

2025 AQC Challenge Hanging Sleeve instructions

Each AQC Challenge entry is required to have a hanging sleeve. The sleeve needs to be the length of the quilt and include Velcro panels in accordance with these instructions.

Please read the instructions below carefully.

The hanging sleeve must be at least 3in deep and positioned so that when a rod is in place holding the weight of the work, the top of the sleeve rests 1inch from the top of the quilt and is not visible from the front.

The sleeve must have a pleat or D-shape to accommodate the rod without distorting the work.

Velcro strips in protective casing must be attached to the hanging sleeve with the 'hook' part of the Velcro above the matching 'loop' tables.

Materials:

- 30cm each of male and female [hook and loop] Velcro. Tips: 15mm wide Velcro works best, do not use the adhesive-backed option
- 20cm of 112cm wide fabric for the hanging sleeve
- two pieces of scrap fabric 8in x 4in
- sewing machine and thread
- general sewing supplies.

Cutting and sewing the Velcro panels:

1. Cut two pieces of scrap fabric 8in by 4in
2. Cut two 6in lengths each of hook and loop Velcro
3. Hem the short then long sides of the 8in x 4in fabric pieces by folding the raw edge over 1/4in then 1/4in again and machine stitching.
4. Pin one hook piece of Velcro and one loop piece to the wrong side of one hemmed piece of fabric, then stitch them in place around all four outer edges, shown in red thread. See image at right.
5. Repeat with the remaining Velcro pieces and second piece of fabric



Cutting and sewing the sleeve and adding the Velcro panels:

1. Cut the hanging sleeve fabric 7in x 36 1/2in.
2. Machine hem the two short sides by folding the raw edge over 1/4in then 1/4in again. then stitch as before

3. Fold the hanging sleeve strip in half lengthways then press to make the foldline as shown. Then Finger press each of the two Velcro panels wrong sides together. See right.



4. Open out the Velcro panels and place them on the right side of the hanging sleeve strip 1in in from the short edge at each edge. NOTE: Ensure to position the hook side of each panel on the same side of the foldline.

Align the foldline of the sleeve with the foldline of the Velcro panels then pin them in place as shown [sample shows scrappy-pieced hanging sleeve].



5. Sew the Velcro panel to the hanging sleeve by stitching along the foldline – as shown in green thread – then around the hook Velcro piece only. The loop side is not stitched onto the sleeve as it needs to fold up onto the hook panel.



Stitch the second Velcro panel in place the same way, then close the velcro panel to complete the hanging sleeve.

6. Fold the hanging sleeve lengthways wrong sides together then stitch the long edges together with a 1/4in seam.

7. Press the seam in one direction with the seam centred on the hanging sleeve, see right.



8. Pin the sleeve to the back of the quilt along the top edge, with the foldline placed 1in from the edge of the quilt and the Velcro panels on the upper side of the sleeve. When you open out the panel, the hook side should be uppermost. Then handstitch the top of the sleeve in place.



9. 'Roll' up the lower edge of the sleeve so that the foldline moves up 1in, then handstitch the lower edge of the sleeve to the quilt.

