

## 5 Ways to Freshen Up Your Quilts for 2019 and Make Them POP!

By Julia Fikse, The Quilt Ninja

Tired of looking at a whole lot of the same when it comes to quilts? Before you start your next project here are five ideas to help your next quilt excite and delight:

- 1) **Size matters.** Quilts are migrating from the bed to the wall. Make a quilt that can double as a lap or a wall quilt. Don't know if it's worthy of the wall? Lay out your pieces on the floor, or design wall, then take a picture with your phone. Study the photo. Looking at the quilt this way will reveal areas where the design may be weak in color, balance or direction.
- 2) **Drop the borders.** For a quilt to look fresh and new, just add binding. By removing the borders you may decrease the size of the quilt by a few inches, but you'll increase the visual appeal by a mile.
- 3) **Add a Twist of Mint.** Switch out primary green for a lighter, brighter spearmint.
- 4) **Shine On.** Incorporate metallic through fabric, quilting or embroidery. Try silver with black, gold with white, or copper with blue.
- 5) **Surprise Me!** Have fun and don't stick to the pattern. Whether you're using kits, precuts or doing your own thing: change it up and try something new. If it doesn't work the first time, don't worry! Try again and implement the lessons learned. When you succeed, you've got yourself a quilt that POPS!

Julia Fikse, also known as the Quilt Ninja, is a professional quilter, lecturer, and AQS Certified Quilt Appraiser. She has worked fashion and fabric for 25 years as a designer, colorist, dye coordinator and trend analyst. For more from Julia go to [www.quilt.ninja](http://www.quilt.ninja)