



Sewing Borders onto Your Quilt

While I am a firm believer that there are no quilt police, there are certain rules that, when followed, allow us to create much better quilts. Sewing borders on in a very specific manner is one way to help create a flat, square quilt with no waves.

Many quilters believe that you just sew your border onto the sides, top and bottom and cut off the excess fabric. Some were taught this way and there are books and patterns that even suggest this is the way to properly put on your borders.

I beg you to stop doing this 😊

No one is perfect and while we strive for that perfect quarter inch throughout, it is rare to end up with a perfectly square quilt top before borders are added. By using the method explained below you will be able to use borders to help square up your quilt. Properly sewn borders also lie flat, as opposed to being wavy.

So how can I do this you ask. It is simple! Get a measuring tape, a calculator and let's get started.

Sew all your border strips together. If you have more than one border, sew each respective set together. (Inner, Outer, etc....). If using length of fabric skip to the measuring part.

I start with my side borders first. Measure the length of your quilt in the center, then on each side. If you have 3 different measurements take the average of the three. Cut your two side border strips according to that size. Fold the side border strips in half and mark the center (I simply finger press). Find the center of your quilt top, match the centers and pin. Pin the top and end in place and sew your border in place easing the fabrics together. Repeat the process with the opposite side.

Now measure the quilt width of fabric (including the side borders) in the center and then across the top and bottom. Average that number and cut your top and bottom borders to that size. Find the center of a border and the center of the quilt top, align and pin. Pin the ends and sew the border in place, easing in if necessary. Repeat with the bottom border.

If you have additional borders, you will repeat the entire process.

By taking a few extra minutes to measure and cut your borders properly you will have a much squarer and flatter quilt top.

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Material Girl II, INC
21 N Williams St.
Crystal Lake, IL 60014
815.459.2084