

FREE TUTORIAL: Facing

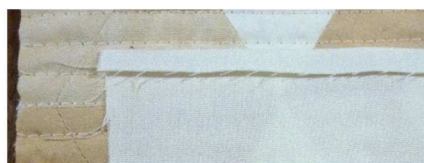
Sometimes you might decide that binding the edge of a quilt to finish it is not suitable. Maybe the shape is difficult, or maybe you just do not want that hard line at the edge of your quilt. Facing might be the answer.

Here I will show you how I face a square quilt, as well as how to face a small shape – in this case a circle, but it could be any shape – and how this method can also be used to face a 'hole' in a quilt – again this can be applied to any shape.

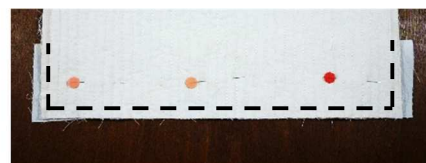
The sizes shown are approximate and relate to a small wall hanging, If you want to face a larger quilt, you can use wider strips.



1. Cut two pieces of your facing fabric 3 inches wide and approximately 1 inch shorter than the height of your quilt.



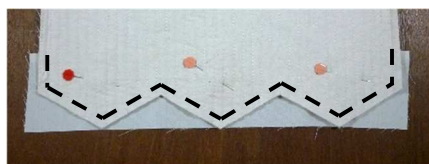
2. Press $\frac{1}{4}$ inch down one long edge Wrong Sides Together (WST). Set these two pieces aside



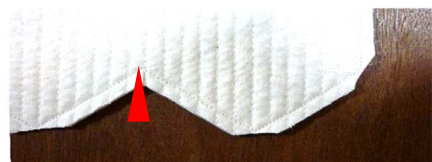
3. Cut two further 3 inch wide strips slightly longer than the width of the quilt. Press the $\frac{1}{4}$ inch WST as before. Start with the top edge, pin Right Sides Together (RST) so you can see the position of the strip from the back of the quilt. Working on the back of the quilt, stitch $\frac{1}{4}$ inch from the edge of the quilt on three sides as shown



4. Trim the ends of the facing strip and trim any right angled corners as shown



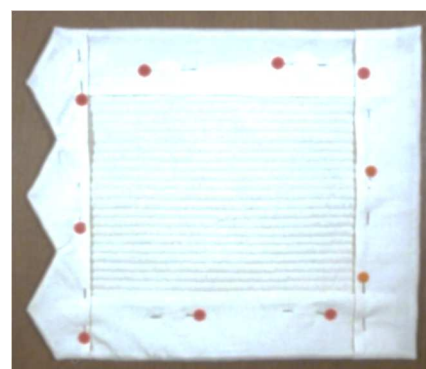
5. Pin the second strip in place RST from the back of the quilt as before and stitch $\frac{1}{4}$ inch away from the edge.



6. Trim the facing strip to the shape of the quilt and trim all the corners as shown. Where ever you have an internal angle, snip the seam allowance with sharp scissors as close to the stitching as you can get without going through it.



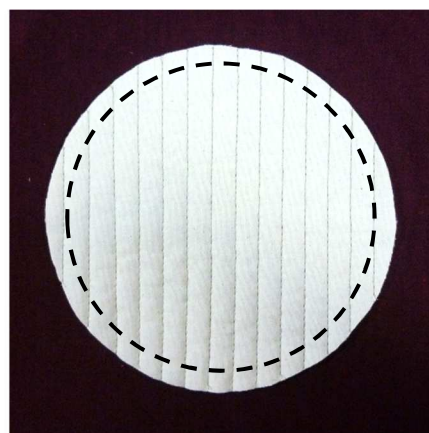
7. Take the first of the short strips and place it RST overlapping the strips already stitched on. Stitch with a $\frac{1}{4}$ inch seam and repeat with the other strip on the opposite side of the quilt. Turn the facing to the back of the quilt rolling the seams flat



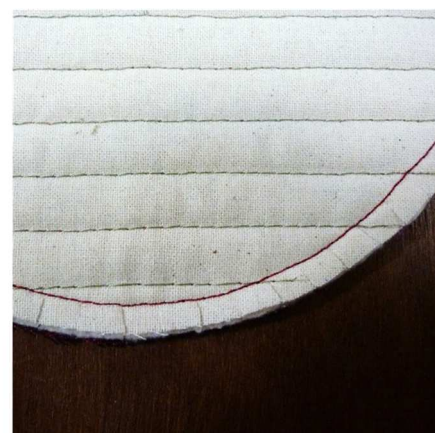
8. Push the corners out carefully and pin the facing down. Stitch the facing in place all round.



