

# Making Borders Fit-Pieced Quilt

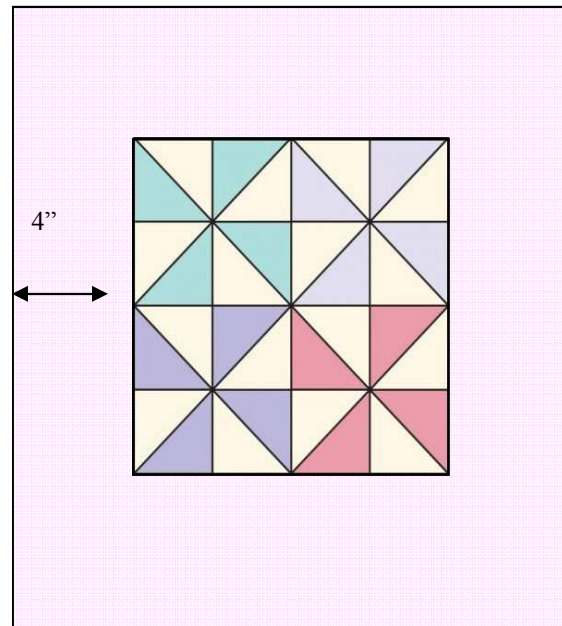
## ON THE QUILT:

Measure the width of your border from edge to edge.

The width of this border is 4".

You want to draw a guideline at the halfway point of your border.

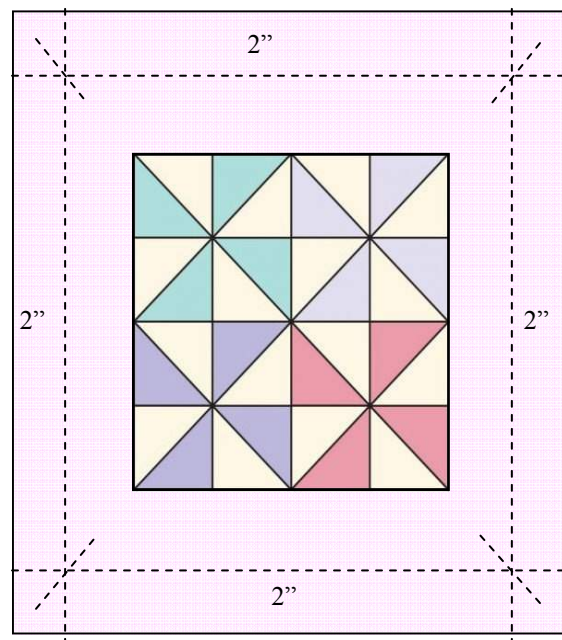
Divide your width in half. In this case your halfway measurement is 2" (*4" divided in half is 2"*)

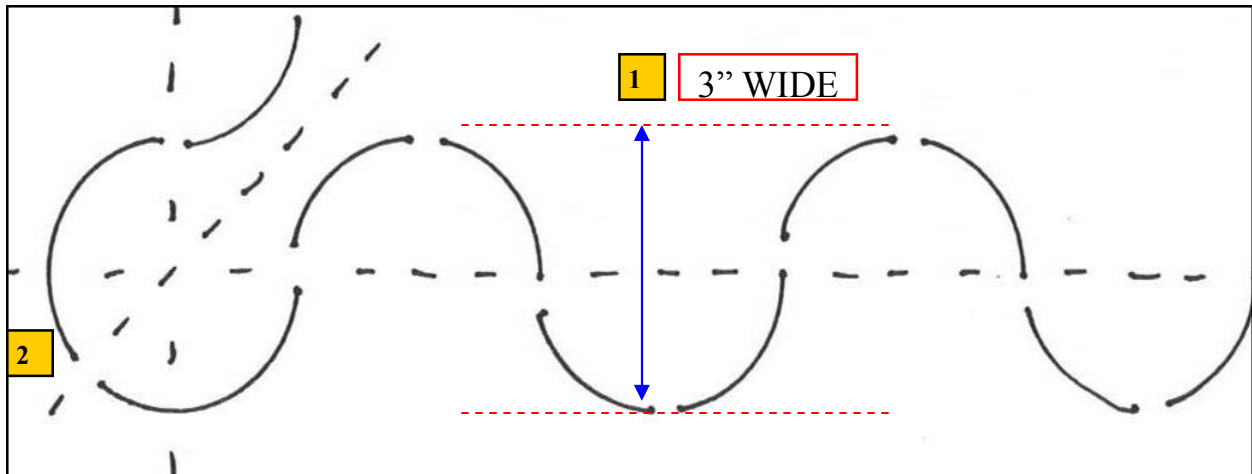


With your ruler, and measuring out from the border seam, make length-wise horizontal marks on the borders at your halfway point from edge to edge on all four sides.

