

Mitered Borders

Miter border corners when an angled seam complements the overall design of the quilt. For multiple borders, sew strips together first and attach to quilt as one unit.

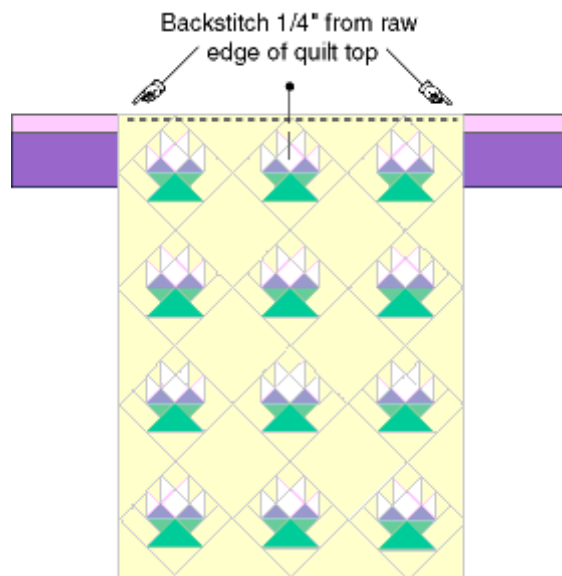
Step 1. Cut 2 strips the width of the quilt **plus twice the border width and 2" inches extra** and 2 strips the length of the quilt **plus twice the border width and 2" inches extra**.

Example: Width of quilt before border = 65"; width of border(s) to be added = 6"

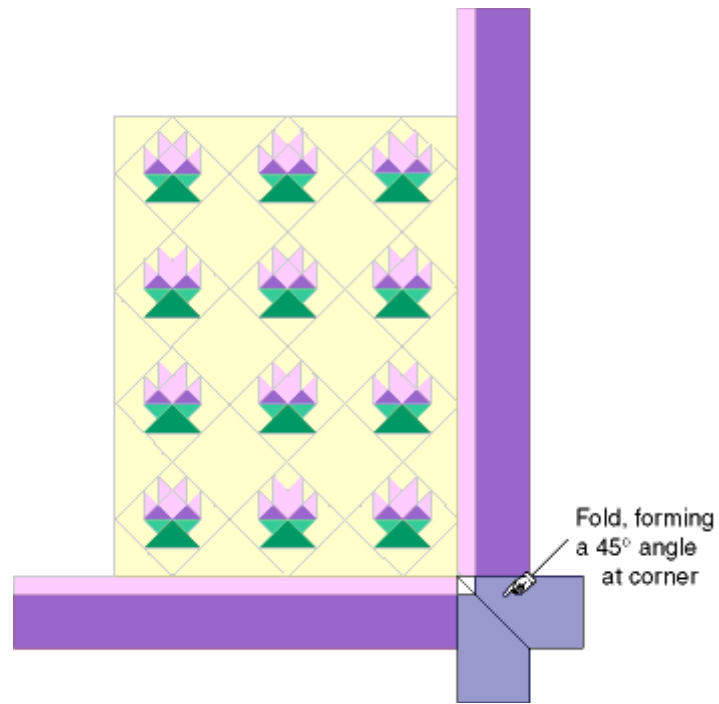
$65" + 6" + 6" + 2" =$ strip 79" long. Cut 2 strips 79" long (width measurement).

Repeat steps for length of quilt.

