



a free project
compliments of
K. Grace Howes

Facings: An Alternative to Traditional Bindings

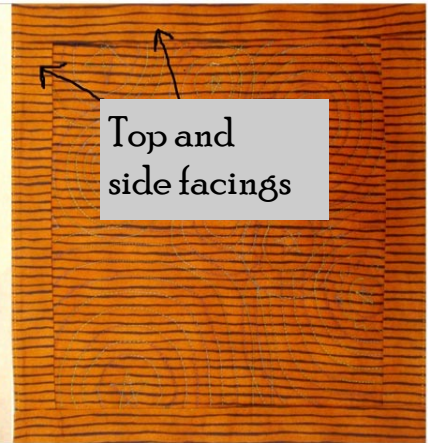
There are many ways to finish a quilt.

Traditional Binding, whereby strips are cut, joined end to end and stitched onto the quilt is by far the most popular.

The "*Escape Hatch*" or pillow case finish is just that...an escape through a slit at the back of the quilt so that it can be turned right side out.



Quilt Front



Quilt Back

My favorite method however is the *Facings Finish*. I find that that this technique gives the most clean finished edges because it folds completely to the back.

It is especially useful for small art quilts because there are not any distractions to interfere with the art on the front.

Supplies:

- fabric strips -2 1/4" x length needed
- fusible webbing
- thread to match

Please note that for demonstration purposes I used two different fabrics so that you can clearly see how each side is positioned as you sew.

I usually use the same fabric as my backing so that the facing and the backing blend as one continuous piece.

BTW, a walking foot is ideal to help move the 3 layers along but, for some steps I do use my 1/4" foot instead.



Square quilt (if necessary).

Step 1. Cut 4 strips $2\frac{1}{4}$ " x the length of each side. e.g. for an 18" x 24" finished quilt cut 2 strips 18" long and 2 strips 24" long.

Step 2. Fold over $\frac{1}{4}$ " on one end. Press along fold.



Step 3. Cut 2 —1" strips from fusible web the length of each side measurement above. Set up



strips with folded edges of 2 strips (same length) facing each other like above.

Step 4. Center fusible web on strips and fuse in



place. DON'T let folds overlap while fusing.

Step 5. Crease release paper of fusible web by folding in half.



Cut along center line.



Note: Go slowly and be careful to not nip folds as you are cutting.

For this next step I start with the top and bottom strips.

Step 6. Peel off release paper for top strip. Pin to **front** of the quilt at the top aligning edges.

Step 7. Start stitching at folded edge, backstitching at beginning and end (next photo).

backstitch at beginning.....take 1 diagonal stich at corner....backstitch at end



Turn quilt and take one diagonal stitch across corner (2nd photo above).

Turn again and continue to end taking another diagonal stitch at other corner. Repeat for bottom strip

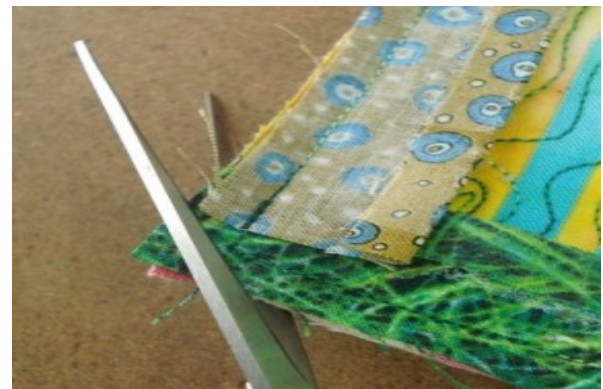
Step 8. Peel off release paper of one of the side strips and pin to quilt, overlapping just past the folded edge of 1st sewn strip.



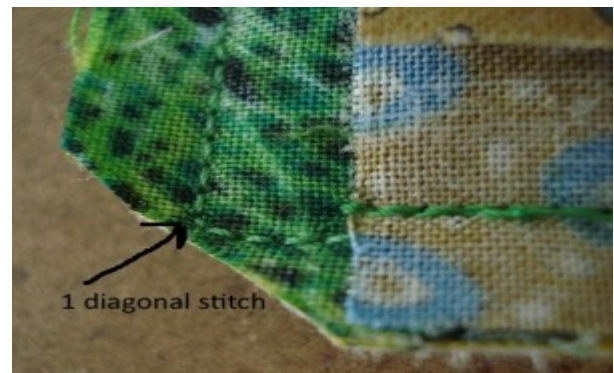
Cut off excess so that other end overlaps fold.