Using the 45 degree mark on your ruler, mark your corner miter in all four corners. This should intersect the horizontal lines you just marked.

Don't stress if your lines don't intersect perfectly. These are just guidelines, not quilting lines!

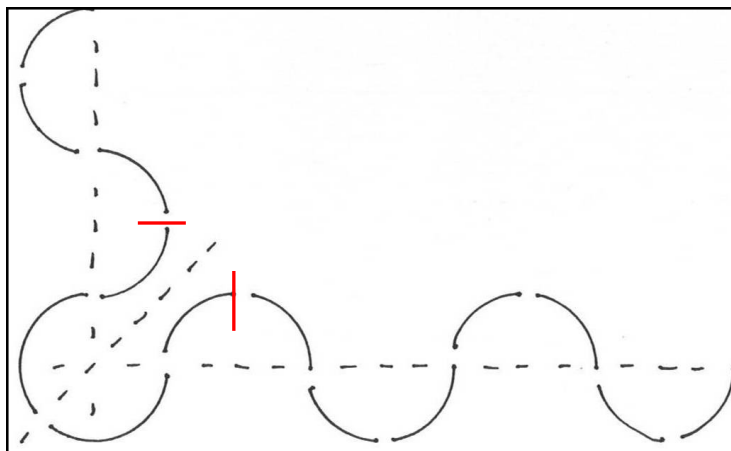




**ON THE STENCIL:**

1. Measure the width of your border design from high point to high point. This border design is 3" wide from top to bottom.
2. You want to find the halfway point of your border design just like we did on the quilt border. Divide 3" in half...your halfway measurement will be 1 1/2". Draw a line on your stencil with a permanent marker at 1 1/2". Draw your 45 degree angle in the corner.

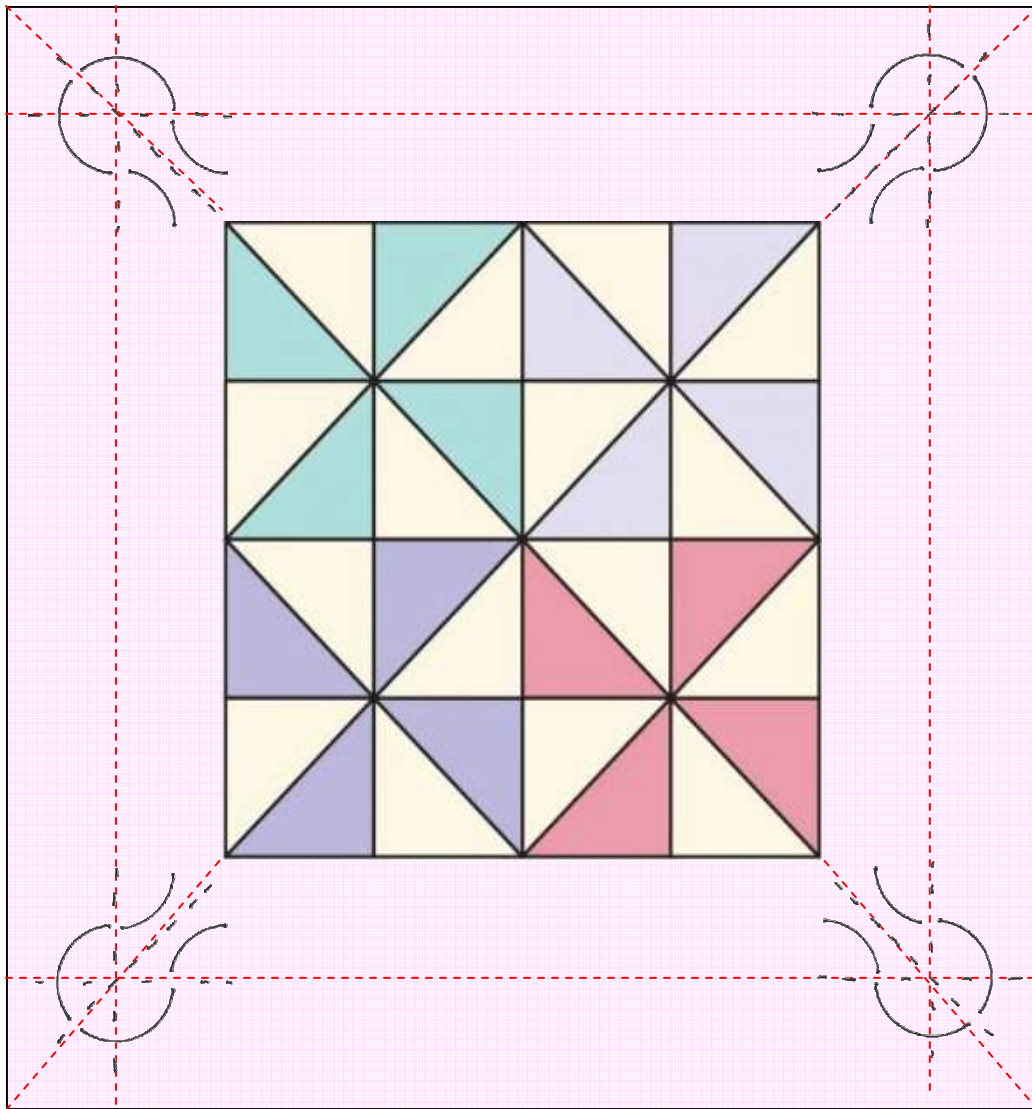
The lines you've drawn are the same guidelines you marked on your quilt. You will use these lines to line up the corners and the repeats for your border. This is a very easy way to guarantee that your borders will always be centered and perfect.



