

GETTING A PERFECT SQUARE QUILT

There are just a few easy steps to having a square quilt every time. This technique works great if your outside edge is on the bias.

STEP 1

Smooth your quilt on a solid surface. Pat to extend to full size. Patting keeps your quilt from stretching and getting out of shape (this is VERY important if your quilt has bias edges).

STEP 2

You need to do a rough measurement of your quilt. Top to bottom and side to side. Add all 4 sides together and add the width of border (example 3" border would be $3 \times 4 = 12$ ") to the total of the sides. Now divide this total by 40. The number you get will tell you how many strips you need to cut for all of the borders. Once the strips are cut sew all the strips on the bias to make 1 long strip. Trim $\frac{1}{4}$ " inch from seam and press. Set aside.

STEP 3

You are going to take 3 measurements, the first is in the center from top to bottom. Now measure at the half way point between the center and outside edge. Be sure to write down each measurement. If all three are different you will need to decide a happy medium. Sometimes you need to ease on one side or stretch to have both sides the same.

STEP 4

Double the border strip and lay out on cutting surface. Trim the end, then using a tape measure the length you need for the sides, and cut. Doing one strip at time find the center and mark with a pin. Find the center of each half and mark with a pin. If your quilt is long or a bias edge you will need to mark the center of each section. Repeat on the other side strip. You now need to mark the sides of your quilt body. Match the pins on strips and the quilt body. You may want to add pins in all the sections to avoid bunching of fabric. Repeat on the other side of the quilt. You are now ready to sew strips to the body of the quilt. Set seams and press your seam to the outside.

STEP 5

You are ready to do the top and bottom of your quilt. You will repeat the steps for doing the side borders. If you are doing more than 1 border repeat these steps for each border

I think that doing a good pinning makes the difference for having a perfectly squared quilt.

If you are doing corner stones on a border you would measure the top and bottom of quilt before to add side borders and cut to that size. When you add your corner blocks the top and bottom will be the correct size.

I can be reached by phone if you have any questions about your borders you can call me at (951)233-6595.

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