

THE GRAND QUILT GUILD

ROW BY ROW PROJECT 2024 – 2025

BORDERS May 9, 2025

So, now that the blocks are all made and perhaps sashing has been used to enhance them, it is time to look at putting on borders'

Borders can add a finishing touch much like a frame adds the finish to a picture or piece of artwork.

There are probably as many ways to make borders as there are quilt blocks.

Borders can be a solid strip, pieced, and even applique applied.

Borders can consist of one strip, or multiple strips complimenting the quilt top.

The size and style of the border should complement the quilt's size and color scheme, creating a balanced look.

Tips for Choosing and Adding Quilt Borders:

- **Quilt Size:**

Larger quilts can handle wider borders, while smaller quilts benefit from narrower ones to avoid overwhelming the center design.

- **Quilt Colors:**

Choose a border color that complements the quilt's existing palette, either by matching a dominant color or using an accent hue.

- **Plain or Pieced:**

Simple solid fabric borders are a classic choice, while pieced borders add complexity and visual interest.

- **Appliqué and Quilting:**

Appliqué or quilting designs can be incorporated into borders, adding a unique touch.

- **Measure Accurately:**

Accurate measurements are crucial for ensuring the border fits correctly and creating a smooth, professional finish.

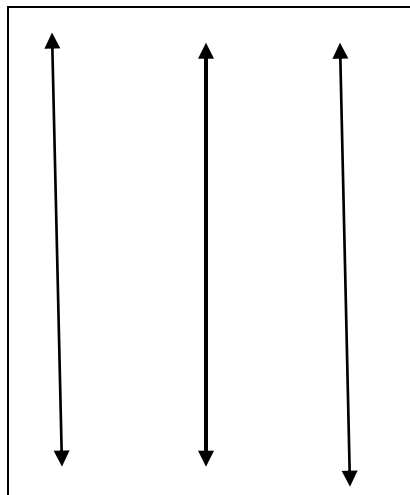
How to measure your quilt top for borders the proper way

First measure the length of your quilt top three times. Most books recommend attaching the long side borders first.

Use a tape measure to measure in the middle and along each side of the quilt.

When you measure along the sides, measure a few inches in. (the edges could be a bit distorted)

Write down the three measurements. The average of these three numbers is the correct length of the side borders.



To Attach the First Border:

Fold the border strip in half to find the center and mark it with the pin.

Fold the quilt top in half also and mark the center with a pin.

With the fabrics right sides together, pin the border to the quilt top in the center first (matching up the pins). Then pin ends of the border. Cut each distance in half and add a pin in the center until you have pins about every 6-8".

If the border strip is slightly shorter than the quilt top, worry not.

Stitch with the quilt top on the bottom. The feed dogs will help ease in the extra.

Now attach the second side border in the same way.

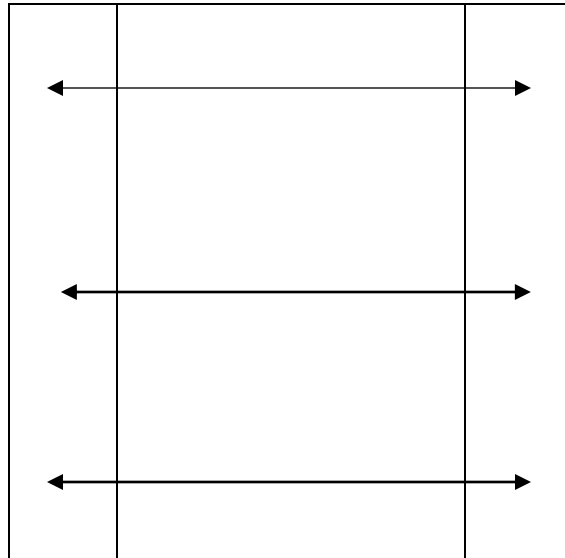
- ❖ If your border fabric is patterned, and needs to be pieced to attain the correct length, attach the pieces on the diagonal. The disruption of the pattern is much less obvious when stitched on the diagonal.

To Attach the Second border:

Press the top making sure the side seams are flat.

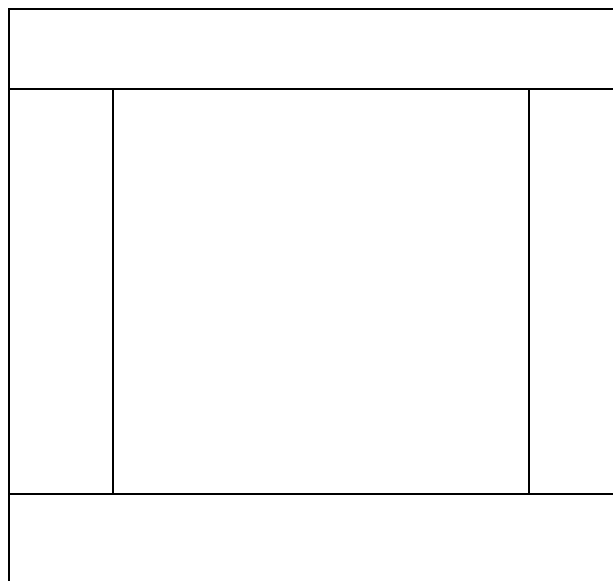
Then measure the quilt width the same way as the first – three measurements across the width of the top.

Again find the average length and cut your borders appropriately.



Now attach the border in the same way as above, finding the middle of the top and the border strip and pinning in the same manner.

Attach both strips.



BORDER DESIGN

We could do a whole evening session talking about borders.

Borders can be 1 piece, 2 or more strips sewn together.

There are numerous books available for Border Design.

My favorite is

^60 Pieced Quilt Borders Mix and Match by Judy Laquidara

But check the library there may be some very good Border Books available.

There are also several good sites on the web.

Use your imagination, let your artistry shine.

I so look forward to seeing your tops at the guild meeting in June.

I hope you have enjoyed this journey as much as I have, I love quilt blocks and could make them forever.

Any issues please do not hesitate to email me

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