

# moda

## CUTTING TABLE

FABRICS TIP JAR

### Tip Jar: Single-wide...

DECEMBER 1, 2015

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someone explain how it's done.

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Wide bindings – 1/2" or more that lay very flat.

While I've seen many photographs of antique quilts with wide bindings, I'd only ever seen one in person, an Amish quilt from the Esprit collection in San Francisco. It was before I started making quilts and attaching bindings so unfortunately, I didn't pay it much attention. Books didn't help as it wasn't a popular technique and my experiments in trying to duplicate the look didn't turn out well. (Think the wide, poufy, faux-satin binding on not-so-old blankets.)

Gwen Marston. She'd figured it out – instead of the usual double-fold binding that most of us are accustomed to using, wide bindings are best done with a single-fold bias binding.

I couldn't wait to try it out. Love. Crush! This binding finishes at 3/4" wide.

To date, I've done three projects with wide bindings. This is the first one I can share, it's a variation of the Modern Mexlas quilt that's been on social media for the past



It's a variation of the Modern Maples quilt that's been on social media for the past year or two. I'm not sure who came up with the original idea – if you know, please let me know so I can give them credit.



I loved the random setting used by several people – and credited to Lori Holt – but by the time I got to thinking of a setting, I'd already made my blocks. I had more big blocks than I needed and not enough fabric to make more small blocks... so I improvised.

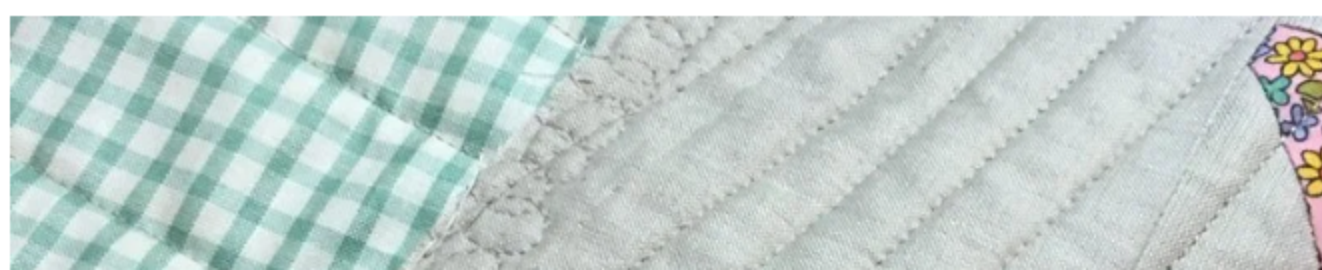
The fabric is the upcoming [Regent Street 2015 Lawns](#) with a gray woven from the [Fiesta Wovens](#) collection.

But back to the binding – it measures 3/4" wide on the front and back.



Here's how it's done.

**Planning ahead.** Since I knew that this quilt was going to get a wide binding, I asked my lovely machine-quilter to do some extra stitching on the outside 1/2" of the quilt top.







The only purpose for this is to keep the edge within the binding as flat as possible.

**Step 1.** Cut the binding strips on the bias – 3" wide.



They're a little bit wider than necessary but I found that while  $2\frac{3}{4}$ " is wide enough, it was easier to fold under and stitch with a little bit more generous seam allowance.

Sew the strips together with a scant  $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance and press the seams open.

If desired, wind the binding on a spool or card to keep it from getting tangled while it's being stitched onto the quilt.

