

How to make a Quilt Sleeve

Sewing a sleeve on the back of your quilt makes it easy to hang the quilt for display at home and for our quilt show. The quilt sleeve can be permanent or temporary, and it can be sewn on after or at the same time you apply binding. The last method is permanent.

Sew on a sleeve after binding the quilt:

1. Cut or piece together fabric to make a strip 10" tall and the same width as the quilt plus one inch allowance for the end seams.
2. Hem the short edges by folding in $\frac{1}{4}$ " and again $\frac{1}{4}$ " to the wrong side of the fabric. Press. Stitch by machine to make a finished edge.
3. Fold the strip lengthwise, wrong sides together, aligning the raw edges. Sew together with a $\frac{1}{2}$ " seam allowance. Press this seam open at the same time it is centered in the middle of the sleeve. This seam will not show.
4. Place the completed sleeve on the top of your quilt with the fold just below the binding. Pin the bottom edge to the quilt. Then fold down $\frac{3}{4}$ " of the top edge of the sleeve and pin across.
5. Stitch, by hand, the bottom edge to the back catching the batting frequently. Stitch the back edge of the side and continue to stitch across on the fold of the pleat.
6. This method using the fold allows a pole to be inserted and the top edge of your quilt to stand up straight without rolling back.

Sew a sleeve to the top of the quilt at the same time you sew on the binding:

1. Cut out or piece together fabric to make a strip 6" tall and the same width as the quilt.
2. Fold under short edges $\frac{1}{4}$ " and again $1\frac{1}{4}$ ". Press. Machine stitch to hem.
3. Turn under $\frac{1}{2}$ " on one long edge and press.
4. Center the strip along the top edge of the quilt, against the backing.
5. Sew the unpressed edge of the sleeve to the quilt with an approximate $\frac{1}{8}$ " seam.
6. Bind the quilt.
7. Fold the sleeve fabric up to the top edge of the binding and back down. Then pin the bottom (pressed) edge to the quilt.
8. Stitch, by hand, the lower edge of the sleeve to the quilt. The sleeve will puff out a bit to allow space for the hanging rod.