

STEP 5: STITCH BORDERS TO QUILT

MARK the corners of your quilt top. Measure 1/4" from each edge at the corners and make a small dot. This will match up with your dot on the border strips.

PIN through the dots to match up, then match centers and pin along the length of the quilt as necessary. STITCH using accurate 1/4" seam allowances. Add borders one at a time, beginning and ending at the dots and backstitching at each start and stop.

STEP 6: STITCH MITERS

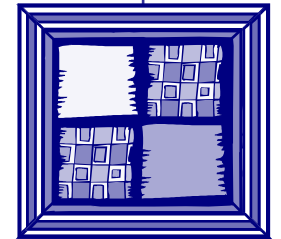
FOLD the quilt in half diagonally, bringing raw edges of border/quilt seam together. Match the dots near the border/quilt seam, the seam intersections of border strips, and the outside edge, then pin well.

STITCH 1/4" seam, beginning at the inside seam, about one stitch away from the dot to avoid catching the quilt. Stitch a few stitches, then backstitch. Sew carefully and slowly, removing pins as you sew. Backstitch at outside edge.

PRESS corner seams open, and border seams toward the outside edge. This will produce very accurate borders with a very neat miter.



Mitered Corners for Borders



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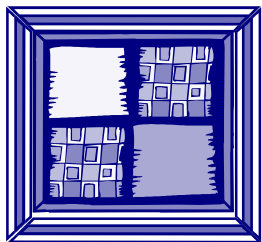
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Mitered Corners on Borders

In piecing our quilts, we are so careful and precise, but when it comes to mitered borders, we become very casual. This method for cutting mitered borders is a "cut first" method. Cut mitered borders perfectly, then stitch to the quilt. A little planning and careful measuring will create even, accurate mitered borders every time.

TOOLS

- ✂ Rotary cutter, mat, ruler
- ✂ Marking pencil
- ✂ Sewing machine
- ✂ Optional: ruler with 45° angle



STEP 1: PIECE BORDER STRIPS

If you are making multiple mitered borders, the miter is cut all at once through all borders. Machine-piece all border strips together in the order and widths you desire. Be sure to allow enough fabric when you plan and cut your border strips.



The length of these strips is the length of your quilt, plus twice the width of your border strips. Add an extra two or more inches for insurance. Measure the width the same way:

$$\text{LENGTH STRIP MEASUREMENT} = \text{QUILT LENGTH} + (2 \times \text{BORDER WIDTH}) + 2" \text{ to } 3"$$

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STEP 2: MEASURE BORDER STRIPS

MEASURE the length of the quilt. Take measurements through the center and near the edge, but not right at the edge where it can stretch. Record the average of your measurements, then subtract the seam allowances on both ends -- minus 1/2". This is your LENGTH MEASUREMENT to use when marking your stitching line for the miter. Repeat for width.

$$\text{LENGTH MEASUREMENT} = \text{LENGTH} - 1/2"$$

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STEP 3: MARK BORDER STRIPS

FOLD border or pieced border to mark the center. PRESS, finger press or mark with your favorite marking tool. Working with one border at a time, place wrong side up, with the inside edge of the border toward you. Divide the length or width measurement in half and begin measuring from the center mark toward the border end. MEASURE an equal amount on each side of the center mark, and place a DOT or small mark exactly 1/4" from the inside cut edge of the border strip assembly on both ends. This is the point to match the seamline corners of the quilt top. RE-CHECK measurement by measuring from one dot to the other. If the measurement is the same as your quilt minus the seam allowance of 1/2", this is the correct measurement.

STEP 4: CUT MITER ANGLES

ALIGN ruler on border strips, with the 45° angle facing away from you. DRAW a line with your marking tool. This is your STITCHING line. Slide ruler 1/4" toward the outside ends of the border, then draw another line. This is the CUTTING line. (Do not cut until both ends have been measured, marked and measured again to double-check.) Repeat steps for each border. Finally, CUT each border on the cutting line angles using your rotary blade and ruler.