**MARK YOUR CORNERS:**

You want all four corners to be marked exactly the same.

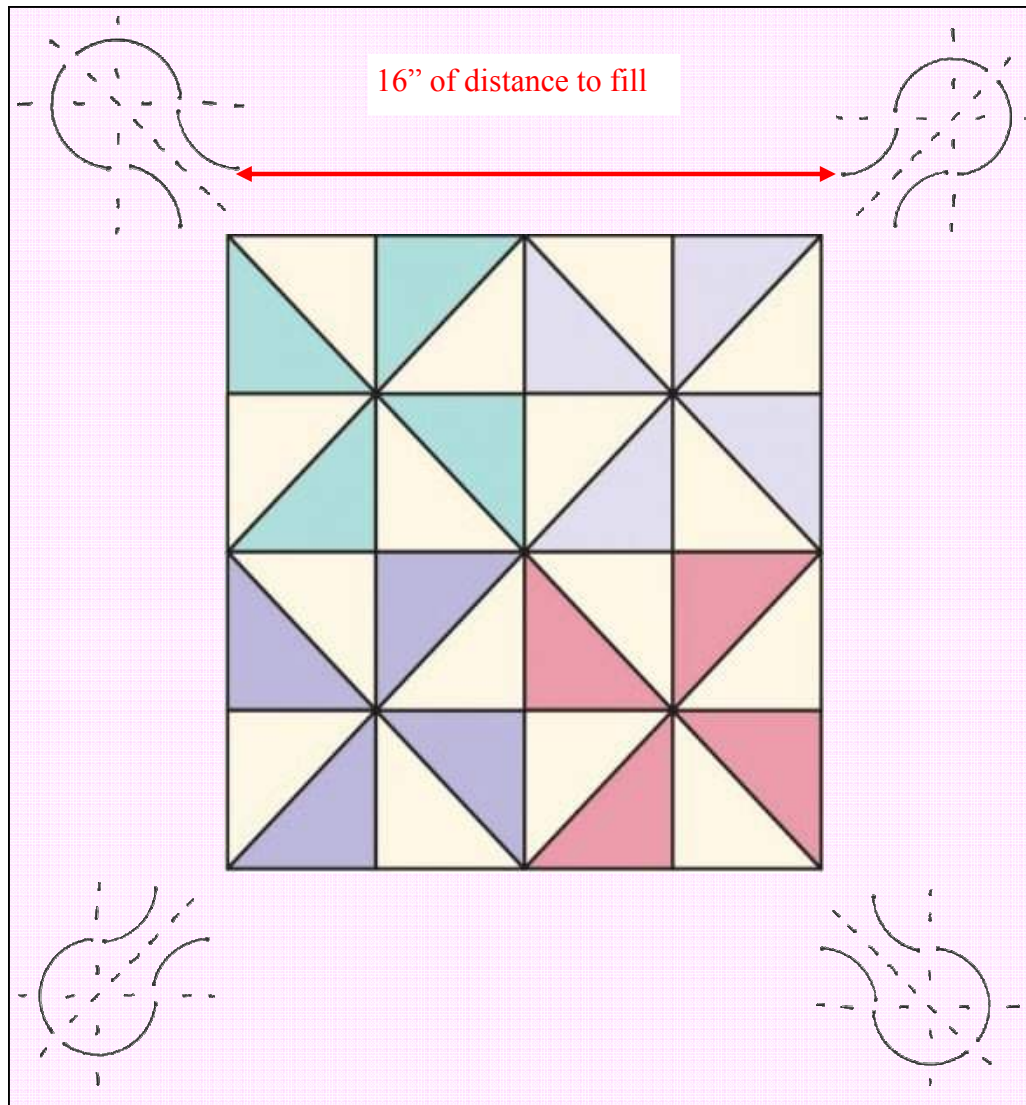
Make a mark on your stencil where the corner on one side matches the corner on the other side.