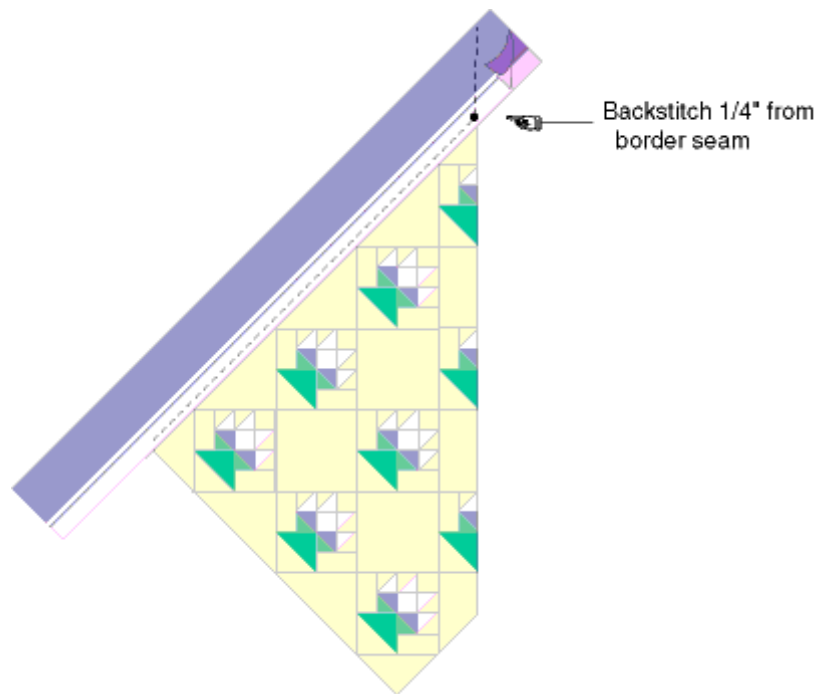
Step 2. Center and pin border strips in place. Start and end seams 1/4" from raw edges: backstitch to secure. Press seams toward quilt top.



Step 3. Lay quilt top right side up on ironing board and fold each border end flat back onto itself, right sides together, forming a 45 degree angle at the quilt's corner. Press to form sharp creases.



Step 4. Fold quilt on diagonal, right sides together. Align border strip raw edges, border seams at the 1/4" backstitched point, and creases; pin in place. Stitch along crease, backstitching at 1/4" border seam.



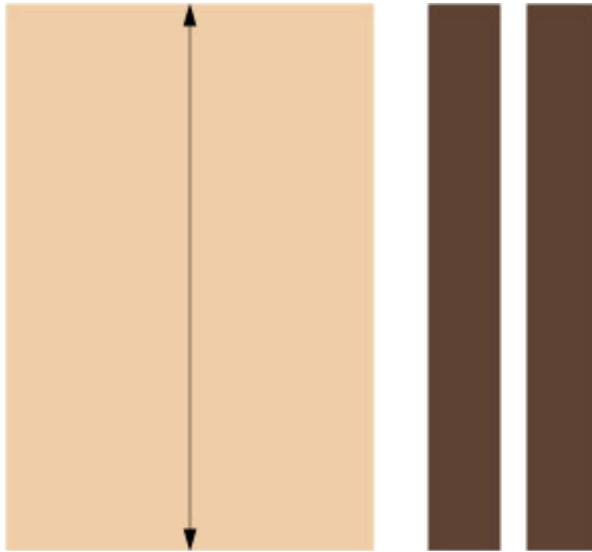
Step 5. Press seam open. With quilt right side up, align 45 degree angle line of square ruler on seam line to check accuracy. If corner is flat and square, trim excess fabric to 1/4" seam allowance. For multiple mitered borders, sew strips together first and attach to quilt as one unit.

An Easy Way to Assemble Multiple Mitered Borders

If you are using side-by-side mitered borders in your quilt, sew all of the strips for each side together lengthwise before cutting them to their final length. Add each multi-border unit to the quilt in one piece.

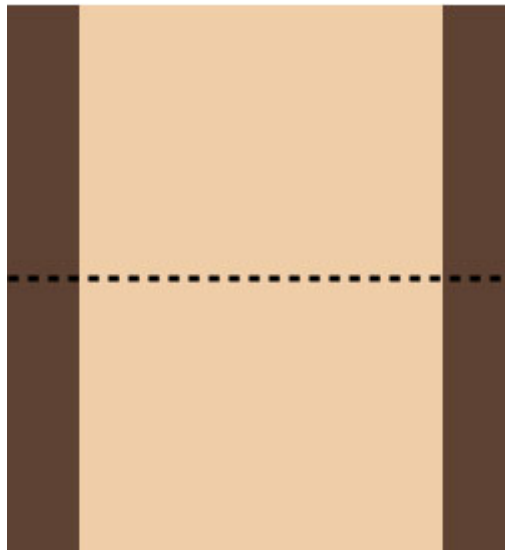
Borders are easier to match at quilt corners when you press seam allowances between the strips in side borders in the opposite direction of the seam allowances in top and bottom border units. The seam allowances will butt into each other nicely for a perfect match.

