Hanging Sleeves

As you know all quilts that go into the show must have a hanging sleeve. The sleeve must be the width of the quilt (leave about one inch at each end) and must be large enough to accommodate a large dowel.

Here is what I do for a removable sleeve for a bed quilt. Cut a piece of fabric 9 inches by the width of the quilt. Hem the short ends, this will make the finished sleeve shorter than the quilt to keep the dowel from showing. Put the fabric wrong sides together and sew a one quarter inch seam down the long side. Press the sleeve with the seam in the centre of the back of the sleeve. Then roll the bottom edge up about half an inch and repress the bottom edge. This gives the sleeve the fullness to accommodate a dowel without distorting the quilt.

Attach the sleeve to the finished quilt by pinning the sleeve to the back of the quilt with the top edge just slightly below the edge of the quilt. Pin well, then with invisible thread in the top of your sewing machine and a bobbin thread that contrasts with the sleeve, sew in the ditch of the binding using a large almost basting stitch.

Hand sew the bottom edge with a large running stitch and again I use a contrasting thread. Make sure the fuller side of the sleeve is facing away from the quilt. I remove the sleeve following the show and save it for the next time. On occasion I will use two shorter sleeves if that is what fits the quilt but if you do that please don't leave more than an inch or so between the two sleeve pieces.

When hanging quilts we use a combination of guild owned dowels and ones supplied by the company that provides the stands and drapes. Smaller quilts are hung with flat wooded rods that are about two inches wide and some very small quilts have a one inch wide flat wooden rod. A tiny quilt does not need a four inch sleeve but it is better to have a sleeve that is bigger than the hanging rod rather than the other way around!

If you have any questions please contact me at 604-521-5543 or at dlfanthorpe@gmail.com.

Thanks,
Lynne