Mark the corners first.

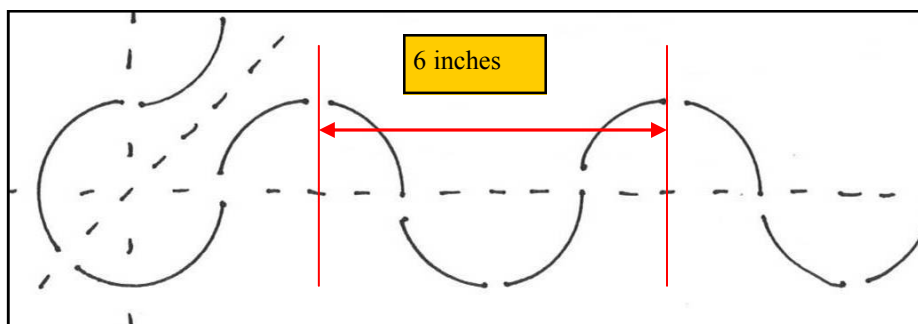
Use the lines you marked on your stencil and line them up with the guidelines you marked on your quilt.

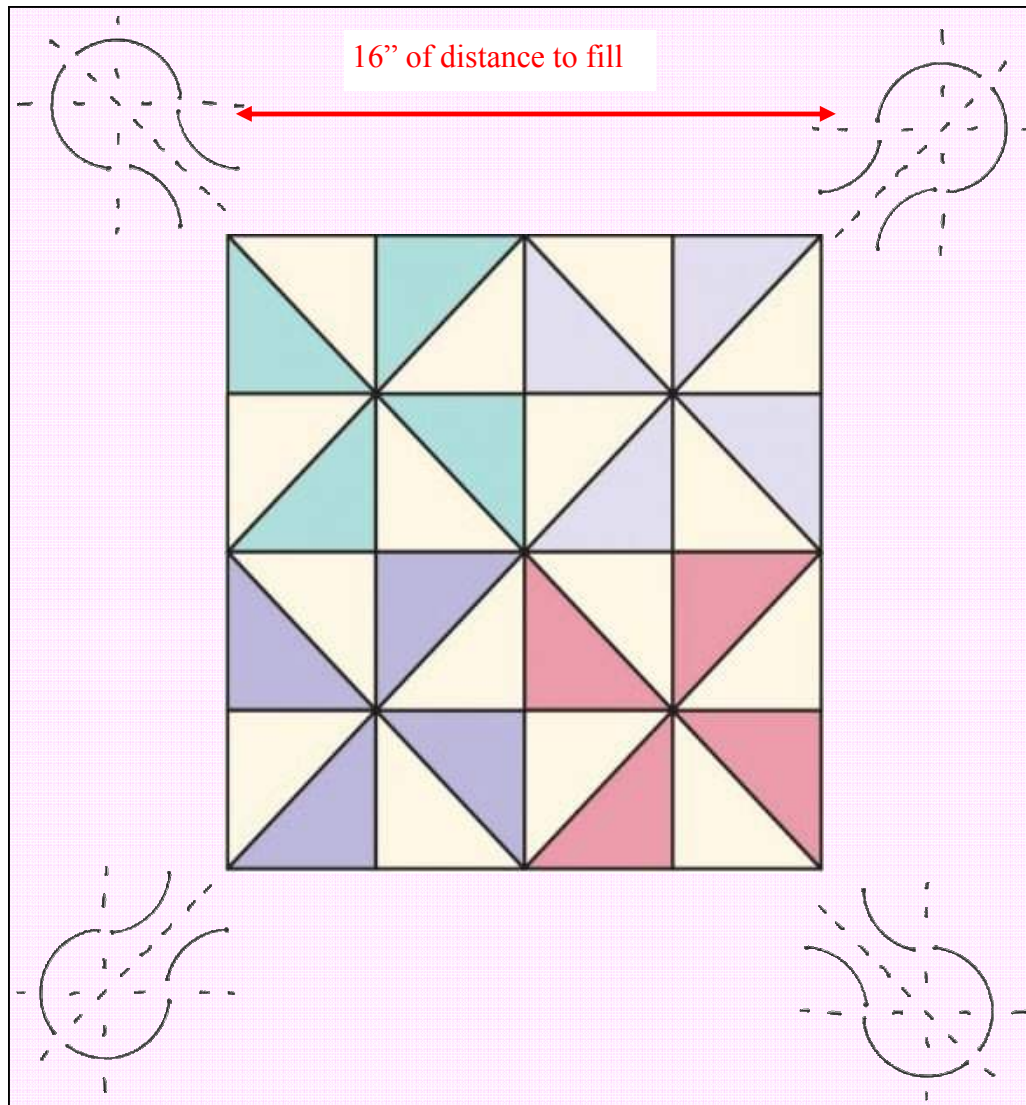
Mark all four corners exactly the same.



Once all four corners are marked, measure the remaining distance between the corners. In this case we have 16" of distance to fill.

Border designs have a repeat. Find the repeat on your stencil. Our border repeat is 6". Mark these lines on your stencil. Notice that either end of the repeat will match up to the marked corners on the quilt.