Measuring Straight Sewn Side Borders



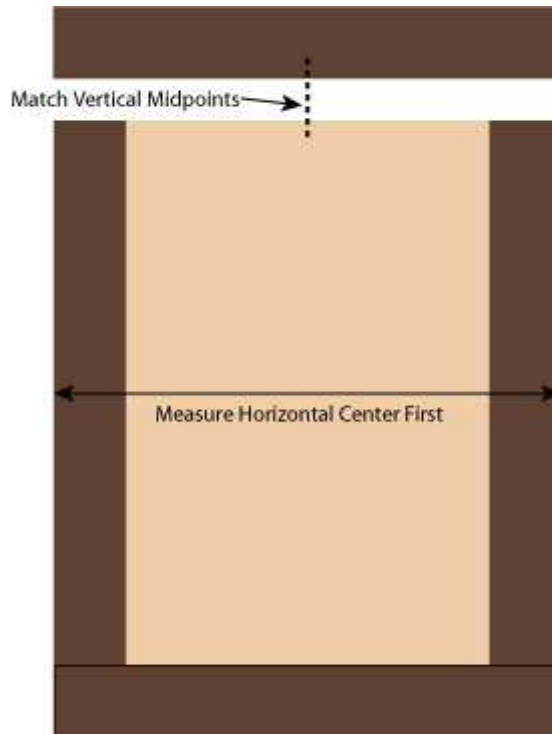
Measure the quilt from top to bottom through its vertical midpoint. Cut or piece two borders to match that length.

Sew the Side Borders to the Quilt



Side borders shown matched and sewn to the quilt's horizontal midpoint.

Measure and Sew Top and Bottom Borders



Measure the quilt's horizontal midpoint to determine top and bottom border length. Match borders to quilt at vertical midpoint then finish matching and sewing as you did side

Keep Quilt Borders From Stretching

After applying your borders you can "lock in" **the proper size and shape** of your quilt with this simple technique.

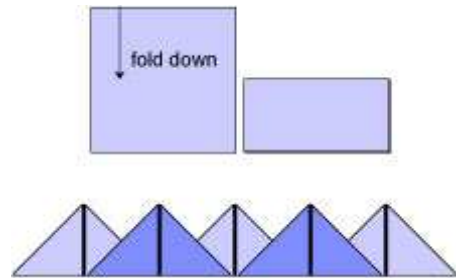
*Marge L. of Marengo, Iowa tells how she solved the problem of her **borders stretching** when she worked on her quilt.*

Since the edges of finished quilt top's border stretch some with handling or quilting, I machine stitch all around the **outer edge of the border** within my 1/4 inch seam allowance. This stay stitching helps to keep the top from **stretching or fraying** as it is being sandwiched, quilted, and bound. And the seam doesn't show or have to be removed later.

*That is a good idea, Marge! And if the length of any border is just a little off, you can **ease in the small difference** with the stay stitch so the quilt will hang evenly when finished.*

Prairie Point Assembly Method 1 - Open Folds at Center

Make prairie points by folding half of square down, then folding ends on the diagonal.



What Are Prairie Points?

Prairie points are folded triangles that you can use to decorate a quilt. They're most often sewn around the quilt's outer edges, but prairie points can be placed anywhere. Traditional prairie points can be constructed in a couple of ways. Each type begins as a square, and for both methods the length of the finished base of the triangle is half of its finished height.

Use this formula to determine beginning square size:

height at the finished point X 2
and add 1/2" to that dimension

Prairie Point with Open Folds at Center

Fold a square straight across along its midpoint, wrong sides together.

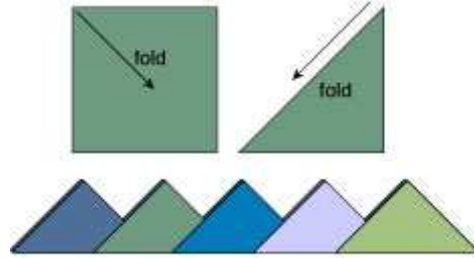
Place the folded square in front of you, fold on top. Fold the folded edge down at each side to create a triangle with an open fold at its center.

Press lightly to keep the folds in place.

This type of prairie point should be sewn to the quilt so that its decorative opening is visible when the triangle is flipped right side up.

Prairie Point Assembly Method 1 - Open Folds at Side

Make prairie points by folding square twice on the diagonal



Prairie Points with Open Folds at Side

Fold a square diagonally from corner to corner, placing wrong sides together.

Fold the square again along its longest edge, taking care to align the very sharp, angled edges with each other.

