

How to make a Hanging Sleeve for your Quilt

by Evelyn Evers

If you are entering your quilt in a show, it is necessary to add a hanging sleeve to the back side.

Sample (1) This is the style most commonly used. It is hand stitched to your quilt, and can be removed easily after the show. Any fabric from your stash will work, even muslin, because it will eventually be removed. Measure the top of the finished quilt.

Cut a strip of fabric (10" wide) x (the width of the quilt minus 1")

It's OK to piece the sleeve in order to obtain the desired length.

Hem both ends of the fabric : fold the raw edge under $\frac{1}{2}$ " and press, then fold again $\frac{1}{2}$ " , and stitch by machine along the folded edge.



With wrong sides together, fold in half, keep long edges even, stitch using $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance.



Turn sleeve to the right side, centre the seam allowance, and press.



Centre the sleeve on the back, 1" from the TOP edge, with the seam allowance hidden against the back of the quilt. Pin in place. To attach the sleeve to the quilt, hand stitch both long edges and the inside of the ends. A dowel can be inserted and its ready for hanging.

Sample (2) This is a permanent sleeve, and this style would be used when making a wall hanging or a small quilt which you intend to hang. It works well and is less noticeable if you choose a fabric that matches the backing on the quilt. This sleeve is attached to the quilt before the binding is finished. When making a permanent sleeve, the width can be adjusted to accommodate the size of the pole that you intend to use.

For a large wall hanging, and you choose a 1 inch curtain pole, cut the sleeve fabric at $6\frac{1}{2}$ " wide

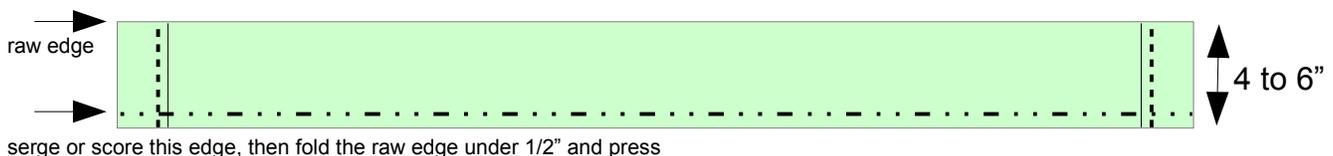
For a small wall hanging, and you choose a $\frac{1}{2}$ inch dowel, cut the sleeve fabric at $4\frac{1}{2}$ " wide

Measure the width of the top of the quilt. The length of the sleeve is (the width of the quilt minus 1")

It's OK to piece the fabric in order to get the desired length.

Hem both ends of the fabric : fold the raw edge under $\frac{1}{2}$ " and press, then fold again $\frac{1}{2}$ " , and stitch by machine along the folded edge. The top edge of the sleeve is left as raw edge.

Serge or score the bottom edge of the sleeve, then fold the edge under by $\frac{1}{2}$ inch and press.



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This sleeve and the binding can be prepared at the same time. Attach the binding to the quilt or wall hanging, with pins or clips, using your preferred method of binding.

Make sure that you are putting the sleeve on the top edge of the quilt.

Lay the quilt on a flat surface and lay the sleeve in place .. right side of sleeve UP .. match the sleeve's raw edge with the raw edge at the top of your quilt .. the sleeve will be about 1" short on both ends .. pin the sleeve in place. When you stitch your binding onto the quilt, you are also sewing the top edge of the sleeve into the binding. Finish the binding by hand or machine stitching.

Hand stitch the bottom edge of the sleeve to the back of the quilt.