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Finishing Instructions

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There are many ways to finish your hexagon quilt, but the three most common are as follows. These are just guide-lines and your specific measurements will depend on the finished size of your quilt.

1) This is the easiest. When you have finished your pattern you will notice that two sides of the quilt will finish evenly and the other two sides will be jagged. Remove all the pieces and press the outside seam allowances flat. Take your rotary cutter and ruler and trim all the edges to get a straight line. If this is going to interfere with your design, you might want to piece another row of hexagons around so you won't lose the pattern. Then you can apply a regular straight binding after the top is quilted.

2) If you want to maintain the uneven design of the hexagons on the edge, you can appliqué your top to borders. Decide the width of the border you want and cut and piece border pieces. For example, if you want the border to be 6 inches wide, measure your quilt and make enough border strips to have a 6 inch border on each side. Do NOT remove the paper pieces. Starting on one side, lay your top on the border strip and pin in place. Appliqué the top to the border. Allow extra length (at least 1 and 1/2 times the width of your border) on each end so you can miter your corners after appliquéing all four sides. This gives you a straight finished edge so you can apply a regular straight binding.

3) If you would like your quilt to finish with "uneven" edges this is the method for you! If you are going to machine quilt, go ahead and remove all the papers from the edges, pressing the seam allowance as you remove them so they retain their shape. If you are going to hand quilt, leave the pieces in until you get to them. After the top is quilted, cut the batting about 1/4" inside the top edge, following the shape of the top. Cut the backing 1/2" larger than the top. Turn the backing under to match the shape of the top and slip stitch closed. This is a beautiful way to finish and maintain the hexagon shape top.