Quilting By Mail
19 Random Knolls Drive
Penfield, NY 14526-1958

How to Properly Attach Borders

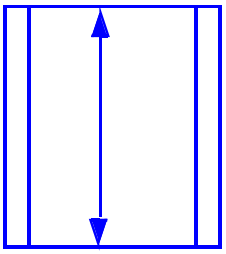
Straight Cut Borders

Squaring A Quilt Top starts when borders are added. In order to help assure a square top, borders must be attached properly. If you just sew the borders onto the quilt top without following these instructions, the result will be a quilt top that is not square and has wavy borders.

You spent time and money creating your top, so let's follow these steps to ensure your completed top lies flat and square.

Side borders

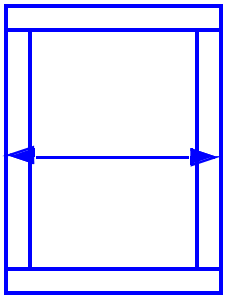
Measure the length of the quilt at the center. Trim two border strips to that measurement. Divide the quilt top's sides into quarters with pins. Now divide the side border strips into quarters with pins. Match the border and sides of the quilt quartering and sew these strips to the sides of the quilt, easing as necessary. Encouraging the quilt to fit the measured strips will help your finished quilt remain square with flat borders. (You may have to ease one side of a quilt and stretch the opposite side slightly to fit the same dimension.)



Attach the long sides of the quilt first as illustrated. Press seams towards borders.

Top and Bottom borders

For the top and bottom borders, measure the width of the quilt at the center, including the side borders and seam allowances as shown. Cut the borders to that measurement. Divide the quilt top's top and bottom into quarters with pins. Now divide the top and bottom border strips into quarters with pins. Match the border and top and bottom of the quilt quartering's and sew these strips to the top and bottom of the quilt, easing as necessary.



Attach the top and bottom sides of the quilt second, as illustrated. Press seams towards borders.

Continue to add additional borders in the same manner, sewing the sides first and then the top and bottom, and pressing seams towards the borders.

Enjoy your square and flat quilt!

©2007 Quilting By Mail