

Sunflowers are still Yellow at Night

Perfect borders.

Welcome to the second last installment of my 2020 I—sew—lation quilt along.

I have had the pleasure of quilting many many quilts in my time as a longarm quilter. I can tell you from experience that borders can either make or break a beautiful quilt. Too often than not I see beautifully pieced quilts that have been finished with poorly made borders. Also if a quilt has some issues in the quilt body well made borders can help bring the quilt back to square and rescue the project.

So what's the trick you ask?

- **Treat your borders just like your blocks.** You measured you quilt blocks and cut them accordingly. The same goes for your border pieces.
- **Carefully measure YOUR quilt top.** Just because the quilt designers quilts finished size was 'x' doesn't mean yours will finish up at the same size. Slight variations in the way we measure and cut fabric and our ¼ inch seam allowances over multiple seams can add up to huge variations to a quilts finished size. Yours will most likely be different to mine.
- **Learn to love your iron.** A well pressed quilt top will measure differently to an unpressed quilt top.
- **Hard floors or table top.** Do not be tempted to lay your quilt out to measure it on the carpet or a bed. To get a quilt to sit flat on a bed or carpet will mean brushing it to get it flat. That's going to stretch your fabrics. You want your quilt top nice a flat (pressed well) but relaxed, on a hard surface.
- **Go slow it's not a race.** I know they're long seams and you're on the home stretch and the temptation to turn up the speed and take short cuts is high, because it's almost dinner time and the cat is nagging for its food too. But now is not the time to rush. So kick out the cat and enjoy the process. You will not regret taking your time now.

Inner Border/Sashing

Cut 6 x 1.5 inch strips across the width of the remaining green fabric.

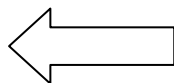
Cut 6 x 2.5 inch strips across the width of the remaining mid blue fabric.

Join the green fabric end to end using diagonal seams.

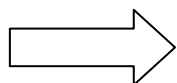
Repeat with the mid blue and set this aside for later.



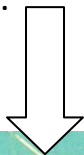
Lay fabrics with right sides together to form an L shape slightly overlapping as pictured. Mark a line diagonally from the bottom left to the top right hand corner. Pin and sew on the marked line.



Trim off dog ears to $\frac{1}{4}$ inch.



Press seams open.



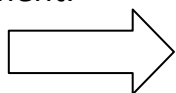
Take your finished quilt body and give it a good press with the iron. I like to use a little steam at this time but keep a light hand as to not distort your quilt body.

Lay your quilt body flat on a hard surface and allow it to cool down and relax.

*Measure your quilt through the centre as pictured from top to bottom. (Sorry I did not get the other end of the tape measure in my photo.)



Take a note of your measurement.
Mine was 56 and 3/8's.



Yours **WILL** be different.



Cut 2 strips of your green 1.5 inch sashing the same length as **YOUR** quilt body measurement.



Mark the centre of each of the two sashing strips with a pin. Find and mark the centre of one side edge of your quilt top. Pin your first sashing strip matching centres and top and bottom edge. Ease in any fullness and add more pins at regular intervals along the edge.

Tip: Pin with the pin heads facing out and then flip the quilt top over to sew with the quilt body facing up. This way you can avoid flipping seams in your quilt body.

Sew sashing to quilt with a $\frac{1}{4}$ inch seam. Repeat with the second sashing on the opposite edge.



****Press quilt top again with sashing seams towards the sashing.**



Repeat from * to ** with the top and bottom sashing and then again with the mid blue outer border fabric strips.

Tip: Press your outer border seams also towards the sashing. If you are planning to have your quilt professionally custom quilted with will make your quilter very happy as it will help the sashing to pop.



Congratulations your quilt top (With perfect borders) is now finished and ready to quilt.

I will be quilting my quilt with an edge to edge design on my longarm quilting machine. The very last step after quilting is the binding. This will be a standard binding and will be available from the 16th of May 2020.

Happy sewing.