

## "Mug Rug" Edge Finishing Techniques by Jan Krentz

A Mug Rug is a small, padded project similar to a hot pad – just big enough for a beverage cup and a treat! There are several great ways to finish the edges of your Mug Rugs for the April Mug Rug exchange. For the following techniques, use a short stitch length to secure the layers and edges.

No-binding Method:

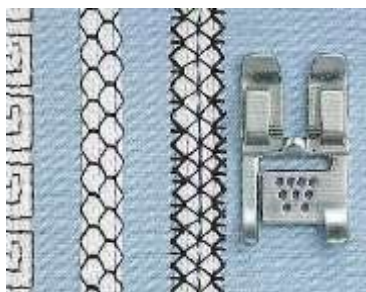
- 1) Make the mug rug front and back layers. Place them right sides together; add a piece of batting against the (wrong side) of the front panel. Pin around the edges, holding the layers together. Sew all the way around the edges with a  $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam, leaving approximately 2" to turn the mug rug inside out. Trim any tips, curves or inside corners (if any). Turn the mug rug inside out and carefully poke out the corners. Press neatly; sew the 2" opening closed; quilt the mug rug as desired.

The following methods occur after the top, batting and back are layered, quilted and trimmed to shape. Straight stitch or zigzag  $\frac{1}{8}$ " from the raw edge. Adjust the thread tension and stitch length and TEST the finish technique on scrap fabrics before working on the mug rug!

- 2) Satin-Stitched edges: Change the thread to a contrasting, variegated or decorative color. Set the machine to a wide and short zigzag satin stitch. Loosen the top tension a bit. Stitch around the mug rug to finish the raw edges. Thread the tails into a needle and hide the tails between the layers; trim neatly.


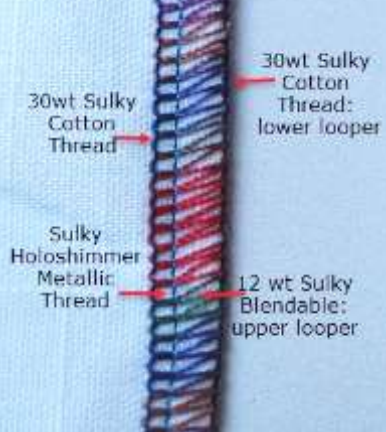


- 3) Couched edging: Select a cord, yarn or perle cotton. Select a zig-zag or other decorative stitch pattern. Set the stitch length to permit the yarn or cording to show as covered with stitches. Use a cording/couching foot or open-toe appliqué foot and colorful thread. Stitch slowly, sewing over the cording at the edge of the mug rug. Thread the cord and sewing threads into a large-eye-needle; hide tails between the layers.



- 4) Serged edging:

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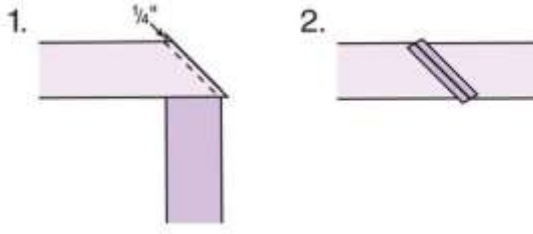
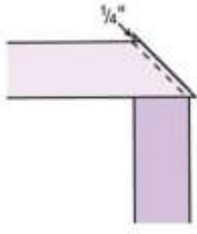
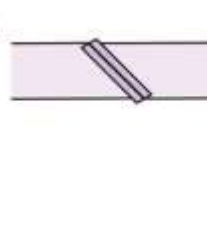
<p>Cover/serge the edges with decorative woolly nylon or other heavy thread and a dense short stitch on your serger.</p> <p>Hide the long thread tails with a needle between the layers and trim the tails neatly.</p>		
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### 5) Backing fabric binding:

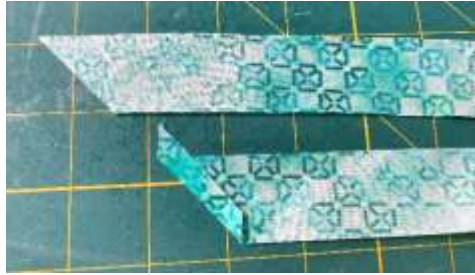
<p>Trim the backing fabric to a uniform width – ½" to ¾".</p> <p>Bring the backing fabric neatly over the front, folding the raw edges under.</p> <p>Make a neat fold at each corner and top-stitch. YouTube: <a href="https://youtu.be/mcm0EnlwqT8">https://youtu.be/mcm0EnlwqT8</a></p>		
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### 6) Totally Machine-stitched Bias Binding:

This binding variation *only works with bias-cut* fabric due to the anti-fraying raw edge. Cut 1" to 1-1/8" strips of fabric on a 45-degree bias angle. Make a slightly longer bias strip than required for the edges of your mug rug.

	 <p>1. </p> <p>2. </p> <p>Sew shorter bias strips to make a longer strip. Finger-press any joining seams open.</p>
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To create a quick finished edge, fold one end of the bias strip about  $\frac{1}{4}$ " of the starting end, wrong sides together.



Position the starting end about halfway along one edge with the mug rug *front*. Align the binding and mug rug edges right sides together.



Begin sewing the binding with a  $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam, working slowly to align the binding and mug rug edge.



As you reach each corner, fold the single layer bias binding to make a mitered corner.



Sew the binding on all edges until you reach the starting point. The starting angle can go either direction.

Here are some mitered binding techniques on YouTube:

<https://youtu.be/6fP5-sVJJdA>) or

<https://youtu.be/dmyGObgNbX0>.



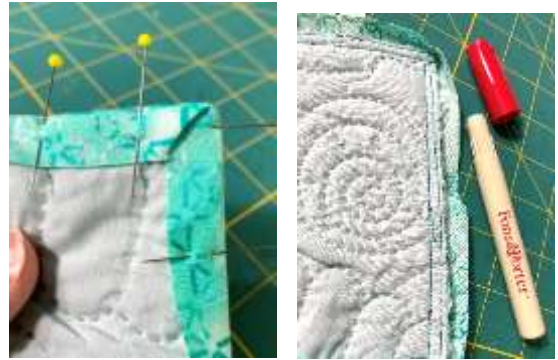
Overlap the starting point (angles can go either direction) with folded edge by approx.  $\frac{1}{2}$ " and trim excess.

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Fold the bias fabric strip to the back, leaving the fabric single layer. It should be longer than the stitching (from the front).

Do not fold the raw edge under (as you would for a quilt).



Using pins or fabric glue stick, hold the fabric strip in place for stitching.



Working from the *front*, stitch-in-the-ditch by machine, sewing through the binding and mug rug.



With a sharp pair of scissors, carefully trim away excess binding on the *back*.

The raw edges of the bias binding will not ravel; this application will be neat and thinner than a folded binding.



Optional: apply a dot of Fray Check seam sealer in the corners and at seams.



The folded overlap is very sharp & tidy!

Happy Quilting!

*Jan P. Krentz*