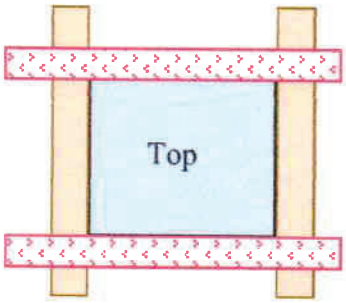
Adding A Mitered Border

Assemble:

- The LONG outer border strip you just made.

To add a mitered border, you sew a precisely measured border on to all four sides of the quilt, stopping 1/4" from the end of the quilt top, but leaving extra fabric on the end of both sides. That is the fabric that you will use to create the miter.

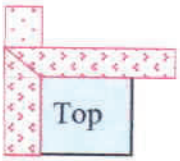


To figure the length of the side borders, you add the width of the top plus the unfinished width of the *two* borders plus 8-1/2". That extra bit of fabric will be used in the fold of the miter.

To figure the length of the top and bottom borders, add the width of the top plus the unfinished width of both borders plus 8-1/2". Since this quilt top is 54-1/2" × 72-1/2", and the border you are adding is 8-1/2", you will need (2) borders 98" long for the side borders and 80" for the top and bottom borders.

Mark the center point of both the border and the quilt top. Pin a border to one side of the top, matching those center points. Sew the border to the quilt top, starting and stopping 1/4" from each end of the quilt top. Repeat for the other side, and for the top and bottom sides. Your quilt top is going to look a little funny, but that's okay.

To sew the mitered corner, it's easiest to take the top to your ironing board and fold the edge of one border on top of the other at an exact 45 degree angle. One strip will completely cover the other. Work with it until you like the appearance of the miter and the corner lies flat. Press that fold.



Corner Close-up

Carefully unfold the top without disturbing the two borders that are now right sides together and pin along that pressed fold line.

Take the top to your machine and sew along the pressed fold line from the outside into the middle where you stopped sewing 1/4" away from the edge of the top. Press and double check to make sure the corner lies flat. If so, trim 1/4" away from this seam. Press to the border.

It's a bit tricky, but if you are careful and use lots of pins, you can get a perfect border that lies completely flat on the first try. Repeat this three more times and you will have successfully added a mitered border to your quilt.

You are done! Pin your top to the wall for a couple of days in an obvious place so you can enjoy it and your family can praise you. Use this time to decide on a quilting design. Don't forget to add a label.

Preserve your place in history: Sign and date your quilt!

