Machine Stitched - Front & Back

Cut the binding strip slightly wider than usual. For example: I cut my binding 2 1/2” wide, and attach it to the quilt with a 3/8” seam. To stitch this type of machine finished binding, I would need to cut my binding 2 3/4” wide instead. When the binding is folded over the edge of the quilt, the extra width will allow the folded edge to extend slightly beyond the stitching line. Attach the binding as usual. Fold the binding over the edge, and pin baste in preparation for stitching. Working from the front of the quilt, stitch “in the ditch” along the binding. This line of stitching will secure the binding on the back, and will not show on the front.

Contrasting Flange

Cut four strips of contrasting fabric to make the flange. Fold the strips in half, right side facing out, and press. The folded width of these strips will need to be wider than the seam allowance used to attach the binding. For example, if you stitch the binding onto the quilt with a 3/8” seam, you’ll need a flange strip that is at least 1/2” wide. A 1/2” wide strip will make a contrasting edge that is 1/8” wide. Baste a flange strip along each edge. Attach the binding as usual. The flange will be caught in the seam, adding a decorative edge inside the binding.

Decorative Machine Stitching

Sew the binding onto the back as usual, except work from the back of the quilt instead of the front. Fold the binding over the edge to the front of the quilt. Pin baste to hold it in place, making sure that the folded edge extends slightly past the stitching line. Stitch along the binding, using a decorative stitch that will securely hold the folded edge in place.

Rick Rack Trimmed

Cut four pieces of rick rack. Measure across the quilt to make sure they will fit along each edge. Baste one piece of rick rack in place along each side of the quilt. How close it is placed to the cut edges will be determined by how wide the rick rack is, and by how much of the rick rack you want to show inside the binding. Attach the binding as usual. The rick rack will be caught in the seam, adding a decorative edge inside the binding.