

# THE BORDER WORKSHOP

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In this workshop, you will learn the keys to 1) accurate piecing, 2) setting blocks on point, 3) adding borders that “fit,” 4) making “floaters” that include narrow strips in them, and 5) adjusting border prints to “fit” a quilt top. You can choose to make a small (36”), medium (44”) or medium-large (58-1/2”) wall quilt, depending on whether they regard this workshop as a technique class or a project class. You must bring a 12-1/2 inch (unfinished size) block for the center of your quilt top. The block will be set on point, and then floaters and borders will be added to the quilt center. Floaters are narrow, *unpieced* borders; they are designed to allow pieced borders to “fit” – and they are sometimes used to insert an extra accent to a quilt top. While it is not necessary, you can do some pre-sewing before the workshop begins so that, during the workshop, you can make greater progress toward finishing your quilt; pre-work is on page 3.

## REQUIRED SUPPLIES

- 12-1/2” block (unfinished size)
- Sewing machine, threaded and in good working order
- Basic sewing supplies: Scissors, pins, thread
- Rulers: It will work well if you bring a couple different rulers – one for cutting longer strips (18-24”) and one for cutting shorter strips (8-12”). If you only want to bring one ruler, an 18” one would be best
- Rotary cutter and mat
- Iron/pressing mat (if not provided by the workshop hosts)
- Fabric, as noted on page 2. The fabrics are identified by colors – but feel free to vary the colors as you wish. Border quilts make wonderful use of scrappy fabric combinations! Consider the following:
  - Choose a focus fabric for the setting triangles of your 12” block -- and then use fabrics in the focus fabric colors to flesh out your quilt top.
  - Choose a monochromatic scheme – for example, use shirtings with blue lines for the background, and use various dark, medium, and light blue prints for the border units.
  - Use brilliantly colored batiks and a black background fabric
  - Use thirties reproduction fabrics with a white-on-white background fabric
  - Use civil war reproduction prints with tan/taupe/neutral background fabrics

Whatever color scheme you use, I am sure you will love the results!

I look forward to meeting you and to seeing what you create during the retreat. I am certain that we will all have fun together!



If you have any questions at all, please email me: [shgarman@comcast.net](mailto:shgarman@comcast.net)

## FABRIC REQUIREMENTS

All quilt sizes require a 12-1/2" (unfinished size) block for the center of the quilt; it will be set on point.

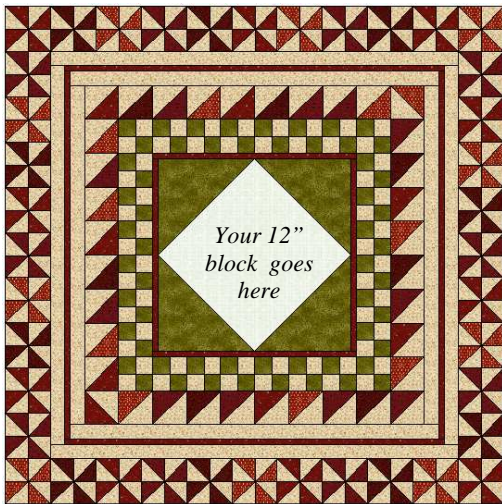


**36" square** – small pieced borders with floaters

Fabric:

- Background – 1-1/4 yards (includes floaters)
- Red 1 – 1/2 yard (includes red floaters)
- Green 1 – 1/2 yard (includes setting triangles)

Total yardage: 2-1/4 yards



**44" square** – pieced borders/floaters, and a pinwheel border

Fabric:

- Background – 1-1/2 yards (includes floaters)
- Red 1 – 3/4 yards (includes floaters)
- Red 2 – fat quarter
- Red 3 – fat quarter
- Red 4 – fat quarter
- Red 5 – fat quarter
- Green 1 – 1/2 yard (includes setting triangles)

Total yardage: 3-3/4 yards



**58-1/2" square** – multiple borders and floaters

Fabric:

- Background – 2 yards (includes floaters)
- Red 1 – 1 yard (includes floaters)
- Red 2 – fat quarter
- Red 3 – fat quarter
- Red 4 – fat quarter
- Red 5 – fat quarter
- Green 1 – 2-3/8 yards (includes setting triangles)

Total yardage: 6 yards

*Note: Consider adding another 1/2 yard of red or green fabric for the binding on your quilt!*

## WORKSHOP PRE-WORK

Would you like to do some pre-sewing so that you can make greater progress on your quilt at the retreat? If the answer is yes, follow these steps. First, pre-cut fabric strips. Second, make four-patch units. Third, make 3" half-square triangles. And fourth, make 4" pinwheels.

For the **58-1/2" quilt**, pre-cut the **green fabric** as follows:

- Cut four 6-1/2 by 60" strips for the outer border (these will be cut shorter later)
- Cut two 9-3/8" squares; halve each square diagonally. The triangles will be used to set the center block on point.
- Cut eight 2 by 15" strips; these will be used to make the four-patches in the checkerboard border



For the **58-1/2" quilt**, pre-cut the **background fabric** as follows:

- Cut one 24 by 48" length of fabric. This will be used later for the floater strips
- Cut eight 2 by 15" strips; these will be used to make the four-patches in the checkerboard border

For the **36" and 44" quilt**, pre-cut the **background fabric** as follows:

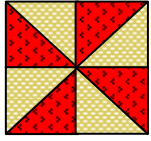
- Cut one 10 by 40" strip of fabric. This will be used later for the floater strips
- Cut eight 2 by 15" strips; these will be used to make the four-patches in the checkerboard border

Now that you have done your pre-cutting, you are ready to do some piecing before the workshop begins.

For the 36", 44" or 58-1/2" quilts:

	<p>Make 3-1/2" (unfinished size) four-patch squares using the background fabric and an assortment of green prints.</p> <p>To make the four-patch squares, use the eight 2 by 15" wide strips of background fabric and green fabric that you pre-cut. Sew pairs of background and green fabric together, lengthwise. Press the seam allowances toward the darker fabric. Then, cut the sewn strips at 2" intervals, forming rectangular two-patches. Sew pairs of the two-patches together, forming a four-patch. Press seam allowances open.</p> <p>Make <b>28</b> four-patches.</p>
	<p>Make 3-1/2" (unfinished size) half-square triangles using the background fabric and assorted red fabrics.</p> <p>To make the half-square triangles, 1) use your own favorite paper-foundation method (e.g., Triangles on a Roll, Thangles) or 2) make them the traditional way as follows: cut eighteen 3-7/8" squares of background fabric and eighteen 3-7/8" squares of assorted red prints. Layer one red and one background square, right sides together; draw a line diagonally across one square; stitch 1/4" from each side of the drawn line. Open the units and press them flat; trim off the triangle nibs. Make <b>36</b> half-square triangles.</p>

For the 44" and 58-1/2" quilt, the following pre-work is in addition to the above pre-work:



Make forty 4" (finished size) pinwheels using an assortment of red prints.

To make 4" pinwheels, you will need to make 2" half-square triangles. To do this, you may 1) use your own favorite paper-foundation method (e.g., Triangles on a Roll) or 2) make them the traditional way.

To make them the traditional way, follow these steps:

- For each half-square triangle, cut one 2-7/8" red and one 2-7/8" background square. Layer them, right sides together. Draw a line diagonally across one square; stitch 1/4" from each side of the drawn line. Open the units and press them flat. Make 160 half-square triangles.
- Trim the triangle nibs from the corners of each square. These units should measure 2-1/2" square (unfinished size).

Sew four half-square triangle units together, pressing seam allowances open to minimize the "bump" of intersecting seam allowances at the center of the pinwheel. Make the pinwheels all "spin" in the same direction – check the drawing to the left and match its spin direction. Make forty pinwheels.