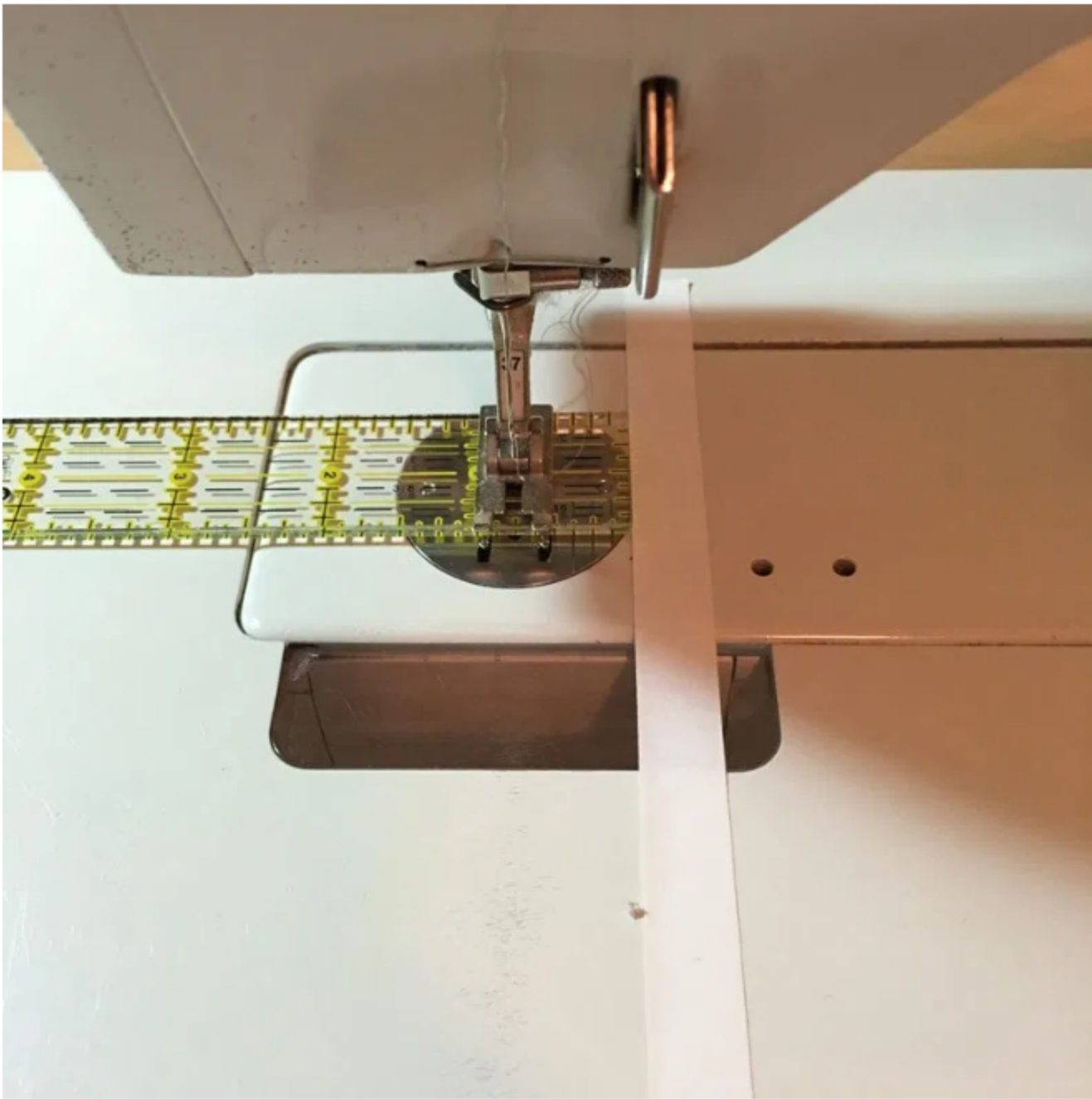






It also looks pretty.

**Step 2.** Using masking tape, mark the desired seam allowance on the sewing machine. For this binding – I measured a 3/4" seam allowance.



Now measure the same seam allowance – 3/4" – in the front of the needle – this is for the mitered corners.







Yes, I forgot to take this picture until after I'd finished attaching the binding.

**Step 3.** With right sides together, align the edge of the binding with the edge of the border/quilt top. With the edge aligned with the tape-marker for the seam allowance, begin stitching the binding to the quilt top.

