

BORDERS

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I always “audition” the borders before deciding how to cut them. I adjust the width of each fabric, and then step back to evaluate. When I like the arrangement, I measure them in place and add $\frac{1}{2}$ ” for seam allowances.

Whenever possible, I cut my borders lengthwise (parallel to selvage), but they may also be cut across the width and pieced together. When making multiple borders with the following techniques, first sew the first and second (and third) borders together before proceeding.



To determine the length of a border, always measure through the center of the quilt top; not along the edges.

Easy “run-off” borders

After sewing border strips together, cut two borders to the length of the quilt top. Sew one border to each long side. Press seams outward.

Cut the other two borders the full width of the quilt, including the attached side borders. Sew the top and the bottom borders to the quilt. Press.

Mitered borders

(These borders must be cut 2- 3” longer than the sides plus the borders on each end.)

Measure the length of the quilt through the middle, subtract $\frac{1}{2}$ ” seam allowance, and mark this distance on the two side borders (centered). Measure the width in the same way, and mark the top and bottom borders.

In each corner of the quilt top, draw a crosshair $\frac{1}{4}$ ” from the edge.

Sew each borders to the quilt top, matching the marks at the corners. Both ends of the border will remain loose. Stop the seam at the marks and backstitch. Press seam outwards.

Lay the quilt top on a flat surface. Working on the corner at a time, fold under a loose end to form the miter. Use a square ruler with a 45-degree angle to align the fold properly. Pin in place.

Using the widest, longest single zigzag stitch on your sewing machine, stitch over the fold, just barely catching the folded edge. Press well. Open the zigzagged “seam” and straight-stitch in the fold, from the outer corner to the inside corner. Backstitch at the beginning and end of the seam.

Carefully remove the zigzag stitches. Be sure the borders lie flat before trimming the seam allowance to $\frac{1}{4}$ ”. Press miter seams open.