

Machine Quilting RULERS

Free-motion challenge Quilting Along



Week 1 Tip Sheet & Quilting Diagrams

Welcome to the first week of the Machine Quilting with Rulers Free-motion Challenge Quilting Along. This week we are getting this challenge started by talking all about straight edge rulers. We will be covering everything from how to choose the best ruler for you as well as three different machine quilting designs.

Tips for Choosing A Straight Edge Ruler

If you only learn how to use one type of ruler, this would be the one! In the video tutorial, I shared the following tips for selecting the perfect ruler for you:

Find the Right Length

A shorter ruler will work well with machines with a smaller throat space. While a longer ruler will help you see where your quilting line is going.

Look for Reference Lines

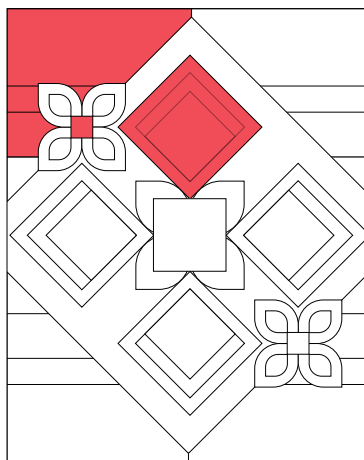
Reference lines on rulers can make a big difference when it comes to consistent quilting. They help measure the space between echo lines and also ensure that your lines stay straight to the quilt.

Look for Versatile Rulers

If you are new to ruler quilting, look for a ruler that can do a couple different designs. This will allow you to “sample” what quilting with other rulers would be like before committing to buying them.

Your Challenge:

If you're quilting along with me on the custom challenge panel, fill in the areas highlighted in red with designs we learned this week.



For more information about the challenge, visit FMQchallenge.com

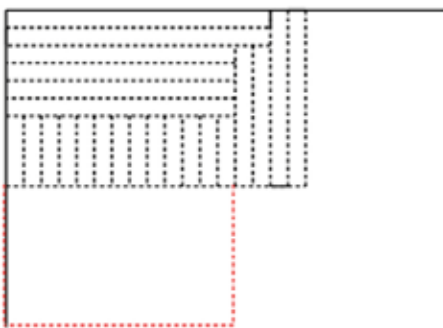
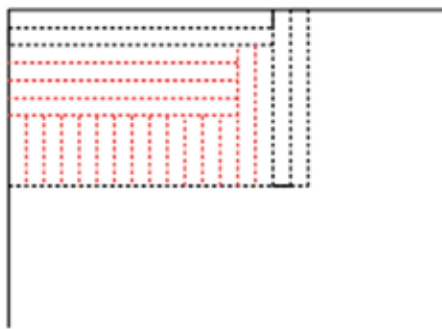
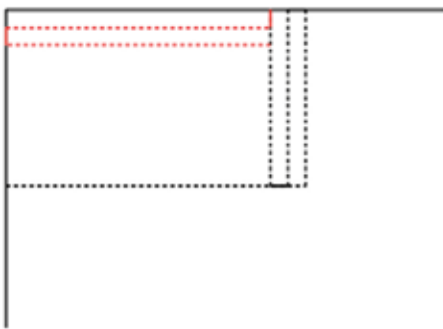
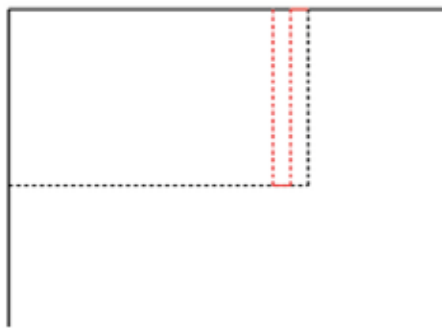
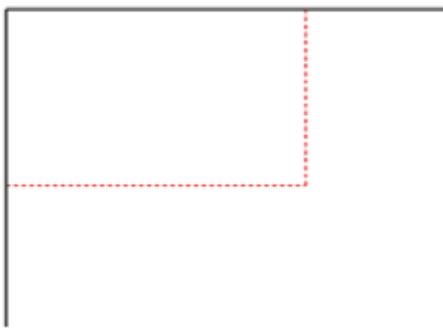


Jumbled Lines Design

Ruler Type: Straight Edge

Technique: Echoing

- Works in areas of most sizes
- Incorporates traveling to create a weaved look
- Adds beautiful texture without detracting from the piecing



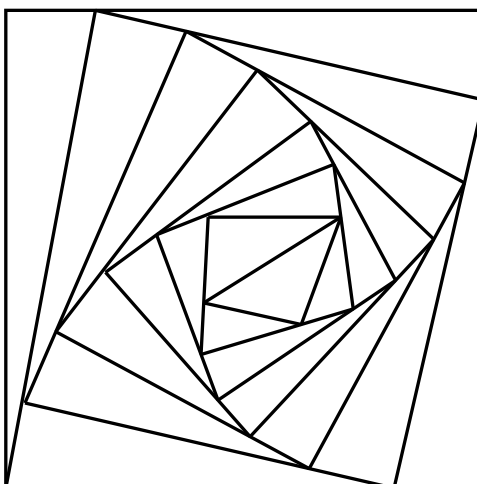
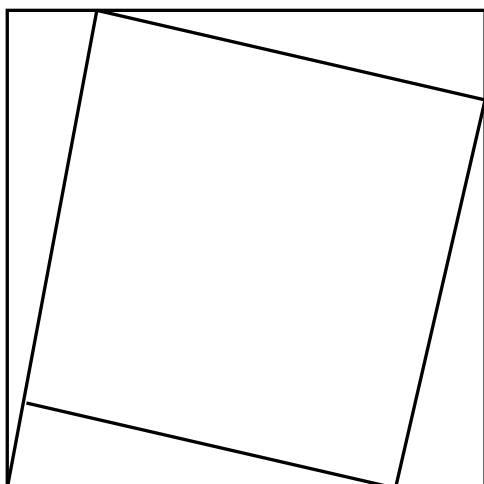
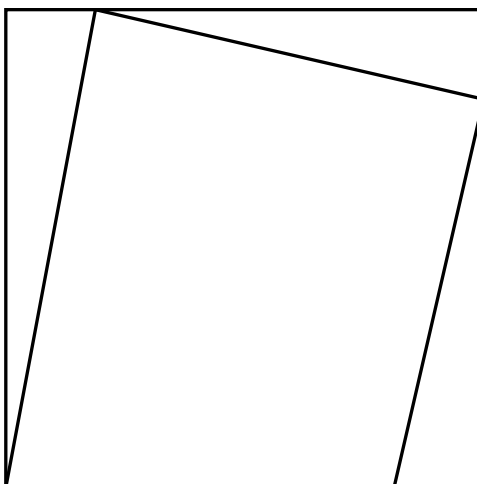
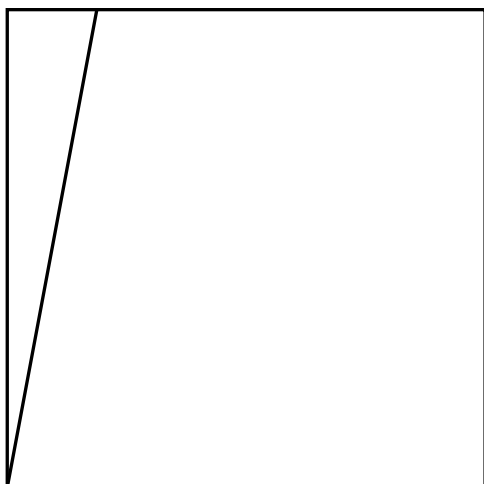


