



toadtIP

Organizing Your Fabric

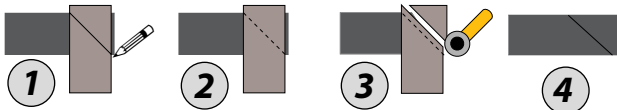
As you cut your fabric, it will help to keep it organized. Pinning pieces together and labeling them or storing them in marked zip lock bags will save you time and prevent you from losing pieces during the construction of your quilt.



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Joining Strips

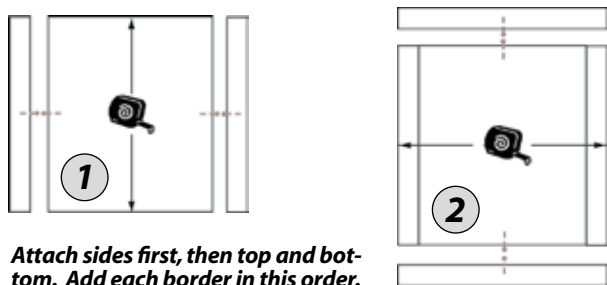
Place the end of two strips perpendicular to each other, right sides together. Draw a line crosswise from corner to corner. Sew a straight seam along the marked line. Leaving a 1/4 inch seam allowance, trim away excess fabric. Press seams open to reduce bulk.



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Adding Borders to the Quilt

1. Measure lengthwise through the center of the quilt. Cut the length of borders for the sides of the quilt to match this measurement.
2. Use pins to mark the centers on both the quilt and borders. Line up the center points and pin together at this point, right sides together. Match up ends and add additional pins as needed. Sew and press toward the newly added border (unless otherwise indicated).
3. Measure width wise through the center of the quilt. Cut the length of the top and bottom borders to match this measurement. Add the top and bottom borders as directed in step 2 above.
4. **Repeat these steps for any additional borders.**



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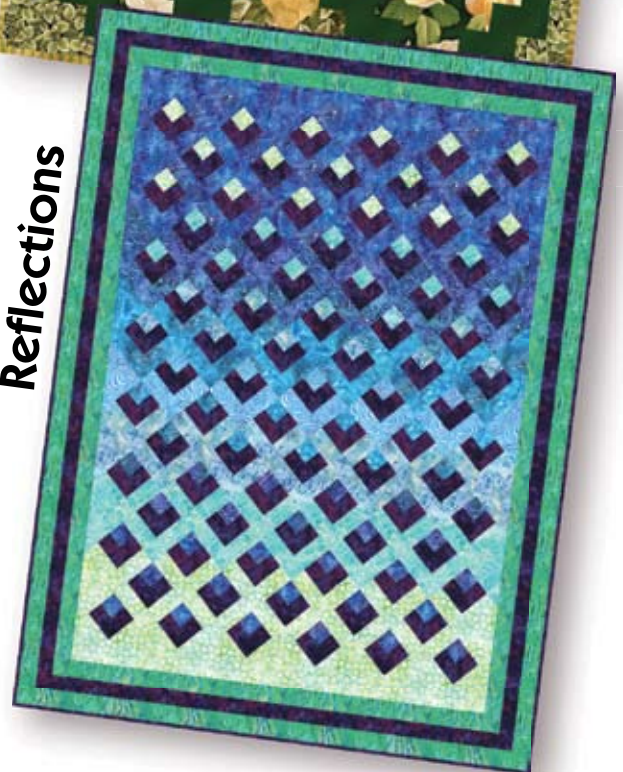
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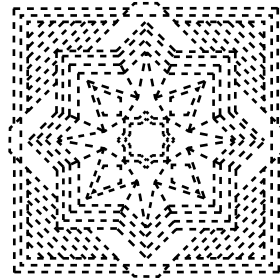
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Don't Ignore the Back!

If you select a tone on tone small scale print for your backing, the back of the quilt can double as a whole cloth quilt. To further enhance this effect, choose a thread that blends well with the back fabric.



Preparing to Quilt

1. Cut batting and quilt back, piece together, if required, so that they exceed the size of the quilt top on all sides by 2-4 inches. Iron both the back and the top.
2. Mark the quilt top, if required, prior to layering and basting your quilt. Once this is done, use your preferred method to layer and baste the quilt.
3. Using any scraps, assemble a practice quilt sandwich. Attach a walking foot and stitch a line. Check the stitches on the top and bottom of the practice sandwich. Make any adjustments to stitch length and top tension, retest if necessary until desired results are achieved.

General Quilting Tips

- ✓ Quilting in the ditch should be done first as it will stabilize the quilt for any additional quilting. Work in straight lines across the quilt starting from the center. Finish any quilting that can be completed with the walking foot prior to free motion quilting.
- ✓ Pull your bobbin thread up to the top by holding the top thread and dropping your needle up and down once. Pull the top thread back up to the top and the bobbin thread will follow it.
- ✓ You can lock stitches by gently holding the fabric in place and allowing the feed dogs to move the quilt under the needle in very small increments. Sew 6-8 small stitches and release pressure.

Free Motion Quilting

- ✓ For free motion quilting set up your machine in the following manner: select straight stitch length of 0, reduce your presser foot pressure, if required to do so by manufacturer, and disengage or cover feed dogs.
- ✓ Use a practice sandwich to get a feel for manually regulating the stitch length with the speed you run the machine and how you move the fabric.
- ✓ Try not to look right at the needle, instead look ahead to where you need to go next.
- ✓ Don't judge your work as you go. If you stitch out of place, avoid being anxious about it, in amongst all your other beautiful quilting, these little errors won't be noticeable.
- ✓ When stippling, imagine that you are drawing an S in different sizes and orientations.



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Preparing Your Quilt for A Long Arm Quilter

Pressing Make sure that your seams are all pressed correctly and the top and back are well pressed and wrinkle free.

Trimming and Reinforcing Make sure loose threads are trimmed from both sides of the quilt. If there are any weak seams reinforce them.

Stay stitch the edges of the quilt. Sew 1/8 inch from the edge of all sides. This will prevent the edges of the seams from coming undone.

Batting & Backing Make sure your batting and backing are 4 inches larger than your quilt top on all sides. If your quilt is predominantly dark, provide dark batting.

- Asta Dorsett, Professional Long Arm Quilter
(for examples of Asta's work visit our website)



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A Traditional Finish

1. Using a large square ruler and rotary cutter, trim the batting and back of the quilt so they are even with the top. True the corners first, then the remaining edges.
2. Join all binding strips together end to end (see Toadtip "Joining Strips"). Press the entire length in half, right sides facing out.
3. Attach the binding to the quilt top using a walking foot. Leave a 12 inch tail at the starting point, align raw edges of the binding and the quilt. Stop sewing a quarter inch from the corner and lock the stitches.
4. Fold the binding at a 90 degree angle, with the tail of the binding pointing away from the quilt. Fold the binding up, and then back down even with the edge of the quilt. Begin stitching at the edge of the next side, back stitch to secure and continue sewing around the entire quilt.
5. Stop sewing and secure your stitches when you get within 8 inches of your starting point. Overlap your beginning and ending tails and trim so that the overlap is equal to the unfolded width of your binding. Move your binding away from the quilt, open it and join strips together (see Toadtip: Joining Strips). Press and finish sewing to the quilt top.
6. Press and pin binding to the back. Using a whip stitch attach the binding to the back, hand mitering corners as you sew.