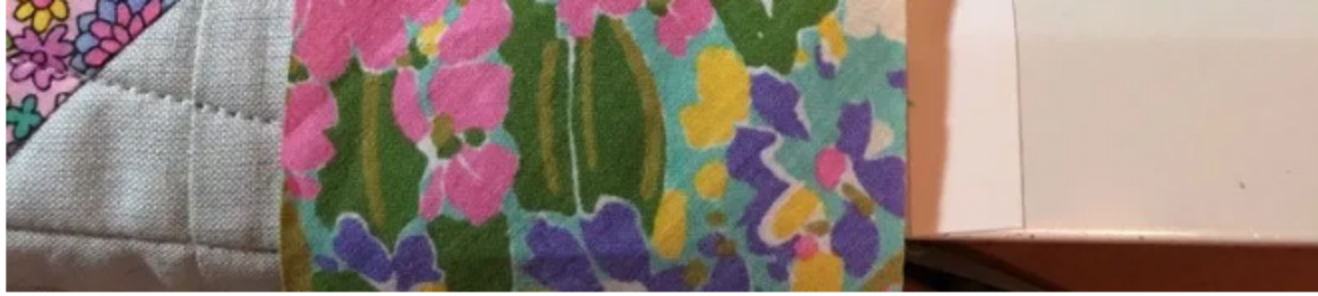
**Step 4.** Using the horizontal tape as the guide, stop stitching when you reach the point 3/4" from the corner. Turn the corner and stitch back to the edge of the quilt top as shown.



**Step 5.** Lift the presser foot and fold the binding strip back to the edge as shown – making sure that there aren't any unseen folds in the fabric, and that the corners are sharp.







**Step 6.** Keep stitching using the 3/4" seam allowance until you reach the starting point. Join the seams with a diagonal seam – just as you would do for a double-fold binding. Press the seam open and finish stitching the binding onto the quilt top.



**Step 7.** While this isn't required, I recommend pressing the binding open – away from the front of the quilt top and toward the binding. This minimizes the chances of a fold along the seam, and it seems to help me make the fold over the edge of the quilt top.



**Step 8.** Folding under the edge along the line of stitching, pin the binding in place and



Step of folding under the edge along the line of stitching, pin the binding in place and stitch it down.



I think you'll be surprised at how easily the corner goes – just remember to stitch down the fold in the miter on the front and back sides of the quilt.



I did wonder if I would have to press the binding flat after it had been washed but it hasn't been necessary. This is what it looked like after it came out of the dryer.

Two more things to mention. First, the fabric. I love the Regent Street Lawns – the first collection and this new 2015 edition. The fine threads and tight weave of cotton lawn makes the fabric very lightweight. It's easy to sew with – though I do have a few recommendations.

- **Pre-washing.** Because of the tight weave and fine threads, cotton lawns don't shrink as much as regular quilting cottons. However, pre-washing is still recommended if you're going to use the lawns for garments. For patchwork, if you press with steam – as I do – then prepping the fabrics with starch or sizing will give the fabric a little bit more body and alleviate any shrinkage. If you're mixing the lawns with regular quilting cottons, those fabrics should be "prepped" or pre-washed as they will shrink more than the lawns.
- **Thread.** The very fine weight of the fabric means that a fine thread is recommended for piecing – a 50 wt. Aurifil, a 60 wt. Presencia or a 50 wt. DMC Embroidery thread.
- **Needle.** The finer thread and fabric require a finer needle – no more than a 75/11. A 70/10 is ideal – unless you're sewing the lawns to a thicker, linen-like weight fabric.



Second, the Modern Maple. My large Maple Leaf blocks finish at 10 1/2" x 10 1/2" and the small Maple Leaf blocks finish at 5 1/4" x 5 1/4". I made 32 big blocks and 20 small blocks – and my finished quilt measures approx. 68" x 73".

I used one Layer Cake and one Charm Pack to cut the pieces for my quilt –

- **Prints – Large Blocks:** 32 sets of the following – 3 matching squares – 4" x 4" for the plain squares / 2 matching squares – 4 1/2" x 4 1/2" for the HTSs / 1 strip – 1" x 6" for the leaf stem.
- **Prints – Small Blocks:** 10 sets of the following – 6 matching squares – 2 1/4" x 2 1/4" for the plain squares / 1 square – 5 1/2" x 5 1/2" for the HTSs – two sets of 4 matching – and 2 strips – 3/4" x 5" for the leaf stems.
- **Background – Large Blocks:** 32 sets of the following – 3 matching squares – 4 1/2" x 4 1/2" – 2 for the HTSs and 1 for the stem square / 1 square – 4" x 4" for the block. Trim finished units to 4" x 4".
- **Background – Small Blocks:** 10 sets of the following – 2 matching squares – 2 1/4" x 2 1/4" for the plain squares / 1 square – 5 1/2" x 5 1/2" for the HTSs / and 1 square 2 1/2" x 2 1/2" for the stem square. Trim finished units to 2 1/4" x 2 1/4".
- **Background – Plain Squares:** 8 squares – 5 3/4" x 5 3/4".