Square Spiral

Ruler Type: Straight Edge

Technique: Diagonal Lines

- Draws attention to the block center
- Use in medium-large blocks
- Add just a few diagonal lines for a framing effect



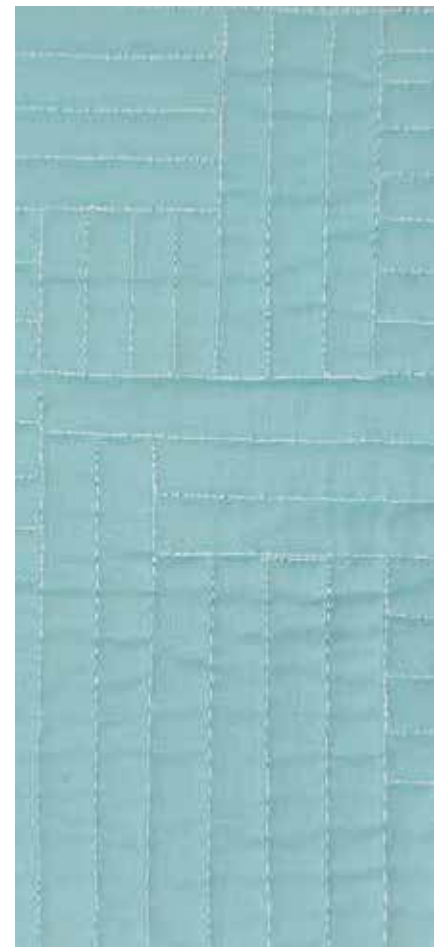
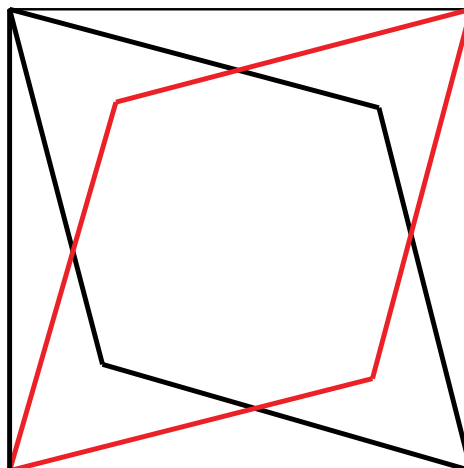
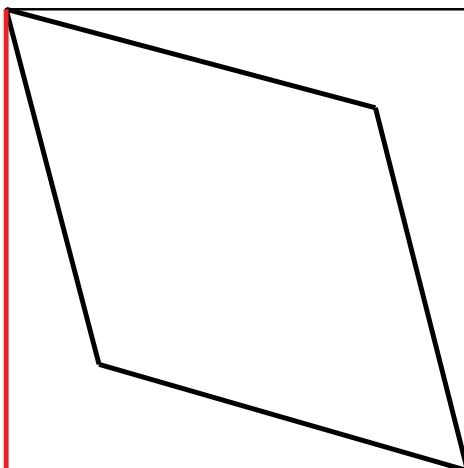
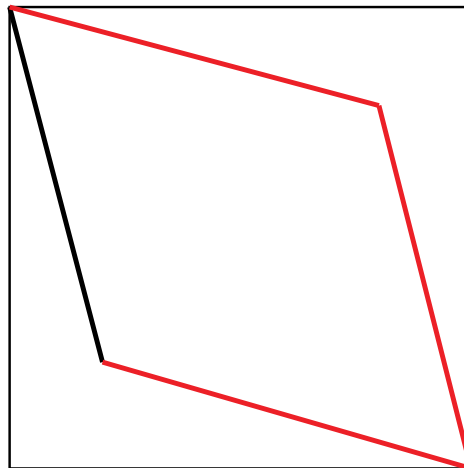
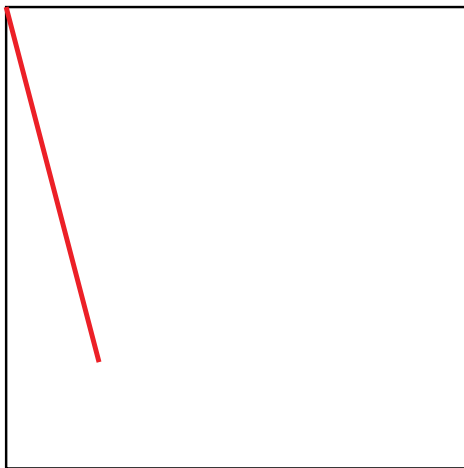


Dot to Dot Designs

Ruler Type: Straight Edge

Technique: Landing on a corner, stitching in the ditch.

- Works in blocks of all sizes.
- Add more or less lines to create different variations.
- Can be used in irregularly shaped blocks as well.



