



## Weekly Whimsy Week 38

### Borders

#### **The Final Step!**

Time for the borders. Borders are such an important part of the quilt. They will make a nice quilt into a stunning quilt. The border makes a statement, it says: Ta-da...all done. The border gives your eye a place to rest on a busy quilt, it ties it all together on a scrappy quilt, and it gives you the opportunity to resize every quilt.

If your top is a little smaller than you would like; add a border or three. My rule of thumb is that the final border be no larger than the blocks. That being said, I break that rule sometimes. If I have a quilt top that just fits the top of the bed and I need significant drop, if you have a focus fabric that really stands out and accentuates the top, go for it. However, the technique I typically use is multiple borders. I start with a narrow “stop” border, usually cut 1 ½ - 2”. Second border will be at least twice the width of the first, 3” – 4”. Third, double again, depending on how wide I need it, 6”- 8”.

#### **Cutting:**

When cutting the border, if you have the yardage, you can cut length of grain. I never really plan ahead that well, so I am usually using what I have left. I mostly cut my borders WOF (width of fabric). This means I have a seam in the border, but I don’t mind.

#### **Measuring and Sewing:**

It is important that you measure the quilt and cut the borders to size. It is easy to think “I have this long strip, I will start at the top and sew to the bottom, then cut off the excess!” Never a good idea. When you do it this way, you will end up with wavy borders and uneven sides. Take the time to measure. You have just invested a great deal of time on your masterpiece, do not take a short cut now.

When you measure the quilt, measure in three places. Top, Middle, Bottom. I like to measure about 3” from the top and bottom so that I am not stretching the edge. It is so easy to do. If these three measurements do not match, average them. Example: top, 51”, bottom 50 ¾”, middle 51 ¼”, I make my border 51”. This brings the top and bottom to the same size.

If your top is less than the WOF, you can start with the top and bottom borders and not have to piece them. If you start with the sides, you will add too much width and have to piece the top and bottom too.

When sewing, take the time to pin the centers and a couple of more points down the sides. This gives you the ability to ease in any extra that you may have. Remember you averaged the side measurements, so now you have to deal with it.

Press towards the border.

Measure the sides now. Again measure three places, average and piece your border. Cut to size.

Follow the same steps for the sides. You are now finished!

Measurement 1

Measurement 2

Measurement 3

