

CONSTRUCTION INSTRUCTIONS FOR HANGING SLEEVES

The following are instructions for constructing the sleeve used to hang your quilt entries at the quilt show. Remember no quilt will be hung without a sleeve!

Temporary Sleeves:

Step 1. Plan the length of the sleeve so that the cut length is 1 inch shorter than the width of the quilt. If seaming is necessary to get the desired length, plan for seam allowances when calculating the length.

Step 2. For the strongest sleeves, cut 9-inch-wide strips across the fabric. This results in a 4-inch-wide finished sleeve. (For Miniatures, cut 5-inch wide strips the width of the quilt for a 2-inch finished sleeve.) If more than one piece is required to achieve desired length, sew together with $\frac{1}{2}$ inch seam allowances. Press the seams open. Stitch the seams down using a straight or zigzag stitch to prevent the hanging rod from catching in the seam.

Step 3. Hem each end with a $\frac{1}{2}$ inch hem. The finished length should be 2 to 3 inches shorter than the width of quilt.

Step 4. With wrong sides of the sleeve together, sew lengthwise, using a $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch seam allowance.

Step 5. Press the seam open and center it on back of tube. Press tube flat.

Step 6. With the seam in the middle of the back of the tube, make a small pleat in the bottom edge. This will allow the sleeve to accommodate the hanging rod gracefully. Lift the top of the tube up and press a new line in the back of the tube, $\frac{3}{4}$ " to 1" inch down from the bottom tube press line. Bring the original bottom press line to meet this new line and press to make the pleat.

Step 7. Position the tube on the back of the quilt with the top edge of the sleeve $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ inches below the top of the quilt and the seam of the tube facing the backing of the quilt. Sew the top edge of the sleeve to the quilt. Then sew the lower edge along pleat press line to the back of the quilt. This small pleat in the tube will allow sufficient space for the rod and the quilt will not bunch or pull over the rod. Sew down the back edge of the sleeve's side openings.

Permanent Sleeves:

Prepare permanent sleeves following Steps 1 through 3 under "Temporary Sleeves."

The sleeve will be attached after the quilt is quilted but before it is bound. Align the raw edges of the sleeve with the raw edges of the top of the quilt and sew the sleeve through all layers $\frac{1}{4}$ inch from raw edges. Prepare the pleat the same as in Temporary sleeves and sew bottom tube as described in Step 7. Sew down the bottom and side edges of the sleeve and bind the quilt over the top of the sleeve.

Adapted from the book "The Quilters Ultimate Visual Guide", Ellen Phal, Editor