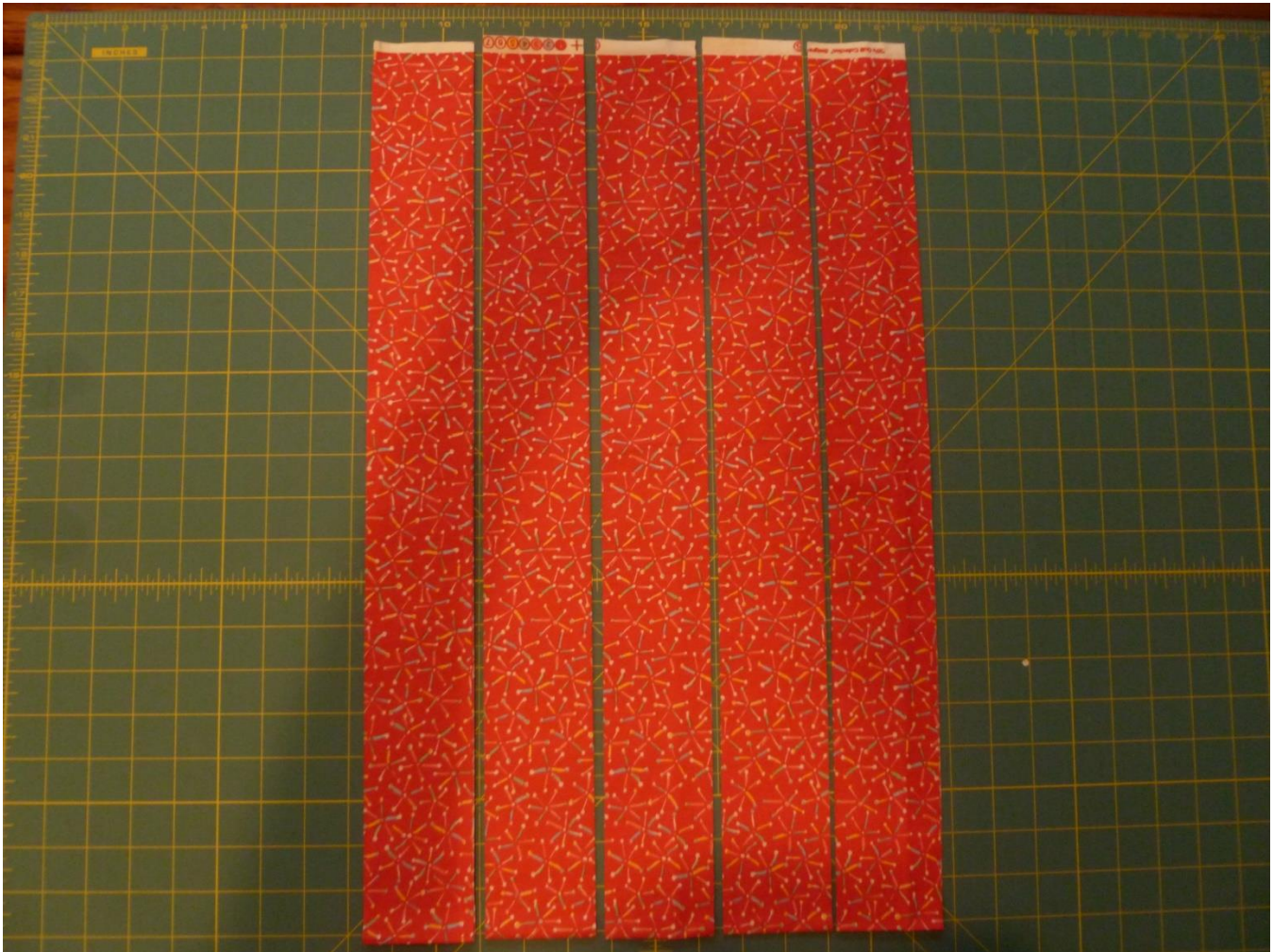


MACHINE BINDING IN FOUR SIMPLE STEPS

STEP 1: MEASURE YOUR QUILT AND CUT YOUR BINDING STRIPS

Measure the length and width of your quilt and multiply the sum of those numbers by 2, then add 12" and divide that number by 40. This sample quilt measures 36" x 48".

