

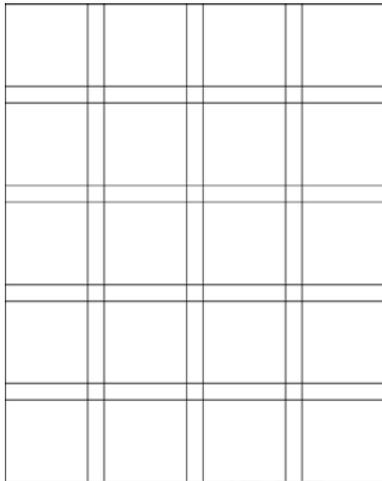
## MAKE ANY BORDER FIT YOUR QUILT:

By using a “coping” or “fudge” strip, we can make any pieced border fit the quilt top.

1. Width or Length of quilt (NOT counting seam allowances): (A) \_\_\_\_\_
2. Size Blocks you want to use in border: (B) \_\_\_\_\_
3. # blocks that fit closest to your width or length – Divide A by B = C \_\_\_\_\_
4. Multiply B x C = D: \_\_\_\_\_
5. Subtract D – A = E: \_\_\_\_\_
6. E divided by 2 = F: \_\_\_\_\_
7. F + seam allowances is the size of coping strip you need to add to either the top and bottom or each side of your top to make the desired border fit.

### Example:

My quilt is made up of 10” blocks and is set 4 blocks across and 5 blocks up and down, with a 2” sashing.



1. My quilt as drawn, is 46” x 58”.

$$A = 46''$$

2. I want to use a 5” block in my border.

$$B = 5''$$

3. Divide “A” by the side blocks you want to use.

$$46/5 = 9.2 \text{ so I need 10 border blocks. } C = 10$$

4. B x C = D

$$5'' \text{ blocks} \times 10 \text{ blocks} = 50'' \\ D = 50''$$

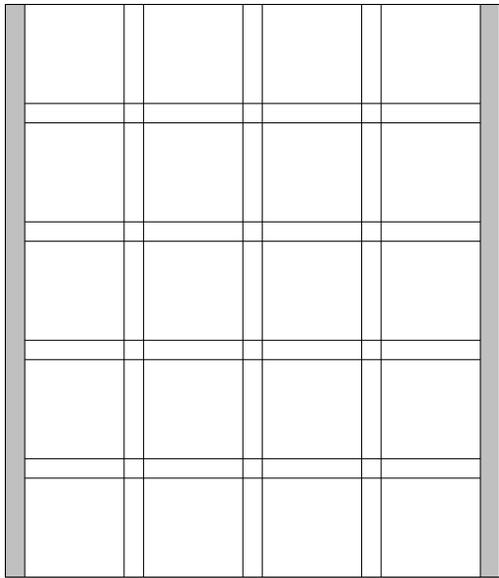
5. D – A = E

$$50'' \text{ (border length)} - 46'' \text{ (quilt top length)} = 4''. \quad E = 4''$$

6. E divided by 2 = F.

$$4 \text{ divided by } 2 = 2. \quad F = 2''$$

7. Add ½” (1/4” for two sides) to this measurement, and this is the size of the coping strip, which in this case will be 2-1/2”, that needs to be added to the left and right side of the top to make the top measure 50” finished or 50-1/2” unfinished so that a border consisting of 10 – 5” blocks will fit.



← 50" w/o seam allowances →

46" center with just the blocks & sashing  
 Add 2" borders on each side  
 $46" + 2" + 2" = 50"$   
 50" border – ten 5" blocks fit perfectly!

Tips:

1. Choose a design that seems to go with your quilt top. Think about the overall presentation/appearance of the quilt. Will the border stand out so that it doesn't seem to become a part of the quilt but stands alone and draws the eye toward the border?
2. Choose a background fabric that will hide seams so that the background appears to be one large piece. You may need to avoid large prints, stripes, diagonals, plaids, etc.
3. Carefully measure your quilt top and your borders. Make them fit by adjusting seam allowances, NOT by stretching or scrunching!
4. Plan the direction in which you will press your seam allowances. Sometimes we have to go against what we've been taught, i.e., press the seam allowances towards a lighter fabric or press the seam allowances open. It's much easier to get perfect seam matches if seams "nest".