

Rex's Tips and Tricks

Making a Hanging Sleeve

This month's Tip will be useful for our upcoming Quilt Show - you need to put a hanging sleeve on your quilt so it can be properly displayed. One thing that most people don't realize is that hanging sleeves aren't flat, but have a space for the rod to go through while hanging flat. Just how do you do that?



Start with a piece of fabric 9 inches wide X the width of your quilt **plus 1 inch**. For this example, I'm making a sleeve for a 20" wide mini quilt, so my fabric will be 9" x 21". Begin by finishing each 9" side by turning under $\frac{1}{4}$ " twice, then sewing close to the final pressed edge. Now fold the fabric lengthwise, and press a crease in the middle. Fold each long unfinished edge the fabric to match the middle crease. Press this very well -

you may want to starch this crease to make it super crisp. Do this with both long sides.



of



Match the unfinished edges, wrong sides together, and sew a $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam, making a few backstitches at the beginning and the end. You'll end up with a long tube with both ends finished.

Manipulate the tube on your pressing surface so one of the edge creases is flat. Press the seam to one side, being sure to preserve the creases you starched earlier.



You're finished making your hanging sleeve - see how it's longer on one side, so there's room for the pole? Pin one crease to the top of your show quilt (I do mine just under the binding) and whip stitch it all along the crease. Pin the lower crease to your quilt and again attach it to the quilt using a whip stitch. Be sure to maintain the space for the hanging rod!

Next Month: It's a surprise for me too!