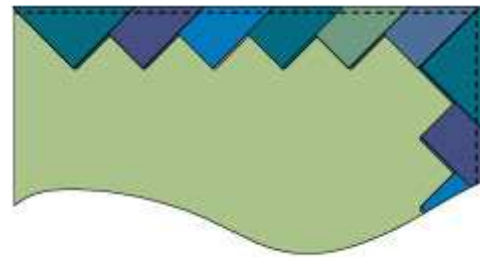
Press lightly to keep the folds intact.

This type of prairie point produces a finished triangle with an open edge along one side.

Tuck triangles into the openings as you distribute them along the quilt.

Sewing Prairie Points to the Edges of the Quilt

Sew prairie points to the quilt.



You'll sew your prairie points to the quilt after you've quilted it. Leave about an inch and a half of unquilted space around the edges of the quilt.

Trim the batting and backing to match the quilt top. Square up the edges if necessary.

Fold the backing and batting out of the way. *See option below*

Beginning at a corner, arrange the prairie points along one edge of the quilt, right sides together. Adjust positions as needed to balance the prairie points. Pin in place.

Sew the prairie points to the quilt with a 1/4" seam allowance.

Sew prairie points to the remaining sides.

Trim corners to reduce bulk if necessary.

Flip prairie points right side up, taking the seam allowance to the back of the quilt.

Press to help Fold the backing under 1/4", pinning it in place to cover the line of stitching.

Blind stitch the backing in place.

Add additional quilting if necessary to fill in gaps around the outer edges of the quilt.

Backing Option

When you trim layers, leave the backing 1/4" larger than the quilt top and batting then turn under 1/2" before stitching the backing in place.

More Prairie Points

You can place prairie points anywhere, not just around the edges of a quilt.

How to Square Up Quilt Blocks

Squaring Up Quilt Blocks - Your Own or Blocks from a Quilt Block Swap

Why Blocks Need to Be Squared Up

Part of the fun of swaps is sharing our work with new and old friends, and while we all do our very best to make sure blocks are accurate, there are often variations among blocks from different quilters. Maybe the quarter inch seam was slightly different. Or maybe the patches were cut using different brands of rotary rulers--or by positioning the fabric in a slightly different spot under the ruler.

If you expect perfection in every block you receive--it's probably best that you don't swap, or that you only swap quilt blocks with a limited number of quilters who you know will send you perfectly stitched blocks.

But if you're looking for friends and memories, block swaps are a wonderful activity to be involved in.

One Way to Square Up Quilt Blocks

If you receive -- *or make* -- a block that isn't quite large enough, try pressing it first to see if it grows a bit, since blocks are usually too small, not too large.

If that won't quite do it, or if the patches on the outer edges of the block are a bit uneven, use this freezer paper method to prep the square up the block for sewing. Gridded freezer paper makes the job easier, but you can work with plain freezer paper if that's what you have on hand.

Cut a piece of freezer paper the exact size your unfinished quilt blocks *should be*.

Draw two straight lines on the freezer paper's unshiny side--one along the vertical center and one along the horizontal center.

Draw two diagonal lines, each from one corner to the opposite corner.

Draw any other lines you feel will help you position the block on the freezer paper, including the outer 1/4" if you're not using gridded paper.

Place a block on the ironing board, right side down. Position the freezer paper on top of the block, shiny (unmarked) side down.

Align the quilt block with the freezer paper image, matching up strategic parts of the block with the drawing. Use short applique pins to stab through areas to keep the two from shifting apart; regular straight pins are fine, but you won't be able to press as easily without removing them.

When the block and the drawn image are aligned as well as possible, press the paper onto the block. Remove the pins.

Inspect the edges of the block. They probably won't all reach the edges of the freezer paper, but they should be well enough into the outer quarter-inch area to catch the seam as it is sewn.

Repeat for all blocks that need to be squared up.

To sew blocks together, align freezer paper edges and check to make sure the patches are matched under the paper. Secure with pins if you like. Sew a seam 1/4" inward from the edge of the paper.

Assemble into rows then join rows. Do not remove papers until all adjoining blocks are sewn together. Leave the papers around the outer perimeter of the quilt until borders are added.

This method helps prevent skewed quilts by keeping the blocks in-square while you work on them. Your 1/4" seams will be where they should be based on the pattern--and that's sometimes a whole lot different than where they would be sewn if you match-up the edges of inaccurate blocks