

## QUILT SLEEVES

### Quilt Sleeve Options and Suggestions

- Any fabric can be used for the quilt sleeve, including muslin or extra backing fabric.
- NTQF sleeve requirements:
  - Quilts must have an attached, sewn 4" sleeve.
  - Quilts under 24" may have a 2" sewn attached sleeve.
  - The sleeve should be the same width as the quilt, not including the binding.
  - The sleeve should include ½" of ease and be stitched to the quilt on both the top and bottom of the sleeve.
  - Entries without a sewn sleeve will not be accepted.
  - Quilts longer than 90" require the top of the sleeve to be placed 90" from the bottom of the quilt to ensure that the quilt will not touch the floor when hanging.
- Make sure that the sleeve is not visible from the front.

### How to Sew a Hanging Sleeve to the Back of A Quilt

- Cut a piece of fabric 9" by the width of the quilt.
- Fold under the short edges ¼", wrong sides together. Fold under again, press, and sew hem.
- Fold strip lengthwise, right sides together, aligning raw edges. Sew together, using a ½" seam. Press the seam allowance open.
- Turn the tube inside out so the right side is showing and the long seam is on the inside.
- Press the tube flat with the long seam down the middle of the tube. Press another fold 1" from the edge near the long seam. This will become the lower edge of the tube.
- Place the open seam against the quilt's back. Center and pin the top edge of the tube to the back of the quilt, about ½' below the binding. Place the tube so the 1" additional fold is on the lower edge next to the quilt.
- Hand sew the top edge of the tube to the quilt backing. Stitch into the batting occasionally to help strengthen the seam. Take care that stitches do not show on the front of the quilt.
- Smooth the sleeve downward along the quilt back, then pin the sleeve bottom along the 1" fold along its length. This is a very important step that

ensures the sleeve will not be visible from the front and allows the quilt to hang smoothly. If you do not sew with the 1" fold method, the rod will distort the top edge of the quilt.

- Hand sew the lower edge of the sleeve to the quilt. Remove pins. The sleeve will "pooch out" a bit to allow space for a hanging rod.