You need to find out how many repeats will fit into the space you have.

Divide the distance available by the length of your repeat.

**16" of space divided by 6" length of repeat = 2.66 repeats.**

You need an equal number of WHOLE repeats. You need to round the 2.66 either down to 2 repeats or up to 3 repeats. It's up to you to decide whether you want to squish or stretch your design to make it fit into the available space.

Use this guideline to make your decision:

Distance to fill: 16" *divided by* Length of repeat: 6" = 2.66 repeat

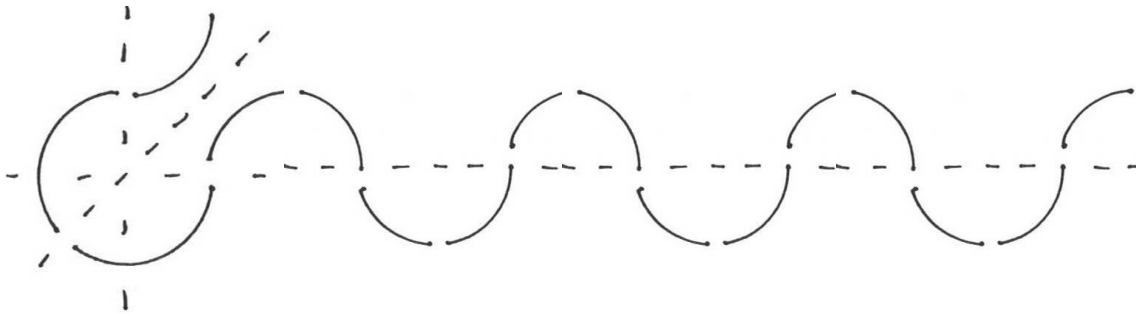
*Round the # of repeats to a whole number.*

