



How to Miter Borders

Mitered corners always add a unique dimension to quilts, especially when the fabric is a directional print or border stripe. I always stayed away from mitered corners until my mom showed me how. Over the years I have learned a few tricks of my own that make it even easier to miter quilt corners. I hope these instructions help you with the corners of your next quilt project.

Things you need on hand:

- 8" or larger square ruler
- Scissors
- Iron and ironing board
- Pins
- Tape measure

Instructions to Miter Border Corners:

1. Measure the sides of the quilt top to get a common measurement. If the quilt is rectangular get a common measurement for each direction.

2. To figure out how long you need to cut the border strips, double the width of the border, add 6", add this number to the common measurement from step 1. For example: If the borders are going to be cut 8" wide and the common measurement is 60" the border strips would be cut 82" long ($60 + 8 + 8 + 6$). Cut the border strips to the length needed for your project.

3. Find the center of each side of the quilt top and 4 border strips – mark center with a pin.

4. Divide the common measurement from step 1 in half. For each border strip, measure this distance on each side of the center pin and mark with an additional pin.

For a large quilt you can divide it further into quarters. Bring the end pin of the border strip to line up with the center pin and mark with an additional pin. Repeat for the other half of the

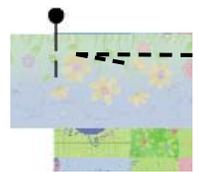


border strip. Be sure to mark the quarters on the sides of the quilt top by bringing the ends of each side in toward the center.

5. Pin a border strip to the top and bottom of the quilt top matching centers. Match the ends of the quilt top to the end pins in the border strip.



6. Sew the borders to the top and bottom, starting and stopping $\frac{1}{4}$ " from the ends and backstitching to secure. Press seams toward the border fabric.



7. Sew the remaining two border strips to the sides of the quilt top following steps 5 and 6. Press seam allowances toward the border.

8. Working on the ironing board, lay one corner out flat with right side facing up. One end of the border strip should overlap the other, refer to the picture.



Double check that the strips are positioned correctly by placing a bias square ruler over the corner – the edges of the border strips should line up with the edges of the ruler.



9. Fold the top border strip (top layer) under so that the right sides of the two border strips are facing one another – creating a 45 degree angle. Slide the top border strip out towards the end of the strip until the point of the 45 degree angle is at the corner of the quilt top. Press to crease fabric.



10. A trick I've found to help ensure an accurate finished corner is to lay a bias square ruler over the pressed corner. The printed diagonal line on the ruler should follow the pressed fold. The outside edge of the ruler should follow the outside edges of the border fabric. If these don't all line up, make some adjustments, repress and recheck with the ruler.



11. Pin the ends of the two border strips together. Fold the quilt over leaving the two ends of the border strip laying flat on the ironing board. Refer to the two pictures to see how quilt is folded back and the border strips lay flat with right sides together.



12. Pin the border strips together along the pressed crease to secure.



13. Sew corner together by sewing in the pressed crease. I find it easier to sew from the quilt top out toward the edge. Open up the sewn corner to check that everything is correct. Make any corrections if necessary, otherwise trim the ends of the border strips off to a 1/4" seam allowance. Press seam allowance to one side.



14. Repeat steps 8–13 for remaining three corners.



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