

QUILT SLEEVES

Quilt Sleeve Options & Suggestions

- ❖ Any fabric can be used for the quilt sleeve, from plain muslin to a fabric that enhances the reverse side of your quilt.
- ❖ Quilt shows usually require a 4" minimum sleeve. Read show rules before assembling the sleeve for your quilt. **QGOA Festival of Quilts requires a 4" sleeve.**
- ❖ Wide backing fabric can be used to make a long sleeve without piecing strips of fabric.
- ❖ For making a sleeve that blends with the backing, use your extra backing fabric.
- ❖ *If your quilt is extra-large you should find out the pole length for that quilt show and make your sleeve no longer than the pole. Otherwise your quilt will be gathered and puckered.
- ❖ If your quilt is very long you may want to position the sleeve so the quilt will be the correct height but not touch the floor. It will require the quilt to be folded over the hanging bar at the top edge. This is a requirement for many quilt shows. It is the maker's option for the QGOA Festival of Quilts. Consider your quilt design; would it be better to hang flat with extra over the top or a small pile of extra quilt on the floor?
- ❖ Quilt show poles are usually 6' or 8' feet long and 8' high.
- ❖ Make certain that the sleeve is not visible from the front. That is why the 1" pouch (See instructions below) helps the quilt hang smoothly on the rod. This is a very important step that insures 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 your quilt.
- ❖ Miniature quilts do not require a sleeve for many quilt shows. They are pinned directly onto the hanging fabric. *If your quilt is delicate or you do not want it pinned you may want to make corner tabs or a small sleeve at the upper back edge.* Use the same instructions as below but make the sleeve about 1 inch. Cut the fabric 2.5". Suggestion: Use matching fabric or a strong ribbon. Make certain that the sleeve is not visible from the front if a dowel will be used when hanging.
- ❖ Corner tabs are great for miniatures. Cut two squares 2.5- 3" sq. Fold in half diagonally, wrong sides together, press. Place onto back of the quilt's top corners, the 90 degree corners together. Sew onto the back of the quilt so stitching will be hidden by the binding. Bind the quilt. A piece of doweling can be used for hanging and will keep the quilt straight.
- ❖ See two different sleeve methods below. Method 1 is for a sleeve that is attached to the back of the quilt and may be a temporary sleeve; Method 2 the sleeve is first sewn onto the edge of the quilt and the raw edges are covered by the quilt binding, becoming a permanent sleeve.

HOW TO SEW A HANGING SLEEVE ON THE BACK OF YOUR QUILT

Sewing a sleeve on the back of your quilt makes it easy to hang the quilt for display at home or in a quilt show. The quilt sleeve can be permanent or temporary and it can be sewn on at the same time you apply binding or after you've completed the quilt.

Diagrams below pertain to both Method 1 and Method 2.



Fold sides and sew.



Sew lengthwise, wrong sides together.
Press seam open.



After sewing to quilt, sleeve will pooch out to allow space for rod.

METHOD 1

SEW A HANGING SLEEVE AFTER THE QUILT IS BOUND

1. Cut or piece fabric together to make a strip 9" tall and the same width as the quilt.
2. Fold under short edges 1/4", wrong sides together. Fold under again. Press. Sew a straight or zigzag seam to hem the folds.
3. Now fold the strip lengthwise, right sides together, aligning its raw edges. Sew together with a 1/2" seam allowance. Press the seam allowance open.
4. Turn tube inside out so right side is showing and the long seam is on the inside.
5. Press tube flat with long seam down middle of tube. Press another fold 1" from edge near the long seam. This will become the lower edge of the tube.
6. 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 1/2" below the binding. Place tube so the 1" additional fold is on the lower edge next to the quilt, not the edge next to the binding.
7. Use a whipstitch to sew the top edge of the tube to the quilt backing. Stitch into the batting occasionally to help strengthen the seam. Take care your stitches don't show on the front of the quilt.
8. Smooth the sleeve downward along the quilt back, and then pin the sleeve bottom along the 1" fold along its length. This is a very important step that insures 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 your quilt
9. Whipstitch 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.
10. Whipstitch the back sides of the sleeve to the quilt. Leave the front sides unsewn to allow for rod insertion.

Method 2

SEW A SLEEVE BEFORE BINDING THE QUILT

You can sew a hanging sleeve to the top of the quilt at the same time you sew on the binding.

1. Sandwich the quilt top, batting and backing. Quilt. Trim batting and backing to match the quilt top along the edge where the sleeve will be sewn.
2. Cut or piece together fabric to make a strip 9" tall and the same width as the quilt.
3. Fold under short edges 1/4", wrong sides together. Fold under again. Press. Sew a straight or zigzag seam to hem the folds.
4. Fold the strip lengthwise, wrong sides together, aligning raw edges. Press tube flat. Press another fold 1" from the lower edge near the long seam.
5. Center the folded strip along the top edge of the quilt, against the backing, aligning its matched raw edges with the edge of the quilt.
6. Sew the sleeve to the quilt with an approximate 1/8" seam allowance to make certain it will be covered by the binding.
7. Place tube so the 1" additional fold is on the lower edge next to the quilt, not the edge next to the binding.
8. Smooth the sleeve downward along the quilt back, and then pin the sleeve bottom along the 1" fold along its length.
9. Whipstitch 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. This is a very important step that insures 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 your quilt.
10. Whipstitch the back sides of the sleeve to the quilt. Leave the front sides unsewn to allow for rod insertion.
11. Bind the quilt.