

Mitered Border Tutorial

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This tutorial shows you how to apply a mitered inner, middle, and outer border to a quilt top, but the same principles apply to miter the corners of any quilt.

Calculate the finished size your quilt will be AFTER applying borders. Add 10" to both the final length and width. We'll call these dimensions our "WORKING WIDTH" and "WORKING LENGTH". (For example, if your quilt top is 40" x 60", and you plan on adding a 5" border on each side to produce a quilt measuring 50" x 70", you will want to make border strips that are 60" and 80".) You will be cutting off the excess fabric when you apply the miter.

Cut and piece 4 strips for your inner, middle, and outer borders. You'll need two strips of each that are your "WORKING WIDTH" and two of each that are your "WORKING LENGTH".

Join together side inner border with side middle border. Press seam toward side middle border. Join this unit to side outer border, pressing seam toward side outer border. Repeat to form other side border.

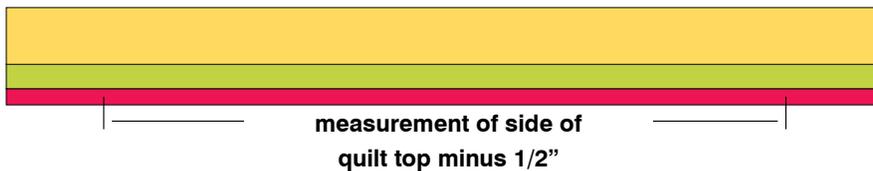
Join together top inner border with top middle border, **but this time press seam toward inner border**. Join this unit to top outer border, **pressing seam toward the middle border**. *Pressing the opposite direction for the side borders versus the top and bottom border is very important so that your seams lock in mitered corners!* Repeat to finish bottom border.

Measure your quilt top center. Subtract 1/2" from the length and width measurements to account for seam allowances. In the example above, the measurement I would have been working with to apply the sides would have been 59-1/2" and the measurement I would have been working with for the top and bottom would have been 39-1/2".

Sew on the side borders...

Centering the modified quilt top measurement along a side border, make a mark on the WRONG SIDE on both ends of the inner border that distance apart, as shown below.

Now make a tiny pencil mark on each corner on the WRONG SIDE of your quilt top, 1/4" from each edge. Align these marks with the marks on your side border, and pin side border to quilt top RIGHT SIDES TOGETHER. Turn so the quilt top is right side up and sew from dot to dot, backstitching at each end. IT IS IMPORTANT NOT TO STITCH BEYOND THE DOT. Repeat to attach other side border.



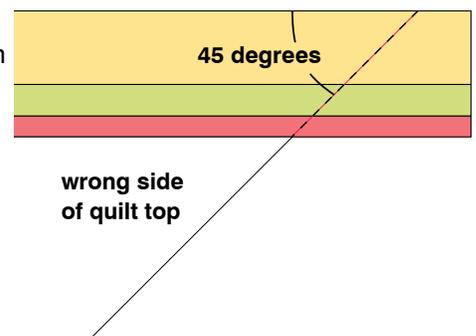
Sew on the top and bottom borders...

Centering the modified quilt top width measurement (the top without borders minus 1/2"), make a mark on the WRONG SIDE on both ends of the top border.

Align the tiny corner dots that you made on the wrong side of your quilt top with the marks on your top border, and pin top border to quilt top RIGHT SIDES TOGETHER. Turn so the quilt top is right side up and sew from dot to dot, backstitching at each end. IT IS IMPORTANT NOT TO STITCH BEYOND THE DOT. OR TO CATCH THE SIDE BORDERS IN THE STITCHING! Repeat to attach bottom border.

And FINISH!

Fold the corner of your quilt top in half diagonally, right sides together. Spread your extra border fabric straight out to the side so that the seams lock, as shown on the right. Lining up your ruler so that it goes through your corner dot and is at a 45 degree angle from the border edges, draw a diagonal line across the borders. Starting just outside the dot, stitch right over the line, backstitching at both ends. Check right side to make sure everything is correct. Cut seam allowances and press open.



Layer backing, batting, and quilt top. Quilt as desired. Bind and enjoy!

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