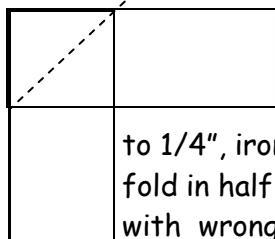


The Binding, the finishing touch:

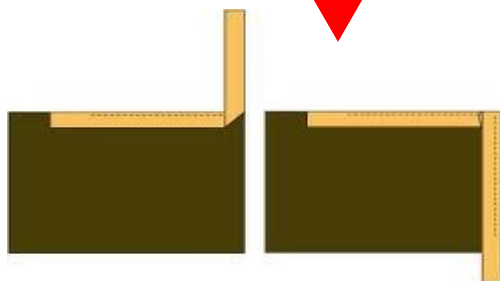
- ◆ This is for charity, so no hand sewing please. These quilts will be washed and well-loved so need to be sturdy.
- ◆ You will have strips 2 1/2" wide for



binding. Sew them together with diagonal seams and trim

to 1/4", iron seam, and then fold in half on the long side with wrong sides together and press fold.

- ◆ On the back side of the quilt, put binding in the middle of a side, raw edges together, and leave a generous tail of say 6", back stitch and sew generous 1/4" seam to 1/4" of corner where you will sew diagonally to corner point. Fold up and then down as in diagram below.



- ◆ When you get back a foot or so from where you started, stop, backstitch. Fold binding so end touches the tail you left. Cut 2 1/2" from beyond the fold, making it look like it's longer than you need, and sew together with diagonal seam, trim and finish sewing to quilt.
- ◆ Turn to right side. Fold binding to

the top and topstitch with a straight stitch, zigzag, buttonhole stitch or hem-stitch. Fold in the miter at the corner.



- ◆ Proudly turn in the completed quilt at the next meeting.



Call if you get stuck. Just look in the Guild Roster & call anyone you think might know what to do. Or call me, Marlene Oaks, 951 551-9489 or email me marleneoaks@msn.com. Or Google binding or whatever gives you trouble. There are lots of aids online.

Valley of the Mist
Quilters Guild

How to finish a
philanthropy quilt—
everything you wanted to
know and more



1. Decide to do it. Even if you've never quilted a quilt, this is your time to learn.
2. Remember, the quilt will go to a person who will be comforted by knowing a stranger cared enough to make them a quilt for this difficult time in their life. It does NOT need to be perfect.
3. Check out a quilt from the philanthropy table.
4. In the kit you will find a quilt top, a quilt back, batting and binding.
5. Make a sandwich (not pnut butter) by smoothing out the back upside down. Smooth the batting on top of that. Then smooth on the top right side up. Spray or pin the layers together.
6. Now you're ready to have some fun quilting your sandwich.

You can do it

In the ditch or free motion?

In the ditch:

- ◆ Pick a thread that matches the quilt the best, may need different color for bobbin.
- ◆ Put your walking foot on your machine. Pull bobbin thread up to the top and use a lock stitch or tiny forward and reverse. After sewing a couple of inches, trim off thread tails.
- ◆ Stitch in the seam lines of the major pieces with a medium long stitch like 2.8 to 3. Stitch so that there is quilting at least every 4 to 6 inches or a hand's width.
- ◆ Sew all around the outside of the quilt very close to the edge.
- ◆ Trim with ruler and rotary cutter, making sure corners are square. Put a line on the ruler in the border to make a consistent trim, such as 3" from the seam all the way around. Trim off as little as possible, just enough to get it square and straight.
- ◆ Put on binding. See on back page how to do this.



Free motion: Easy beginning

- ◆ Pick either a contrasting or matching thread.
- ◆ Lower feed dogs (the teeth that move the fabric), put stitch length to zero, put on quilting foot.
- ◆ Pull bobbin thread up to top and stitch in place for a couple of stitches. After you go forward a couple of inches, trim off thread tails.
- ◆ Now the quilt moves only with your hand movement, so you will be practicing how to move slowly and evenly—which may take years, so don't worry, just start. It's okay.
- ◆ You will be doodling with the needle as the pencil. I like to put on garden gloves I get at Target for under \$5 with nubs on the fingers to grip the fabric better or you can buy more expensive quilting gloves.
- ◆ Above is a picture of meandering, a random pattern with the only rule that you don't cross over any line of stitching. It can be tiny or medium or large depending on the effect you want.
- ◆ It's a good idea to practice with an actual pencil on paper to get the idea. Any repetitive pattern you like is fine.



Finish as in Stitch in the Ditch directions.

More complex

As you practice more and more you will be able to "draw" much more complex designs—the sky is the limit for sure.



Leah Day has hundreds of designs to practice and little 3 to 5 minute videos to watch as to how.

<http://freemotionquilting.blogspot.com/>



Just practice and you'll see how much fun it really is. After a couple of quilts, your stitches will get more consistent too. You'll be amazed at your progress.

And if you want to stick to the simple designs, that's fine too. Remember, it's about getting quilts out to those in need.