For smaller quilts of any shape a single piece of fabric can be used for facing



Pin the quilted shape RST with your facing fabric and stitch a $\frac{1}{4}$ inch seam following the edge of the shape



Trim the fabric to shape, then trim and snip any corners as before and snip any curves every $\frac{1}{4}$ inch

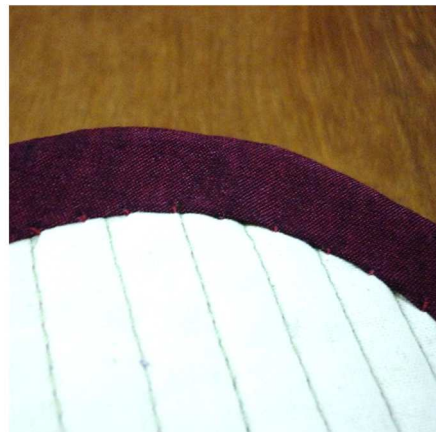
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Make a small slit in the facing fabric and trim it approximately 2 inches in from the edge of the quilted shape. If two straight lines meet, cut a gentle curve at the corner



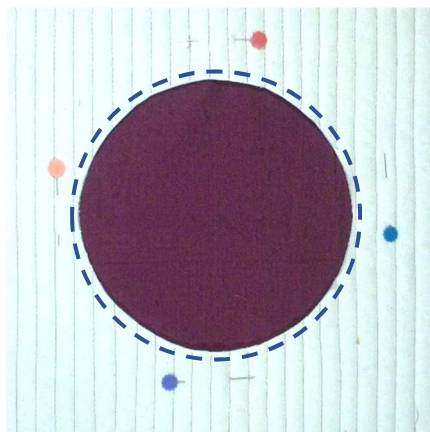
Turn the shape the right way out through the hole, pushing any corners out firmly and rolling the seam until it lies flat



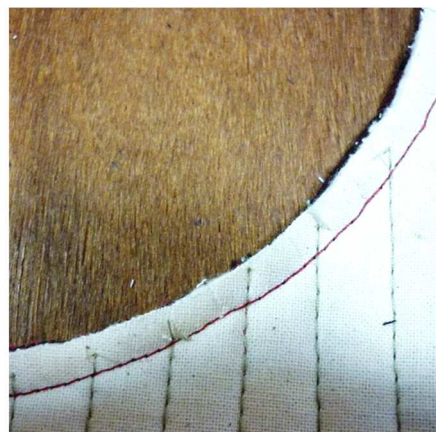
Turn the raw edge of the facing fabric under (make little snips if needed in a tight curve) and hand stitch it in place all the way round.



Internal shapes or 'holes' in a quilt can be faced in the same way; cut a piece of fabric approximately 3 inches bigger than your hole all round



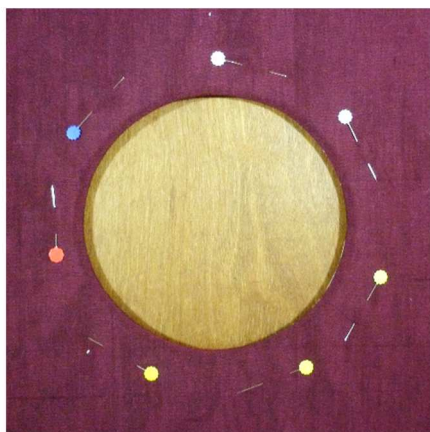
Pin the facing fabric RST centred over the hole and stitch a ¼ inch seam following the shape



Trim the fabric to shape, then snip any internal corners and curves every ¼ inch as before, as close as you can to the stitching without going through it



When you first turn the facing fabric through the hole you may find it wrinkles badly like this – roll and manipulate the seam until it lies flat



Pin the facing fabric in place once it is flat, then turn a hem on the outer edge and hand stitch in place all round – do not stitch through to the front



When facing a large hole, it is useful to run a line of tiny tacking stitches about ½ inch away from the edge of the hole to hold everything in place