

Adding Mitered Borders the Jinny Beyer Way

Jinny Beyer's border prints are designed specifically with the quilter in mind. Each fabric has a wide and a narrow stripe which coordinate in both design and color. Both stripes have mirror-image motifs which are essential for perfectly mitered corners. In addition, the two different stripes in the border print are separated by at least a half-inch so that a 1/4" seam allowance is provided for on both sides of the stripes. From selvedge to selvedge, there are always at least four repeats of each stripe across the fabric so calculating the yardage needed to border a quilt is easy: you need the length of the longest side of the quilt plus an additional half-yard for a square quilt (2/3 yard for a rectangular one) to match design elements and allow for the miters at the corners.

Framing a Square Quilt

1. Place a strip of the border print across the middle of the quilt, centering a motif from the border at the exact center of the quilt. (Because of minor differences in seam allowances taken and stretching that can occur on bias edges, opposite edges of a quilt often measure slightly differently. Using a measurement taken from the middle of the quilt will help keep the quilt from *ruffling* at the edges.)

2. To mark the first miter, position a quilter's ruler so the 45° angle runs along the bottom edge of the border print and the ruler touches the point where the top edge of the border print meets the edge of the quilt. (See arrow in *Diagram 1*.) Mark then cut the miter line. (Because the miter is cut right at the edge of the quilt, the seam allowance is already included.)

3. Use the mitered angle as a pattern for the other side of the strip as follows. Without disturbing the un-cut side of the strip, bring the mitered side of the border strip to that side, folding the strip over itself, right sides together. Place the top edge of miter at the edge of the quilt, adjusting it a bit if necessary so that the design motifs on the top and bottom match exactly. Mark and cut this second miter. (Using the cut edge, rather than a ruler, as a guide ensures that the design motifs will be an exact match.)

4. Using this first mitered strip as a guide, cut three more identical pieces, making sure that the design on the border print is exactly the same on all four pieces.

5. As in *Diagram 2*, mark seam intersection dots on the short side of each of the border strips (wrong side of the fabric). To find the spot, simply draw a short line 1/4-inch inside the mitered edge and the shorter edge of the border strip. Mark the dot where the two lines intersect. Do the same for each corner of the quilt.

6. To sew the borders to the quilt, pin the mid-point of one of the border pieces to the middle of one of the edges of the quilt. Next, match and pin the dots on each side of your border with the dots on the quilt corners. Continue pinning the border to the quilt, easing in any fullness. (The edge of the quilt is usually a little wider than the center because of bias edges or seams.) Sew the border to the quilt, starting and stopping at the dots. Repeat for the remaining borders. Pin and sew the mitered seams last, starting from the inside dot. When pinning the edges together, be sure to match the design elements on both pieces.

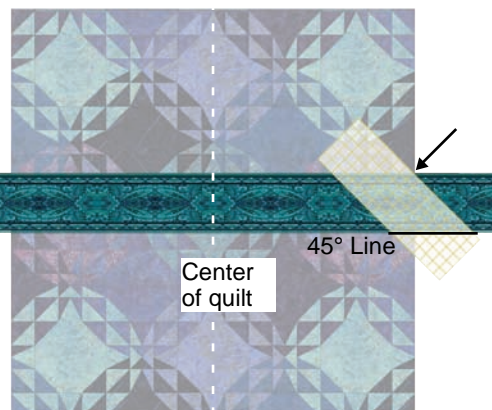


Diagram 1: Mark the miter.

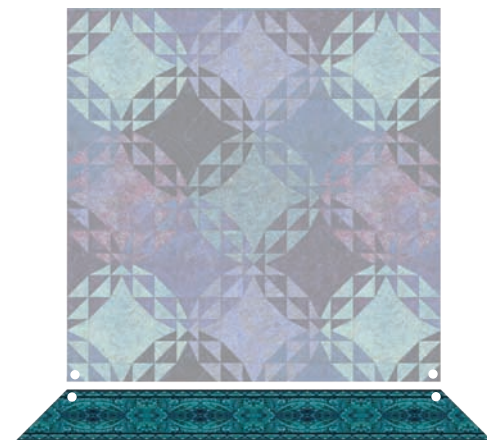


Diagram 2: Cut three pieces identical to the first. Mark seam intersection dots on the quilt and the borders.



Diagram 3: Correctly cut and sewn borders will have designs that flow around the corners.

*For a video demonstration of this bordering technique, visit:
www.jinnybeyer.com/bordertips*

Framing a Rectangular Quilt

With rectangles, you cannot always be assured that the designs will automatically match at the corners so you must take an extra step.

1. First, follow steps 1-3 in **Framing a Square Quilt** and cut two identical strips for the short ends of the quilt (**A** strips). The pieces for the other two sides of the quilt must be cut differently: for the corners on all pieces to match, there must be a seam in these long pieces at the exact center of the quilt.

2. Place one of the A pieces on top of a length of the border print stripe, matching the fabric designs. Cut one miter to match the miter on the A piece. Set the A piece aside. As in Diagram 4, lay the newly cut strip on top of the quilt through the center, aligning the mitered edge with the edge of the quilt. Mark the center of the quilt on the strip as shown. Move the strip from the quilt and cut it off $\frac{1}{4}$ " beyond the center mark. Using this cut piece as a guide, cut one more identical piece (These are the **B** pieces).

