

Border "First Aid"

By Rebecca Smith

Borders are often the quilt's biggest problem! Are they too long or too short? Are they different lengths? Any of these issues can result in problems for your quilt. They could cause wavy or ruffled borders, pleats or puffy/raised areas. Sometimes the only solution could be sewing a dart into the border to make the quilt lay flat. We always try to avoid this problem.

Prevention is the key!

This process will help to 'square up' your quilt and have it lay flat.

1. Lay the quilt top on a large surface or on the floor. Measure through the center of the quilt across the width. This is the measurement that you will cut the top and bottom borders.
2. Match the centers of quilt top and border and pin together. Pin at both ends. Find the center of quilt top and border between end and center pin, pin together. Continue finding centers between pins and pinning together until border and top are even. This process will allow you to ease any fullness evenly along the length of the border, helping to prevent pleats and tucks that can get quilted in.
3. Sew borders on and press seams toward the border strips.
4. Again lay quilt top out flat on a large surface or on the floor. This time measure through the center of the quilt across the length including the top and bottom borders you just added. This is the measurement that you will cut your side borders.
5. Repeat steps 2 and 3; pin the side borders to ease in any fullness, sew the seams, and press toward the border strips.

Example of wavy borders

