



2006 Summer Fun Mystery:

For the Dogs

Designed by Sandy Harris

Part 12: Finishing Up

Now that your quilt top is finished, it's time to get it made into a quilt before your dog claims it! If you haven't already done so, you will need to purchase batting and backing fabric for your quilt. Your choices will depend largely on personal preference and your quilt's intended purpose. If it's going to hang on the wall, you'll probably want a lightweight craft batting and a plain muslin for the backing fabric. If, on the other hand, your quilt will be used to keep someone (2-legged or 4-legged) warm in a cold climate, you might want a thicker batting and a nice flannel for the back.

The Quilt Sandwich

You will need a large, flat surface for this part, like the floor, 2 tables pushed together, or a bed covered by a sheet of 1/4" plywood.

1. Lay your quilt top face down on a flat surface. Smooth it out and tape the corners so it lays relatively taut.
2. Spread your batting over your quilt top. Trim off excess so that batting is still a couple of inches larger than your quilt top.
3. Spread your backing fabric face up over the batting. Backing should be about the same size as the batting.
4. Pin or baste the three layers together, then remove tape and carefully roll up or fold your quilt sandwich so that you can easily move it to the next work area.

Quilting

Again, how you choose to quilt your project is largely a matter of personal preference. Whether you decide to hand quilt it or machine quilt it, many of the applique patterns used to make the quilt top can also be used as quilting motifs; the dog bones and the paw prints are especially good for this. Since I've never seen a dog walk anywhere in a straight path, an overall meandering stitch would also be appropriate.

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Binding

You will need about 6.5 yards of binding. I chose dark green for my binding. You can use purchased binding or make your own. There are several methods of making binding. The instructions here are for my personal favorite method, usually called a Double-Fold Binding.

1. Cut enough 2" wide strips of fabric to equal about 230 inches when sewn together (this includes several inches for overlapping the ends). If cutting across the width of fabric (about 40 inches these days), it will take 6 strips (or $5 \frac{3}{4}$ if you want to be exact). Note: if you used a thick or high loft batting, you might want to cut your binding strips $2 \frac{1}{4}$ wide to accommodate the extra thickness; for a very thin batting, $1 \frac{3}{4}$ " wide strips will work.
2. Sew the strips together end-to-end. Mitering the seams (Fig. 1) will create less bulk when the binding is folded.
3. Fold binding in half lengthwise and press.
4. Place binding on quilt top, raw edges of binding aligned with raw edges of quilt top. Using 1/4-inch seam allowance, begin stitching about 6-8 inches from end of binding. Stitch to corner, stopping $\frac{1}{4}$ inch from edge with the needle down. Lift presser foot and turn quilt sandwich 90 degrees counterclockwise. Lower presser foot and stitch in reverse off the edge of the quilt.
5. Lift presser foot and slide quilt sandwich to the side. Flip binding straight back (away from you) 90 degrees to itself (Fig. 2) and finger press the fold. Now flip it forward on itself and align the new fold with the edge of the quilt sandwich just sewn (Fig. 3). Slide quilt back under the presser foot, insert needle $\frac{1}{4}$ inch from each edge and continue sewing. Stop at each corner to miter it.
6. On the last side, stop stitching about 6" from where you began. Overlap the two ends of binding and trim diagonally, leaving about 2" of overlap. At this point, I take the easy way out! I fold the short edge of one end over $\frac{1}{4}$ inch (like a hem), insert the other end inside this one and continue stitching (Fig. 4). Hand stitch overlap.
7. Trim off excess batting and backing. Fold binding over edge and hand stitch to the back of quilt.

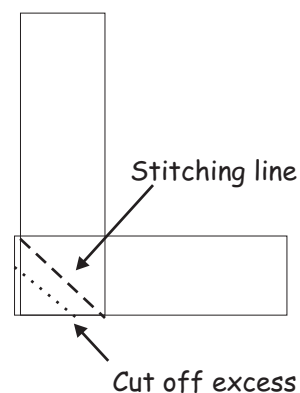


Fig. 1: Mitered Seams

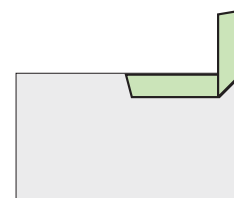


Fig. 2

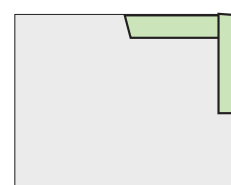


Fig. 3

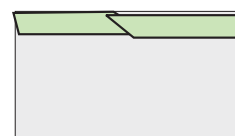


Fig. 4

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