

How to Make and Attach a Quilt Hanging Sleeve

1. Measure across the top of your quilt. Add 1 inch. This will be the width. Decide what depth the sleeve needs to be (for most quilt shows this is 4"). Double needed depth, add one inch.
So for a 4" sleeve you need a piece of fabric the width of the quilt plus one inch x 9".
2. Fold one of the narrow edges over 1/2" wrong side to wrong side and iron. Fold over again. Iron. Sew along edge to stabilize. Repeat for other side.
3. Fold the length of the fabric together wrong sides together. Sew with a 1/2" seam allowance. Iron seam allowance open (if not sewing sleeve onto the quilt with the binding). Iron the length of sleeve. Create a 1/4 tuck on top layer and re-iron. This allows for the bulk of the rod.
4. Center sleeve on the top of the quilt with the seam allowance against the quilt back down about 1/2" from the top edge. Pin across the top. Use a blind stitch to attach sleeve to the top of the quilt. Be careful to only catch the backing and sleeve with your stitches. At the side, sew only the bottom layer of the sleeve to the backing. Stop when you are at the ironed crease. Move extra bulk of sleeve up out of your way, pin, and continue across the bottom. Sew other side as before. Leaving the sides open creates a tube that protects your quilt from damage when the hanging rod is inserted.

If you are attaching the sleeve before the binding is sewn on, do not iron the sleeve seam allowance open. Cut the sleeve seam allowance to the width of your binding. Center across the top edge of the quilt, lining up the raw edges. This method makes a neat and permanent sleeve, but I have found it too bulky for smaller bindings.