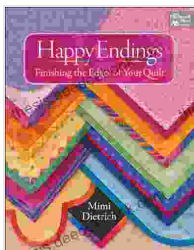


Happy Endings: Finishing the Edges of Your Quilts

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The final stage of quilting, finishing the edges, is crucial for completing a quilt that is not only beautiful but also durable and long-lasting. Whether you are a beginner or an experienced quilter, understanding the various edge finishing techniques can elevate your quilting skills and create a professional-looking masterpiece. This comprehensive article will guide you through the different edge finishing methods, providing detailed instructions and helpful tips to achieve flawless results.

1. Binding: A Classic Edge Finish:



Happy Endings: Finishing the Edges of Your Quilts

by Mimi Dietrich

★★★★☆ 4.6 out of 5

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Binding is a traditional and versatile technique that involves wrapping a strip of fabric around the raw edges of your quilt and stitching it in place. This creates a neat and secure finish that conceals the raw edges and

adds an extra layer of texture and dimension to the quilt. Here's a step-by-step guide:

a. Select Fabric: Choose a fabric that coordinates with your quilt but is also durable, such as cotton or a cotton blend. The binding strip should be cut to a width of 2 1/2 inches.

b. Cut and Join Binding Strips: Measure the perimeter of your quilt to determine the total length of binding required. Cut the fabric strips to the desired length and join them together using a diagonal seam or mitered corners for a more precise finish.

c. Attach Binding: Fold the binding strip in half lengthwise and press. Pin it to the raw edge of the quilt, aligning the raw edges. Stitch around the perimeter of the quilt, close to the folded edge of the binding.

d. Fold and Stitch: Fold the binding over the raw edge and press. Topstitch along the outer edge of the binding, securing it in place.

2. Facing: A Quick and Easy Finish:

Facing is a method that involves folding and stitching a piece of fabric over the raw edges of the quilt. This creates a clean and finished look that is less bulky than binding.

a. Cut Fabric: Cut a piece of fabric to the size of your quilt plus 2 inches on all sides. This will provide enough fabric for folding over the edges.

b. Attach Facing: Fold the facing fabric over the raw edges of the quilt by 1 inch. Press and stitch around the perimeter, close to the folded edge.

c. Trim and Fold: Trim any excess facing fabric around the corners. Fold the remaining fabric over the stitched edge and press.

d. Topstitch: Topstitch along the folded edge to secure the facing in place.

3. Serging: A Durable and Professional Finish:

Serging is a technique that uses a specialized sewing machine to trim the raw edges of your quilt while simultaneously stitching them with an overcast stitch. This creates a durable and professional-looking finish that prevents fraying.

a. Adjust Machine: Set up your serger according to the manufacturer's instructions. Use a thread that matches the color of your quilt fabric.

b. Serge Edges: Run the raw edges of your quilt through the serger, aligning the edges with the cutting blade. The serging machine will trim and stitch the edges simultaneously.

c. Trim Threads: After serging, trim any loose threads to create a clean finish.

4. Piping: A Decorative and Elegant Finish:

Piping is a technique that involves inserting a cord or piping into a fabric casing and then stitching it to the raw edges of your quilt. This creates a decorative and elegant finish that adds a sophisticated touch to the quilt.

a. Make Piping: Purchase or make your own piping cord. To make piping, wrap a cord in bias tape and stitch it in place.

b. Attach Piping: Pin the piping to the raw edges of your quilt, aligning the casing with the edges. Stitch around the perimeter of the quilt, close to the folded edge of the piping.

c. Secure Piping: Fold the piping over the stitched edge and press. Topstitch along the outer edge of the piping to secure it in place.

5. Blanket Stitch: A Hand-Sewn Finish:

Blanket stitch is a traditional hand-sewing technique that involves creating a series of decorative stitches around the raw edges of your quilt. This creates a delicate and unique finish that adds a personal touch to the quilt.

a. Thread Needle: Thread a needle with a strong thread, such as perle cotton or embroidery floss.

b. Stitch Edges: Start at one corner of the quilt and work your way around the perimeter. Insert the needle into the quilt just outside the raw edge and bring it out a few stitches away. Loop the thread around the needle and insert it back into the quilt next to the first stitch.

c. Continue Stitching: Repeat the stitch process all around the edges of the quilt, creating a continuous blanket stitch.

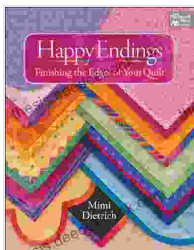
Tips for Flawless Edge Finishing:

- **Use Sharp Scissors:** Ensure your scissors are sharp to make precise cuts and prevent fraying.
- **Press Regularly:** Press the edges of your quilt and binding strips before and after stitching to ensure a crisp and professional finish.

- **Match Thread Colors:** Select thread colors that match or complement the quilt fabric for a cohesive look.
- **Practice on Scraps:** Before starting on your actual quilt, practice your edge finishing techniques on scrap pieces of fabric to perfect your skills.
- **Don't Rush:** Edge finishing takes time and patience. Avoid rushing the process to ensure a flawless result.

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Finishing the edges of your quilt is an essential step in completing a beautiful and durable masterpiece. By understanding the different edge finishing methods and following the instructions outlined in this article, you can create a quilt that will stand the test of time and bring joy for years to come. Remember, patience and attention to detail are key to achieving flawless results. So, take your time, experiment with different techniques, and let your creativity shine through.



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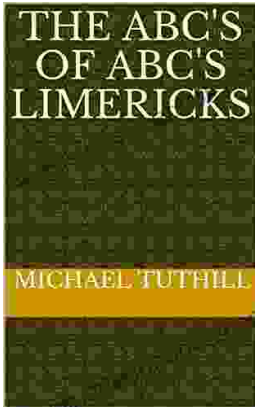
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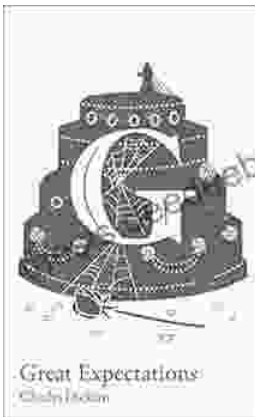
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