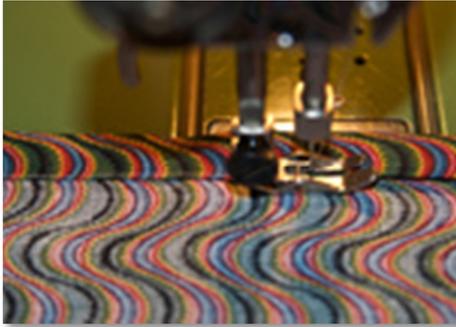


Making a Hanging Sleeve for a Quilt

Hanging sleeves add a nice finishing touch to your quilt, while preventing distortion and damage to the fabric. There are many methods for making a hanging sleeve. A variety of instructions can be found on the Internet. Feel free to use another method or one you already use to create the sleeve. The instructions below are based on the way I make my sleeves. Fabric choice is up to you. When I make a bed quilt, I typically use fabric that matches the back. If the quilt is meant for hanging on a wall, I might choose any fabric of reasonable length from my stash.



Cut a length of fabric that is 8 1/2" wide that is the length, or an 1" less, of the top of the quilt (the side that is to be hung). You may have to piece 8 1/2" wide strips together to make the full length. Turn in the sides (the narrow ends of the strips) to the wrong side of the fabric 1/2". Press with an iron. Turn sides in again another 1/2". Press. Sew a hem along the edge of the seam (see photo at left).

Press the sleeve in half, wrong sides together, lengthwise along the strip. If you have not already completed your quilt, you can align the raw edges of the sleeve to the raw edges of your quilt that is squared and ready to be bound. Then it can be sewn at the same time that the binding is applied. Center the sleeve along the back side of the top edge of the quilt and pin the raw edges of the sleeve to match the raw edges of the quilt (photo below).



Stitch the binding to quilt, incorporating the raw edges of the hanging sleeve. Fold binding to the back of the quilt and tack down binding as you normally do, being sure to slip stitch through the backing fabric.

If you are adding a sleeve to a completed quilt, simply center the sleeve approximately 1/2" to an 1" under the binding, pin the lower edge of the sleeve to the quilt, and slip stitch the sleeve in place on all four sides. Make sure that stitches are going through the backing of the quilt but not through to the front of the quilt.

Many thanks to member Kirsten Reed for these instructions!