

Tips & Tricks for well sewn borders

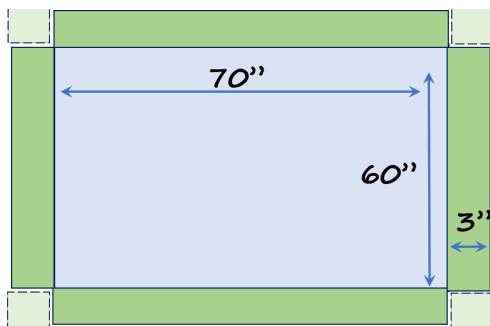
Keeping quilts from being too friendly!

A border on a quilt gives a visual frame or edge to the quilt. A border helps to make a quilt bigger than the pieced top. Borders also help to square up a lopsided quilt. AND borders provide a great space to show off fabulous quilting!

There are 5 steps to sewing perfect borders on your quilt.

1. DETERMINE FABRIC REQUIREMENTS

Measure the length and the width of the quilt and determine the desired border size.



Multiply the length and the width by 2 and add them together.

$$70'' \text{ length} \times 2 = 140$$

$$60'' \text{ width} \times 2 = 120$$

$$140 + 120 = 260''$$

Also, add 4 times the desired width of the border.

$$3'' \times 4 = 12'' + 260 = 272''$$

Divide the total by the usable width of the fabric.

$$272'' \div 40'' = 6.8 \text{ strips}$$

Round this number up to the nearest whole strip.

$$6.8 \text{ strips rounded up} = 7 \text{ strips}$$

Multiply the number of strips by the width of the strips to determine total yardage needed.

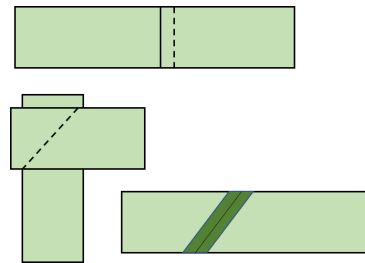
$$3'' \times 7 \text{ strips} = 21''$$

$$21'' = 53.34 \text{ cm} = 0.6 \text{ meter}$$

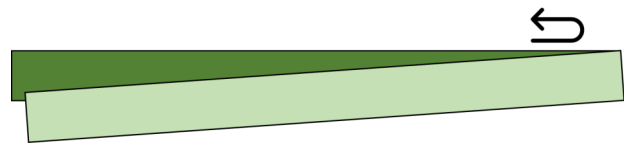
2. PREPARE BORDER STRIPS

Cut the required number of strips from the width of fabric.

Sew the strips together into one long length. Sew with either a straight seam or a diagonal seam. Be aware that the diagonal seam will cause the border to stretch a bit.

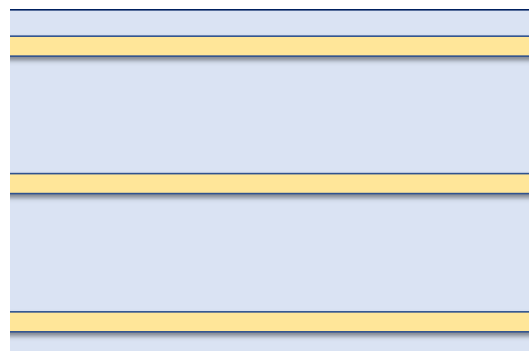


Fold the border strip in half crosswise and hold together with pins or binder clips.



3. ACCURATELY MEASURE THE QUILT

Measure 3-5 times along the longest edge of the quilt. Measure 1" in from the outside edge of the fabric and along the middle of the quilt.

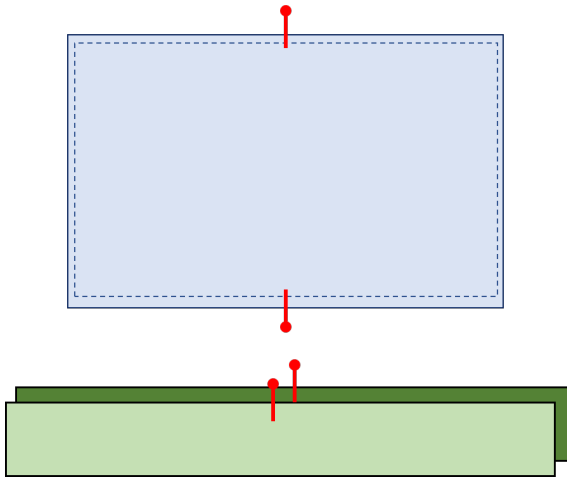


Determine the average of these numbers by adding them all together and dividing by the number of measurements.

4. CUT BORDER STRIPS

Cut 2 strips of border fabric the same length. It's easy to do this when the border fabric has been folded in half. You only need to measure once to cut both strips!

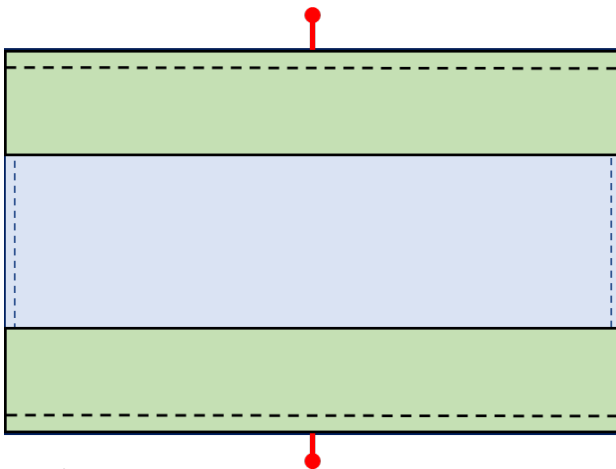
Find the centre of the border strips and mark with pins. For longer borders, divide again into 4ths.



Divide the long edge of the quilt in the same manner. Match the ends of the border with the ends of the quilt and match the centre pins as well. Pin the border in place easing as necessary.

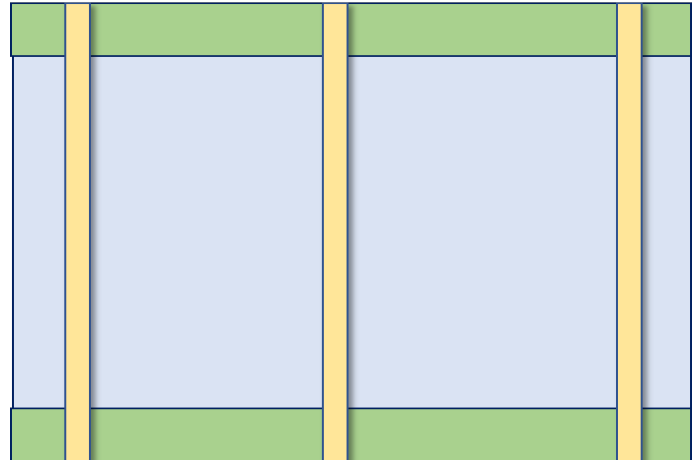
5. SEW AND PRESS

Sew the borders to the edges of the quilt. The border **MUST** match both ends of the quilt. If you have leftover border, something is not right.



Set the seams with a good press (not iron) and fold the border away from the quilt and gently press.

Repeat from **step 3** for the shorter quilt lengths.



I always sew the border to the longest edge of the quilt first.

If you follow these simple 5 steps you quilts will ALWAYS lay flat and your borders won't be so friendly!