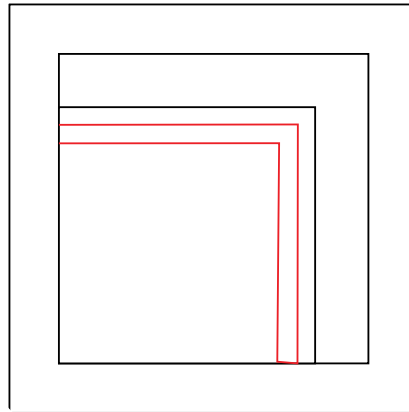
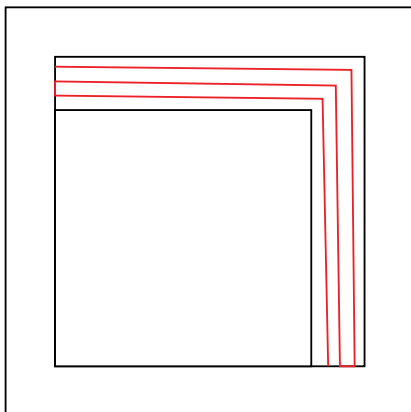
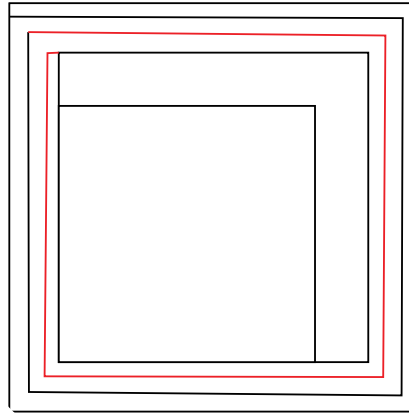
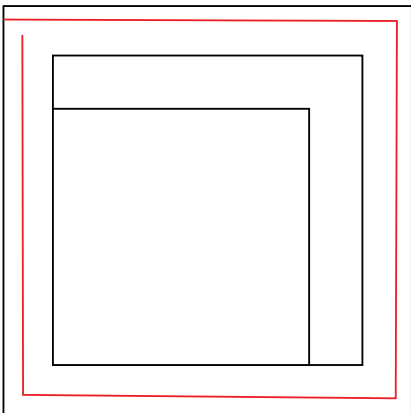
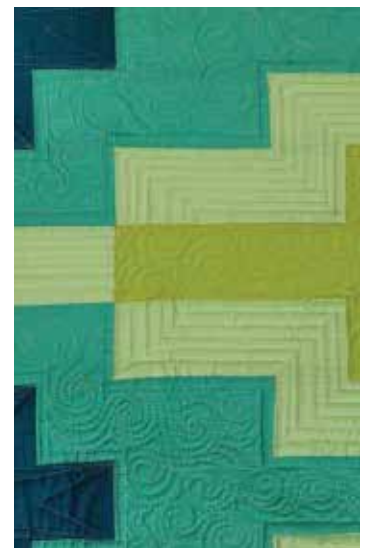


Echo Lines

Ruler Type: Straight Edge

Technique: Consistent Spacing

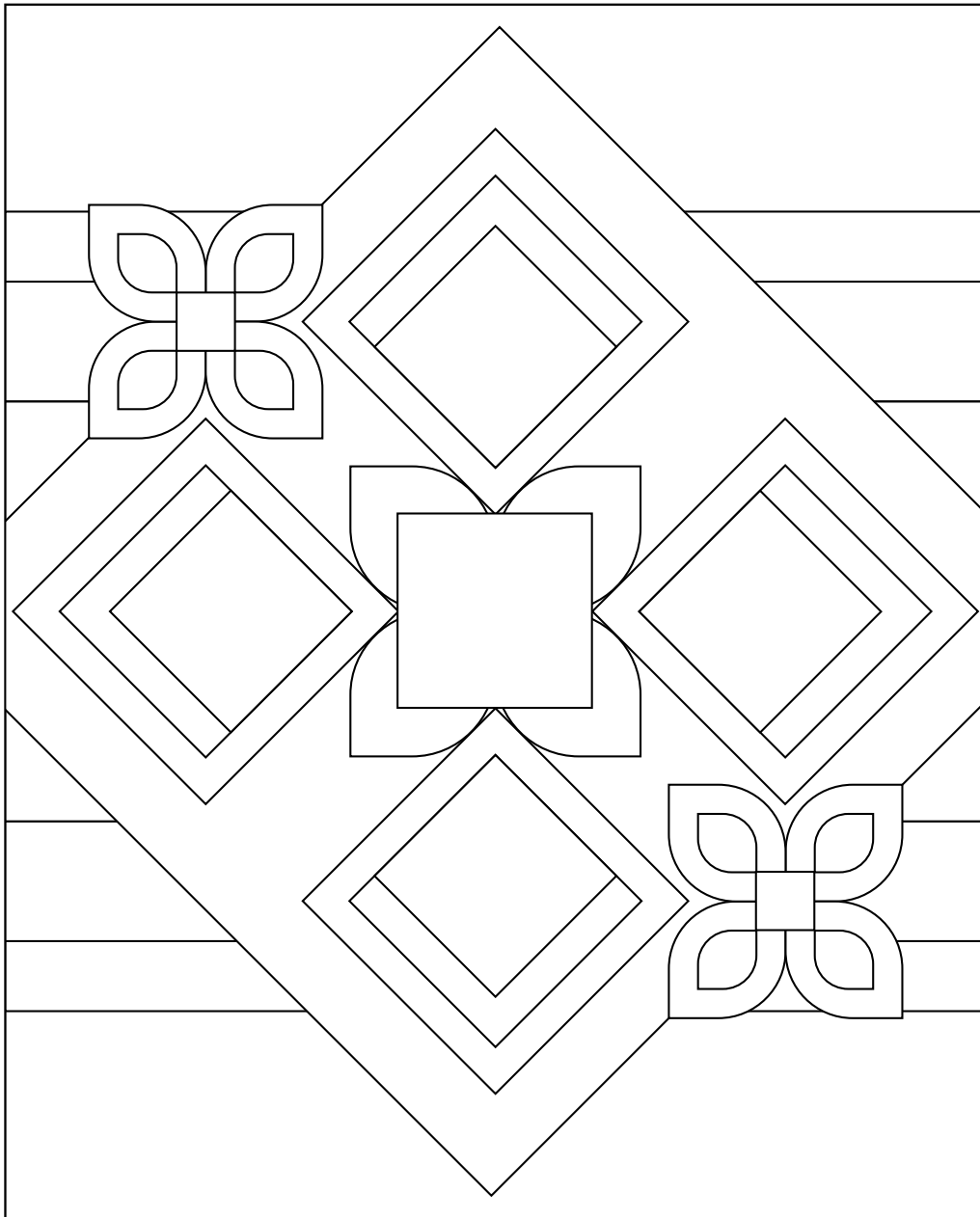
- Use the reference lines on the rulers to help keep lines consistent.
- Use echo lines to make larger areas more manageable or to highlight blocks.





Quilt Diagram

Audition your design on this quilt diagram..



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Week 2 Tip Sheet & Quilting Diagrams

This week we are leaving straight lines behind in this week's challenge, and are heading to the wavy side. In this week's challenge, we are going to learn how to create several wavy line variations. From echoing to mirror image lines, regardless who

Ways to Use A Wavy Ruler

Regardless of the wavy ruler you are using, there are so many different designs you can create.

Echoed Waves

Quilting wavy lines with differently spaced echos is a great way to add a pop of texture with your quilting. Just be sure that there is enough difference between the spacing that it looks intentional.

Mirrored Waves

To quilt Mirrored Waves, flip the ruler over and offset the waves to create lines that get closer and further apart. If you are working on a longarm, you can adjust the ruler so that the highest point is lined up with the lowest part of the quilting.

Overlapping Waves

Quilting waves that overlap each other is a great way to practice quilting along the ruler without having to focus on the spacing. The trick to making it not look messy is to use different waves and leave a little space between the lines.



