



## Zeffie's Quilts

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## Borders

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This lesson will teach you how to measure and apply borders properly to avoid fullness.

Flared or rippled borders are a very common problem in quilt making. Borders that are cut on the straight grain, rather than cross grain, are more stable and less likely to flare. This means you will need to purchase more fabric so that the borders can be cut from the length of the yardage (parallel to the selvage) in one piece. Cross grain borders (cut across the fabric) are more likely to stretch during application because this cut of fabric has much more stretch and most likely you will have to join the fabric to have a border strip long enough. You should be able to cut your strips in either direction as long as you are careful working with the fabric. Even a joined border (one that you have to put seams in to make it long enough) can be attached to a quilt evenly if you are careful.

1. Measure the length of your quilt top down the center of the piece. This is best accomplished by laying the quilt out flat and using a long tape measure. If it is a large quilt, you may want to take 2 or 3 measurements and then average the results. (fig 1)
2. Trim two border strips to this measurement; mark the center and quarter points of the quilt top and the border pieces.
3. PIN these points and the ends together, and then pin in between to ease in any fullness. Don't be afraid to use many pins. I do not like to pin anything, but when it comes to adding my borders, I do not mind taking the time to pin adequately to stabilize that edge. It is possible that you may have to ease fullness in either the border or the quilt top.
4. Sew using 1/4 inch seam allowance as usual.
5. Press. I like to press toward the border so that the seam allowances are flatter. If your border is light, you may want to press toward the quilt top so that the seam allowances cannot be seen through the fabric.
6. Measure the width of the quilt including the borders you just added. Again, if the piece is large, you may want to take 2 or 3 measurements and average. (fig 2)
7. Repeat steps 2-5 above to apply these borders.

If you are adding more than one border you really should go through this process with each border. Don't try to take the original measurement and add the width of the first border, because you will just be asking for trouble. You must give your border as much attention as you did the pieced part of your quilt top because the border is just as important as your beautiful quilt (especially if you are entering it in a competition)!



Figure 1

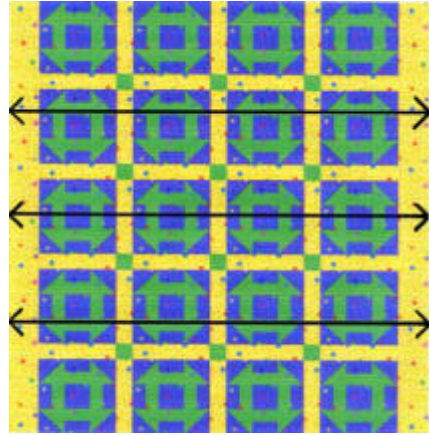


Figure 2