

Applying Binding with Bi-Level Topstitch Foot

The Bi-Level Topstitch Foot has a channel under the foot that rides along the edge of a fold when topstitching. Take a moment to look at the markings on your foot so that you are acquainted with what the various markings mean. The foot I use, which is for the Pfaff, has a marking that is halfway from the right edge and a marking that indicates the left edge of the channel under the foot.

I cut the binding at 2 ¼" for a double fold binding. Please PRACTICE before applying your binding to a quilt as the measurements may have to be adjusted depending on your particular sewing machine foot.

Prepare your quilt as you normally do. I like to baste around the edges to keep all the layers in place. I apply my binding TO THE BACK SIDE OF THE QUILT using the right edge of the Bi-Level foot as my guide. (This is about 3/8" wide on my foot). Apply the binding as you normally do keeping in mind to stop from the corner the width of your seam before you turn the corner.

Press the binding to the front and pin in place to keep it from moving as you sew. There are two ways to topstitch the front: 1. Using the right side of the foot as a guide and moving your needle so that it just catches the left side of the binding 2. Using the marking on the foot that indicates the left edge of the channel and moving your needle so that it just catches the edge of the binding. This method is probably the best as it uses the channel under the foot to best advantage.

Sew one edge but stop at the corner. I have found that if I try to continue around the corner, my sewing machine foot gets caught in the fabric forming the corner fold. I restart sewing at the corner a short distance away from the corner and backstitch to the corner and then sew forward.

There is a learning curve in using this foot, but I think the result is worth the effort. If you have questions about this technique, please call me, Vicki David, at 539-3171.