Your Challenge:

If you're quilting along with me on the custom challenge panel, fill in the areas highlighted in red with some of the wavy line variations we learned in the video.



For more information about the challenge, visit FMQchallenge.com

WAVY RULERS

What to look for in a wavy ruler:

- Plenty of reference lines to keep wavy lines straight to the quilt, including needle stop line for repeating wavy.
 - Waves of different depths- shallow waves for allover design, deeper waves for feather spines and motifs.
-

Uses for a wavy ruler:

- Allover wavy lines
- Wavy Crosshatch
- Overlapping Waves
- Border Designs
- Breaking up larger areas into smaller bits.



Design Tip:

Try several different variations with the same ruler to achieve different designs.

ALLOVER WAVES VARIATION

Try these tips to create different variations

Wavy Crosshatch

Quilt wavy lines in both directions for a curvy look. This design is much easier than traditional straight line crosshatch.

- Perfect design to help hide imperfections in the quilting.
- Quilt waves in one direction across the quilt, then repeat with waves the opposite direction.
- Don't worry about where the wave cross over, just fill in the area as consistently as possible.
- For an added effect, use a different type wave for each direction.
- As slightly easier option, quilt just a section of wavy lines in the opposite direction. This will also highlight areas of the quilt with the difference in density.



This sample was quilted with two different wavy rulers.



Quilt just a section of the quilt with overlapping lines.

Varied Spacing

Quilting lines with different spacing makes the quilting go faster and gives it a totally different look!

- Be sure that the spacing is different enough that it looks intentional. For instance, quilt the first set of lines 1/4" apart, then quilt the second set of lines 3/4".
- For added bonus points, you can fill in the bigger areas with a different free-motion quilting design.



Mirrored Lines

Flip the ruler around to create lines that mirror each other.

- Changing the orientation of the ruler will create lines that are closer together and further apart, resulting in a completely different look for your quilting.
- Combine this technique with varied echoing to create a unique effect for your quilt.
- Take a little more thought, but looks so good!



After quilting the first set of lines, the next set was quilted as a mirror image.

Offset lines

Instead of echoing each of the lines, slide the ruler forward or backward about an inch to add a whole different look to the quilt.

- Best for wavy rulers with longer, deeper waves.
- Before echoing each row, reposition the ruler 1/2" - 1" forward or back. Doing this on each row will cause the lines to drift closer in some areas and further in others.



All The Things

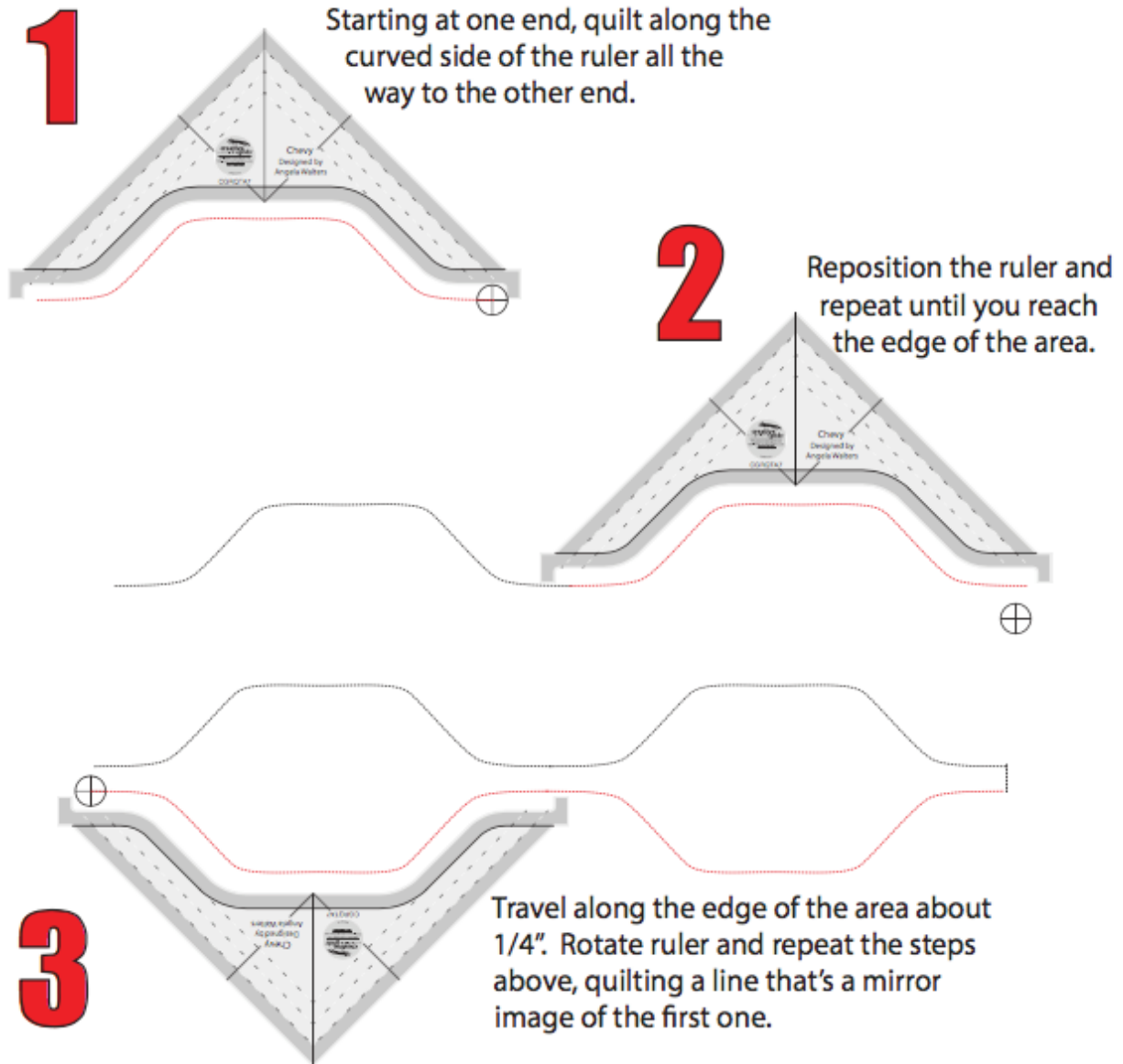
Try using all these variations in the same design!

- These wavy lines were quilted in groups of three with a large gap in between.
- Then, I quilted the next group of lines in the opposite direction.

