

KNIFE EDGE FINISH

For my wall quilt size projects that don't get a lot of wear, I started playing with a knife edge finish and find that I really like it. Below are the instructions for the process that I use. It gives a really nice, clean finish to the outside edge.

As I was putting the knife edge finish on this little class sample "Ornaments", I decided to take some photos along the way.

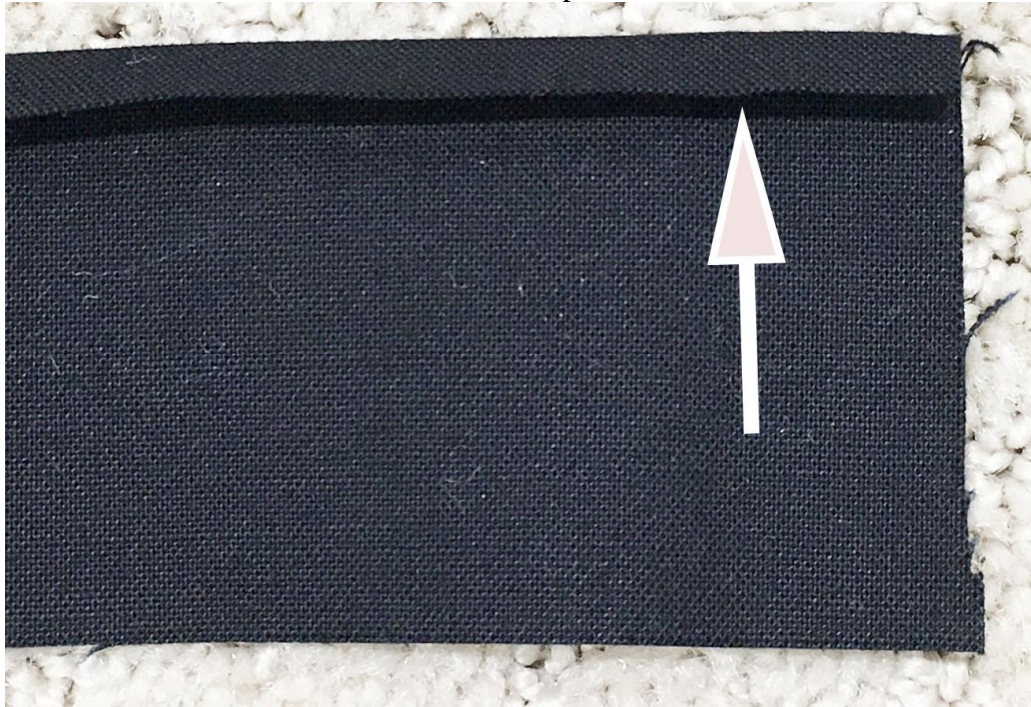
Start by squaring your project so the backings, batting and top are all trimmed to the same size. I use my Karen Kay Buckley's Perfect Adjustable Square. I build the acrylic pieces to the finished size plus seam allowance so trimming is accurate and a breeze. And, don't let the name fool you, it can be built to rectangular sizes also.



All layers (batting, backing and top) trimmed around the outside.

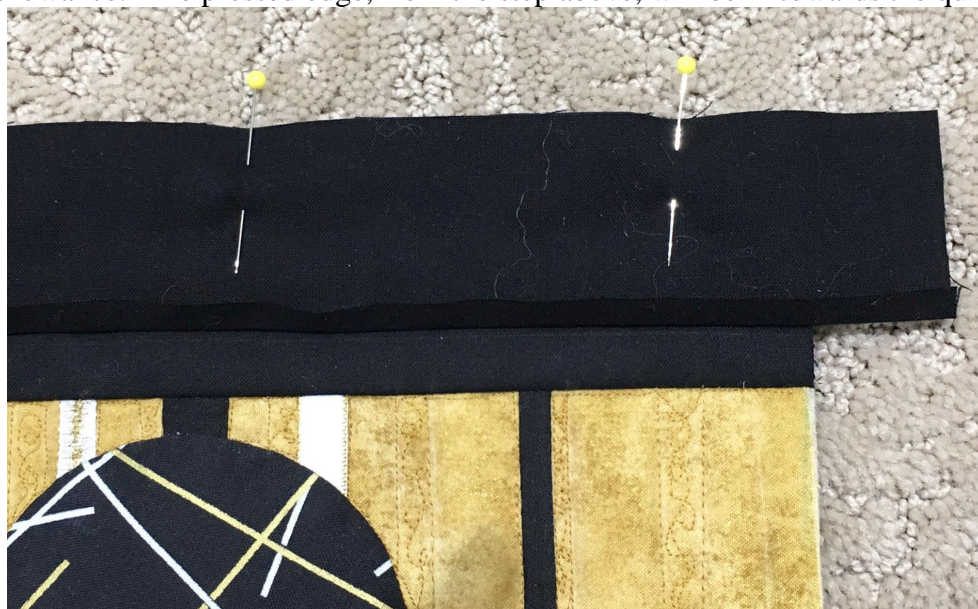
1. Cut two strips 2ö wide and a little longer than the top and bottom measurement of your quilt. Press ¼ö seam allowance along one side of each strip. Press this to the back of the fabric.

TIP: For an accurate ¼ö, mark a line ½ö from the raw edge and fold the raw edge to the ½ö line and press.



2ö wide strip with ¼ö seam pressed to the back.

2. Place these strips right sides together along the raw edge, pin and sew a ¼ö seam allowance. The pressed edge, from the step above, will be in towards the quilt.



3. First, press these strips, using steam. Press them flat and trim any excess along the outside edges.



Excess trimmed after pressing.

4. For the second pressing step, pull the strip towards the back and steam iron so the strip is not visible on the right side of your project. Ideally I like the seam right on the edge or just slightly towards the back. See photo on page 7.



Strip steam pressed over back.

5. This might sound crazy, but, your next step is to fold those strips back to where you started, on the right side of the quilt. Pin them in place so they are nice and flat.
(No pressing at this step.)



Strip pulled onto the front and pinned.

Make sure the ends are pinned flat and even with the top.



View from the front with both strips pinned.

6. Now, we're ready for the side strips. Cut two strips 20 wide by about 10 shorter than the side. (This might sound odd but keep reading). Press 1/4 seam along one side following the pressing directions in step #1 above. Center and pin these strips, even with the raw edge of your project. They will be shorter than your finished project.



Arrows indicate where strips end.

A close-up of this step.



Arrow shows where strip ends.

7. Sew these strips all the way to the raw edge. Then sew across the corner and trim the corner.



8. Press these strips the same as in steps #3 and #4 above. First, press flat and then fold and steam press over the edge.



View from the back with side strips steamed in place.

View from the side.



View from the side.

Pin the two side strips and appliqué along your 1/4" pressed seam.

9. After the side strips are appliquéd, fold the top and bottom strips to the back. I used a tool called a point turner to push the corners out. I'm sure you can find something in your sewing box for this purpose.

After the points are pushed out, pin and appliquéd the folded edge. Give it a good steam press around the outside after the appliquéd is finished.



And here it is pressed and ready to hang.



I hope you enjoy the process as much as I do.