

Why add borders to quilt???

Borders can:

- Act like a frame on a picture, giving visual boundaries to the central design and "containing" it.
- Stop a busy design and give the eye a place to rest
- Continue a design, balancing a quilt top that seems unfinished
- Enhance and emphasize the central design.
- Coordinate with and bring out a particular color from the center.
- Help you quickly adjust the size of your quilt
- Show off your piecing, appliqué or quilting.

Things to consider:

- Width of the border(s) should enhance but not be so large as to visually outweigh the central quilt design.
- The scale, or size of the pieces and motif, or shape of border pieces, should echo or be similar to those in the rest of the quilt when using a pieced border.
- The color of the outside border will tend to bring out that color from the center of the quilt, especially when there are approximately equal amounts of several colors in the interior of the quilt.

<http://www.aquilting.com/tips-borders.html>

How Wide Should Borders Be

Like other areas of quilting, there are some mathematical formulas to assist in determining border size:

- Golden Ratio: Finished size of most commonly used block x .618 = finished border width Roughly 60%. (Phi = ratio of 1 to 1.618 or .618 to 1)
- Rule of thumb: 1/2 to 2/3 the largest block in your quilt
- Fibonacci numbers: 0, 1, 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 13, etc. (helpful for determining proportions for multiple borders)
- Overall border should not usually be larger than one quilt block

- https://www.jinnybeyer.com/assets/ax_content/file/Framing_A_Quilt-lores.pdf
- <https://www.jinnybeyer.com/blog/the-magical-golden-ratio/>
- <http://comestitchwithme.com/2014/09/28/deciding-border-width-for-a-quilt/>

How to Measure for Borders

- Measure the middle of the quilt top lengthwise
- Cut 2 borders to this length
- Find and mark the center of the quilt top edge and mark with a pin
- Find and mark the center of the border strip
- Match centers and ends, and pin
- Sew, easing in the quilt or border as needed
- Press
- Measure the middle of the quilt widthwise
- Cut 2 borders this length
- Repeat process above for attaching border

Solid Border Construction Tips

- Cut border strips longer than you think you will need and later trim them to the exact measurement needed after the center of the quilt has been pieced and measured. (When cutting borders first.)
- Use the lengthwise grain when cutting fabric for borders.
 - Cutting from the length of the fabric means you do not have to piece the border.
 - The lengthwise grain is more stable so the border will have less stretch than borders cut on crosswise grain. If you have multiple borders and it is too expensive to buy enough fabric to cut them all on the lengthwise grain, try to at least cut the outer border of the quilt on the lengthwise grain to stabilize the outer edge. Inner borders can be cut cross-grain.

Pieced Border Construction Tips

- Measure the length and width of your quilt through the center.
- Subtract half an inch (the total seam allowance) to determine the finished size of your quilt.
- Calculate the number of border design units needed to cover the measurement from step two. Round up any partial units.
- Multiply the number of units needed by the width of a single unit to determine the finished border length.
- Calculate the width of "coping strips", if needed. This is fabric added to the quilt top to extend it to the border dimensions.

General Construction Tips

- Sew side border strips to the quilt top first, then the top and bottom strips
- The quilt needs to end up "square" with 90° corners.
 - Top and Bottom dimensions should be equal. The two Side dimensions should be equal.
 - It is not unusual to need to ease one side of a quilt to fit the border and stretch the opposite side slightly to fit the same dimension. Again, to keep the quilt square, both side borders must be cut the same length and the top and bottom borders must the same dimension as each other. These four points are the KEYS to FLAT BORDERS.
- Place the side that needs easing down toward the feed dogs.
- If you need to piece your border fabric for the correct length border, 45° angled seams may be less noticeable than seams sewn at right angles to the fabric.