## Why are my borders wavy and why doesn't the quilt hang straight?

Adapted from Quilter's Newsletter Magazine March 2003 article

Wavy borders may caused by a number of factors. Listed below are suggestions which will help to eliminate the distortion.

- 1. Using the straight grain of the fabric when cutting borders is an important step in getting a flat border. Cut the border lengthwise parallel to the salvage. Cross-grain cuts tend to stretch and warp.
- 2. It is helpful to starch this fabric prior to making the final measurements, cutting and sewing to the quilt top. Extra stability is provided by starching. Remember to press the fabric in the lengthwise direction when starching to avoid distorting the fabric.
- 3. Now measure and cut the borders. Pin them to the quilt top. After sewing on the borders press, trim excess, square up the ends or miter the border if preferred.
- 4. Layer the backing, batting, and quilt top, and pinning them together. Stay stitch the three layers together along the edges of the border prior to quilting. This will provide additional stability to the edges.

I found an article on blocking quilts on this site: www.quiltinguniversity.com/blocking.htm

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