For an excellent tutorial on the construction of the [Modern Maple block](#) – Nicole Daksiewicz of [Modern Handcraft](#).

Both the background and backing fabrics are silky-wovens from the [Fiesta Wovens](#) collection. While the thread-count isn't quite as high as it is for the lawns, the fabrics are a bit lighter-weight and finer than regular quilting cottons. The batting used in the quilt is [Luna Loft](#), a light-to-medium weight cotton-poly blend batting. The finished quilt is very light, very soft and quite wonderful.

(It was quilted by Maggi Honeyman.)

It goes without saying that I'll be making more quilts with cotton lawn. And with wide bindings.

## [Jump to Leave us a Comment](#)

BY CARRIE NELSON | IN FABRICS, TIP JAR | TAGGED PATCHWORK, QUILT, QUILTING, REGENT STREET LAWN, SEWING, SINGLE-FOLD BINDING, TIP JAR, WIDE BINDING

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PREVIOUS  
Thankful...

NEXT  
Meet Moda designer Luke Haynes

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19 thoughts on "Tip Jar: Single-wide..."



PATRICIA SAYS:  
DECEMBER 1, 2015 AT 5:11 AM

Love the look of the wide binding. Thanks for the tutorial & information



Love the look of the wide binding. Thanks for the tutorial & information on the quilt fabric & blocks.



**ANDREA @ TIDELINE QUILTS SAYS:**

DECEMBER 1, 2015 AT 6:04 AM

Your wide binding is fantastic – love the look! And I have the perfect quilt to test it on in production now! Your interpretation of Modern Maples is just a beautiful quilt – so great to read a post about your making a quilt again, Carrie! Excellent info, and great tips – I feel like I'm having a flashback to your MRQC days (and lovin' it!). Thank you...my day started great thanks to this post!



**CARRIE NELSON SAYS:**

DECEMBER 2, 2015 AT 7:19 AM

Thank you! You've started my day off nicely too. 😊

Let me know how your wide binding turns out – pictures?  
(Hint hint.)



**KATHY IN MN SAYS:**

DECEMBER 1, 2015 AT 6:39 AM

Cool post-love it (and I'm a skinny binding girl). Makes me want to attempt it!



**CARRIE NELSON SAYS:**

DECEMBER 2, 2015 AT 7:10 AM

Me too! I cut my bindings at 1 7/8" or 2" – depending on the batting and fabric – for a double-fold. So doing one SO wide seemed really odd but I loved the look of it on antiques and wanted to try it. It's a nice option and I think it's a great finish – on some quilts. 😊

So go for it!



**JANEY SAYS:**

DECEMBER 1, 2015 AT 8:02 AM

When I mark an unusual width for a seam on my machine, I use electrical tape. It doesn't leave residue and it is easily moved and repositioned. Electrical tape comes in many colors and you can't miss seeing the edge of a brightly-colored line.

The wide binding is something my grandmother used to do—she could do anything she set her mind to do. I believe she learned it from her English mother. At any rate—it is a lovely finish to many different styles of fabric and I am glad you posted how to do it.



**CARRIE NELSON SAYS:**

DECEMBER 2, 2015 AT 7:08 AM

I've never thought of using electrical tape – that's a terrific idea! I've used the low-tack artist's masking tape for so long that I forget about some of the other options. I like the idea of bright colors so thank you for the tip. 😊



**JANICE R SAYS:**

JANUARY 20, 2016 AT 8:37 PM

I've also used painter's tape. The bright blue



I've also used painter's tape. The bright blue or green is easy to see and easy to position/reposition. It also doesn't leave any residue.

Thank-you so much for this easy to understand tutorial as well as the recommendations. I'm starting a baby quilt for a soon-to-be-born granddaughter and her mom fell in love with Regent Street lawn AND the wide binding. New experiences in quilting and you have never failed me!



**MARY ANDRA SAYS:**

DECEMBER 1, 2015 AT 9:46 AM

Fabulous tutorial. Thank you Carrie.



**ARCHIE THE WONDER DOG SAYS:**

DECEMBER 1, 2015 AT 10:38 AM

I've made wide bindings before but had never thought about using single fold bias instead of the usual double fold – thank you!



