

On the Border – October 2020 “Corners”

Last month we introduced the Block of the Month for 2020-21 and let you know that we will be presenting different borders each month at our virtual meetings and on the web site. Thus, Block of the Month will be known as Border of the Month, and our newsy articles will be called, On the Border.

When one thinks about borders, one wonders what can I do at the corners, and what will my border strips look like at the corners. There are three main ways to finish your corners: lapped, cornerstones or mitered. And they can be made to fit!

Becky Fiedler at our October meeting will be talking about using “coping strips’ to make your border fit your quilt centre. She has provided a worksheet for you to use in making these calculations. *See separate item under “links and resources” on this website.*

We hope that by now you have chosen an orphan block. Or panel to be the centre of your Medallion quilt, and are ready to learn more.

Lapped Corners

When reviewing quilt books I learned this method is also known as lapped borders, overlapping borders, butted borders, butted edge borders and I am sure there are more.

They all refer to the importance of measuring your quilt top. It is suggested that you measure in the centre and again at the $\frac{1}{4}$ and $\frac{3}{4}$ points, and take the average. Do this vertically and horizontally. Cut two strips the length of the sides, sew and press toward the border. Repeat cutting two strips the width of the top and bottom now that the side border has been added.

Cornerstone

A second method to complete your corners is creating a ‘cornerstone’. One author referred to this as an ‘interrupted’ corner. Again, measure your quilt, as indicated above, cut 4 borders strips $\frac{1}{2}$ inch longer than the sides of your top. Sew a strip to top and another to the bottom of your quilt top. Cut 4 squares from a contrasting fabric the width of the strip. Stitch a square on each end of the remaining 2 strips. Press, pin, ease in fullness, and stitch to side of your quilt.

Mitered Corners

When reviewing various quilt books most use a phrase such as, ‘mitered border corners are more work, but are worth it’.

When making a mitered border measure using the description above. Add at least 2 times the width of your border strip that you are using, to the length of the strip. (for example for a 4 inch border cut at least 8 inches additional length for each of the 4 strips) *You can always cut off the excess after the sewing is completed.*

Fold cut strip in half to find centre, similarly fold quilt top to find centre, pin strips to top adjust fabric, if necessary. Sew border to edge of quilt top stopping $\frac{1}{4}$ inch from the beginning and ending of the seam. BACKTACK

Ellen Pahl, in her book, Quilters Ultimate Visual Guide, a book we have in our Guild library (W3), recommends pinning your quilt top to your ironing board to stabilize it as you fold the strips at the corners to 45 degrees. Using your cutting ruler, or any similar measuring gauge that has marked degrees, check your corners, pin, press and remove pins. Pahl suggests placing a strip of masking tape over the mitered fold before removing it from the ironing board. Fold corners diagonally, align edges, mark a stitch line. Stitch beginning by backtacking and being careful to avoid sewing through the masking tape. Check, remove tape, press and trim access.

If wanting to have multiple mitered borders you have a choice. You can add the borders one at a time, or sew the strips of your multiple border together first then add to your quilt top.

Our own Millie Cummings has suggested to me, that there will be less stretching when you pin the border on if you lay the quilt top right side up, then lay the border strips face down. Good idea, thanks Millie.

Lois MacPherson