



**Block of the Month**  
**February 2023**  
**Pieced Border**  
**Karen G. Fisher**

When we make a bed quilt we often add a border to bring it out to its needed size. The beautiful detailed center is on top of the bed, and the borders are often not seen much.

With wall quilts, the border is seen all the time, so it can be fun to make it more detailed. Because I make almost ALL wall quilts, I keep trying new things with them.

I began working with this idea some years ago on paper, and I've since realized it's very much related to Seminole Patchwork with its strip-pieced construction.

To make it, just use three fabrics or colors from your center design for the strips, then cut and re-piece the strips with straight cuts across, or cut at different angles that can accent your center. Even make perfect mitered corners. AND, at each break, there's only ONE SEAM to match!

I've given three different sizes for the border, depending on the size border you might want for a specific quilt. Once you've cut your strips and sewn them together, the basic directions are the same.

Cutting sizes for:	3-inch border	4 ½" border	6" border
Center strip:	1" wide	1 ¼" wide	1 ½" wide
One side strip:	1 ½" wide	2" wide	2 ½" wide
Second side strip:	2" wide	2 ¾" wide	3 ½" wide

Cut about twice as much as the finished border needs to be, as you will lose a lot of fabric in all the little seams. Sew cut strips together as shown, with the narrowest one in the middle. Press all seams in one direction, and in the same direction for however many sets you have made.

Don't worry about starting in a specific spot. Try some different arrangements to build the sides. To get the small alternating squares, cut strips at 90° across:

1" strips for 3" border	As you flip the pieces back and forth, you will see that the edges line up. PIN the one matching seam together, and stitch. PRESS SEAMS OPEN.
1 ¼" strips for 4 ½" border	
1 ½" for 6" border	

The rest of the cuts take a bit of planning. See samples below and on next page.

I find mitered corners are a bit confusing, so I make one cut at a time. This is also one of the best reasons to be really generous with the amount of strip sets you make. And, of course, with the ones that don't turn out right, reassemble and come up with new variations!



