

SHARK'S TEETH BORDER

To finish the quilt, we will add borders. Learn Bonnie's easy method for making a Shark's Teeth border to add a beautiful finishing touch to this quilt. You won't believe how easy it is to make this border fit your quilt perfectly.

Trimming and Assembling the Blocks:

The blocks need to be trimmed to 17½" before assembling. The background blocks for appliqué are usually cut a little bit larger because appliqué stitching can make the fabric draw up slightly. It is easier to trim the blocks and assemble them before adding the dimensional flowers.

Sewing the Blocks Together:

Lay out the four blocks following the quilt diagram. The upper left and lower right blocks are identical. The other two opposite corners are the mirror-image blocks. Using a thread that matches the background fabric, sew the blocks together in rows, using a ¼" seam allowance. Press the seam open. Stitch the two rows together, matching the center seam. Press the seams open.

Borders:

The borders are made of three separate borders. First we need to measure the quilt to determine the length to cut the white Border 1 to make the center float. We will measure and determine size to cut Border 1 in class.

Mitered Border 1 = width of quilt + 2 times the finished width of border + 1" for seam allowances and fudge factor.

Width of quilt = _____ + (2 x finished width of border) + 1" = _____

Cut four borders 2½" x (your measurement). Fold the strips in half lengthwise and mark with a pin. Align the pin with the center of the edge of the quilt. Pin the borders to the edge, starting from the center, pinning out in both directions. Sew the borders to the quilt, starting to sew ¼" from the corner and stopping ¼" from the next corner. Sew all four borders to the quilt. The corners will be mitered.

Demonstration for mitering the corners of the borders.

Sew the miters in all four corners of the quilt.

Shark's Teeth Border:

After the corners of Border 1 have been completed, measure the edges of the quilt. Make a note of that measurement. Edge measurement = _____.

To determine the width to cut the strips for the Shark's Teeth to accurately fit your quilt, cut a piece of paper (adding machine tape works well) equal to the width of the blocks sewn together (about 34 1/2"). Cut 1/2" (representing seam allowances) off one end of the paper so you are working with the finished size of the edge of your quilt.

Fold the paper in half lengthwise. Working with a single layer of paper, continue folding the adding machine tape in half, accordion style.

Demonstration of folding adding machine tape to fit the quilt.

Measure one segment of the folded paper, this measurement is the base of one Shark's Tooth. The width of the fabric strip is cut the measurement of your folded paper segment plus 1/2" for seam allowances. The measurement should be approximately 2";

$2" + 1/2" = 2 1/2"$ is the width to cut the strip and length is your measurement minus 1/2".

This method divides the space equally without using any complicated math. You just fold the paper to get the measurement and add the seam allowances. The strip does not extend into the seam allowance – we are working with the finished size of the edge of the quilt.

Fold the red fabric for the Shark's Teeth in half lengthwise with wrong sides together. Baste the folded strips, right sides together, onto Border 1, starting 1/4" from the corner. Using the folded paper as a pattern, slide the paper behind the basted fabric. Use a chalk marker to mark the divisions in the paper onto the red Shark's Teeth fabric. Clip the fabric on the chalked marks, snipping from the folded edge to the basting line on the red border. Fold the raw edges on both sides of each clipped section to form a Shark's Tooth, pressing the teeth as you fold them. A dot of glue from a fabric glue stick on the underside of each tooth will help hold them in place until you are ready to press with an iron. Appliqué the teeth in place by hand or machine, using a blindstitch.

Sometimes the Shark's Teeth do not align exactly right in the corners. An easy solution to that is to trim off the last Shark's Teeth that come together in the corners and use triangles to cover the corner instead. To make neat corners, fold a 3½" square in half and place it across the corner to join the Shark's Teeth on the adjoining side. Appliqué the folded edge of the triangle, sew the rest of the triangle within the seam allowance, and trim any raw edges that may stick out beyond the corner of the quilt. Repeat on all four corners.

Next Lesson: Finishing the Quilt

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