

ROUNDED CORNERS WITH BORDERS

On occasion you may want to make a quilt as a bed spread, and in order for your spread to ‘drape’ appropriately, you may wish to round the corners at the foot of the bed. The following instructions will, hopefully, assist you in creating rounded corners with borders. This method will require a little more fabric for your borders. The amount of fabric required depends, of course, on the size of your quilt and whether you are rounding corners at the bottom of the quilt/spread, or whether you wish to round all four corners.

EXAMPLE:

In the example presented, the quilt is represented by the bright pink fabric and will be used as a bed spread, draped to just above the floor, with corners rounded at the bottom of the quilt (foot of the bed). The first border is represented by the lime green fabric. In this example, the finished width of our first border (Border #1) will be 4” in width; the second border is 2” in width, represented by the orange fabric. In this example, the binding for the quilt will be the same color as Border No. 1, and must be cut on the bias. Although not required, this writer recommends that your borders be cut lengthwise of the grain in order to minimize stretching which can result in wavy borders. The normal procedure is almost impossible to follow when you have rounded corners and borders. The main thing you must remember is: **DO NOT PULL OR STRETCH** your quilt top and/or your border fabrics. Your quilt must be “squared up” before you begin working on the borders

Step 1: The first step is to round your corners. This can be done by inverting a regular dinner plate in each corner you desire to finish with rounded corners, or rounded corners with borders. Mark each corner with a washable quilt marker or washable chalk. Trim the corners by cutting away the portion of the quilt top outside of your rounded corner, creating your first rounded corner’. See photo #1.

Step 2: Fold Border #1 fabric in half lengthwise, wrong sides together. Using your rotary cutter, remove the selvages. Lay quilt with rounded corners on Border #1 fabric (represented by the lime green fabric) leaving at least the width of your border, plus 1” [two seam allowances of one-half inch (1/2”) each]. See photo #2.

Step 3: Measure border fabric from the inside curve outward the width of Border No. 1, plus 1” for seam allowances, marking the entire length with washable marker or chalk every few inches, a total of five inches (5”). Once you have measured and marked along the length, draw the rounded corner border using the marks you have made which will give you the outside cutting line for Border No. 1. Example, you want a 4” border (your Border #1), plus you need two seam allowances of 1/2” each. Therefore, the total width you should cut this border is five inches (5”). See Photo #3.

Step 4: Mark a solid cutting line along both sides of the length of Border #1. Once you have marked the border, cut along the solid lines to the fold, then cut along the fold of the borders, making two separate rounded corners for your border. See Photo #4.

If you wish to round all four corners, you will need to repeat Steps 1 through 4 for each corner of your quilt..

Step 5: At this point, you will need to measure and add additional lengths of fabric to complete the straight portion of the border. Pin the quilt top Outside Rounded Border and the Inside Rounded Corner of Border #1, right sides together, with a seam allowance of one-half inch ($\frac{1}{2}$ ""). The stitching line is one-half inch ($\frac{1}{2}$ "") which is NOT marked. See the arrows on the photos. BE VERY CAREFUL NOT TO STRETCH OR DISTORT YOUR QUILT TOP OR YOUR BORDER. Stitch (regular, straight stitch) quilt top and Border #1. Clip curves $\frac{1}{4}$ " deep to prevent puckering, and press seam open. Unless you pull or stretch your quilt top or border fabric, your borders should lie even and flat.

If you are only adding one border, you are ready to assemble your quilt top, batting and your quilt backing. If you wish to add an additional border(s), continue on to Step 6.

Step 6: Fold fabric for Border #2 lengthwise, wrong sides together. With rotary cutter, remove selvages. Lay quilt, with Border #1 stitched, right sides together, and with seam pressed open, over fabric for Border #2. . For example, I added a second border two-inches wide (2" finished width) This border, represented by the orange fabric, needs to be cut two and one-half inches ($2\frac{1}{2}$ "") wide. You should measure and mark your quilt for this border as you did for Border #1, using the measurement for the finished width desired for Border #2, plus one-half inch ($\frac{1}{2}$ "") allowance for each seam allowance. See Photo #5. With right sides together, stitch the inside curve of Border #2 to the outside curve of Border #1. Clip rounded edge $\frac{1}{4}$ " deep to prevent puckering, and press seam open. See Photo #6.