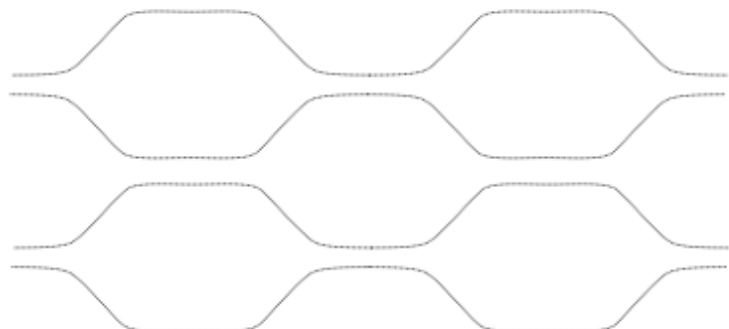


MIRRORED LINES EXAMPLE

Even though the diagrams show this with the Chevy ruler, you can do this with any wavy ruler with a repeat line.

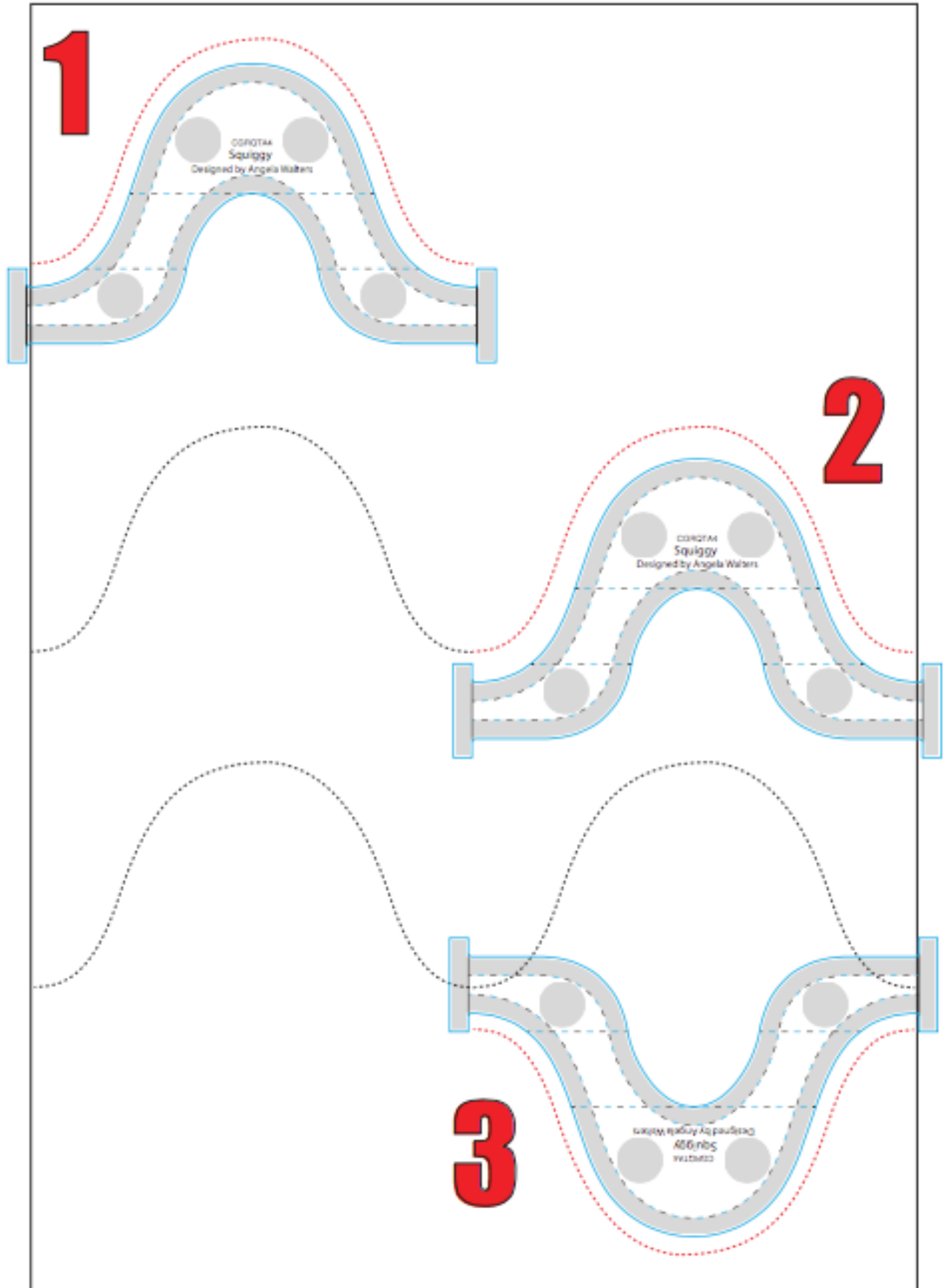


Fill in the whole area, alternating the ruler orientation. For a different look, you can echo each row before moving onto the next one.