Step 9. Begin stitching from line of previous stitching (see above) towards other end backstitching as before. Repeat for other side.

Step 10. Clip corners ...



close to diagonal stitch.



One of the techniques I have taken from my clothes making days to make the facing lie flat is stay stitching the edges.

This type of garment stitch is a row of straight stitching done $\frac{1}{8}$ " along the open edge of a seam to stop seams from rolling to the front and to prevent unwanted stretching.

I employ it here to keep the facing towards the back of the quilt.

Step 11. Stay stitch edges, keeping seam in same direction of facing (3rd photo).

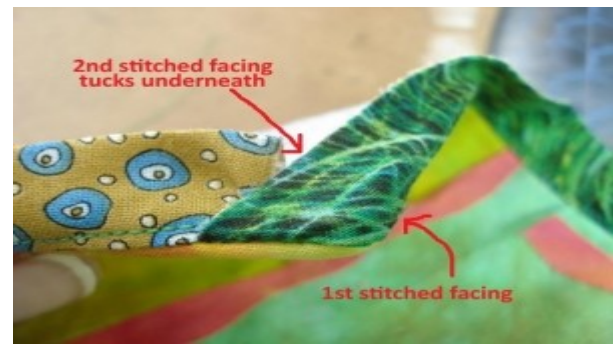


Step 12 Fold facings to back, pushing corners out.

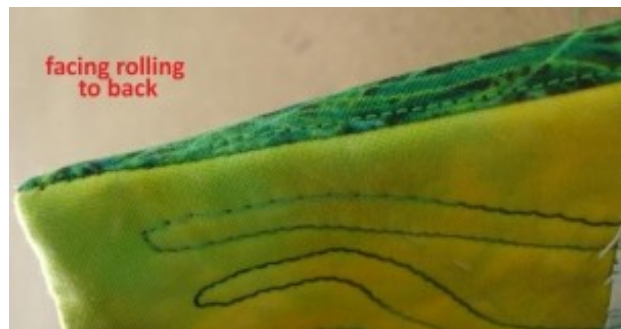
pushout underneath with index finger



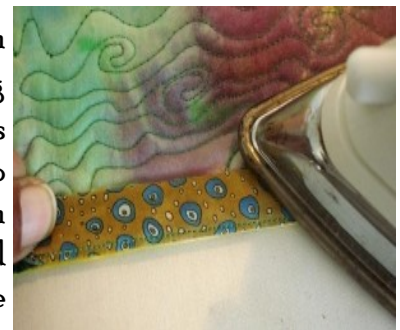
See how 2nd strip tucks nicely underneath in the photo below?

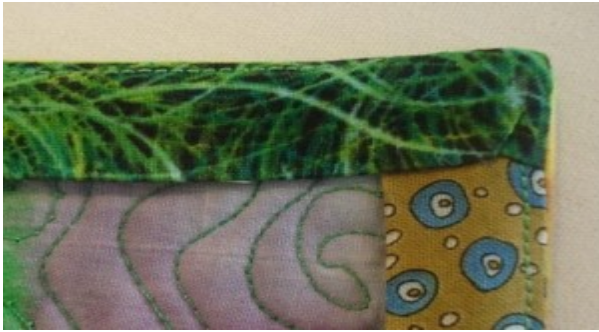


And now facing rolls easily to back.



Step 13. Fuse in place, pressing facing edges completely to back so not seen on front (left and photo on opposite page).





The photo at left is a close up of the front of the quilt with edges nicely stitched and folded under.



Step 14. Turn quilt over and iron from front.

The photo below is how my facings usually look, matching the backing fabric so it blends in well and almost disappears.



Note: If the quilt will be shown in a quilt or gallery show you will need to stitch the fused edges down by hand just like you do for regular binding.

The only thing left to do now on your quilt is to add a sleeve, a label and you.....are.....done!



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