

July 2009 Newsletter

Textiles 101 – Squaring up

The subject for the month is squaring up. What is squaring up? Some call it simply trimming – I like to call it squaring up because it is a more descriptive term for what I am trying to achieve.

All piecing requires trimming. Even the best quilters trim each block to make sure that it is squared up before completing the piecing of the entire quilt. Personally, I usually square up all my blocks at the end of piecing all of them. Some people square each block as it is finished. Either way you get the job done.

It is important in order to achieve a quality finished product. Even using a stack and whack or Buggy Barn pattern requires squaring up seams and finished squares. Before piecing the final quilt together, I square up all my squares and then start piecing into rows.

After adding each border, all of the borders, corners and sides, should be squared up. This becomes especially important when you are adding more than one border. Keeping the quilt square becomes even more important when you are adding several borders. Adding a new border to a crooked border only distorts the new border and any additional borders added after that. Quality piecing requires time and patience.