

# Quilting How Tos from the Redheaded Quilter

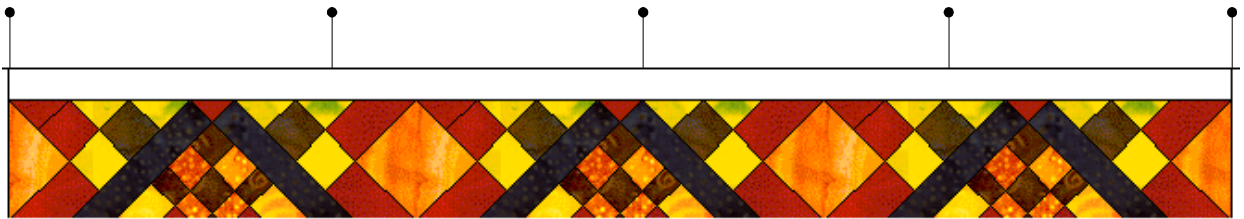
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3. After border strips are cut to the correct length, pin them to the quilt top by first pinning each end, then the middle, then the mid-points between the ends and the middle as shown below. In this diagram the border is shown as plain white for clarity.

This is an important step because it will keep your border strip from sliding as you sew and will ensure that it is sewn exactly where you want it to be.

Omitting this step may cause you to run out of border before you get to the end of your quilt top, or vice versa. It might also cause your quilt top to stretch along the edge, especially if the edges are bias edges as in the blocks below.



4. Sew border to the quilt top with a  $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam. Repeat step one to measure for the other borders.
5. Repeat steps 1-4 for any additional borders.

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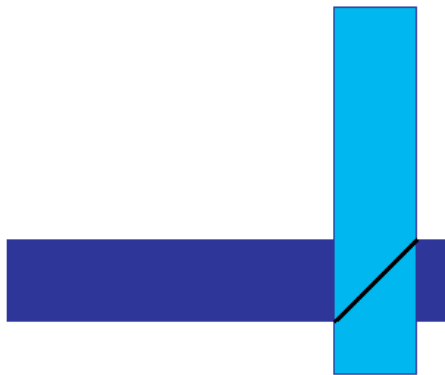
## How to cut border pieces for your quilt

A quilt top is rarely perfectly square, but your goal is to make it as close as possible. One way to do this is by ensuring that your borders are the right length before they are sewn to your quilt top.

### To make borders you will need:

- Border fabrics
- Iron, ironing board
- Sewing machine, thread, straight pins
- Cutting mat, rotary cutter and ruler

1. To measure for your borders, first determine if you will add the top and bottom borders or the side borders first. It's up to you. Measure across the middle and each end (or side) of your quilt top and make note of the measurements. If they all match, great - if not, average them together and use that measurement for the length of your border strips.
2. Cut strips  $\frac{1}{2}$ " wider than you want the finished border to be. Cut them to the length you got in step 1. Piece shorter strips together if necessary to make a piece long enough for the border.
  - a. **Piece strips** by placing the ends of two of them at right angles, right sides together as shown below. (In this image the lighter color indicates the back of the fabric.) Stitch diagonally between the corners as shown by the dark line.



- b. Open the seam to make sure it's correctly sewn, then trim the edges off leaving  $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance as shown below. Press the seam open. Repeat until you have a strip that is long enough to form the border.