



Quilting Corners Guild Skill Builder Month 2: Mitred Border

Options this month:

The mitred border can be replaced with any of the following:

- Plain border strips
- Border with corner blocks
- Any pieced units measuring 2" finished width
- Multiple fabrics to form a striped strip set

The central block of choice from Month One should measure 16 ½". Following the addition of the first border, the quilt needs to measure 20 ½" in order for the next round to fit easily.

If your block is too small, cut the border pieces a bit wider. If your block is too big, the borders can be trimmed after they are sewn onto the centre block.

Cutting:



In order for the border stripes to mitre perfectly, the border pieces must be cut from the same repeat.

In the stripe illustrated at left, note that the border pieces can all be cut between the blue and green stripe repeats as indicated by the arrows.

Cut four border pieces at a minimum of 2 ½ x 22 ½". If stripe repeat allows, cut the pieces wider to allow for trimming to size after the borders are sewn.

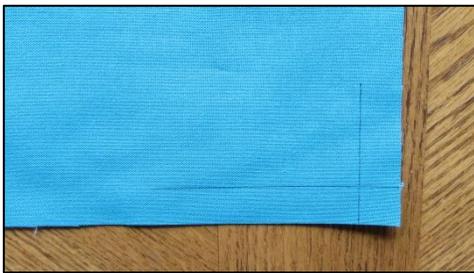
For a comprehensive overview of mitring methods, see the related You Tube video by Sew Very Easy – Six ways to make an attic window: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZGFqPyCpkGI&t=631s>.

Remember that she is mitring only one corner and your strips need to be cut long enough to mitre both ends of the strip.

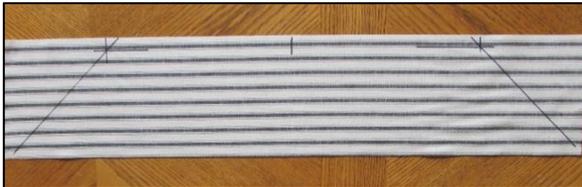
Here is one method to try (always make sure your marking method is removable):

1. Two points to remember:
 - a. These are bias seams, so treat the pieces carefully – don't stretch them when sewing or especially when pressing.
 - b. Make sure to keep all the stripe pieces oriented in the same direction: Don't mix up the inside and outside edges of the strips.
2. Measure the side of the centre block and subtract $\frac{1}{2}$ ". (Use this measurement in step 2.) At the seam allowance, mark the centre point of the block. On each corner of the block, mark the intersection of the seam allowances.

TTT: Marking accurate points:



- Dots can be fairly inaccurate. Instead – use a fine marker or mechanical pencil and mark intersecting lines as shown. Make sure to compensate for the width of the marking utensil when drawing the lines.

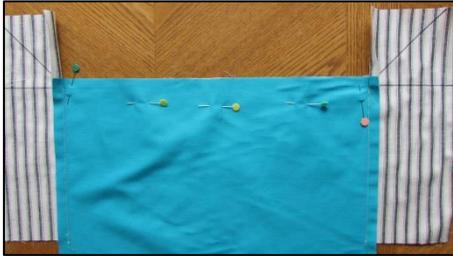


3. Following the photograph, mark the centre point of the stripe. Using the measurement found in step 1, measure out from the centre point, centering this measurement. (In our case, the centre block should measure $16\frac{1}{2}$ ". Subtracting our total $\frac{1}{2}$ " seam allowances will leave 16". Centred on our marked point, mark along the stripe at 8" on either side of the centre point. Make sure the total measurement is an accurate 16") Draw a line through these points perpendicular to the seam allowance.
4. Mark the seam allowance for an inch or so on either side of this point.
5. Using the 45 degree line on a ruler, mark a line through the intersection created in steps 2 and 3. Again, be sure to compensate for the width of the marking utensil by sliding the ruler away from the point as needed.

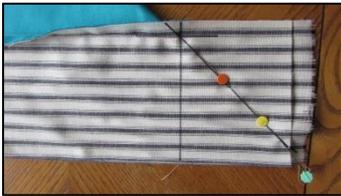


6. Match the points of the intersection marked on the block with the points of the intersection of the stripe and the centre points.

7. Starting at the marked point, secure the stitching, stitch to the second point and secure the stitching.
8. Press the border away from the centre block. Repeat on all four sides – make sure NOT to catch adjoining border pieces when stitching.



TTT: When adding long borders or sashings where there are no exact points to match, try pinning parallel to the seam allowance outside of the path of the presser foot. No need to stop and remove pins as you sew !



9. Fold the centre block at a 45 degree angle and match the lines marked on adjoining border stripes. Pin. Fold back the top piece and check that the stripes are aligned.



10. Make sure the seam allowances are folded TOWARD the centre block and out of the way, stitch along the marked line, securing stitching at each end. DO NOT stitch into the seam allowances. The outside edges of the border should align as should the seams along the edges of the centre block.
11. Open out the seam and check for matches. When satisfied, trim the seam to 1/2" (or desired width) and press the seam open. Press the corner of the centre block toward the mitered border. Be careful not to stretch the seam.

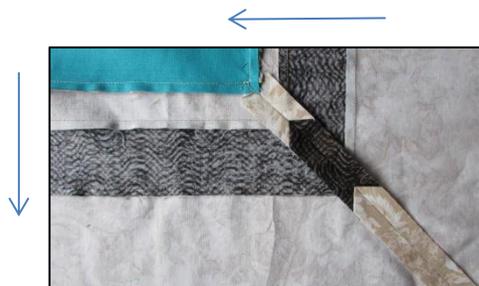


12. Repeat for all four corners. If needed, trim the stripe pieces evenly so the unit measures 20 1/2" square. Secure the outer stitching again if the backstitch or lock stitch was removed in trimming.

Next month: Seminole piecing

Bonus #1: Mitring Multiple Borders:

Multiple borders can be added and mitred as one unit.



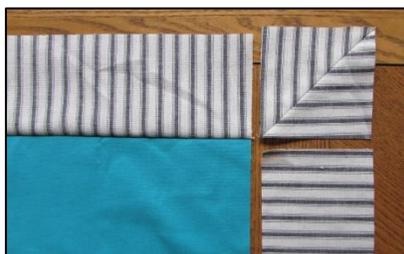
Sew the border pieces into strip sets, pressing adjoining sides' border strip seams in opposite directions. Make sure the outermost fabric strip is long enough to accommodate the full length required.

Treat the pieced borders as a stripe and complete the mitre using your preferred method.



Bonus #2: Cheater Mitres

This method is easiest if the stripe is cut perpendicular to the length. (Usually from wof).



Construct a half square triangle unit from two pieces cut from the same repeat of the stripe.



In the same method as adding corner squares to a sashing, sew on one border the length of the side. Sew the half square triangle unit to the adjoining border strip, then sew that strip to the quilt.