

## Adding A Crumb Catcher

*The following is an easy way to add a crumb catcher (a flat, narrow strip of contrasting fabric without piping) between the quilt and the binding:*

**Step 1:** Cut strips of fabric the length and width of your quilt top plus a little extra for insurance. The width of the fabric will depend on the finished width of the crumb catcher. For 1/4" finished which is standard on larger quilts, cut the strips 1" wide. For 1/8" finished which is used on small to miniature quilts, cut the strips 3/4" wide. These can be cut on the lengthwise or crosswise grain, but the lengthwise grain is best if you have enough fabric. It is better not to piece, but if you do need to, be sure and piece diagonally and press the seam open.

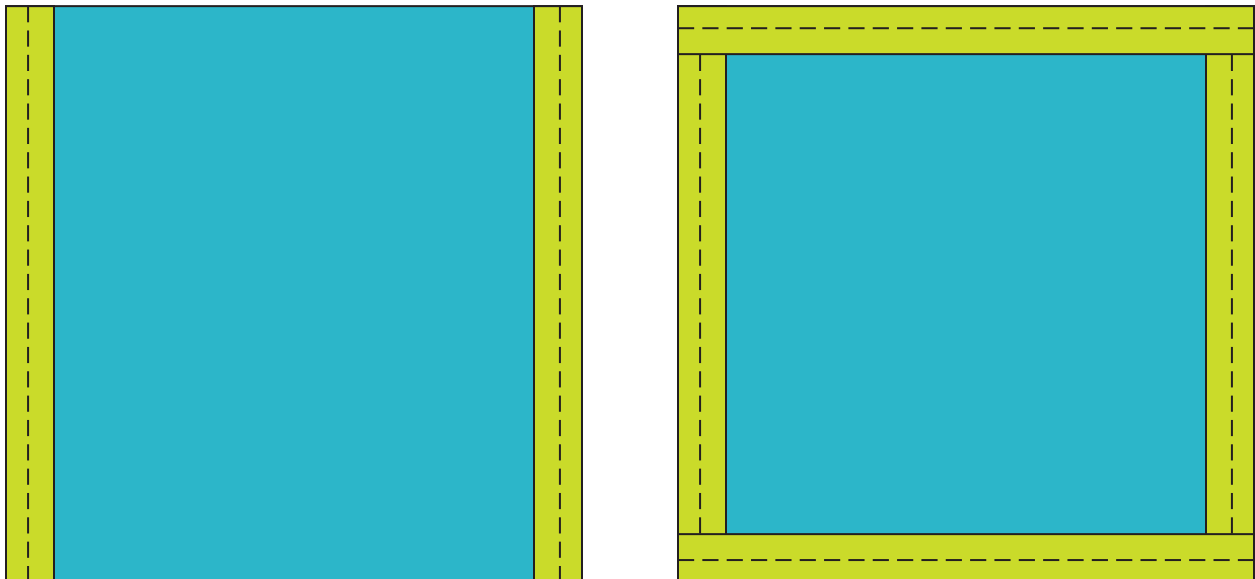
cut 1" wide strips for 1/4" finished

cut 3/4" wide strips for 1/8" finished

**Step 2:** Fold the fabric strips in half lengthwise, wrong side together, and press, making sure raw edges are perfectly even. This is the same method that is used for binding.



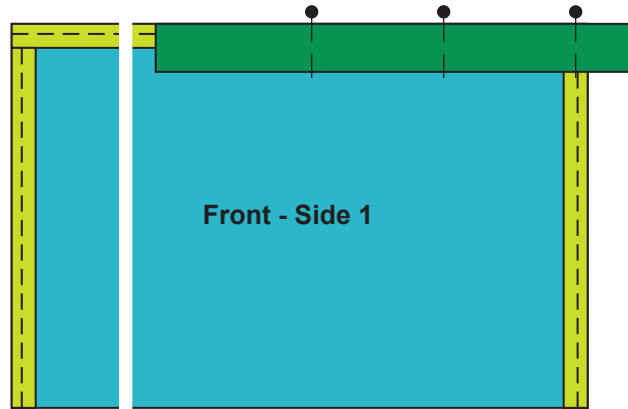
**Step 3:** With raw edges matching, pin and sew crumb catchers to quilt sides using a scant 1/4" seam allowance. Be exact with your stitching as you will be using the seam on the back side of the quilt as a guide for adding binding. You might want to use a thread color in the bobbin that can be easily seen on the back side. Repeat to add crumb catcher to top and bottom of quilt. Trim excess batting and backing fabric if you haven't already done so.