NOTE: Cut the rounded portion of your borders in one piece; that is, DO NOT PIECE the rounded portion of your borders. In the example given, the rounded borders were cut from a 4 yard piece of fabric. It was necessary to piece the border at the bottom, inside the rounded corners. Otherwise, each side border should be one piece around each rounded corner to at least 6-8 inches past the rounded corner. I might add that in addition to cutting the rounded border, my bias binding was also cut from the same 4 yard piece, and there was still fabric left.

Also posted is a photo of my quilt and one rounded corner with its rounded borders.

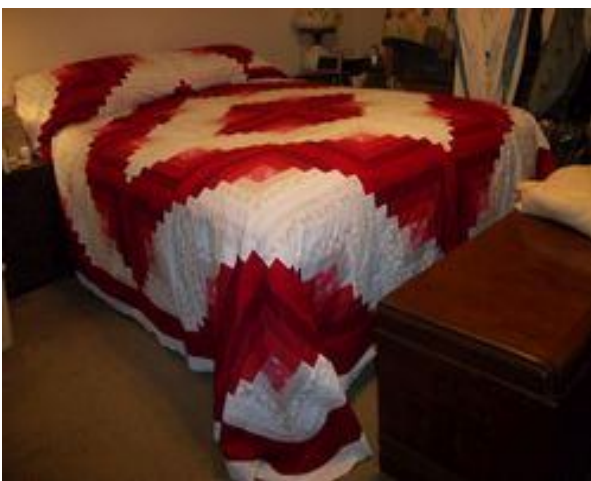
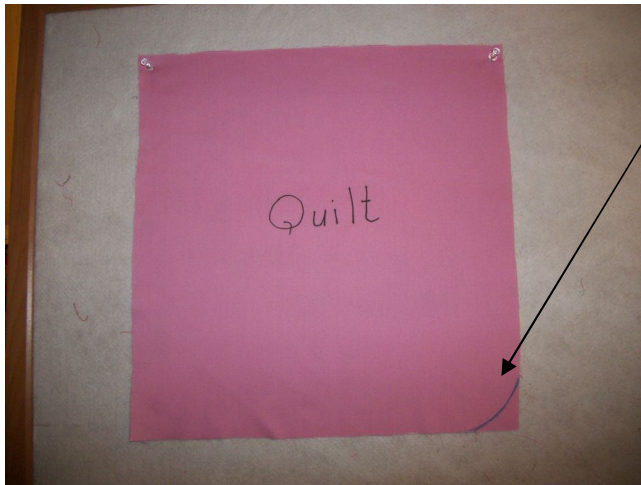


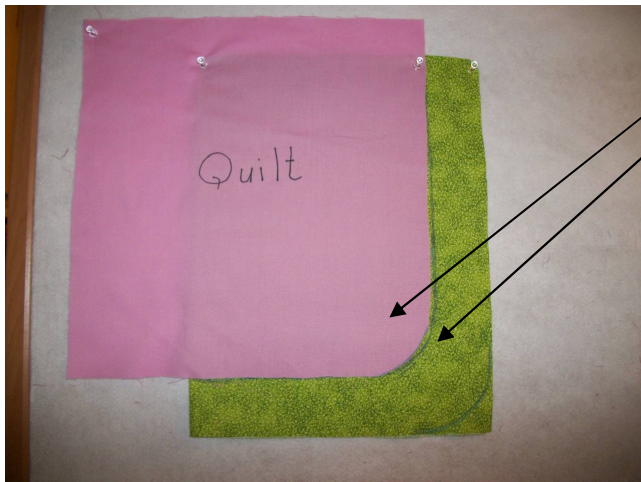
Photo #1



Outside rounded corner

Fit the Inside Rounded Corner of Border #1 to Outside Rounded Corner of Quilt. With right sides together, pin the Inside Rounded Corner of Border #1 to the Outside Rounded Corner of the Quilt. Although the Inside Rounded Border appears to have excess fullness, it will fit to the quilt without any puckers or gathers.

Photo #2



Quilt Top Outside Rounded Corner
Border #1 - Border Inside Rounded Corner

Lay the Quilt on top of your Border #1 fabric, marking the border fabric all along your Border. In this example you have a 4" wide finished border (Border #1). This quilt has two borders so you must allow for two seam allowances, each being one-half inch (1/2") in width. Measure five (5) inches and mark Border #1 fabric (represented by Lime Green Fabric) all along the length of your border.

