

Backings

How to calculate:

Measure Width and Length, add 8" to each, add the new measurements together and then divide by 36.

$$\begin{array}{l} \text{EX: } 54" \times 60" \quad 54+8=62" \\ \quad \quad \quad \quad 60+8=68" \\ \quad \quad \quad \quad 130" \div 36" = 3.6 \text{ yards} \end{array}$$

Round up to nearest half/whole number, so 4 yards will get you enough yardage to cut 2 lengths and sew them together vertically for a back. But with this example you will have a lot of unneeded width since the full back would be 90" wide X 72" long.

You can also calculate using the width of the coverage you need, using a factor of 40" to account for the possibility that the width is not 42"-45" wide.

$$\begin{array}{l} \text{EX: } 54" \times 60" \quad 54+8=62" \\ \quad \quad \quad \quad 60+8=68" \\ \quad \quad \quad \quad 130" \div 40" = 3.25 \text{ yards} \end{array}$$

Round up to nearest half/whole number, so 3.5 yards are all that's needed. Cut in half and sew horizontally for a back that measures 63" wide X 90" long. Still way more yardage than needed. [https://quiltersparadiseesc.com/Calculators/Backing and Batting Calculator.php](https://quiltersparadiseesc.com/Calculators/Backing%20and%20Batting%20Calculator.php)

One way to avoid this over buying of yardage is to do a diagonal seam and shifting the match up points. There is a calculation sheet at <https://jinnybeyer.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/Diagonal-Backing-Worksheet.pdf>

The issue is this can create a long diagonal seam that could be tricky to sew, since you want to be careful and not stretch this seam.

You can also incorporate your extra blocks or use your leftovers to piece a back. This can't be easily calculated, but it can be fun to build.

Start with your orphan blocks and build around them until you have added enough to cover the size you need for the back. The same idea with leftovers, but in that case start with your large pieces and see what kind of coverage you can get and then add smaller pieces to fill in.

Robert Kaufman Calculator App for iPhone and iPad <https://www.robertkaufman.com/quilting-calculators/>