

SARAH'S TIPS – PREVENTING WAVY BORDERS

When finishing a beautiful quilt, representing hours of work, the challenge of wavy borders can be a problem. Wavy borders are often the result of over handling and stretching of the border fabric. This problem can be greatly reduced by changing the way borders are touched and handled.

Cutting borders length of fabric, instead of width of fabric, helps keep borders strong – but often this is not possible. You can still have flat borders that were cut width of fabric – just avoid touching the borders as much as possible.

DO NOT fold, carry, pick up, or put away your quilt during the construction process by handling or touching the border. The weight of the quilt pulls on the border fabric and can cause the outside edge of the border to stretch and is one of the main causes of wavy borders. You can fold, pick up and handle your quilt by the inside edge of the pieced or appliqued section, not putting any stress on your border. This is especially true before the quilt is sandwiched for quilting, or when it is being ironed and prepped for quilting as just a finished top.

DO NOT pull the quilt around by the border in the machine while quilting. This is putting stress on the border and stretching it out. Often the border is being tugged and pulled every which way during the sandwiching and quilting.

A good wet blocking will help put the fibers of a quilt and border back into original shape, but a lot of quilters do not like to wet block a quilt. If you have a wavy border and just want to address that section, you can put a strip of hand basting along the outer wavy edge of the border and gently pull and ease the fabric back into the same length as the inner attached edge of the border. Then quilting will hold the border flat.

Pretend that border is a hot potato – and don't touch 😊