

Magic Diagram

Measuring for Coping Borders When You Want to Make Pieced Borders Fit Properly
as found on quiltyfolk.blogspot

1. To get the **horizontal width** of your quilt measure the width of the quilt 3 times (top, middle, bottom). Add them together ($27\frac{1}{4}'' + 27\frac{1}{4}'' + 27\frac{1}{8}'' = 81.625''$) then divide by three ($81.625''$ divided by 3 = $27.208''$) to get the average. Round up in quilting measurements to $27.25''$.
2. Repeat the process to get the **vertical length** of your quilt. ($32'' + 31\frac{7}{8}'' + 32'' = 95.875''$ divided by 3 = $31.953''$). The rounded up measurement is $32''$.
3. The best way to keep track of which number goes where is to draw a picture called a **magic diagram**. It clears up confusion and keeps things simple. Draw a rough looking rectangle and mark the numbers where they belong.
4. For your **horizontal pieced border**, take the finished size of each block ($8\frac{1}{2}''$) and figure out how many you will sew together that will fit closest to the size of your quilt center. Multiply the number of blocks by the size of the finished block ($4 \times 8\frac{1}{2}'' = 34''$). Add in the seam allowance ($34\frac{1}{2}''$)! This number needs to be larger than your quilt center!
5. For the **vertical pieced border**, repeat the process with the number of blocks times the finished size of each block ($5 \times 8\frac{1}{2}'' = 42\frac{1}{2}''$). Add in seam allowances ($43''$).
6. Take the **horizontal width of the pieced border** and subtract the **width of the quilt centerpiece** ($34\frac{1}{2}''$ minus $27\frac{1}{4}''$) OR $34.5'' - 27.25'' = 7.25''$. Divide this number by 2. That number ($7.25''$ divided by 2 = $3.625''$) is the measurement of the width of your **Vertical Coping Borders**. Now add the seam allowance onto that number ($3.625'' + .5'' = 4.125''$ or $4\frac{1}{8}''$). That's the width!
7. Cut out two strips of coping border fabric @ $4\frac{1}{8}'' \times 32''$. Attach to each side of quilt.
8. Take the measurement of the **vertical pieced border length** ($43''$) and subtract the **length of the new quilt centerpiece** (still $32''$). $43'' - 32'' = 11''$. Divide this number by 2. That number is $5\frac{1}{2}''$. Add in the seam allowances. $5.5'' + .5'' = 6''$ That number is the **width** of your Horizontal Coping Border. The length of this coping strip will be the same as your horizontal pieced border ($34\frac{1}{2}''$).
9. Cut out two strips of coping border fabric @ $6'' \times 34\frac{1}{2}''$. Attach to the top and bottom of your quilt.

