Magic Binding

Magic binding is quick and easy! Magic binding is great for:

- Quilts and quilted items that cry out for a fancy finish
- Quilts and quilted items with a deadline
  - last-minute gifts
  - quilt show entries :)
- Quilts and quilted items where you won't see the back
  - wall hangings
  - table runners
  - placemats
- Quilts and quilted items that will see hard use
  - kids quilts
  - comfort quilts
  - throw quilts
- When you have “not quite enough” of the perfect binding fabric!

Binding Color – 1 1/2” x enough strips to go around your quilt
Accent Color – 1 3/4” x enough strips to go around your quilt

Sew binding strips together using 45° angle to make one continuous strip. Press seams open. Repeat with accent color strips. Sew two strips together using 1/4” seam. Make sure to stagger joins. Press to the binding color (the smaller one). Fold in half WRONG sides together and press.

Place binding color against back of quilt and sew. Seam can be 1/4” to almost 3/8” depending on how you want your finished product to look. Miter corners same as regular binding. Sew ends together at 45° angle and press open to reduce bulk (there is more than usual!) Trim bulk if desired.

Roll binding to front. Pin if desired.
Stitch “in the ditch” on accent color, close to binding. Use an “in the ditch” foot if you have one, or a zipper foot with the needle moved to the edge of the foot, for best results. Use top thread to match accent color, bobbin thread to match backing fabric. Miter corners like regular binding. Use a stiletto or other pointy object to tuck the excess fabric into corners for a really neat miter.

You can adjust fabric widths and seam width when you attach your binding, if you prefer wider or narrower bindings. 1/4” difference between the two widths will give you 1/8” accent, 3/8” difference in widths will give you 3/16” accent, 1/2” difference in widths will give you 1/4” accent.

Tutorial: http://www.52quilts.com/2012/05/tuesday-tutorial-susies-magic-binding.html
Video: Margo Clabo – Faux-piped Binding on The Quilt Show
http://www.thequiltshow.com/os/blog.php/blog_id/5489
(I do not subscribe to the Quilt Show, and I could watch it. LOTS of great binding hints!)