

Borders

Whenever possible, the outer border strips should be cut with the lengthwise grain in the long direction. This will keep them from stretching and rippling. It is not necessary that the inner borders be cut along the lengthwise grain.

Measuring and easing are important steps. Without them your quilt may be different lengths on opposite sides and will not be square. Be sure the quilt is pressed well before measuring it. As you are measuring, keep the quilt top fairly taut on a flat surface. The quilt top contains many seams, and they each have a slight amount of slack where the seam allowances are pressed to the side. Conversely, the borders have few or no seams and are cut along the stable, lengthwise grain. Therefore, keeping the quilt taut while measuring is imperative. Do not stretch quilts that are set on point.

Borders can be applied with either overlapped or mitered corners. Those with overlapped corners are simpler.

Overlapped corners

Find the length of the quilt. Measure in several places to determine the average length. Take measurements along seam lines and in areas that go through the centers of the blocks, but not along the outside edges. Cut two border strips $1/2''$ wider than the desired finished width of the border by the average measured length of the quilt. Pin them to the sides of the quilt, matching the center points and ends of the quilt and borders. Continue pinning the borders to the quilt easing, if necessary. Sew. Press the seam allowances toward the borders.

Now, determine the width of the quilt, measuring in several places, as before. Include the additional width created by the side borders. Cut two border strips to fit (finished border width plus $1/2''$ x width of quilt) and pin them to the top and bottom of the quilt as you did the side borders. Sew. Press the seam allowances toward the borders.

If you are adding more than one border, repeat the above steps for each one.

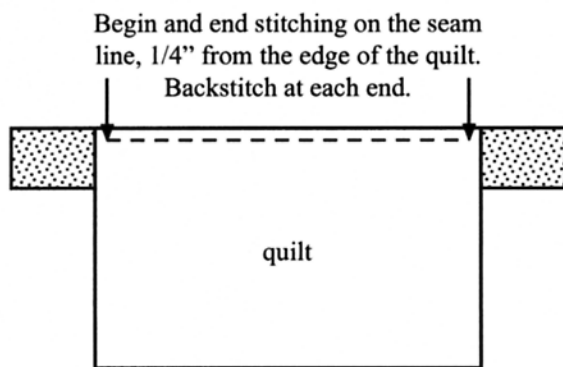


Mitered corners

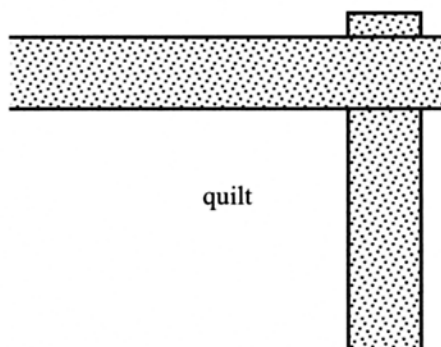
Determine both the width and length of your quilt. To calculate how long to cut your borders, add two times the border width plus an inch or two to the measurements of your quilt. If the quilt will have more than one border with mitered corners, sew the borders together into a panel before attaching them.

Even with mitered corners you can square your quilt. Put a pin at the center of each border. Measure half the length of your quilt in each direction from the center pin and mark those points with pins. Now, pin the border to your quilt, matching the pins with the center and ends of the quilt. Use additional pins as needed.

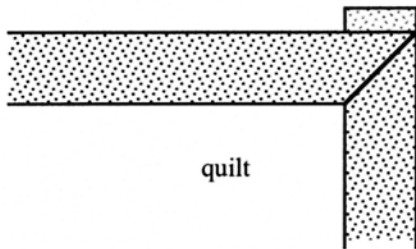
Attach borders to two opposite sides of the quilt first. Begin and end the stitching on the seam line, $1/4''$ from the edge of the quilt top. Backstitch at each end. Press the seam allowances toward the borders. Repeat with the remaining two border pieces.



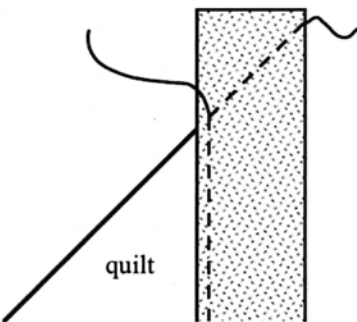
Place a corner of the quilt on the ironing board. See below. Lay the vertical border on the ironing board first. Lay the horizontal border over it, as shown.



Tuck the end of the top border under so that the fold makes a 45 degree angle. Press. Lay a rotary cutting ruler on top of this corner to check that it is square and the angle is accurate. If your border is strip pieced, make sure the seam lines match.



Place the borders right sides together and pin. Match the seam lines if the borders have more than one fabric. Stitch on the pressed crease, starting on the seam line, being careful not to catch the quilt top in the stitching. Stitch to the outer edge of the border. Check your work. Make sure you are pleased with the finished corner before doing any trimming. If it is correct, trim the excess fabric, leaving 1/4" for seam allowances. Press the seam allowances to one side or open.



Place the borders right sides together and stitch on the pressed crease, starting on the seam line. Be careful not to catch the quilt top in the stitching.

**This information has been taken
from the book**

Scraps to You, Too

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and published by

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