

Borders

Now you are ready to add your borders. Here, we are talking about borders that are not pieced. Pieced borders have a different set of considerations. Regarding border width, many of my smaller quilts have a one inch inner border and a four to six inch outside border. Other quilts have different border configurations. Perhaps two 2" borders or maybe a 2" then a 3" border.

Generally, the larger the quilt, the larger the border. The width is dependent upon the type of fabric (a larger print needs a wider width) and YOUR opinion.

I have a technique that will help you choose width...

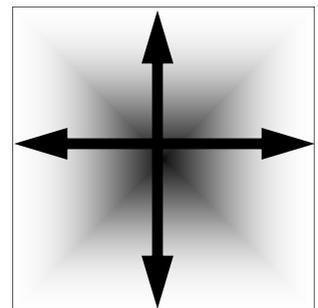
Lay out your border fabric on the floor or wall so you have at least a 36" square (or as much as you can). Then lay your quilt on top of the border, staggered so some of the border peeks out of the top and one side. See, it looks like a border! Adjust until you find a width you like.

If you are adding a thin inner border, cut a strip to size (usually 1.5" unfinished) and lay it in-between the border and the quilt center. Tuck it under the quilt center to hide seam allowances. Viola, instant border... Find the combo you like and make a note of it, fabric and sizes. When you cut your border then, be sure to add seam allowances.

Fold your fabric to various widths and try it out. And think about your final design element at this point as well... your binding. I tend to match my binding to my inner border. My second preference is to match the outer border so it blends right in. I've also seen a different accent fabric used in the binding... but I don't do that very often.

This Is The Important Stuff...

To determine the **length** of your borders, measure the quilt center length through its center, not at the outer edges. Those outer edges have more "give" and will not give an accurate measure. Measuring through the center will keep your quilt square.. Cut both your vertical strips to be the center vertical dimension, piecing if necessary. That is make the border fit your quilt... and be sure both border pieces are the same length!



Measure through the center for borders

To apply the border, find the center of the quilt edge and the center of your border strip. Then find the quarter points of each. With right sides together, match the center of the border with the center of the quilt center, along with matching the quarters. Align raw edges. Pin at centers, quarters and at the ends then ease as necessary. Stitch 1/4" seam. Press toward the border. Repeat for other side.

After pressing vertical set of borders, repeat above steps for the horizontal borders.