When you have the quilt's center finished, decide how big you want the quilt to be. This will determine how much you need to add to the top and bottom and to the sides. Theoretically, you could add different amounts to top and bottom if you want to.

Now make a piece of newsprint that is exactly 1/4 the size you want the quilt to be. You could use freezer paper or butcher paper instead, but newsprint is easier for paper piecing. Mark the newsprint to show where the quilt's center (folded into 1/4's) would be. The outer part is where you need to make the border. The picture below shows the whole quilt - you will be working with only the lower right 1/4. Mark lines radiating from where the center of the quilt would be. More lines will mean thinner strips radiating out. Be sure that one of your lines goes through the corner of the quilt's center.

Cut the border section out (that's the blue part in the lower right section below), and cut it into 2 pieces along the heavy line (the line going through the center's corner). Make 4 copies out of newsprint. (2 should be mirror images) Now paper piece the border. Be sure you add 1/4 inch seam allowances as needed. Add the border pieces to the quilt center (I left the paper on until I had the pieces added, since I was working with bias pieces at this point.) If you want, you can add an outer border after you add the radiating border – just remember to figure it into your size calculations.

