

HOW TO SELF-BIND ANY QUILT TOP

Tip: Having your quilt top quilted before binding or using a thicker backing fabric such as flannel or cuddle fabric works best for this self-binding method.

1 figure backing

Step 1: Measure the width and length of your quilt top in 3 places and use the average of those measurements to determine the dimensions of your quilt top. Write the average measurements in the white boxes below. Add 10" to both the width and the length to determine the size of your backing and write these in the grey boxes below.

Step 2: Backing fabric comes in varying sizes—typically 42", 45", 60", 90", and 108". To determine the number of backing yardage sections, use the following calculations:

If your backing width measurement is **equal to** or **less than** the width of your backing fabric, skip to Step 3 and put "1" in the number of sections box.

If your backing width measurement is **greater than** the width of your backing yardage, use the space below to calculate how much backing fabric is needed. Divide your backing width by the backing fabric width. Round this number up to the nearest whole number to determine the number of sections you will need to multiply by.

Step 3: Take your backing length and multiply by the number of sections needed to determine your total in inches. Divide this number by 36" to determine your yards of backing fabric needed. Round up to the nearest ¼ yard for ordering.

If you had more than 1 section in the previous formula, you will need to cut your backing yardage in the number of sections determined, and sew the sections together to create your backing. Most backings will only have 1 or 2 seams.

Trim your backing to the backing width and backing length dimensions you have determined.

Step 1

$$\boxed{} + 10'' = \boxed{}$$

quilt top width *backing width*

$$\boxed{} + 10'' = \boxed{}$$

quilt top length *backing length*

Step 2

$$\boxed{} \div \boxed{} = \boxed{}$$

backing width *backing fabric width*

$$\text{round up to the nearest whole number} = \boxed{}$$

number of sections

Step 3

$$\boxed{} \times \boxed{} = \boxed{}$$

backing length *number of sections* *total in inches*

$$\div \boxed{} = \boxed{}$$

36'' *total yards of backing fabric*

2 pin

Find the center of each side of the quilt top and the backing by folding the side in half and finger-pressing. Mark each crease with a pin.

3 sew

Lay the quilt top on the backing, right sides together. Line up the raw edges of the 2 top sides and pin the centers together first. Continue pinning along the edge from the center out. Sew a $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam from the center out, stopping $\frac{1}{4}$ " before the quilt top's corner. Backstitch at the ends. **3A**

Repeat for the sides, stopping $\frac{1}{4}$ " before the corners. The larger backing fabric will bunch behind the smaller square and form bunny ears at the corners. Repeat along the bottom edge, but leave a 5" opening in the middle and backstitch on both sides of the opening. **3B**

4 miter corners

Work with 1 corner at a time. Bring 2 adjacent sides of the quilt top together, folding it diagonally to the inside, wrong sides together. **3B**

With the quilt top now hidden inside, lay the quilt on a flat surface. The wrong side of the backing will be folded along 1 side with a line of stitching visible along the opposite side. Place a ruler's edge along the fold. **4A**

Draw a line along the ruler's edge, from the end of the stitching to the fold. Sew on the drawn line. Trim $\frac{1}{4}$ " away from the seam. Clip the corner close to the seam. Repeat to miter the 3 remaining corners. **4B**

5 finishing

Turn the quilt right side out through the opening. Gently push out the corners. Turn the raw edges of the opening to the inside and press. Use a straight, zigzag, blanket, or decorative stitch to sew along the seam where the quilt top and backing meet. This will close the opening as well. **5A**