6" x 2 = 12"  
Length of repeat rounded whole number total inches of space used

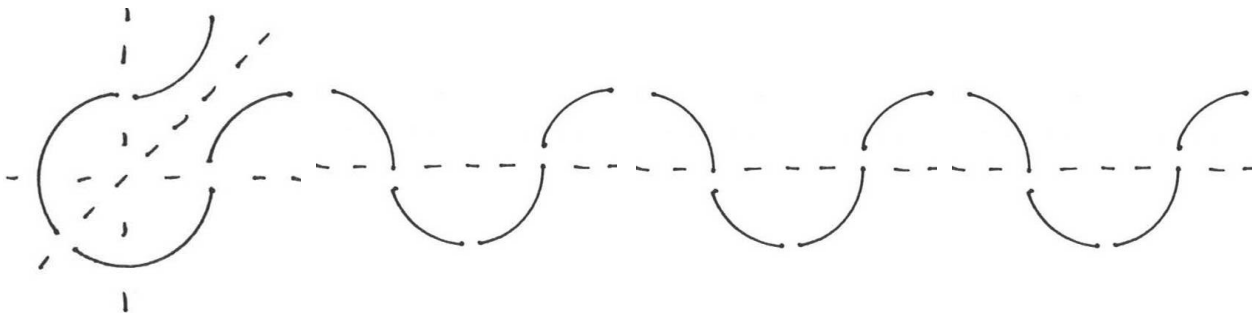
6" x 3 = 18"  
Length of repeat rounded whole number total inches of space used

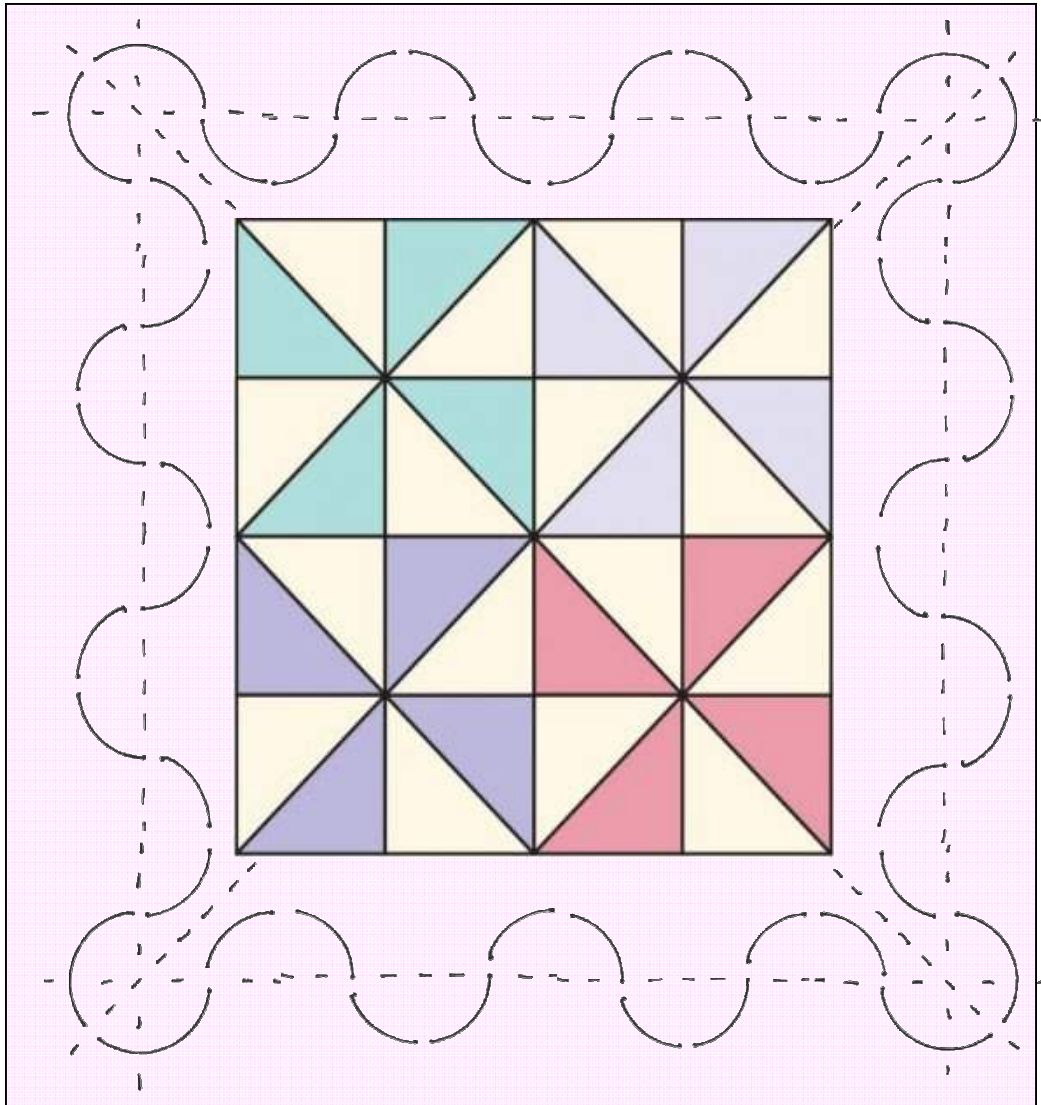
It will be easier to shrink the design by 2" rather than stretch it by 4".

