

Borders & Quilting the Quilt

Adding the Borders

What size should we make the borders? A good rule of thumb is to use a dimension of the blocks in the quilt. Since these blocks finish at 12", the borders we are using are 4" finished, or $\frac{1}{3}$ the size of the finished blocks. We could have chosen $\frac{1}{4}$ or 3", $\frac{1}{6}$ or 2", or $\frac{1}{2}$ or 6", and the borders would have looked in scale with the rest of the quilt. If you want to add more than one border to make the quilt larger, you could use a 2" and a 6" border for this quilt.

Before we add the borders, we need to measure the quilt top. An easy way to measure the top, bottom, and center of the quilt all at the same time is to fold the top and bottom to the center of the quilt. Measure across the center of the quilt to determine the length of the borders needed.

Measurement = _____.

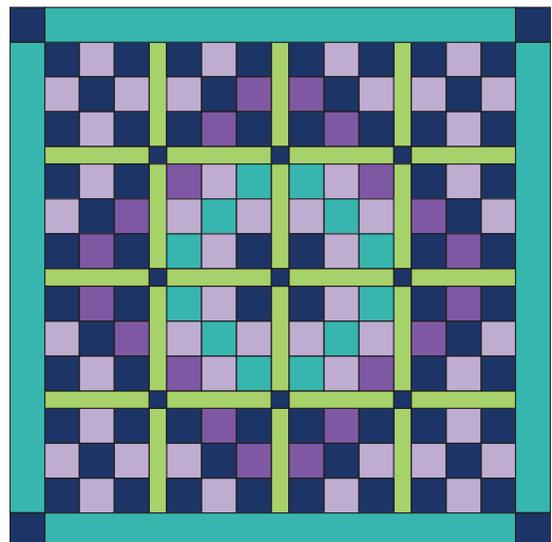
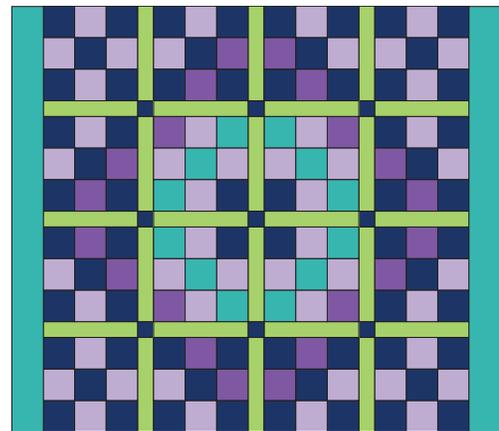
Jot it down, because you will need this measurement again.

Top and Bottom Borders:

Sew two strips of Dark Turquoise together and cut the strip to the length of your measurement for the Top border. Sew a Dark Blue $4\frac{1}{2}$ " square (cornerstone) to both ends of the Top border strip. Repeat, sewing two more Dark Turquoise strips together for the Bottom border. Add the $4\frac{1}{2}$ " Dark Blue squares to both end of the Dark Turquoise border.

Pin the Top and Bottom borders to the quilt, matching the corner of the blocks with the cornerstones of the border. Sew the Top and Bottom borders to the quilt.

Side Borders: Sew two of the Dark Turquoise strips together at the $4\frac{1}{2}$ "-wide end, using $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance. Cut this strip to the measurement of your quilt. This is the border for one side. Sew two more strips together and cut the strip to your measurement for the other side. Sew the borders to the sides of the quilt. Press the seams toward the border.



Quilting the Quilt

The quilt can be quilted any way you choose. We will add some quilting using straight lines with the feed dogs up. This will give more control if you aren't used to machine quilting.

Before we start quilting, we need to make the quilt sandwich; that is, add batting and backing to the quilt top. Four yards of fabric are needed for the backing of the quilt. The backing should be 4 inches larger than the quilt top on all four edges. To piece the quilt backing, straighten the cut edge of the fabric. Cut two sections that are 68" x WOF. Remove the selvage from the edges of the fabric. Sew the two pieces together (see the video for Lesson 5 for a demonstration on making the quilt sandwich) and cut the backing to 68" x 68".

Basting demonstration:

Quilting is used to hold the layers together. Sometimes we tend to put more quilting in the center of the quilt and less in the borders, which will usually cause edges that ripple or won't lay flat. Try to have equal amounts of quilting stitches over the entire quilt. It doesn't need to be the same quilting design, just an equal amount of quilting stitches.

Next Lesson: Finishing Touches – Binding and Edge Finishes

SPONSORED BY

