

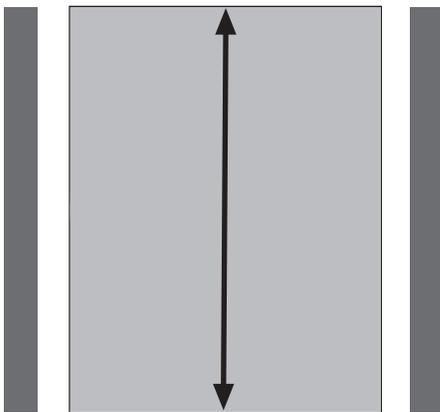
# Border Basics

## Borders with Squared Corners

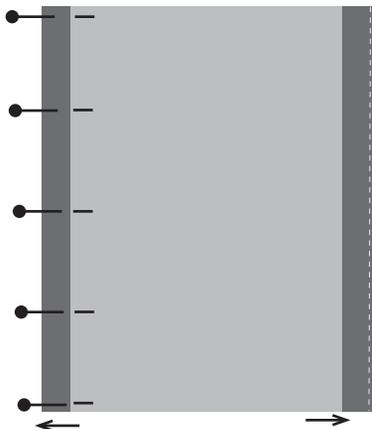
1. Cut the number of border strips in the width(s) indicated in the pattern's cutting instructions for the size quilt you are making. If you need to join border strips to attain the necessary length, piece them together with either a perpendicular seam (A) or a 45-degree angle seam (B). If you are using a squared border, you may opt to join strips with a perpendicular seam. If you are trying to blend different colors within one border, you may prefer to use the 45-degree angled seam.



2. Measure the quilt top through the center from top to bottom. Cut two border strips to that measurement. These will be the side border strips.



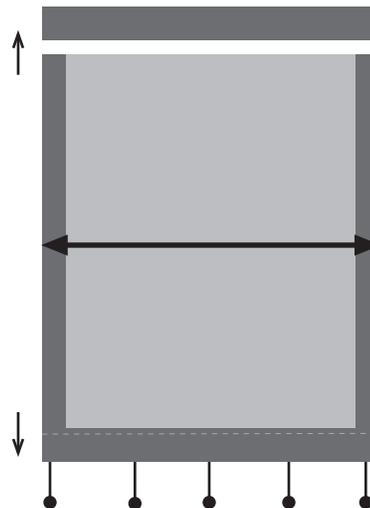
3. Divide the sides of the quilt and the two border strips into quarters. Mark the quarter points with pins or chalk. With right sides together, pin the borders to the sides of the quilt, matching the quarter points and ends. Add more pins prior to sewing. Sew the border strips to the quilt-top sides with a 1/4"-wide seam.



4. Set the seams by pressing the stitching lines. Then press the borders open with the seam allowance pressed outward-away from the center of the quilt.

5. Measure the quilt top through the center from side to side, including the borders you've just added. Cut two border strips to that measurement. These will be the top and bottom border strips.

6. Repeat Steps 2 and 3, this time sewing the border strips to the top and bottom edges of the quilt. Then set the seams. Press the borders open as before.



7. Press the completed quilt top. Trim loose threads. The quilt top is now ready to be basted to the backing and batting.

### Multiple Squared Borders

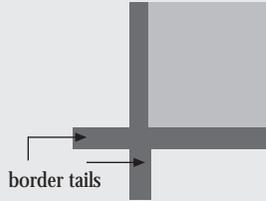
If you need two or more squared borders in your quilt, sew the first border to the quilt top as instructed. Then sew the second border to the quilt top, repeating the process. However, make sure you measure the quilt's new length and width prior to cutting the second set of border strips.

For each additional border, determine the quilt's new dimensions prior to cutting the new border strips.

# Borders with Mitered Corners

## An Important Detail When Making Mitered-corner Borders

When you cut the fabric for mitered borders, you must cut the fabric strips longer than the quilt's actual length and width, in order to make the mitered-corner folds. A good rule of thumb is to make the length of these border tails at least two times the border width.



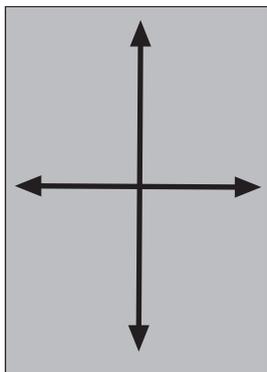
Generally, 8" - 10" border tails are adequate for most mitered corners. Keep in mind, however, that wide borders need longer tails than narrow borders. Make certain the border tail length is ample to create the necessary overlap for the mitered fold.

