

Hanging Sleeves Guidelines

A quilt hanging sleeve can be permanent or temporary and it can be sewn on after or at the same time you [apply the binding](#). A hanging sleeve allows a quilt to hang evenly, preventing the stretch that nearly always occurs when you secure the project to a wall with a series of pins or other fasteners.

You can use any fabric for the quilt sleeve, from plain muslin to something that enhances the reverse side of your quilt. Use wide backing fabric to make a long sleeve without piecing strips of fabric. Use the same fabric you back the quilt with to make the sleeve blend with the backing.

NOTE—if quilt is extra wide or large—split sleeves for wide quilts should be split in the middle to allow for a center support, and **hanging sleeves should be no more than 90” off the bottom edge of the quilt**. That means placing a sleeve after binding at a 90” distance from the floor.

Sew a Hanging Sleeve After the Quilt Is Finished



Fold sides and sew.



Sew lengthwise, wrong sides together.
Press seam open.



After sewing to quilt, sleeve will poach out to allow space for rod.

Credit: Janet Wickell

1. Cut and Sew

Cut or piece together fabric to make a strip 9-inch tall and the same width as the quilt.

Fold under both short edges about 1/4 inch, wrong sides together. Fold under again to double the fabric, and press. Sew a straight or zigzag seam to hem the folds.

2. Fold and Sew Lengthwise

Now fold the strip lengthwise, wrong sides together, aligning its raw edges. Sew together with a 1/2-inch seam allowance. Press the seam allowance open.

3. Sew Tube to Backing

Place the open seam against the quilt's back. Center and pin the top edge of the tube to the back of the quilt, about 1/2-inch below the binding. Use a whipstitch to sew the top edge of the tube to the quilt backing. Stitch into the [quilt batting](#) occasionally to help strengthen the seam but do not allow the stitches to show on the front of the quilt.

4. Attach the Sleeve to Quilt

Smooth the sleeve downward along the [quilt backing](#) and then make a 1/2-inch fold along its length to create a pleat. Leaving the pleat intact, pin the sleeve bottom to the quilt. Whipstitch the lower edge of the sleeve to the quilt. Remove the pins. The sleeve will poosh out a bit to allow space for a hanging rod. Whipstitch the (short) back sides of the sleeve to the quilt. Leave the front sides unsewn to allow for rod insertion.