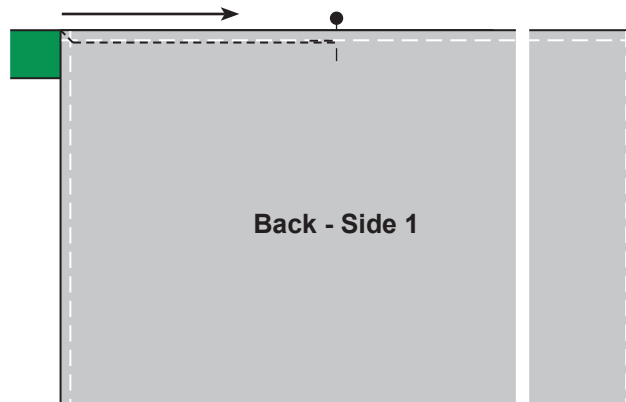
**Step 4:** Prepare binding. I usually cut my binding strips 2 1/2" for 1/4" finished binding.



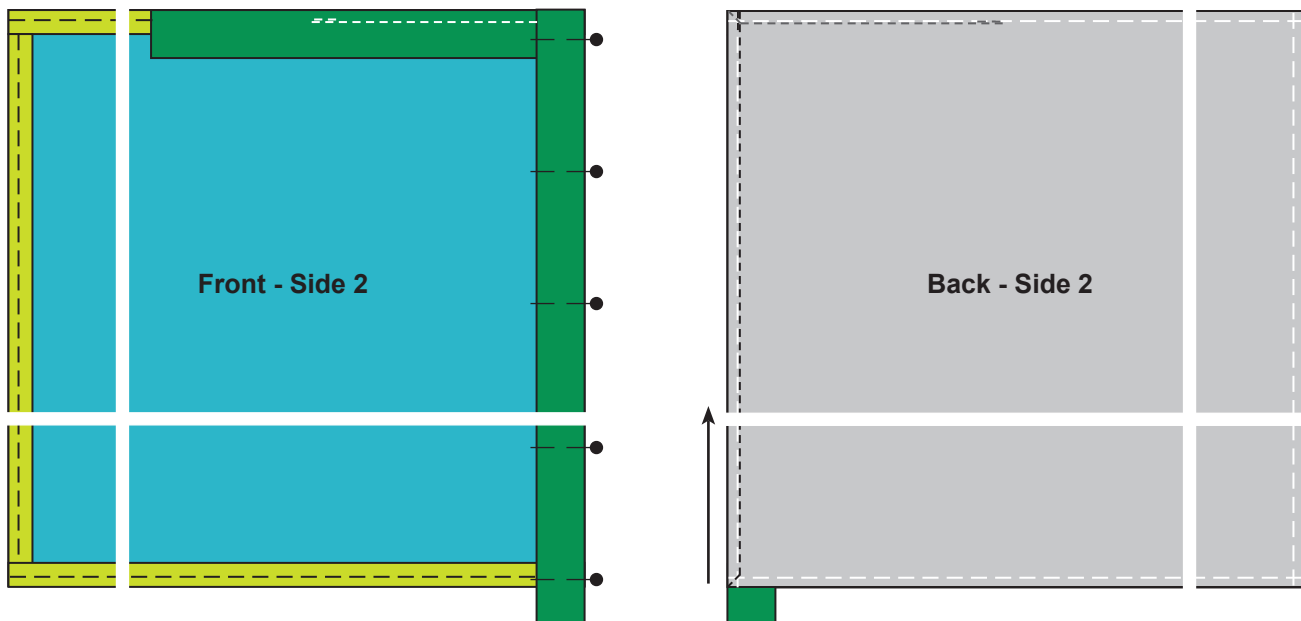
**Step 5:** With raw edges matching, pin binding to quilt starting near the center of any side. Use long pins, leaving the head of the pin past the edge of the fabric as you will be turning the quilt over to sew. Leave the first 6-8" unpinned. Pin binding to corner.



