Binding Equation

This table will step you through the mathematical process of finding the amount of fabric to make binding for a quilt. Two samples listed here give you an idea of how to do this. Notice that the binding width in the first sample is $2^{"}$ and in the second sample it is $2\frac{1}{2}$ ".

		Sam	nple	
Step	Description	36" square	45"x 60"	Your Quilt
1.	Measure all four sides of your quilt and add up the total number of inches	144	210	
2.	Enter the width of the strip you want to use to make the binding	2"	21⁄2"	
3.	Multiply step 1 by step 2	288"	525"	
4.	Add 15" to step 3 for a little leeway	303"	540"	
5.	Find the square root of step 4 (don't panic, go get a calculator - most have a button that says something like "sqrt" - you can also use the one on your computer under Accessories)	17.4068	23.2379	
6.	Round up to the next whole number (no matter how small the decimal is)	18	24	
7.	Is this number is evenly divisible by the number in step 2?	Yes (18÷2=9)	No (24÷2.5=9.6)	
8.	If not, add the difference needed to make it divisible by step 2.	18	25	

Step 8 gives you the size of the square you need to start with to make enough binding for a quilt with straight edges and corners that are mitered like the ones in this project. I always add 2 inches to the size of my square just to be absolutely sure. I save any leftovers for potholders or other small projects.

If you have a computer, you use the calculator feature for this:

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MS 1 2 3 - 1/x	4 5 6 * 1
M+ 0 +/ + =	