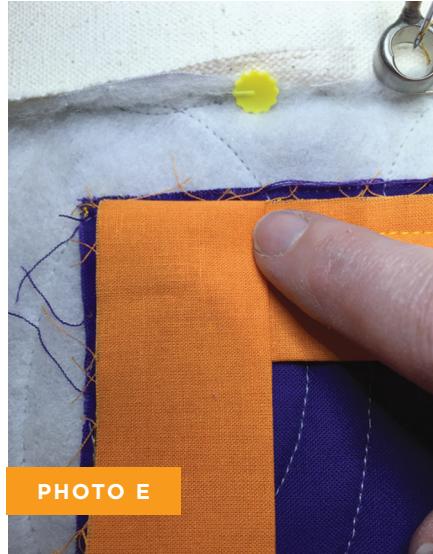
Step 4: After securing the threads in the corner, fold the binding away from the quilt at a right angle. This will form a 45-degree fold in the binding as shown in *Photo C*.

Step 5: Fold the binding strip back down along the quilt edge as in *Photo D*, keeping the binding's raw edge even with the reference stitching line you added along the quilt's edge. Be sure to keep the binding's fold aligned with the raw edge of the binding along the top edge as shown in *Photo E*.

Stitch the binding down the side of the quilt, aligning the raw edges of the binding with the reference line. Stitch as far down the side as you can and secure the thread tails.

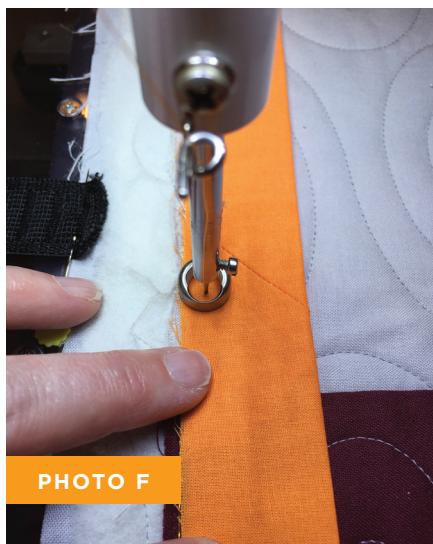
Repeat this process on the opposite side of the quilt, starting at top center and working as far down the side of the quilt as possible.

Step 6: Advance the quilt on the frame. Add reference lines first, using



directional vertical locks if you have them. Then position the binding next to the reference line and stitch it to the quilt, using the edge of the foot as a guide (*Photo F*).

Stop stitching the binding a few inches from the bottom of the quilt, and secure the thread. Baste the bottom of the quilt to the backing just inside the seam allowance. Cut the thread and continue with the binding process, mitering bottom corners.



Step 7: Stop sewing the binding to the quilt about 10" away from the bottom center of the quilt. Repeat on the opposite side, stopping about 10" away from the bottom center.

Step 8: Overlap the binding ends, and trim away excess on both strips until strips overlap about 3". Open the fold on one of the binding ends. Fold about $\frac{1}{2}$ " toward the wrong side as shown in *Photo G*.

Step 9: Tuck the raw end of the binding inside the folded end. Align the strips along the bottom reference line you added earlier. Sew the binding



to the quilt, taking care to keep the raw end tucked securely inside the folded end as shown in *Photo H*.

Remove the quilt from the frame, trim as necessary, and secure the binding to your quilt using your favorite finishing method.