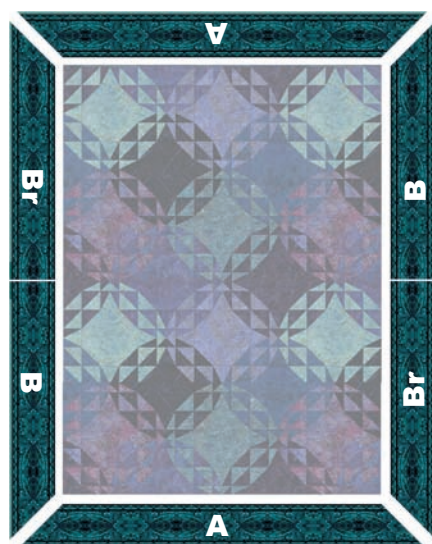


Diagram 5: The long borders on rectangular quilts have center seams.

You also need two pieces that are the exact mirror images of the B pieces (**Br**). Lay one of the B pieces right sides together on a strip of border print, matching the fabric design exactly. Cut the miter and straight edge to match the top piece. Using the newly cut piece as a guide, cut one more identical Br piece.

3. Sew the B/Br pieces together into pairs, and attach these borders to the quilt as in Steps 5 and 6 in **Framing a Square Quilt**. Sewing the borders to a rectangular quilt in this manner assures that the corners will match. There will be a seam at the center of the long strips (Diagram 5), but the design at that center will mirror-image as well, allowing the design to flow around the quilt.

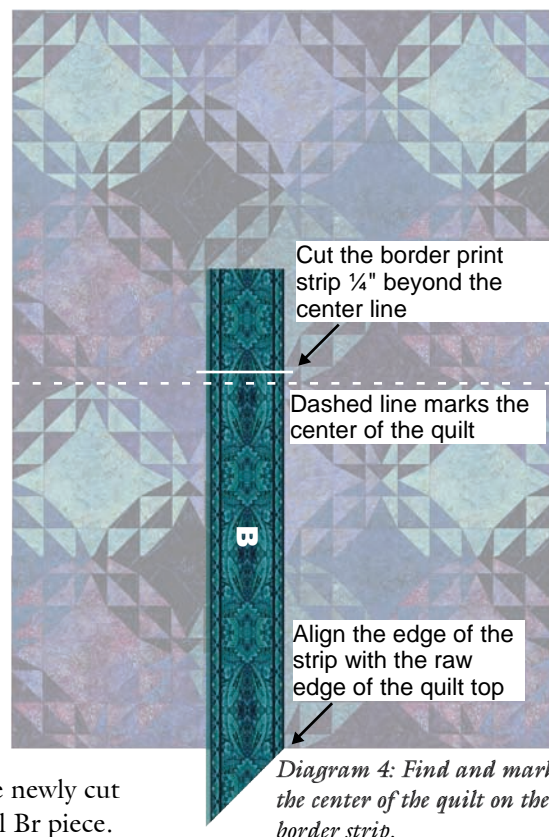


Diagram 4: Find and mark the center of the quilt on the border strip.

Applying Multiple Borders

Jinny often designs quilts to make full use of the border prints. First, she will frame the quilt with the narrow border stripe, then add a coordinating fabric as a second border. The quilt is finished off with the wide stripe from the border print.

Jinny personally measures and adds each border separately. However, when the middle border is a fabric that doesn't have to be matched at the corners, she recommends the following method as being a little faster: Sew the middle border to the first (the narrow border print stripe). Measure and cut this unit as a single border in the steps above. (If the quilt is rectangular, sew the middle border to the first after the first border has been pieced.) Measure, cut and sew the third border separately after the first two borders have been completed and sewn to the quilt.

Binding the Quilt: When Jinny uses a border print to frame a quilt, she typically sews the binding to the back of the quilt and turns it to the front. This allows her to carefully hand-stitch the binding along a straight line printed on the border print fabric. For details, see www.jinnybeyer.com/binding.

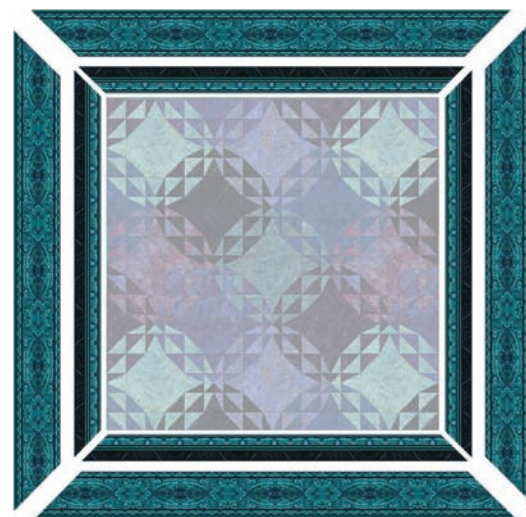


Diagram 6: Applying multiple borders