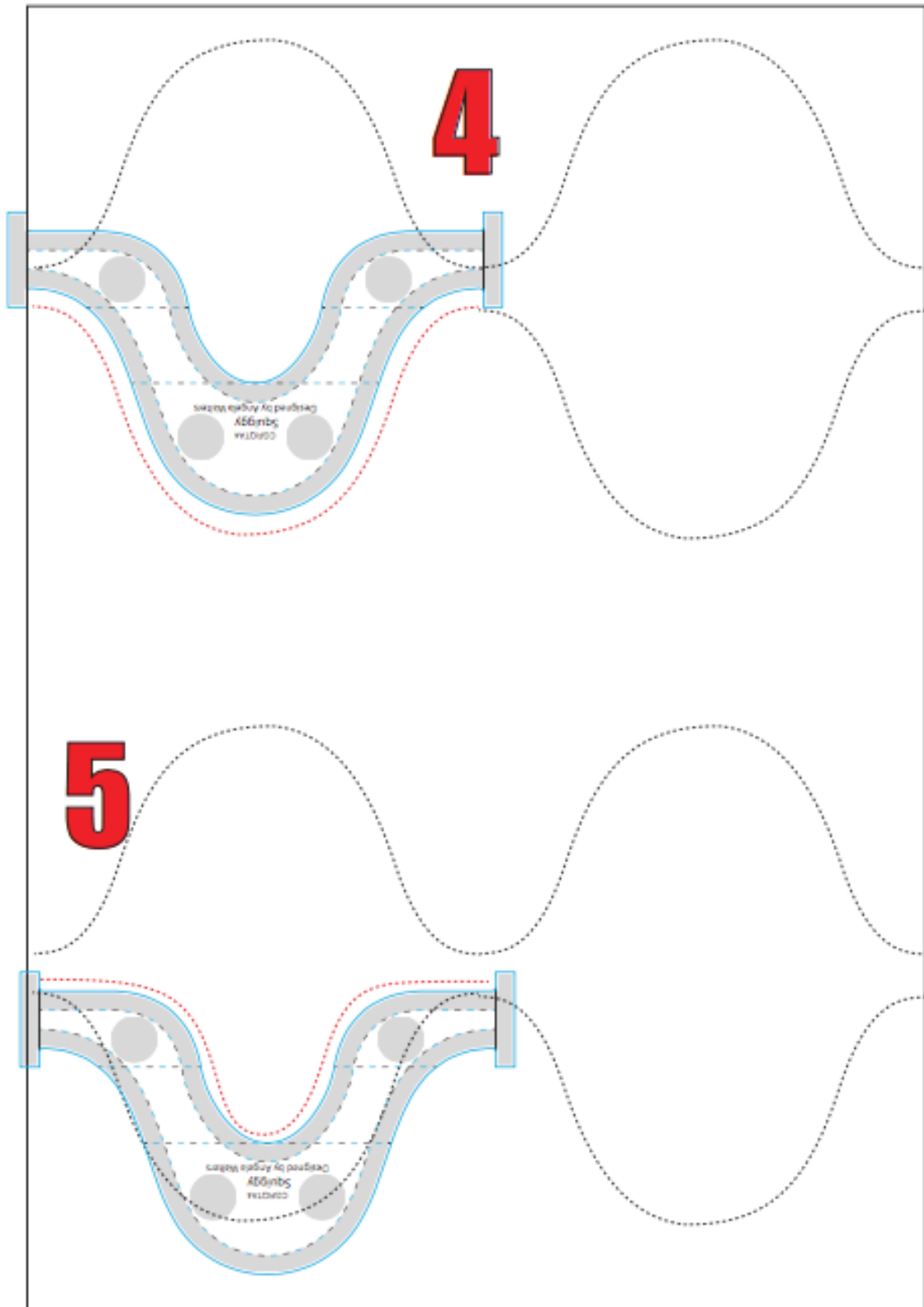


MIRRORED LINES EXAMPLE #2

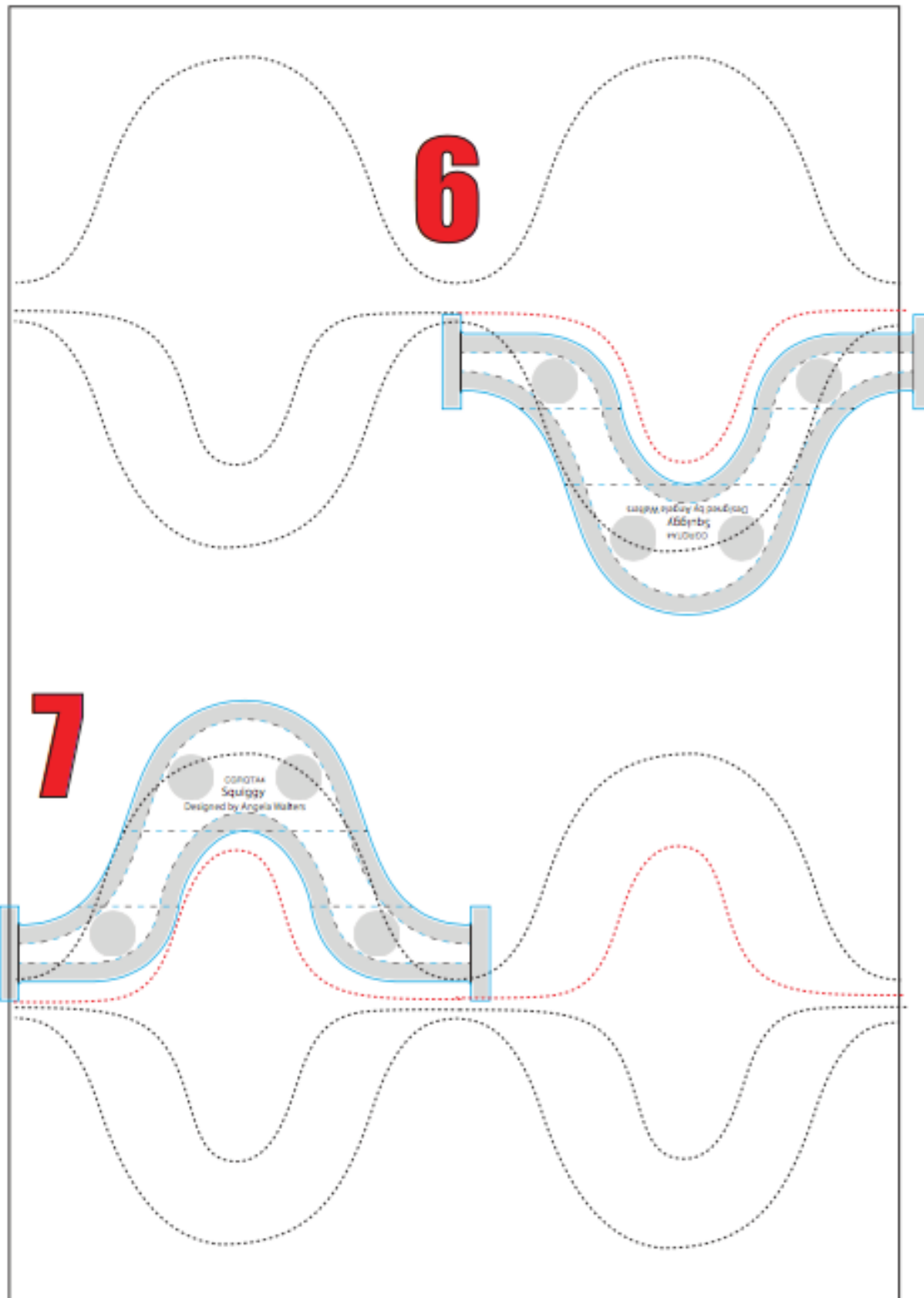
This design uses mirrored echo lines and two different waves. Try it with the squiggy ruler or any wavy ruler with a deep wave.



MIRRORED LINES EXAMPLE #2



MIRRORED LINES EXAMPLE #2



STAIR STEPS

RULER TYPE: *Wavy Rulers*

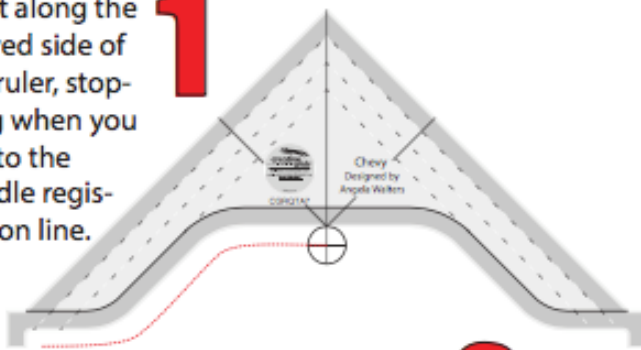
TECHNIQUE: *Allover texture*



- Even though you paid for the whole ruler, you don't have to use it all!
- Especially helpful if you want to create a different look for larger areas of negative space.