**Step 6:** Sew on the back side of the quilt next to the seam for the crumb catcher in the direction shown, starting at the corner. Use an open toe walking foot so you can easily see the seam. Stop sewing at the last pin and backstitch.

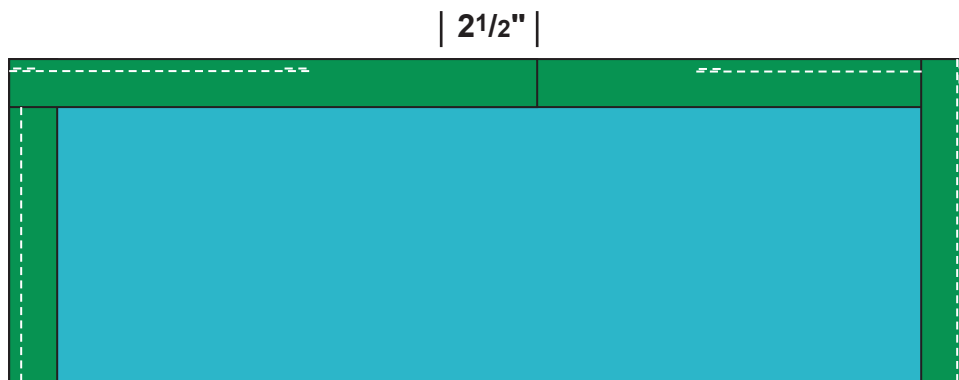


**Step 7:** Pin next side mitering the corner. Sew from next corner to the previous sewn corner in the direction shown, backstitching at the end.

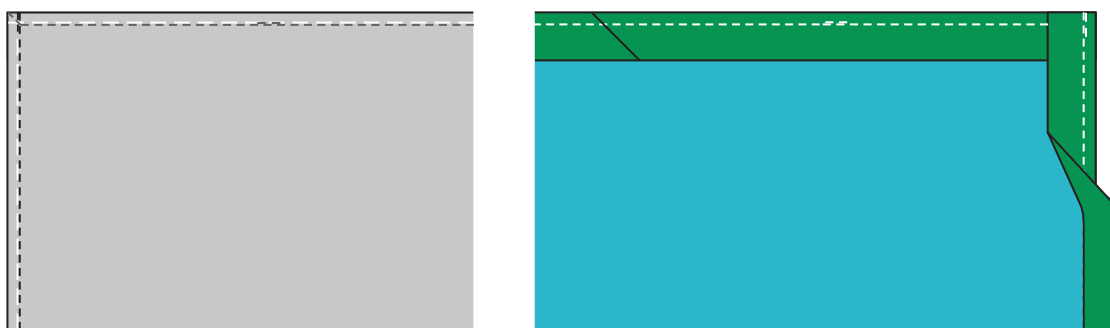


**Step 8:** Repeat around. Leave last 6-8" unsewn on beginning side (12-16" counting first 6-8").

**Step 9:** Overlap binding strips and trim excess so the overlap is 2 1/2" (the same width as the binding strips). Unfold and diagonally piece the ends, trim seam and press open.



**Step 10:** Refold, pin and sew remaining binding to quilt, sewing on the back side. Press binding away from quilt center.



**Step 11:** Fold binding to back of quilt, mitering corners, and blind stitch in place.

