

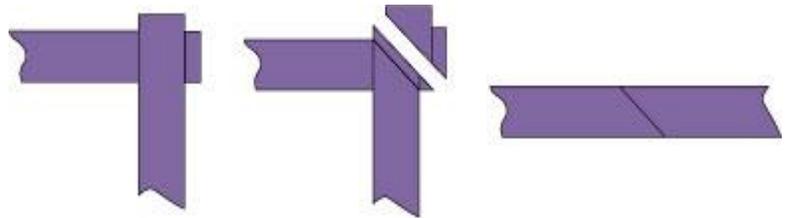
Quilting Tips & Tuts - Easy Quilt Borders

Also known as: A Flat Quilt is a Happy Quilt! by Pam Wingate

Easy Quilt Borders - keep your quilt flat & happy!

A common problem with borders is when they have stretched larger than the pieced quilt top, creating a “ruffled” look and extra fullness. This happens when borders are added to a top without measuring, and are sewed to the top, then trimmed to length. This problem gets worse the more borders you have on a quilt or if your blocks are placed ‘on point’ and you’re sewing your borders to edges on the bias that tend to stretch. Here’s a quick step-by-step method that works with ‘I’ borders where the vertical borders are added first, followed by the top and bottom horizontal borders or ‘H’ borders where the horizontal borders are sewn first.

Prepare your border strips! Cut strips the desired width plus ½” seam allowance. Cut on the straight of grain (parallel to the salvage) of the fabric, never on the bias, because they will stretch out of shape. If possible, buy enough fabric to cut the strips without piecing and make sure to trim the selvage from your fabric before cutting. If you have to piece the border, sew together multiple strips with a diagonal seam - It will be less noticeable than a straight line.



Step 1: Lay your quilt center on a flat surface, usually the floor, smoothing without stretching. Lay 2 lengths of prepared borders across the quilt vertical, keeping the 2 layers together.

Step 2: Slide a cutting mat under the fabric and cut slightly off the edge of the quilt (do not cut the quilt!) using the ruler to make a right angle cut off the border. Carefully slide out the mat and repeat on the other side of the quilt.



Step 3: *This step is important!* Pin the border strips to the vertical sides of the quilt, matching the ends and centers, and easing any fullness, if necessary. Sew using a ¼” seam and press seam allowances towards the border.



Step 4: Lay the quilt on a flat surface again, smoothing without stretching. Lay the prepared

border across the horizontal middle of the quilt top and repeat **Step 2**, cutting the border to the width of the quilt top which includes the just-added borders. Again, do not cut the quilt when trimming the border, trim slightly off the edge.

Repeat **Step 3** - pin and sew borders to top and bottom horizontals and press.



All done!

Repeat steps 1-4 for each border that is applied.

Easy peasy!