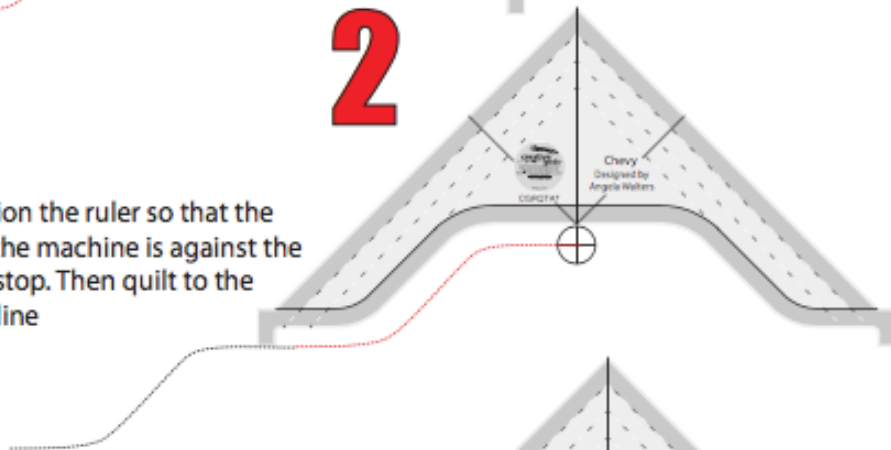
Quilt along the curved side of the ruler, stopping when you get to the middle registration line.

1



Reposition the ruler so that the foot of the machine is against the needle stop. Then quilt to the middle line again.

2



3

Once you reach the end of the area, travel along the edge of the block until you are 1/4" - 1/2" away from the previously quilted line. Reposition the ruler, then quilt until you reach the needle stop. Repeat the steps above until the whole area is filled in.

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Week 3 Tip Sheet & Quilting Diagrams

This week we are challenging ourselves by using Arc shaped rulers. Quilting long curvy lines is a challenge for me, so this is definitely a ruler that I use often. From echoing to partial motifs, we are going to learn how to put our arc rulers to use.

Tips for using Arc rulers

Go as big as possible!

In general, it's easier to fit bigger rulers into smaller quilting areas than it is to elongate smaller rulers. However, the most important thing is to get a ruler that you are comfortable holding.

Reposition Often

The great thing about arc rulers is that you don't have to use the whole arc. If a ruler doesn't fit the area that you are working with, quilt along part of it. You can also reposition it to make it work with a different shape.

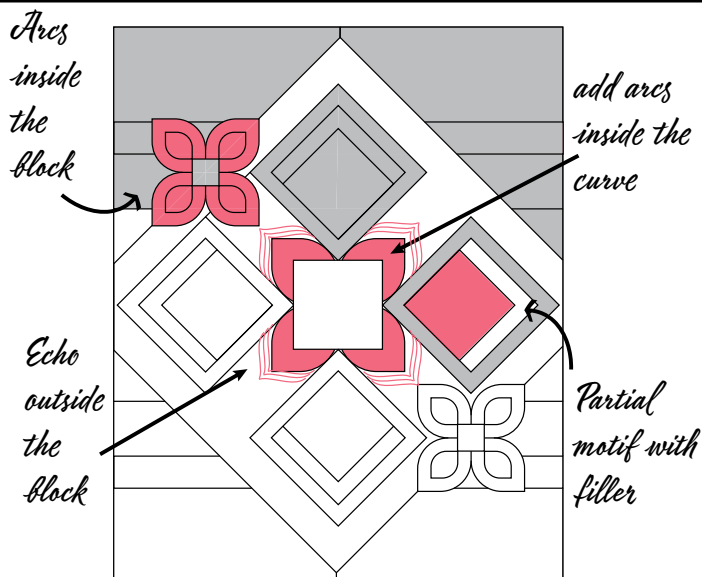
Try it in all directions

Getting comfortable with quilting along all sides of the foot of your machine will make the quilting much more efficient. However, if you are quilting on a sewing machine, you can reposition the quilt as much as necessary.



Your Challenge:

If you're quilting along with me on the custom challenge panel, fill in the areas highlighted in red with arc designs.



