

Quilting Tips & Tuts #9 – Quilt Sleeve

The last, but not least, step in displaying your quilt

by Pam Walsh

This Quilting Tips & Tuts has also been posted on the Plano Quilters Guild Website under 'How To' on the Resources Tab for easy referral.

Adding a sleeve to your quilt for display, either in a Quilt Show or in your home, should be done with care to help ensure that your quilt hangs properly. By following these step-by-step instructions, your quilt sleeve will easily accommodate a hanging pole and your quilt will hang straighter and flatter.

1. Cut the sleeve $8\frac{1}{2}$ inches times the exact width of your quilt. To hem the short ends, fold in $\frac{1}{4}$ " then $\frac{1}{4}$ " again, press, and topstitch.
2. With wrong sides together, press the long sides of the sleeve so that they meet in the center.



3. Fold right sides together and stitch a $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam on the long edge of the sleeve.
4. Turn the sleeve right-side out.
5. Re-press the fold lines. You can now see the "pouf" in the sleeve that will help your quilt hang straight.



- Center the sleeve across the width on the back of your quilt. Using the top fold line, pin the sleeve in place $\frac{1}{2}$ " from the top of your quilt.



- Blindstitch the top of the sleeve in place. (*Do not take long basting-type stitches, or the sleeve may not hold once the quilt is hung.*)
- Using the opposite fold line, pin the bottom edge of the sleeve in place. Also pin the flat short ends of the sleeve to the quilt. Blindstitch the remaining 3 edges to the quilt.



The back of sleeve will fit flat against the quilt. The rest of the sleeve will "pouf" out slightly.



For a "Show" quilt, I would normally use the backing fabric for my sleeve. These examples were done in muslin to make them photograph better.
(*For miniature or small quilts ONLY -30" or less on each side- the sleeve should be cut $4 \frac{1}{2}$ " times the width of the quilt.*)