Here's how I calculate binding for this quilt: $(36" + 48") \times 2 = 168"$. Next $(168" + 12") \div 40 = 4.5$
I will round 4.5 up to 5 strips of binding fabric. You should cut the strips at 2 ½" wide.

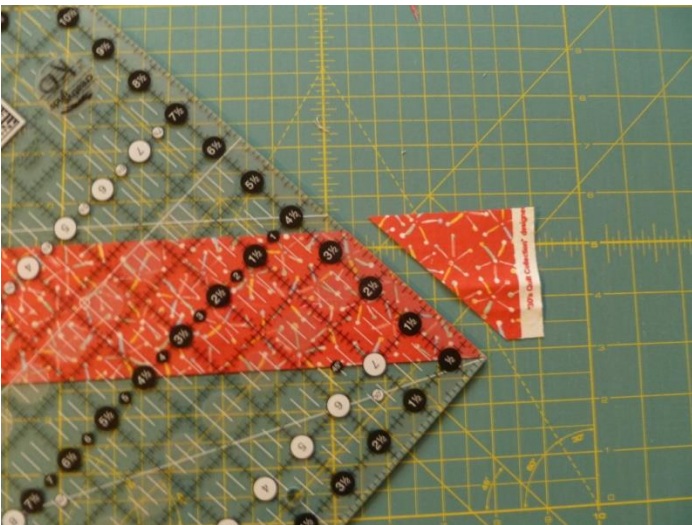


STEP 2: SEW A CONTINUOUS LENGTH OF BINDING

With right sides together position two strips at a 90 degree angle and sew at 45 degrees across the diagonal. Trim the seam to $\frac{1}{4}$ " and press open.



Trim the starting edge of your binding at a 45-degree angle. With wrong sides together press the binding along the entire length.



STEP 3: ATTACH THE BINDING TO THE QUILT

Stay stitch the raw edges of the quilt and then trim off the excess backing and batting using a long straight ruler and a large square-up for the corners. On the back side of the quilt, starting at least 8" from a corner, pin the raw edge of the binding to the edge of your quilt leaving a tail of about 12". Run your binding along the perimeter of the quilt, making sure no seams fall at the corners. If they do, move the binding up or down a few inches to avoid extra bulk at the corners.



Using a walking foot, stitch the binding onto the back of the quilt with 1/4" seam allowance. Stop stitching 1/4" away from the corner. With the needle in the "down" position, lift the presser foot, rotate the quilt 45 degrees and sew to the corner.



Remove the quilt from the machine. Fold the binding up to form a 45-degree angle and then down again to line up with the edge of the quilt.



Start sewing from the edge of the quilt through all thicknesses and proceed along this side until you reach ¼” from the next corner.



Repeat this process for all four corners stopping about 8” from the 45-degree cut end of the beginning binding. Leave an ending tail that overlaps the free end of the beginning tail by several inches. Open up the end tail of binding and place the open beginning tail inside it.

Using the cut and angled end as a guide lightly mark a 45-degree line right up next to it. **To allow for seam allowances on both ends cut 1/2” away from the line you just drew.**



With right sides together pin the two tail ends together and sew with a $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam. Trim off the "ears" and open up the seam, fold the binding in half and finish stitching it to the quilt edge.



STEP 4: STITCH THE BINDING ON THE FRONT

Press the binding away from the body of the quilt and flip it to the front. Pin one whole side in place making sure to miter the corners. Remembering to start with a backstitch, stitch the binding down using a straight stitch or a decorative stitch – the serpentine, buttonhole or fly stitch are good choices. When you reach the corner stop at the miter with needle down and change to a straight stitch, then pivot 45 degrees and stitch the miter down. Be sure to backstitch at the end. Repeat the process for the other three sides.



Congratulations! You have just bound a quilt in 4 simple steps.

