

What is the function of the border

- Frame the quilt
- Contain a busy quilt
- Tie colors together for a quilt
- Increase the size of the quilt
- Enhance the visual impact of the quilt

How do we design the border

- Plan up front to use a single “focus” fabric
- Maybe no border is needed; a lot of diagonally set quilts may be just fine without adding borders as the diagonal setting sets a pleasing visual frame for the pieced area
- Stop after piecing and evaluate; what might look nice on this quilt to both frame & enhance the visual appeal
- Pieced borders can be especially effective with scrap quilts
- Many quilters sketch the design

How do we “size” a pieced border to fit

- See border resources or google the web as there are published formulas for figuring out the sizing
- Start with pieced quilt width & length measurements to get approximation of total length needed for top & bottom borders & side borders
- Do we want to carry a portion of the pieced quilt out into the border to “complete” the pattern, for example, complete a chain
- Decide on corner treatments and whether to “reverse” the units in the middle of each border
- Piece an approximate number of units to fit lengths needed, might need to incorporate extra to accommodate for added top & bottom or side borders
- Use spacer borders

How can we overcome issues using pieced border

- Oops, didn’t save or calculate the correct amount of “focus” fabric
- Make small adjustments to a few seam allowances in pieced border units to make it fit

Border treatment ideas

- Checkerboard
- Piano Keys
- Flying Geese
- Sawtooth
- Chain of Squares, Diamonds, Parallelograms (watch contrast)
- Hourglass
- Almost any quilt square

Resources

- Judy Martin & Marsha McCloskey, Pieced Borders The Complete Resource
- Trudie Hughes, Template Free Quilt Making Series