

Adding Borders to a Quilt

Borders are the final touches to your quilt top and there are many creative ways to get these put on. Whatever way you chose it is very important to make sure that they lay flat and square. Presuming that the blocks have been squared during the piecing process, why end with wavy borders? There are a few ways to measure but this way is easy to follow. Find your measuring tape, a calculator and something to write on.

Step 1 -

- Lay your top out flat and without any puckers or obstructions in the way
- Measure the quilt top in 3 spots – across the top, middle and bottom. Add these numbers and divide by 3.

For example: $63 + 63 \frac{1}{4} + 62 \frac{3}{4} = 63 + 63.25 + 62.75 = 189$

$189 / 3 = 63$

Step 2 -

- Let's be honest...if your top is really askew, you need to go back and rethink the top. It is fine to be a bit off, but way off will NOT "quilt out" on the longarm. If your top is pretty close then proceed!
- Cut 2 pieces of your fabric for the sides you measured to this measurement of 63. Mark the center of the strips and match to the center of the sides measured. Pin top and borders together in the center and at the ends of the quilt top.
- Pin in between these pins again in halves again and repeat across distributing evenly. If there is any fullness of the top or the fullness in the border can be eased in across evenly.
- Note - I like to do this on a bed and push the pin straight down through the pieces and into the mattress at the edge and the middle. I give a slight, SLIGHT bit of tension to distribute the border or the top evenly if there is some easing in required.
- Sew the borders on one at a time with the border facing you so you can watch it carefully and avoid shifting. A walking foot can be helpful at this step. Press your seams flat.

Step 3 -

- Repeat Step 1 measuring in the opposite direction on the top, middle and bottom. Find the average measurement, cut and attach your borders as discussed and attach.

Step 4 -

- Once everything is attached and ironed flat remeasure to ensure that everything is squared up.