



Borders, Borders!

Ideas to finish your quilt



Why borders?

Any border shifts the color balance of the quilt.

No border? 1, 2, or 3 borders? Solid or pieced?

Adding or deleting a border can help you obtain the **size** quilt you desire.

What can help us make these design decisions?

Border colors shift the color balance of the quilt

- The color chosen for the border gains importance and the eye is drawn to that color wherever it appears in the quilt.
- A quilt binding is the simplest type of border.
- Plain borders can calm busy piecing, providing a visual resting place for the eye.
- A pieced border should accent the quilt and will alter the look.
- Old advice: total width of the border should be roughly the same size as one block.

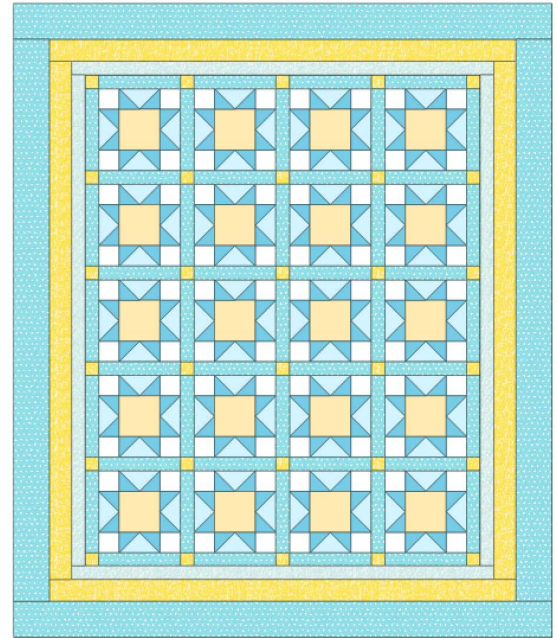
Using the Golden Ratio

The golden ratio occurs in nature and is widely considered to be the “perfect proportion.” Objects that adhere to the golden ratio appear balanced and pleasing to our senses. The ratio, in its simplest form, is **1.6 to 1**. Each border should be 1.6 times larger than the previous one.

2” first border

2” x 1.6 = 3.2” or 3.25” second border

3.25” x 1.6 = 5.2” or 5.25” third border



Proportioned to Patchwork

This method uses a fraction of the block size used in the body of the quilt. Using $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{3}$ or $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{2}{3}$ of the block size can be used to determine border width

An example is a quilt using 12" blocks—the border can be either 3", 4", 6", or 9". The size you select is a personal choice and can be determined by the type and scale of the print you may want to use.

Fibonacci, Italian mathematician, 1200s

Mathematical sequence reflected in nature - 'divine proportion'

