

Fast Finish!

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I love planning quilts, choosing fabrics, piecing, applique and quilting! But by the time a project is finished I find myself lacking enthusiasm to sew on the hanging sleeve and label. The following technique is one I've devised to make finishing a quilt easier and more fun.

Instead of tubular hanging sleeves and appliqued labels, cut squares of fabric and fold them on the diagonal to create triangles. Then catch the raw edges of the triangles in the seam when attaching the binding. Two triangles placed in the top two corners act as the hanger. You can insert a dowel into the triangles to hang the quilt. Or sew triangles into all four corners and insert another dowel into the bottom triangles to weight the quilt to help it hang better on the wall.

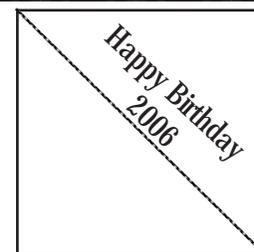
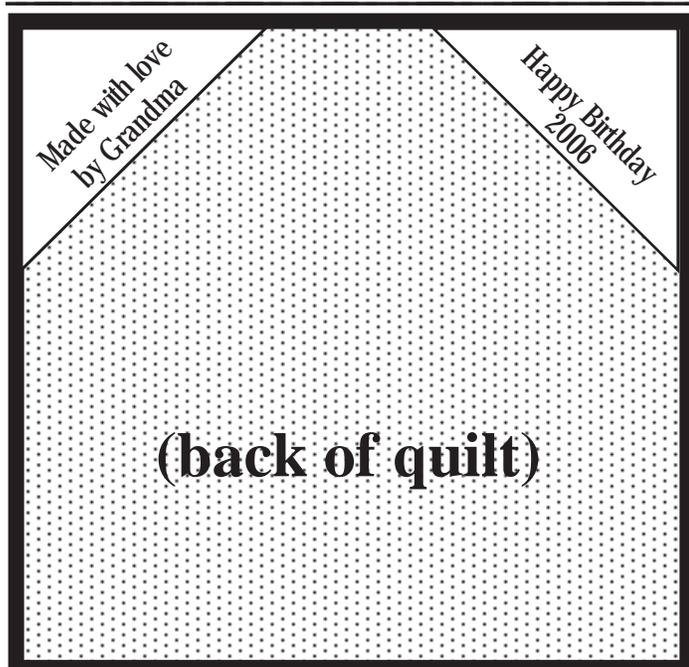
If you are concerned about exposing the quilt back to the unfinished wooden dowel you can finish the dowel with polyurethane or cover with fabric. Or use aluminum dowels or slats from a home improvement store. They also sell steel ones which will rust, so you need to shop carefully. They should be able to cut them to your needed measurements.

One or more of the triangles can also act as the label. After pressing the squares on the diagonal the creases will act as a guide for placement of the label information.

This works very well on small and medium size wall hangings. The measurements are not precise—larger quilts require larger corner triangles. I have used 6" squares on 18" wide quilts and 8" squares on 24" wide quilts. Measure the width of the top of the wallhanging and cut the squares for the corners at least one third of the quilt width. You can make the squares bigger, as long as they don't overlap on the quilt back (you need to leave a couple of inches exposed for hanging).

For a 12" square quilt: Cut two 5" squares of cotton quilting fabric that match or contrast with the backing fabric. Fold each square on the diagonal and press. Write label information on one or more of the triangles, taking care to orient the writing so it will be upright when sewn onto the quilt. Baste folded triangles to the top corners of the back of the quilt even with the raw edges. Triangle raw edges will be caught in the stitching when sewing on the binding and will be hidden under the binding when it is folded and stitched to the back. Tuck a wooden dowel slightly shorter than the quilt width into the triangles for hanging.

This is very fast and fun. Now you can finish your quilt with no handwork! Try it—you may like it!



Cut squares at least one third the width of the top edge of the quilt. Fold and press squares on the diagonal.

On quilt back, align raw edges of folded triangles with the edges of the quilt corners.

Baste to quilt edges and catch in stitching while attaching binding.