

MAKING YOUR BORDERS FIT

Making your borders fit usually involves a little of that 4-letter word: MATH. It's just simple addition and subtraction and dividing by a number like 2. The most important thing to remember is to start by subtracting the seam allowance (usually $\frac{1}{2}$ "), do the math, then add the seam allowance back on.

1. Non pieced borders
 - A. These are the simplest. Using the length of the fabric instead of the width gives more stability, and less ripple.
 - B. Measure across the center of the quilt, cut 2 strips the same measurement, then pin the strip to opposite sides, easing in any extra fabric.
2. Pieced borders
 - A. Measure across the center of the quilt, and subtract the seam allowance.
 - B. Take the finished measurement of the pieces in your border.
 - C. Divide the width of the quilt by the width of the border pieces. If it comes out even, just make the pieces.
3. If you plan your border pieces so they fit, the math is nonexistent. E.g., if your blocks are 12", you may use a 12", 6", 4", or 3" border piece and not have to adjust.
4. Adjusting flying geese
 - A. Make the geese go only partway.
 - B. Put a spacer at the beginning and end, or in the middle
 - C. Put a square in a square in the middle
 - D. Make the first or last goose a little smaller
 - E. Cornerstone ideas.
 - a. Square in a square
 - b. Piece an element from the quilt
 - c. Plain square (possibly with applique)
 - d. Continue geese like a football upright
 - e. Continue each side of geese like a dog chasing its tail
5. Piano keys
 - A. Cut them any width that makes them fit.
 - B. Or cut them different widths so it doesn't matter.
 - C. Before cutting, pick a height that will give you an easy-to-work-with measurement for the next border.
 - D. Corner ideas
 - a. Football upright
 - b. Miter