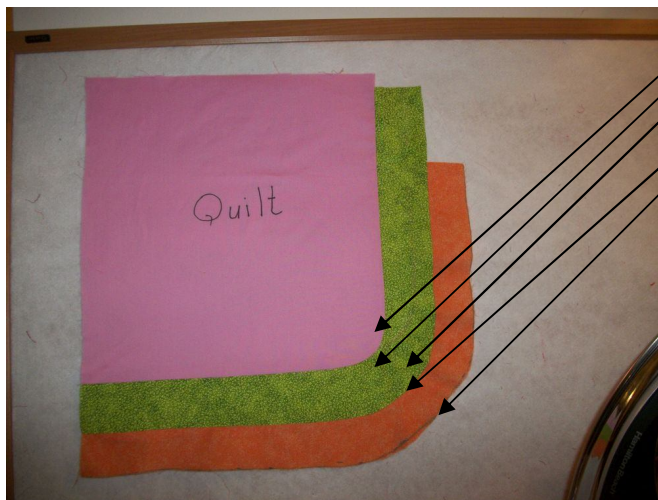
Photo #3



Outside Rounded Corner of Quilt covered by border fabric
Inside Rounded Corner of Border #1 (wrong side of fabric shown in photo)

Once you have marked the outline of Border #1, cut on the cutting line you have marked. With right sides together, pin the Inside Rounded Corner of Border #1 to the Outside Rounded Corner of the quilt, being very careful to avoid stretching or distorting the quilt top or the fabric of Border #1. Stitch the Inside Rounded Corner of Border #1 to the Outside Rounded Corner of the quilt top, using a regular straight stitch, carefully removing the pins as you go.

Photo #4
 Quilt, with Border #1 stitched, and Border #2 laid out and marked



- Quilt with Outside Rounded Corner
- Inside Rounded Corner of Border #1
- Outside Rounded Corner of Border #1
- Inside Rounded Corner of Border #2
- Outside Rounded Corner of Border #2

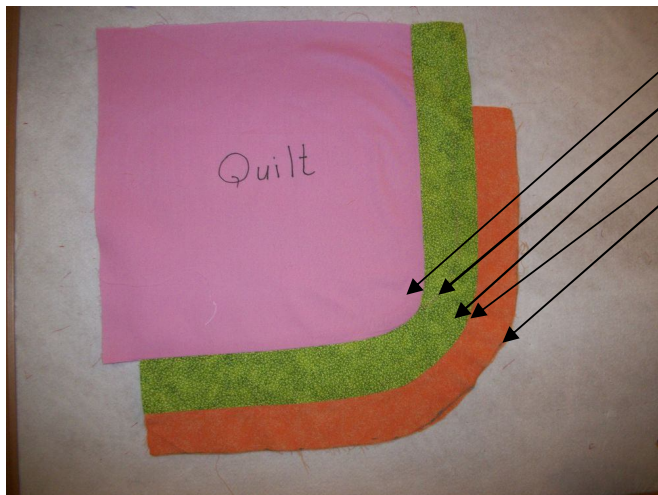
Photo #5



- Quilt Outside Rounded Corner
- Inside Rounded Corner of Border #1
- Outside Rounded Corner of Border #1 (this rounded corner not visible in this photo)
- Inside Rounded Corner of Border #2
- Outside Rounded Corner of Border #2

With right sides together, pin the Inside Rounded Corner of Border #2 to the Outside Rounded Corner of Border #1. These items are both cut the same size. Be very careful not to stretch or distort either fabric.

Photo #6



- Outside Rounded Corner of Quilt
- Inside Rounded Corner of Border #1
- Outside Rounded Corner of Border #1
- Inside Rounded Border of Border #2
- Outside Rounded Border of Border #2

With right sides together, stitch Inside Rounded Corner of Border #2 to Outside of Border #1, using a regular straight stitch, using a one-half inch (1/2 ") seam allowance. Clip Inside Rounded Corner to prevent puckering or gathering. This will ensure that your borders lay flat.

Photo #7



Quilt represented by Pink Fabric
Border No. 1 represented by Lime Green Fabric
Border No. 2 represented by Orange Fabric

This writer had initially begun preparation of this tutorial using colored papers. Suffice it to say, that just didn't work – paper isn't flexible whereas fabric flexes quite well.

This tutorial was prepared using fabrics measuring approximately 10 X 12 inches. For this reason, the illustrations are limited. However, the measurements are accurate, and a quilt-size Rounded Corner Quilt with Rounded Borders is much easier to make than a 10 X 12 inch illustration.

I hope this tutorial has been helpful to anyone who is interested in making a quilt with rounded corners and rounded borders.