

Instructions for using Sewing by Sarah Binding Attachment

Installation

1. Determine which foot to use. A clear foot can be helpful, an open applique foot may also allow you to see easier, but you may find a walking foot or the Glider Foot useful with bulkier items.
2. Start by unscrewing the screw on the baseplate of your sewing machine on the right hand side of the foot. Use the two slots to find the best position for your machine where the bias feeder aligns with the right toe of the foot, and the edge of the binder is against the right side of the foot. Attach the screw through the slot in the Binder and into the right hole on the machine.

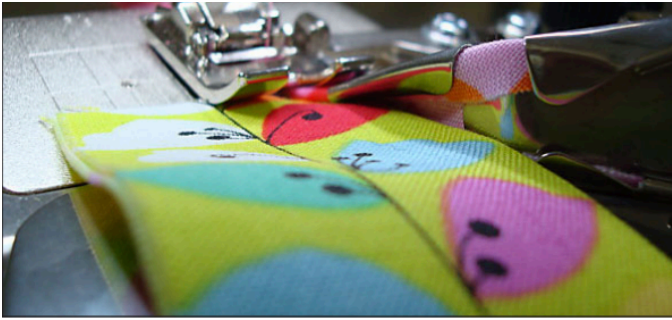


3.
 - a. There are two screws on the binding attachment, you may loosen these to move the bias feeder from left to right to position things for your machine. Adjust the needle drop position as well as the screws to achieve stitching that is close to the inside edge of the binding.



Use

1. Cut the binding fabric into bias strips into 1.25" pieces. Piece strips together on the bias to create the length needed for your project. Press seams open. Cut the end to a 45 degree angle, this will help in loading it into the attachment.
2. For best results, stiffen the binding fabric with Best Press Starch Alternative before cutting.
3. Feed the bias strip into the slot of the binder. Use an awl, stiletto, or tweezers to encourage the fabric to feed into the binder. The WRONG side of the fabric should be facing towards you.
4. Raise the presser foot and pull the fabric through the binder so that the fabric extends completely under the foot.
5. Lower the presser foot and sew a few stitches. Adjust the needle position to the right until the needle penetrates the fabric just to the right of the fold.
6. Position the fabric to be bound into the area between the folds of the bias and continue stitching. Make sure that the bias strips can flow freely into the binder.
7. Check to ensure that the fabric is completely encased in the fold and that the stitching catches the fabric and the binding. Adjust the needle position if necessary.
8. As you are sewing, focus on keeping your fabric/quilt up against the binder.



****How to sew a quilt binder corner**:**

1. Sew to the edge of the quilt
2. Tie off and then pull the quilt out from binder.
3. Keep the quilt close to the binder when folding the corners.
4. Finger press the folded fabric.

****Create a mitered corner**:**

1. Fold and pinch the top mitered corner, pin in place with a long pin. Repeat in the same way on the back of the quilt.
2. To continue sewing the binding, pull the fabric strip back through the binder and at the same time place the quilt back under the presser foot and into the binder again.
3. To ensure that the fold is right on both top and back, pull the quilt forward and back again a couple of times.
4. Lower the needle to hold the binding in place and remove the needles. Pull out long thread tails behind the presser foot before starting to sew. Backstitch and sew the binder in place. Repeat on the other corners.

****How to end the binding**:**

1. Sew the binding all the way around the quilt edges. When the edges of the binding almost meet, cut the excess of fabric at the beginning of binding as illustration.
2. Continue to sew, overlapping the binding one more time. Remove the quilt from the binder and trim excess leaving 1" (2.5) cm tail. Fold back the opening and pin in place. Sew a seam over the folded edge.

Tips

1. Experiment with your foot pressure. If you have the ability to change your presser foot pressure, it will help to experiment to see which works best to allow the layers to flow through but not cause ripples.
2. Roll the tape on a toilet roll. Roll the tape on an empty toilet roll and put it on a paper towel stand while sewing. This will help to feed the tape evenly and keep it from collapsing before it is fed into the binder attachment.
3. Gently guide the tape when sewing. Use a narrow tool such as an awl or tweezers to guide the tape back if it starts to slip. Don't tug and pull the tape with your hands while sewing, this is a recipe for messed up stitches. This is something I learned in my class and found it to be very true.
4. Cut the binding to be at least 6" longer than your desired project, this gives you a way to start your stitching prior to inserting your main fabric/quilt/apparel item.
5. Pull the binding under the foot and anchor it by taking a few stitches into it, THEN insert your neckline/quilt into the binder edge and start stitching
6. For binding the edge of a quilt, make the edges of the sandwich (top, batting, backing) as thin as possible for smooth feeding into the Binder by serging or using a narrow zigzag stitch to flatten and stabilize it