**KARIN VAIL SAYS:**

DECEMBER 1, 2015 AT 11:21 AM

I did a wide binding on my MBS 9-patch Posie quilt – LOVED it. I did a double fold though – and did a strip of 2" print, then a 1.25" solid, then a 2" print. Folded in half, there was 3/8" of the solid showing and gave it a 'flange' of sorts 😊 I wanted a solid binding, but didn't quite have enough solid left, but had plenty of print – so this worked out really well 😊 I will definitely do it again in the future <http://www.cascadequilts.com/2014/12/moda-bake-shop-9-patch-posie-quilt.html>



**ALLISON PERSE SAYS:**

DECEMBER 1, 2015 AT 7:35 PM

This looks like an interesting idea to try. I wonder how it would suit a modern, sparse quilt rather than a more traditional busy one?

On another topic, I have seen mention in Moda's Piece magazine the notations "PP friendly" "HC friendly" "LC friendly". Can anyone please tell me what that means? I wondered if PP was paper piecing but couldn't figure out the others. Thanks in advance to anyone who can enlighten me.



**CARRIE NELSON SAYS:**

DECEMBER 2, 2015 AT 7:06 AM

Hi Allison – Those are short-hand abbreviations for Moda's various pre-cuts. It took me awhile to remember them all.



PP Friendly – Charm Pack – works well with 5" x 5" squares.

HB – Honey Bun – 1 1/2" x 42" strips

LC – Layer Cake – 10" x 10" squares

JR – Jelly Roll – 2 1/2" x 42" strips

MC – Mini Charms – 2 1/2" x 2 1/2" squares



As for the binding, I think it would work beautifully on a modern quilt. I think of the binding as being like the mat or frame on a picture or painting, different widths, colors and styles will change the look of the “finished” piece and it’s simply a case of finding the look that you want, that suits what you’re trying to achieve. It’s an option – another song for the repertoire. 😊

**ARDEN SAYS:**

DECEMBER 2, 2015 AT 1:00 AM

Thanks Carrie. I LUV the wide look and plan to try it. I appreciate the tip that the edge needs to be quilted flat! Thanks!



**CARRIE NELSON SAYS:**

DECEMBER 2, 2015 AT 7:22 AM

This will sound odd but it seemed to make sense that it might help keep that edge flat. It might not make that much of a difference but I usually need all the help I can get. 😊

**SHEILA KELLY SAYS:**

DECEMBER 3, 2015 AT 3:08 PM

Hi, Carrie!! I remember back when I went to Thimbleberries Club at Tammy Vonderschmidt’s quilt shop back in the early 90s. I worked for Tammy and loved her extra Club projects. Lynette Jensen used wide double thickness bindings sometimes on her flannel quilts. I’m thinking she gave us the measurements for how wide to cut the binding strips and the seam allowances. It all depended on how thick your flannel was and the batting that you were using. I never used wide bindings and can’t remember what the calculations were. But thank you for showing us a great way to use the single thickness way.



**TERESA BLOCK SAYS:**

DECEMBER 4, 2015 AT 8:55 AM

I have a toddler quilt that needs binding and this is the perfect technique to use on that quilt. I think this would be lovely on a utility wholecloth quilt, too!

**SUSANMP14 SAYS:**

DECEMBER 31, 2015 AT 7:25 AM

Hi Carrie, thanks for the tutorial. When you turned the binding to the back and hand stitched it, did you turn the edge under so there would not be a raw edge as in appliqué? I’m new to quilting/piecing and just wanted to clarify.



**CARRIE NELSON SAYS:**

DECEMBER 31, 2015 AT 7:40 AM

Hi Susan –

I did – the edge was turned under right at the seam-stitching line that attached the binding to the front of the quilt top. The edge just covers that line of stitching. Depending on the thickness of the batting, the fabric, etc., how much is actually turned under will vary but I find it easier to turn-under when there is at least 1/4”.



Single-fold binding isn't done as much now as it used to be, it's used mostly for small quilts with narrow bindings. But it's the only way to really make a wide binding lay well. I think you'll be surprised by how easily it goes, the only downside is that binding clips don't work well for the wider width so I had to use pins... and kept poking myself as I stitched. 😊

Comments are closed.

#### SEARCH



#### INSTAGRAM

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