

Prairie Points

9.250

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Prairie points are a popular finish for quilt edges and they're made from small folded fabric squares. In addition to being used as an edge finish, these folded gems can also be used within blocks to add dimension or to accent details. For example, a tiny prairie point is perfect for a bird beak, mouse ears or the paddles of a windmill. Prairie points also can be added to appliqués for interest.



Perky Penguin by Sue Harvey and Sandy Boobar, Pine Tree Country Quilts

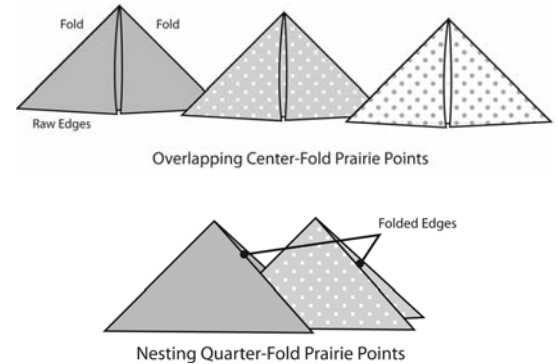
Size Wise

Prairie points can be made in many sizes, depending on the use. If you're using the points as an edge finish, stick to a point length less than 3", otherwise they tend to flop over or look disproportionate to the quilt. To determine the dimensions, make a paper template of the finished size point and try it out along the quilt edge to see the proportion to the quilt itself.

Measure from the seamline to the finished point. Use this measurement to determine the cut square size: Double the measurement and add 1/2" for seams. A 1" point begins with a 2 1/2" fabric square, a 2" point begins with a 4 1/2" square, etc.

Prairie Point Options

There are two styles of prairie points—those that overlap or those that nest within adjacent points (1). Either style can be used in the same manner to finish edges or add detail within a quilt block.

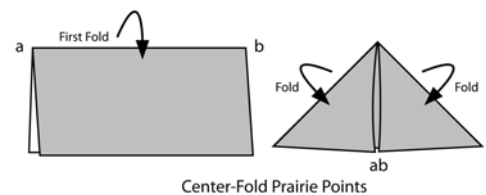


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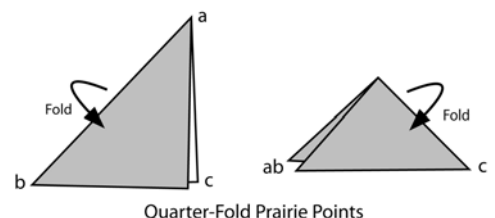
To make the center-fold points, fold the square in half and then bring each folded corner down to the lower center. The "right side" of the point showcases the folded edges.

To make quarter-fold points, fold the square diagonally, then fold the upper and lower corners together (2).

Either version can be pressed firmly to flatten, or left as soft unpressed edges.



Center-Fold Prairie Points



Quarter-Fold Prairie Points

2

Getting to the Point

Quilt the quilt up to 1" from the raw edges, then fold the backing out of the way and pin it. When using prairie points as an edge finish, place them right side down along the quilt top/batting layer at the edges, spacing as desired and either overlapping or nesting, depending on the style. Adjust the spacing as needed for an even appearance along the edges.

At the corners, overlap two points so that they'll appear equally spaced when turned outward.

Tip: For added interest, combine prairie points of different sizes in one border.

Stitch the prairie points in place 1/4" from the cut edges, keeping the backing out of the stitching line.

To use the prairie points as an edge finish, turn them outward and press. Trim the batting layer close to the stitching, then fold under the backing edges 1/4". Hand stitch the backing in place, covering the prairie point raw edges to finish. If additional quilting is needed, add it near the edges.

If the quilt has a traditional binding, the points will sit atop the quilt instead of facing outward, cut the binding 1/4" wider than normal to account for the added thickness of the folded squares, and bind the quilt normally, encasing the prairie point raw edges. 🖱



*Dino Baby by Sue Harvey and Sandy Boobar,
Pine Tree Country Quilts*