

## Facing a Quilt

References: You Tube Chatterbox Quilts

How to Add a Facing go a Quilt – Part 1 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pD8dQG-0Zvw&t=89s>

How to Add a Facing to a Quilt - Part 2 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=82Ui53Aajy4>

**Traditional bindings** are great to protect the edges from everyday wear and tear because they add more fabric to the edge of the quilt. They also add a bit of weight and may make the piece hang well, over a bed. Contrasting fabric might give the appearance of another border. The seam used to attach these bindings may create a visual “stop” even when a matching fabric is used.

**Enveloping** produces a flat, lightweight edge that might be desirable for things like table runners and placemats

**Facing a quilt** gives weight to the edges without producing the appearance of an additional border or a visual “stop” sign. The corner triangles provide a ready made place to insert a dowel for hanging small pieces. Or you may choose to insert a piece of cardboard inside all of the facings.

### How to Face a Quilt

1. Make Corner Triangles – Cut 4 squares. Size depends on the size of your piece – somewhere between 3” and 5” squares work well. Cut the squares, fold them on the bias and press them into triangles. Place the corner triangles onto the front of your piece. Pin or baste them in place
2. Make Facing Strips – these can be as small as 2.5” or as wide as 5”.  
Option: cut the facing strips as narrow as 1.5” and face them with interfacing if you are concerned about stretching. Option: Stitch facing strips ends together to eliminate raw edges.
3. Add the facing strips to the front of your piece on top of the corner triangles. The facing strips should be 1” - 1.5” shorter than the side that you are attaching them to. For example, if the side is 10” long,

cut the facing strip 8.5" – 9" long. Be sure that the facing strip fits well inside the corner triangles so that when you turn them inside out, the end of the facing strips are covered by the corner triangles. Sew a ¼" seam around the edges attaching the facing strips and corners to the front of the quilt. Press the facing strips outward and top stitch the facing to the seam allowance. This makes turning the facing strip easier. Trim corners

4. Turn the facing strips to the back of the piece and press. Turn the corner triangles go the back of the piece, pushing the corners out to make the point. Press well.
5. Facing strips can then be hand sewn, glued or fused to the back of the piece. Note that some glues and fusible webs are water soluble, so make sure you are using an appropriate product if the piece is to be washed. Option: Place cardboard on the back of the quilt before turning the facings and corners. This makes your piece stand on its own. The size of the cardboard depends on its thickness. If using 1/4" poster board, cut it ½" to 3/8" smaller than the quilt.

### **Enveloped backings**

1. Cut
  - a. batting to finished size of quilt (I prefer fusible batting or fusible fleece)
  - b. front of quilt ¼" bigger than finished size all around the quilt (e.g., finished size is 6" x 6 ½", so front of quilt will be cut to 6 ½" x 7")
  - c. backing the same size as the front of the quilt
2. Fuse batting to the back of the front side of the quilt If you are using ordinary batting, you can baste it to the back of the front side of your quilt.
3. Place front of quilt and backing right sides together
4. Sew
  - a. Mark an opening to turn your quilt right side out
  - b. Sew ¼" around all sides, just beside the batting edge. Try not to catch the batting in your stitching. Remember not to sew the opening that you marked in 4a above!
  - c. Trim the corners.

*Note that corners will turn better if you stop sewing 1 or 2 stitches before you would turn the corner and take 1 or 2 diagonal stitches, then finish turning the corner. This creates space for the fabric when you turn the corners inside out.*

5. Finish Making your Envelope
  - a. Turn quilt inside out, using your favorite tool to push the corners out.  
Press well
  - b. Slip stitch the opening shut
6. Quilt your quilt

### **Faced backings using the enveloped technique**

Try this method if you plan to insert a board into the back of an art quilt. The goal is to reduce the bulk in the seams so that the board and the quilt sit flat. Since the goal is to reduce the bulk and you are inserting a board, the backing isn't really necessary.

1. Cut batting to finished size of quilt (I prefer fusible batting or fusible fleece)
2. Cut front of quilt  $\frac{1}{4}$ " bigger than finished size all around the quilt (e.g., finished size is 6" x 6  $\frac{1}{2}$ ", so front of quilt will be cut to 6  $\frac{1}{2}$ " x 7")
3. Quilting
  - a. If you are not using backing, fuse the batting to the back of the quilt and quilt.
  - b. If you are using backing, cut it the same size as the front. Baste it to the back of the batting and quilt.
4. Prepare your facings and corners as you would for "Facing a quilt".
5. Pin your corners and facings as you would for "Facing a quilt"
6. Sew the corners and facings as you would in step 4 of "Enveloped Backings" stitching outside the batting so that it is not included in the seam. In this case it is not necessary to leave an opening to turn the piece inside out. Top stitch the facings open as you would for "Facing a Quilt" Trim and turn the facings to the back

7. Measure the thickness of your board and cut it to the size of the front of your quilt minus 2 times the thickness of your board. (e.g., if the finished front of your quilt is 6" x 6", your board will be 5.5" x 5.5") This provides enough room to insert your board and let's the board pull the front of the quilt slightly to the back.

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