

Attaching Borders

To avoid wavy borders, cut fabric parallel to the fabric selvage. Purchase enough fabric to cut the borders in one piece. Don't forget to allow for the addition of the first borders applied [If you are planning a 4-inch border; add more than 8 inches to inner top]. Particularly a must if your quilt is square. Piecing can be done but some integrity is lost. Cross grain (42-44" wide) stretches more than the length of the fabric so avoid cross grain whenever possible

After pressing the top, * measure in three places but not on the edges. Use average or median and cut the first two sides. Pin and stretch slightly as you sew. Any side that appears larger need to be placed against the feed dogs. Press and repeat * for the other 2 sides. I prefer to add the sides first then top and bottom. Others prefer the opposite. Your Choice!!

Backing. Buy enough so the fabric may be squared by tearing. I sell wide backings and will tear your back so it is straight. You pay by the inch needed. If you buy in a store, an extra half yard is recommended so it can be squared properly.

If sewing your back, all seams need to be horizontal, parallel to the top and bottom. Selvages must be removed at seams and a ½" seam allowance used. Selvedges at top and bottom of backing should be left to attach to the leaders. Press seams to one side as open seams are weak and likely to split. Backings and battings must be 8-10 inches larger than the quilt top. [Example: 50 by 50 top should have a back measuring 58-60 by 58-60.] Extra fabric is not good especially widthwise. Extra fabric without batting supporting the width will sag and cause fold overs on the back.

While finishing your top, think about the color of thread, pattern, etc before you make your appointment. If you see a quilting pattern you like bring the name and designer. If generally pleasing, I will pay half the costs for that pattern