

## Adding Mitered Borders to Your Quilt

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When it comes to putting the finishing touches to your quilt, take your time and do it properly. The borders and binding can make or break the end result of your quilt and since you have already put so much time and effort into the top, why not put that same effort into the borders and the binding. You'll be happy you did!

Mitered borders are lovely and very professional looking. They look difficult, but actually are not hard to do; you only need to learn a few simple techniques.

### First things first, though;

1. Is your quilt top square? If it isn't, you may need to trim it up a little or adjust it with the iron if trimming will damage the top.
2. Measure the width of your top from side to side right through the middle. Next measure the length from top to bottom right through the middle; make note of these measurements.

### Now you are ready to measure out your borders.

1. How wide will they be? Make note of this measurement. If you have more than one border that you want mitered, you must cut them out and sew them together before you attach them as one unit to the top.
2. To find the length that you need, you must add the following together:
  - The measurement from the quilt top that you wrote down from the steps above. *Remember to keep the side borders separate from the top & bottom borders because the measurements are probably different.*
  - The width of the border times 2.
  - And then some extra (a couple of inches at least) just to make sure that the seam allowances are covered and enough to give you a little added insurance.

### And now to make your mark.

1. Mark the center of each side of your quilt top.
2. Mark the center of each border strip.
3. Mark the point of each border strip where the top should come to. (Remember the measurements that you made through the center of the top? Divide that number by two for each side.) Example: if your quilt top measured 36" across the center, then half of that would be 18". Take and measure 18" on each side of the center mark of the border strip and make your marks. This is the point where the corner of the top meets the border after it has been sewn. This will square it all up.



4. With right sides together, pin the side borders to the quilt top matching the center marks and the corners of the top to the last marks you made on the border. Excess border material will extend past the quilt top on both ends.
5. When you sew the border on you will start and stop 1/4" in from edges of the quilt top. Make a mark to remind you.

### THIS IS VERY IMPORTANT!

### It's time to sew!

1. Sew from the 1/4" mark (back tack to secure) to the 1/4" mark at the other end (back tack again). Ease in any fullness between the pins that you may have. Use a 1/4" seam allowance.
2. Repeat for other side. Press the seams toward the border strips.
3. Repeat the pinning, sewing and pressing for the top and bottom borders.
4. With wrong side up, overlap the border strips at the corner keeping things straight.
5. Use a ruler with a 45° line and lay that line along the edge of the border so that you have a diagonal marking line from the corner of the quilt top to the 'V' between the two border strips. Mark the whole way.
6. Place the bottom border strip on top and repeat the marking process.
7. With right sides up, fold one side over (right sides together) to form a triangle (both border strips should stick out straight together). Line up the two marked lines (use a pin to stick through the top layer right through the marked line and make it match the line on the bottom layer) and pin several times.
8. Pull the previously sewn seam allowances at the corner out of the way and sew next to the previous stitching (back tack for security) from the corner of the quilt top to the outside edge of the border along the marked line.
9. Open out flat to check the miter; trim the excess seam allowance and press open.

### Now that wasn't so hard was it?

Remember, practice makes perfect so do a couple more.