

Mitered Corners Tutorial

By Maria Hrabovsky

Mitered borders are perfect for many quilts and may be required when you are using stripes or border print fabrics for your borders. If the quilt requires several borders, you can sew the border strips together and then attach them all at once as a single mitered border unit.

If your pattern directions call for mitered corners, the cutting directions for the borders will include the extra length required to miter the corners properly. To calculate the length of the border strips required to miter the corners, measure the length of the side to which the border will be added, then add 2 times the width of the border plus at least 4" to determine the length of each border.

For mitered borders, you will add all four borders to the quilt first and then miter each corner.

Adding the Borders

1. Place a pin at the center of each side of the quilt top. Repeat at the quarter mark (half way between center and one end) and the three quarter mark (half way between center and the opposite end).

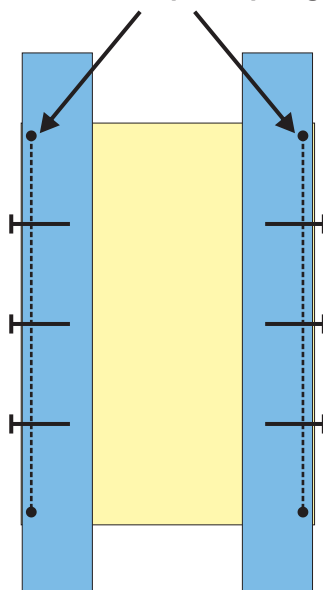
2. Place a pin at the center of each side border strip. Measure the distance from the center to the quarter and the three-quarter marks on the quilt top sides and place pins in the same locations on the border strips.

3. With right sides together and raw edges meeting, pin a border strip to one side of the quilt, matching pins at each quarter, half, and three-quarter mark.

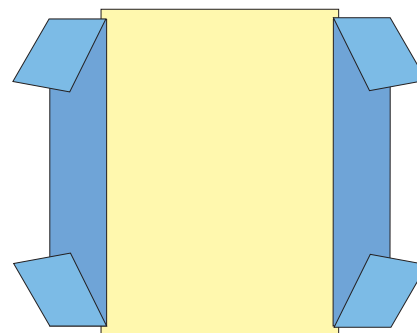
4. Sew the border to the quilt, starting and stopping 1/4" from the quilt top corners. Remember to backstitch at each end. (The ends of the border strips will extend beyond the quilt.)

Press the seams toward the added borders.

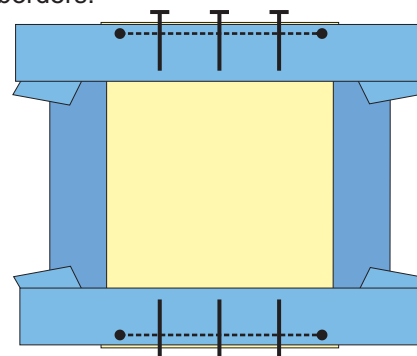
Sew border in place, starting and stopping 1/4" from the quilt top edge.



5. Fold the ends of the side borders out of the way.



6. Repeat steps #1 through #4 for the top and bottom borders.



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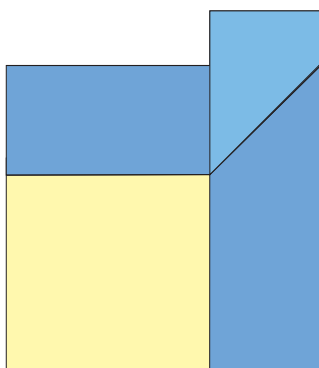
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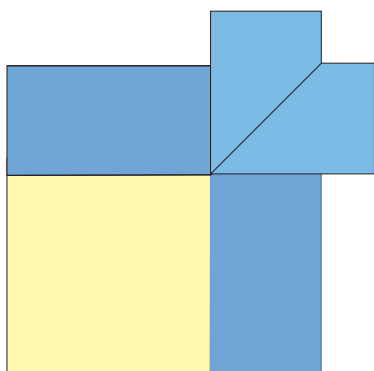
Creating the Mitered Corners

1. Take the top end of the right border strip and extend it above the quilt. Take the right end of the top border strip and fold it at a 45-degree angle as shown. Note: Arrange both borders so that they are aligned one directly above the other. The lighter colour indicates the back side of the top border fabric. Use a quilt ruler to make sure the fold is at an exact 45-degree angle.

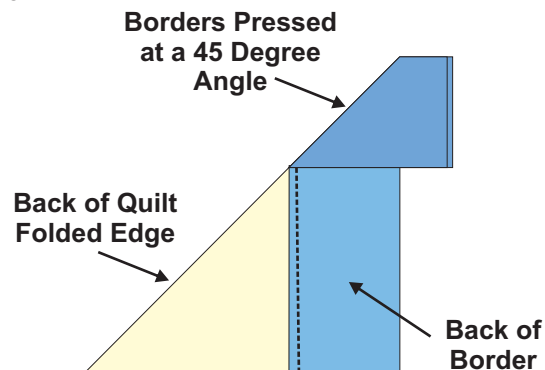


Press the fold carefully without stretching it. Use an up and down motion of your iron.

2. Fold the right side border down at a 45-degree angle so that both angled folds meet. Press the fold.

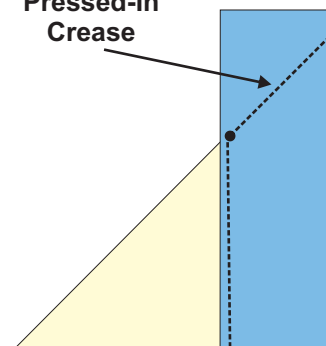


3. Turn quilt to the back side. Align the two borders, right sides together. Align the pressed in folds and pin them.



Backstitch, then stitch from the outside of the border toward the quilt, stopping at the seamline of the quilt. Backstitch. (An open toe foot would be a help here.)

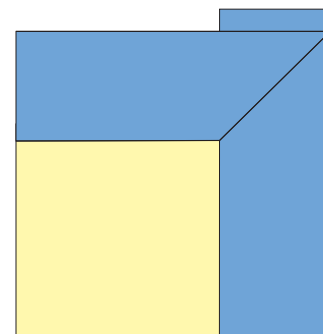
Sew Borders Along Pressed-In Crease



Turn the quilt to the right side and check. You should have a perfectly mitered seam.

4. Press the seam as sewn. Trim seam allowance to 1/4". Press the seam open.

5. Repeat steps #1 through #4 for the remaining three quilt corners. Press your quilt.



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