



I first became aware of scaldinos a few years ago while traveling. These were being used at the foot of beds in several hotels I had stayed at. The trend in hotel bedding seemed to be changing from full bedspreads made of flame-retardant print fabrics that matched the draperies to clean white duvet covers with a simple strip of contrasting fabric covering the foot of the beds. I liked the concept, did a little research, and found that these are called scaldinos, which, as it turns out, is Italian for "warmer."

Soon after, I had a client asking for bedding like she had seen in a hotel – clean white duvet covers with that "thing" covering the foot of the bed. I was so happy I was able to educate her about the term scaldino.

Scaldinos are a great way to add a splash of color to beds for those clients who don't want the heavy custom quilted spreads or coverlets. If your fabric doesn't have a direction, you may railroad it to make the fabrication quick and easy. These may be made unlined if your fabric is pretty on both the face and the reverse side. Or, they may be made with a very light fill. I have also made scaldinos that are triple folded top to bottom, which may actually be used as coverlets. The finished size top to bottom may be dictated by the fabric repeat or by considering the size and scale of other items in the room. Typically, I like to use my Minutes Matter Studio software to complete a rendering to see what size of scaldino and banding look best.

Here's a quick and easy way to make a banded scaldino with a layer of bump interlining as the filler. The banding used for this example is the same fabric used on the back of the scaldino, which has been wrapped to the front. Depending on the size of the bed and the height of the mattress, I will typically have the scaldino hang over the sides of the bed by 12 inches. The scaldino shown here is 24 inches top to bottom.

Materials and Supplies

Face Fabric

Contrast Fabric (backing plus banding wrap – in this example, I used a 3-inch banding)

Bump Interlining (or other filler of your choice)

1. Cut the lengths and widths for the backing. Be sure to add enough for your banding on all four sides plus ½ inch for the hem. Seam the fabric together and place on your worktable with the wrong side up. Cut the bump (or filler) the finished size of the scaldino, minus ¼ inch on all four sides, and center over the backing fabric. (Cutting the bump ¼ inch smaller on all sides allows the bump to lie flat when the banding is wrapped to the front.)



2. Press a ½-inch seam allowance around all four sides of the backing fabric.



3. Attach the bump to the backing fabric using a loose running stitch at the seam of the backing fabric.



4. Cut and seam the face fabric to the finished size of the scaldino, minus ¼ inch on all four sides, just as you did with the bump. Place the face fabric wrong side down on the bump. Attach the face fabric to the bump using long running stitches along the seam of the face fabric.



5. Smooth the face fabric over the bump interlining.



6. Fold the banding to the face and press lightly to set in place.



7. Neatly miter the corners as you go.



8. Unfold the banding and glue baste in the seam allowance of the banding.



9. Fold the banding in again and stitch it in place.



10. Catch the backing fabric every few stitches for that truly custom hand sewn look. ✂



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