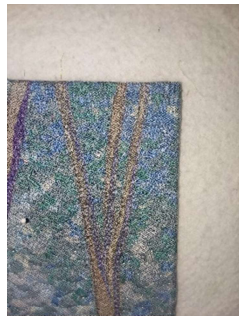


“INVISIBLE” FACING TECHNIQUE by SARAH ANN SMITH

Quilting Arts TV Series 2000 Show 7 Pieces & Parts

With this technique, the facing fabric is not visible from the side angle when the quilt is displayed. The quilt design continues from the front wrapping around to the back. No trimming, clipping or turning corners. The facing seam allowance is moved away from quilt edge reducing bulk and allowing for sharp corners.



IMPORTANT FOR PLANNING: Determine finished size of quilt, add at minimum $\frac{3}{4}$ " to 1" on all sides, finish design & quilting to (or past) that dimension to allow for seam allowance and turn-back of the edges. The turn-back allowance could be larger depending on quilt size. Match facing fabric to the backing, or, since finished facing doesn't show on edge, a coordinating or accent facing fabric can be used.

INSTRUCTIONS

Facing Width: Personal preference. The larger the quilt, the wider the facing can be. 3-1/2" wide strip will create a 1-1/2" finished width facing.

Facing Length: Cut 2 strips exact length of top & bottom of quilt.
Cut 2 strips length of sides + about 3".

Press strips in half lengthwise, wrong sides together. Decide on the finished edge (or dimension) of the quilt. Mark the edge on the quilt top with a removable marker (chalk wheel or pencil, frixion pen, etc. **NOT** a blue washout marker). Trim quilt past that edge the distance of seam allowance and turn-back allowed for during planning (i.e. minimum $\frac{3}{4}$ " to 1").

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Page 2

Pin prepared top and bottom facings to the quilt, matching raw edges. Sew with a 1/4" seam allowance. NOTE: Always sew top and bottom first. This allows the facing end slipstitch seam to lie along the top and bottom edges where that stitching is far less visible.

Being careful not to remove the line previously marked for the quilt finished edge, press the seam to set. Then, press facing out over seam allowance. Optional: to prevent seam allowance from curling, carefully edgestitch (called understitching) 1/16"–1/8" to the right of the seamline, locking the facing and seam allowance together.

Turn the top and bottom facings to the back, carefully rolling the turn-back allowance to the exact marked line for the finished edge of the quilt. Press with steam. Facing folded edge can be slip-stitched by hand at this point or pin/secure near the folded edge so facing doesn't shift while adding the side facing pieces.

Pin side facings to quilt leaving an equal over-hang at each end. Sew and press in same manner as the top & bottom facing. Trim overhanging ends of side facings to about 1" longer than quilt on each end.

Suggested finishes for the overhanging ends of the side facings:

1. Fold under the over-hanging facing strip even with the quilt edge. Gently pull down on the end of the facing strip to create a slight angle from edge of quilt (see photo above). Slipstitch angled ends & along folded edge of facing.
2. If there too much bulk at the corners to allow for the angle in option 1, fold under the facing over-hanging ends even with the quilt top and bottom edges. Slipstitch ends even with quilt top and along the folded edge of facing.