

Adding Hanging Sleeves To Your Quilts



Many quilt shows require a sleeve. And it is nice to be able to slip a dowel in the sleeve and poke a couple of pushpins in the wall to hang your work for display. I have a couple of wooden drapery rods hanging permanently in my home and it's easy to trade out quilts when the mood hits me... If they have a sleeve!

Hanging Sleeve: Cut or construct an 8" fabric strip the width

of your quilt. You can use muslin or fabric leftover from the top or back of the quilt or any fabric really. (The nice thing about fabric from the quilt top is it keeps some fabric with the quilt in perpetuity should repairs ever become needed.)

Take the strip that is 8" by the quilt's width and finish the short edges: Press both the 8" ends under 1/2" and press then another 1/2" then stitch that "hem" in place. Now the strip is about 2" narrower than your quilt and finished on both ends.

Fold the strip in half longways and pin, centered, to the backside of the top edge of the quilt so the raw edges of the strip are even with the top raw edge of the quilt.

See the sleeve (tube) that formed? Now apply your binding as normal (see my 7:30 Garage Binding technique page at LynBrown.com) catching the top of the sleeve in the binding at the top of the quilt but leaving the tube ends free.

All that is left is to blind stitch the bottom of the sleeve tube by hand being careful to not stitch through to the quilt front! Do this when you stitch the binding on. Good Job!



Quick Triangles: Want a quick way to accomplish a faux hanging sleeve for a wall hanging with no hand work? This is NOT what they want at shows but is fine for home use. This works for quilts up to about 36" wide:

Cut two squares about 1/3 the width of your quilt (again as you are ready to bind). So a 36" wall hanging would need 12"

squares and a 21" wall hanging about 7" squares... Doesn't have to be perfectly accurate. Take each square and fold on one diagonal. Press. Pin in place on the top right and top left corners on the backside of the quilt, again matching the raw edges. Then bind as usual, catching the raw edges of the triangles. The folded edges are finished and the triangles make little pockets to slip the ends of a dowel in. The trick here is to cut a dowel that spans from binding to binding less about 1/2" so it fits snug. These two triangles give you many of the hanging benefits of the traditional sleeve with no hand work!

Unfortunately, the Triangles don't work for my wooden rods.

Darn!