Each time the repeat is marked, overlap the stencil each time and this will eat up the 2".

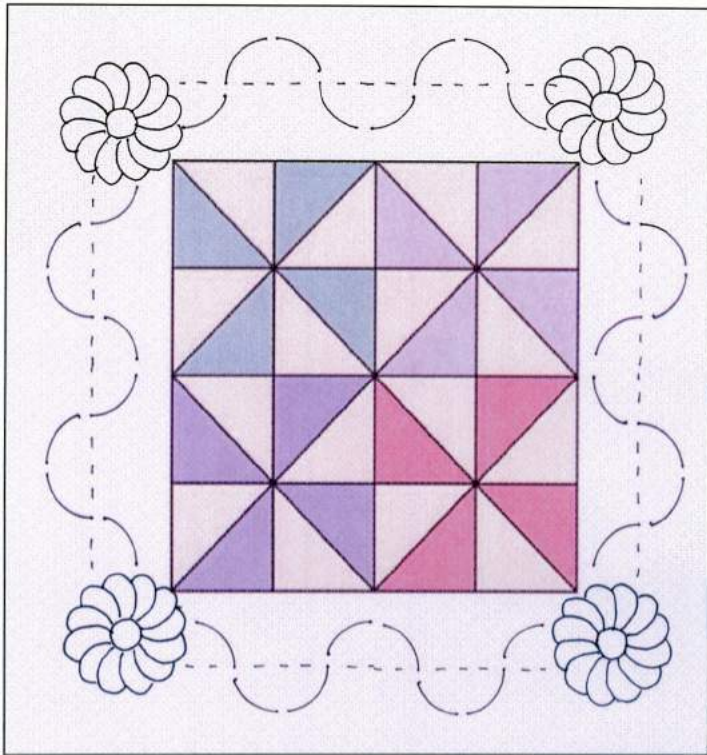


The same is also true if you want to enlarge it...just stretch it a little bit each time.





This is what your final design may look like. I have some good advice for you...if you are going to mark a vine with leaves/flowers or a feather border, always mark just the spine FIRST to make sure it all fits. Once it fits and you're happy with how it looks, then you can go back in and add the flowers/leaves/feathers.



