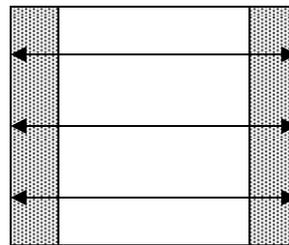
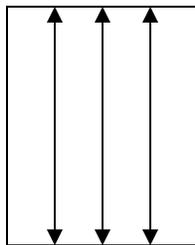


SEWING THE BORDERS TO YOUR QUILT

After the body of the quilt has been pieced, gently press before adding borders. The logical place to measure the finished top is along its outside edges, and this is a useful measurement. However, it is not unusual for the four edges of an unfinished quilt top to all be slightly different lengths because they're often stretched out of shape a bit from handling. So never rely on these outer edge measurements to determine the length of your borders. Measurements should be taken across the center and in at least two more places for both the width and length of the top. If these measurements are different from that of the outer edge, some stretching has occurred. To keep the finished quilt as straight and flat as possible, you must work off of those center measurements.

BORDERS WITH STRAIGHT CUT CORNERS

Determine the **length** of the quilt border by measuring across the center of the quilt, and about half way between the center and the raw edge. Calculate the average of these three measurements. Use this measurement to cut two border pieces. Divide the border strip and the corresponding quilt edge into quarters and mark with pins. Pin the border piece to the quilt edge, matching the marking pins and easing or stretching in the fullness as needed. Sew with the looser side next to the base of the machine; the action of the feed dogs will help take up the fullness without tucks or puckers. Press the seam and repeat for the opposite side of the top.



Determine the measurement for the second set of borders by measuring across the center of the quilt and again about half way between the center and the raw edge. You will be measuring from

the raw edge of the (just applied) border to the raw edge of the opposite border. Calculate the average of these three measurements and cut two pieces of border fabric that length. Divide the border piece and the corresponding quilt edge into quarters and mark with pins. Pin the border piece to the quilt edge and stitch as before. Repeat for the opposite border.

Continue to measure this way for every border that you need to apply to the quilt.

BORDERS WITH MITERED CORNERS OR CORNER BLOCKS

Regardless of the type of border you are applying, the principles of how to correctly determine the dimensions of the quilt and sew the border to the body of the quilt are the same. Detailed instructions on other types of quilt borders are readily available in quilting books and on the web. Try searching for “applying quilt borders.”

Recommended Resource For Mitered Borders:

www.Fonsandporter.com. Check out “Online Extras – Sew Easy Lessons.”