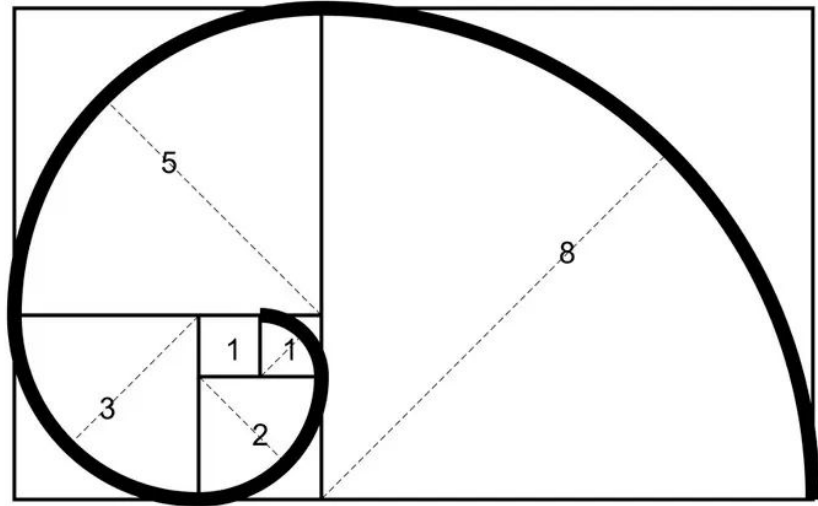
1,1,2,3,5,8,13,21,34 etc

$$1+1=2,$$

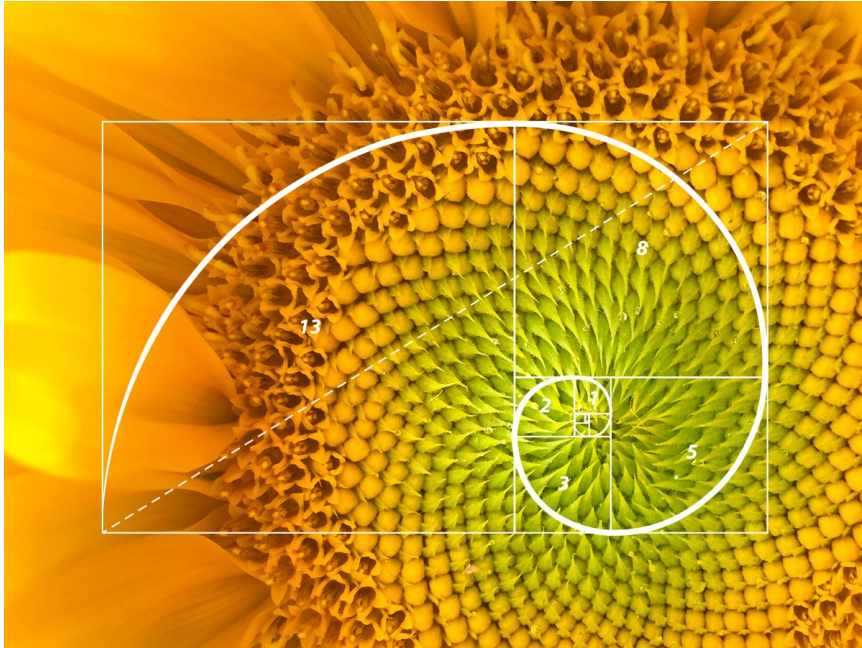
$$1+2=3,$$

$$2+3=5,$$

$$3+5=8$$



Fibonacci saw his number sequences reflected in nature, art, and architecture.



How can Fibonacci help us design quilt borders?

1,1,2,3 Start with a 1" border. Add 2" and then a 3"

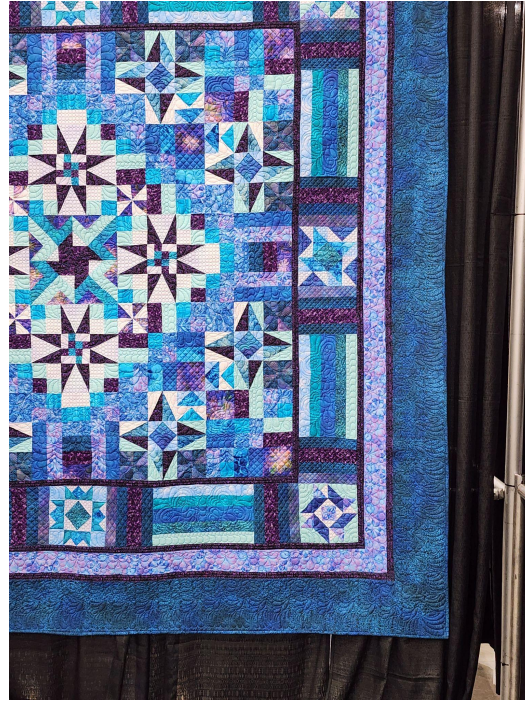
2, 3, 5 Start with a 2" border. Add 3", then 5"



Examples: No border



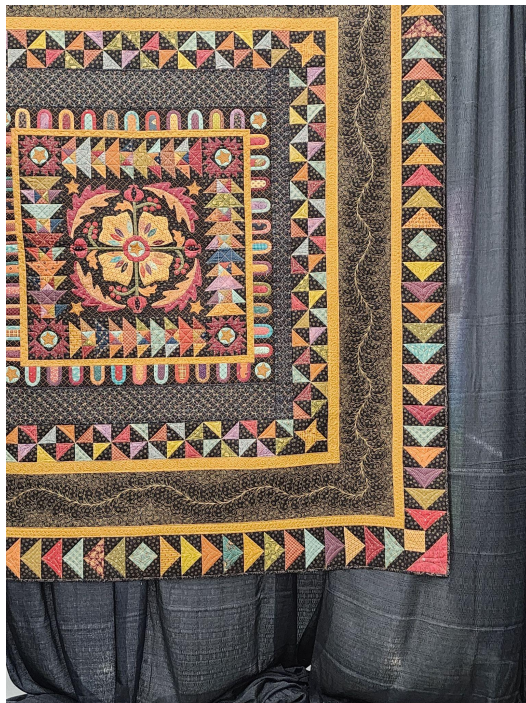
Solid Color



Large print fabric borders



Pieced Borders



More pieced ideas



Enhanced with Embroidery



References

1. Judy Martin & Marsha McCloskey. Pieced Borders (1994).Crosley-Griffith Publishing Co.
2. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HhiN1WbzVWU>
3. Sherri Quilts a Lot. <https://sherriquiltsalot.com/2023/04/12/quilting-with-fibonacci/>
4. <https://sherriquiltsalot.com/2018/07/26/sashing-and-the-golden-ratio/>
5. <https://www.nationalquilterscircle.com/post/all-about-quilt-borders?epik=dj0yJnU9d2c5QmNiVG90X2RUb29Ea2R0ZzhvWEIwSW9xbFFjUTUmcD0wJm49ZTIUUXdhOFRININIdlICMVh0ZUpEUSZ0PUFBQUFBR2dCRTNF>