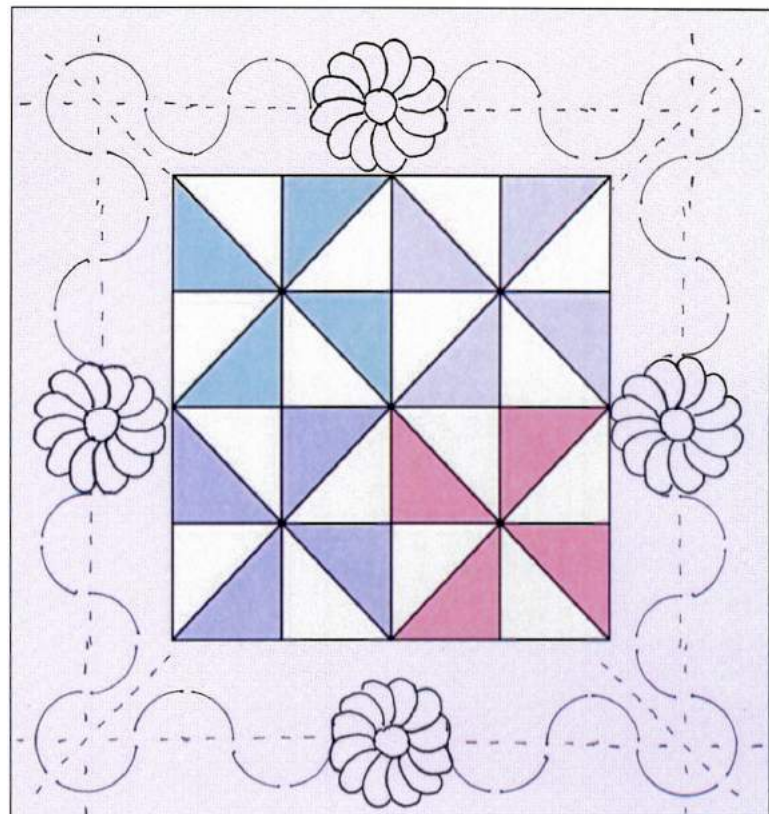
If you're having difficulty making your borders fit here's a quick and easy trick.

Mark motifs in each corner and run your border from motif to motif.

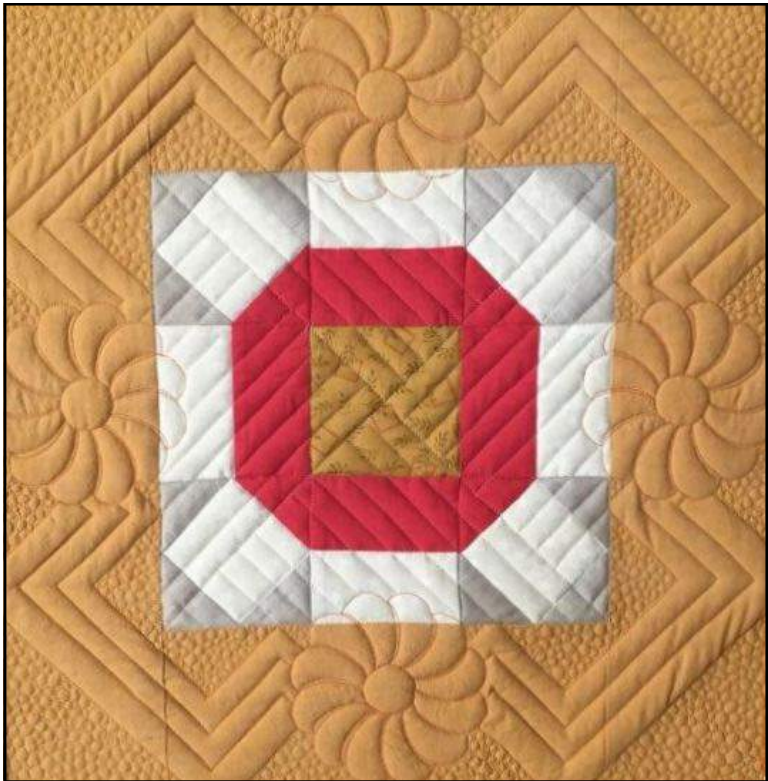
You can also mark your motifs in the center and run the corners right into the motifs. No math involved!

Don't be afraid to let your motifs cross the border seam and run right into the middle of the quilt OR you can let them run off the edge of your border.

Another tip...make sure your motifs are larger than the border design so that the design has a solid place to end.







Use the form below to do your border math.

## Making Your Borders Fit- Blank Handout

Distance to fill: \_\_\_\_\_ Length of repeat: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ divided by \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_  
*distance to fill* *length of repeat* *# of repeats*

**Round your # of repeats to a whole number**

\_\_\_\_\_ x \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_ +/-  
*Length of repeat* *rounded whole number* *total inches*

\_\_\_\_\_ x \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_ +/-  
*Length of repeat* *rounded whole number* *total inches*

I want to \_\_\_\_\_ my design by \_\_\_\_\_  
*stretch/shrink* *# of inches*