

Piano Keys

14 inches by 14 inches finished
14 ½ inches by 14 ½ inches edge to edge

Here is another very easy but effective border, specially when you show off your ability to mitre the corner!
Don't worry --it's quite easy



Choose fabrics that are as close to the greens and blues (and maybe golds) in the print. They should read as solid (that is they should look pretty solid when seen from a distance). Don't forget that we don't want the border to steal the impact of the print.

Focus Fabric:

Cut one 10 ½ by 10 ½ inch rectangle

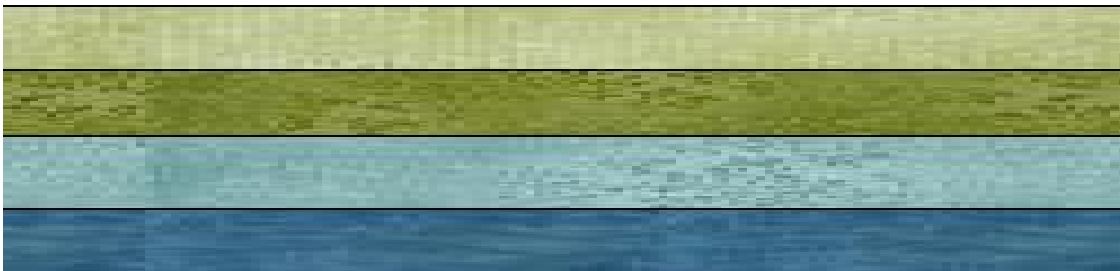
From each of four border fabrics

Cut 1 ½ inch strip across the width of the fabric

You will need at least 30 inches of each fabric

You will also need at least an extra 1 ½ by 10 inch strip of the first two of your fabrics

Sew the four strips together to make a strata. Press each seam to the darker side

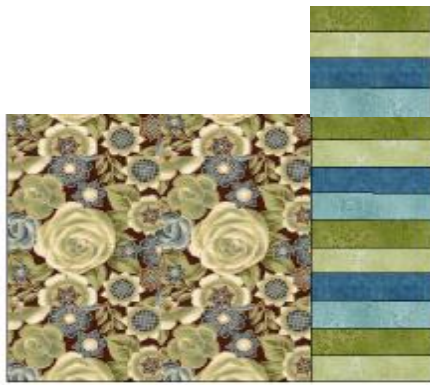


Now, cross cut both strata in 5 inch sections. Join these sections to make two border strips. Add the extra 1 ½ by 5 inch strips of the first two colours to the end of each strip



Trim your strata to 4 ½ inches wide, and make sure that it measures 14 ½ inch long. Re-press one of the strata so that the seams go the opposite way to the other.

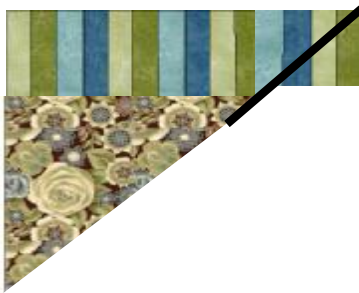
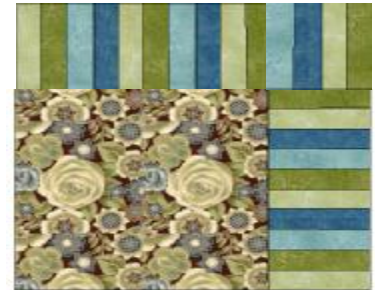
Attach one to the right hand side of the focus fabric, stopping $\frac{1}{4}$ inch before the end of the focus fabric, and leaving the left over strata loose at the top.



Do the same with the top strip – starting at the opposite end and making sure that you start with the same colour strip. Press your piece well.

Now comes the interesting bit....

Fold the square in half diagonally so that the side border is exactly laying on top of the top border, right sides together



Draw a straight line following the fold, up to the point of the borders.

Carefully pin the borders together along this line, lining up the seams.

Now this is the IMPORTANT part – sew along this line from the outside of the block to the focus fabric! This will ensure that your mitre won't stretch while you are sewing it. Sew just to the point where your seams meet $\frac{1}{4}$ inch in from the corner

Unfold the mitre and check that the strips meet nicely before trimming the seam to $\frac{1}{4}$ inch. I find that the seam on a mitred border usually likes to be pressed open. If your seams don't meet exactly and there is a tiny whole at the corner – it won't matter! You will be quilting over it and no-one will see it.

Piano key borders can look very neat on a full size quilt. The keys can be any size, and you can have any number of fabrics – you can make several stratas, then after cross cutting them, arrange them in almost any order, then they will look like each key has been individually sewn to make the border. If you don't want to mitre the piano keys on a large quilt – you can always put corner stones in the border, and avoid the mitre altogether!

If you are making your own quilt – add 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ inch sashing to the left side of the block, and leave it until next month