1. Cut the number of border strips in the width indicated in the pattern's cutting instructions for the size quilt you are making. If you need to join border strips to attain the necessary length, piece them together with a 45-degree angle seam.

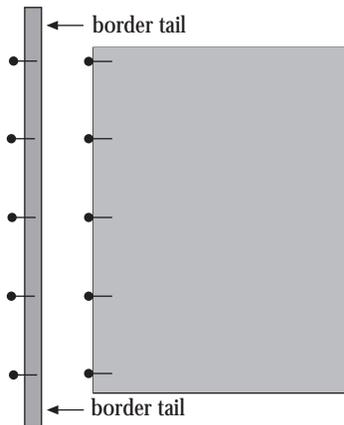


2. Measure the quilt through the center from top to bottom to determine the length of the quilt for the side borders. Add extra length for border tails (see above note).

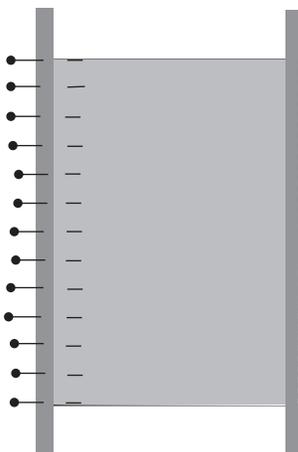
Measure from one side to the other to determine the width of the quilt for the top and bottom borders. Add extra length for border tails (see above note).



3. Divide each quilt side and each border strip into quarters. Mark these divisions with pins or chalk.

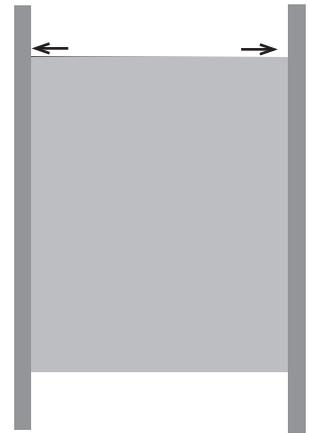


4. With right sides together, pin the lengthwise borders to the quilt sides, matching center and quarter-points. An equal amount of border tail should extend beyond the edge of the quilt on each end. Add more pins, as needed.

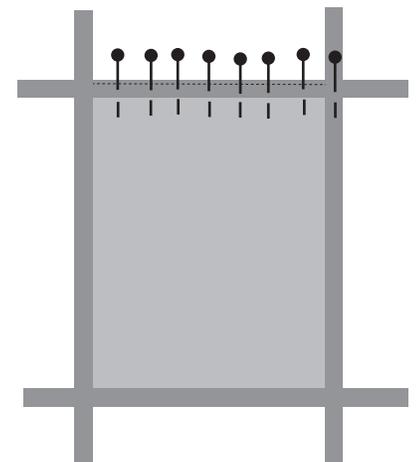


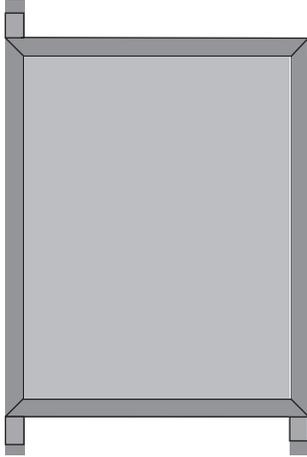
5. Sew each side border to the quilt top with a 1/4"-wide seam, stopping and starting with a backstitch.

6. Set the seams by pressing the stitching lines. Then press the borders open with the seam allowances pressed outward—away from the center of the quilt.



7. Pin and sew the top and bottom borders to the quilt. Begin and end the stitching line precisely at the point where the stitching line meets the side border seams. Set the seams and press the borders open.





8. Working one corner at a time, take a top border tail and fold it into a 45° angle at the corner where the two strips meet. Pin the folded strip carefully onto the side border, keeping the 45° angle in place. Press the fold. Repeat this process on the remaining corners.

9. By hand, carefully sew each corner's mitered seam closed with matching thread. Use your favorite invisible hand stitch to sew. Trim the mitered-corner seams to a 1/4" width. Repeat for all four corners.

10. Press the completed quilt top and trim all loose threads. Your top is now ready to be basted to the backing and batting in preparation for quilting.

### Tip for Multiple Borders with Mitered Corners

When you are making two or more borders with mitered corners, first sew each side's border strips together to create a single border unit.

Working with border-strip units makes it easy to construct perfectly fitted mitered corners. When these border units are sewn together, they form beautiful picture-frame corners.

