

Happy Endings: Finishing The Edges Of Your Quilts

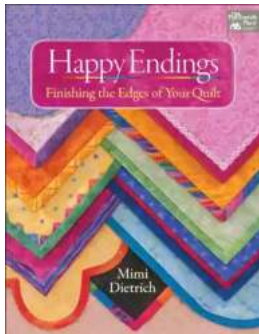


Quilting is not only a cherished craft but also an art form that has been passed down through generations. The entire process of creating a quilt involves several stages, from selecting fabrics to sewing intricate patterns. However, one often overlooked but equally important aspect is finishing the edges of the quilt. In this article, we will explore different techniques and tips to give your quilts the perfect happy endings they deserve.

The Importance of a Properly Finished Quilt

A well-finished quilt not only adds durability but enhances the overall appearance and longevity of your creation. Properly finishing the edges helps prevent fraying,

ensures the quilt stays intact, and extends its lifespan. It also adds a professional touch, making your quilts a pleasure to use and admire.



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Quilts by Mimi Dietrich(Kindle Edition)

★★★★☆ 4.6 out of 5

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Screen Reader : Supported

Enhanced typesetting : Enabled

Print length : 80 pages



Choosing the Right Method

There are several methods to choose from when it comes to finishing the edges of your quilt. Let's explore some popular options:

1. Binding

Binding is a common and versatile method used to finish quilt edges. It involves creating a narrow fabric strip and attaching it to the quilt's edges. Binding not only adds a decorative touch but also encloses and secures the raw edges.

How to Add Binding:

To add binding, follow these simple steps:

1. Measure the quilt's perimeter to determine the required length of the binding strip.

2. Cut fabric strips, usually 2.5 inches wide, and sew them together to create a long enough strip.
3. Fold the strip in half lengthwise and press to create a crease.
4. Align the raw edges of the binding strip with the raw edges of the quilt, starting in the middle of one side. Pin in place.
5. Sew the binding strip to the quilt using a $\frac{1}{4}$ inch seam allowance.
6. Miters the corners for a clean and polished look.
7. Continue sewing until you reach the starting point. Overlap the ends, trim, and sew them together.

2. Facing

Facing is an alternative method that provides a clean and modern finish. Instead of attaching a visible binding, facing involves attaching a fabric strip to the quilt's edges and folding it towards the back to create a clean edge. Facing works best for quilts with irregular shapes or when you want the focus to be on the quilt's design rather than a decorative border.

How to Add Facing:

To add facing to your quilt, follow these steps:

1. Measure the length and width of your quilt to determine the size of fabric strips needed.
2. Cut fabric strips, usually 2 inches wide, and sew them together to create a long enough strip.
3. Align the raw edge of the facing strip with the quilt's raw edge and sew with a $\frac{1}{4}$ inch seam allowance.

4. Once attached, fold the facing strip towards the back of the quilt, enclosing the raw edges.
5. Press the facing strip, making sure it remains folded towards the back.
6. Edge stitch the facing strip to secure it in place.

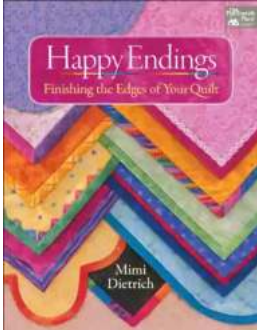
Tips for a Flawless Finish

Now that you know some popular methods, here are some additional tips to help you achieve a flawless finish:

- **Select the Right Fabric:** Choose a fabric that complements your quilt's design and color palette. Cotton or other durable fabrics work best for binding and facing.
- **Measure Accurately:** Ensure you measure the dimensions of your quilt accurately to determine the required length of binding or facing strips.
- **Press Seams:** Press your seams open or to the side before attaching the binding or facing. This helps achieve a clean and professional look.
- **Trim Thread:** Trim any loose threads or excess fabric to create a neat and tidy finish.
- **Practice Mitered Corners:** Mitered corners give your quilt a polished look. Practice this technique on scrap fabric before attempting it on your quilt.
- **Experiment:** Don't be afraid to experiment with different techniques. Depending on your quilt's style and purpose, you may find alternative methods that suit your needs better.

Finishing the edges of your quilts may seem like a small detail, but it significantly impacts the overall quality and appearance of your creations. Whether you choose binding or facing, be sure to measure accurately, select appropriate

fabrics, and practice the techniques. With these helpful tips, you'll be able to give your quilts the happy endings they deserve, making them not only functional but beautiful works of art.



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A must for every quilter's library, this is the classic book on finishing--back by popular demand! First published in 1987, this popular resource has sold more than 275,000 copies and is still the one quilters want. Well-known author and quiltmaking expert Mimi Dietrich shows you all you need to know about finishing quilts with style.

- Discover dozens of creative ways to finish your quilts, from easy to advanced
- Find terrific ideas for quilt backings, battings, bindings, and hanging sleeves
- Get creative with a great section on quilt borders
- Learn from Mimi Dietrich's "Happy Ending Hints," sprinkled throughout the book



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