

The following directions to “Attach a Border to Your Quilt” are compliments of my friend and quilting sister Julie Crossland

Attaching Borders to Your Quilt

You have worked diligently on all your blocks and are ready to add borders. Don't be in too big a hurry to finish your quilt by 'slapping on borders'. It is very important to not have 'friendly' borders. 'Friendly' borders wave to you and having them on your quilt top is about the only time you do not want to see a 'friendly' wave.

This can be eliminated by measuring the length of border needed before attaching it to the quilt. It only takes a few more minutes. Here's how:

Measure through the body of the quilt in at least two places across the center and at each edge where the border is going to be attached. Write these measurements down. Either take the smaller of these two measurements or take the average.

Example:

$80 + 80.5 + 80 + 80.25$

Use 80 inches for smallest number or

Average: Total = $320.75/4 = 80.1875$ inches

Cut your border fabric to this measurement. Fold your border in half and mark with a pin; fold in half again and pin; and if needed fold again in half and pin to give yourself easily seen equal sections of border to pin onto the quilt top in corresponding sections. Pin mark the body in the same way and pin the two together. Then sew your border easing in fullness (if any) from either the quilt top edge or the border fabric. Whichever side has more fullness after pinning; put that side against your feed dogs. Keep your fabric taut but not tight while sewing to take in any fullness.

If there is a big difference between a measurement taken in the quilt center and at an edge you may want to consider un-sewing some quilt top seams and taking in a little bit of excess fabric spread over many seams to bring the two measurements closer together.

Press and repeat process for the next sides.

Congratulations, you've finished a flat, square quilt! No wave !