For more information about the challenge, visit FMQchallenge.com

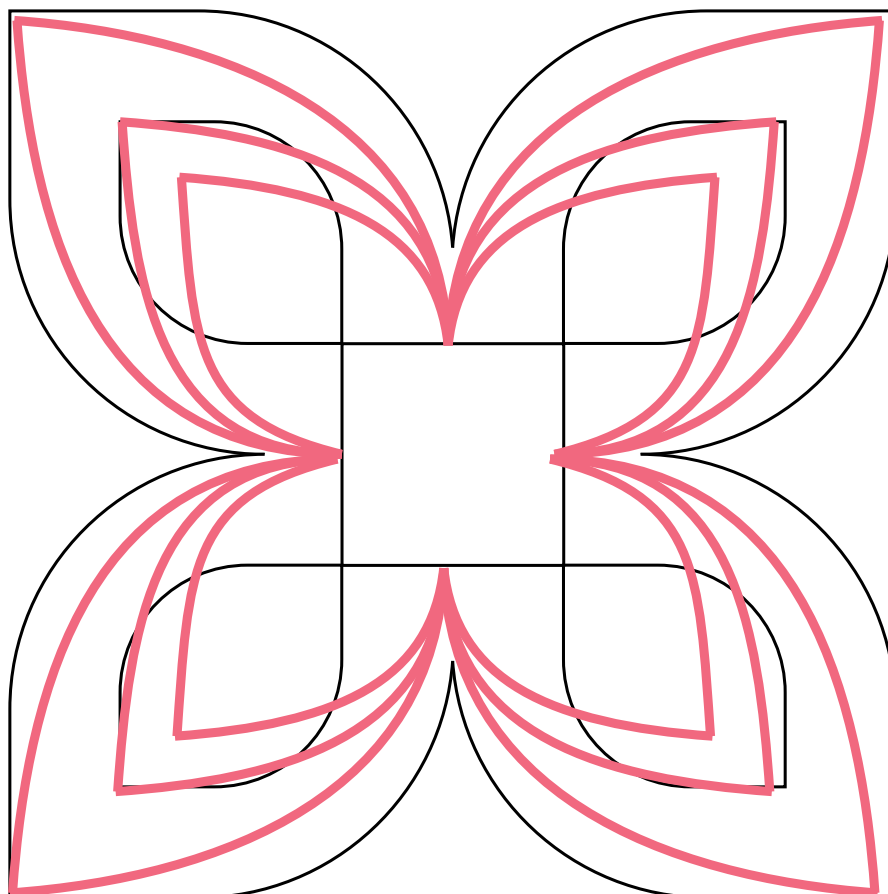
Machine Quilting RULERS

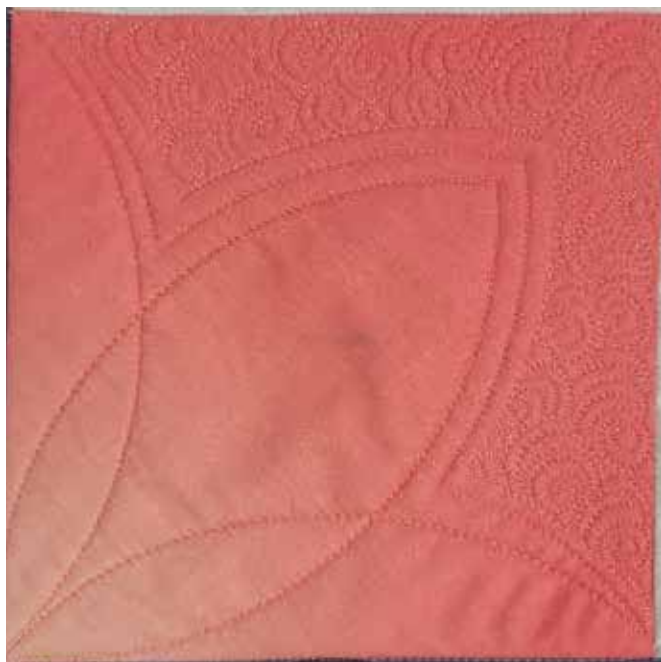
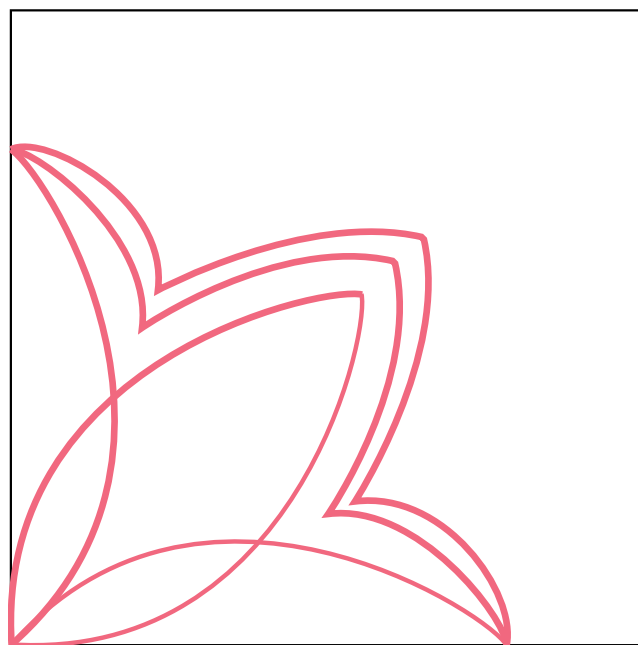
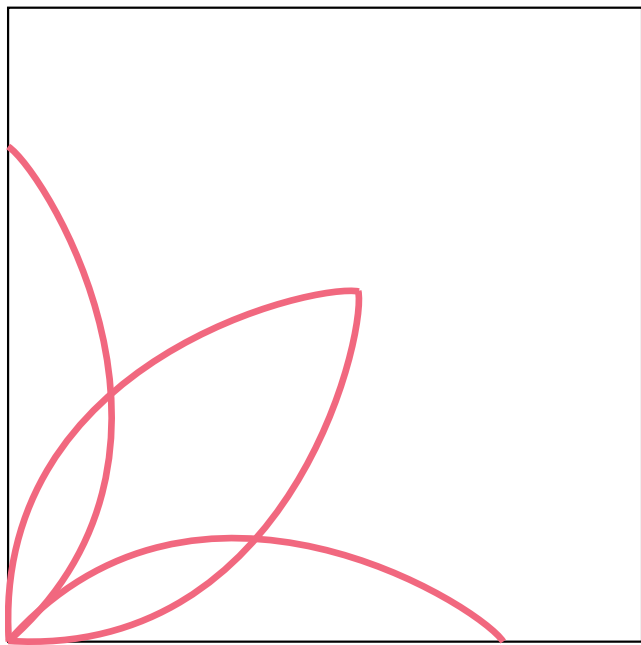
Free-motion challenge Quilting Along



Arc Design #1

Using a single ruler to make all the arcs in this design means that you can quickly work your way around the block!





If you have a ruler that is too small for your area, you can extend the line by repositioning or just quilt a smaller motif and echo around it.

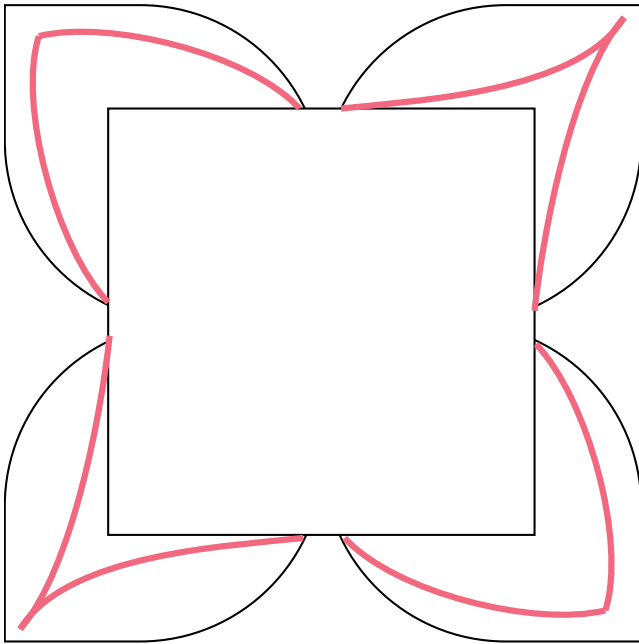
Machine Quilting

RULERS

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Arc Design #2



Try echoing around the curves of the center block. Inside of the dark blue pieces, add some curves. You can quilt the curves in either direction.

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Week 4 Tip Sheet & Quilting Diagrams

Machine Quilting with cutout rulers is so much fun! You are always quilting the same shape, it's only the position of the ruler that changes. Whether you are quilting leaves, circles or stars,

Creating Different Designs with Cutout rulers

All over meander

The trick to an all over meander is to quilt the shape in all different directions. The lack of a “pattern” to the quilting will allow the texture to shine through. The most important thing is that the whole area is filled in completely.

Border Design

Quilting the shapes all in one direction can create a “framing” effect. Use the reference points as a guide for consistent spacing and reposition the ruler in the direction you want to row to go. You can quilt the shapes so that they overlap or you can make them look like they are going in behind the others.

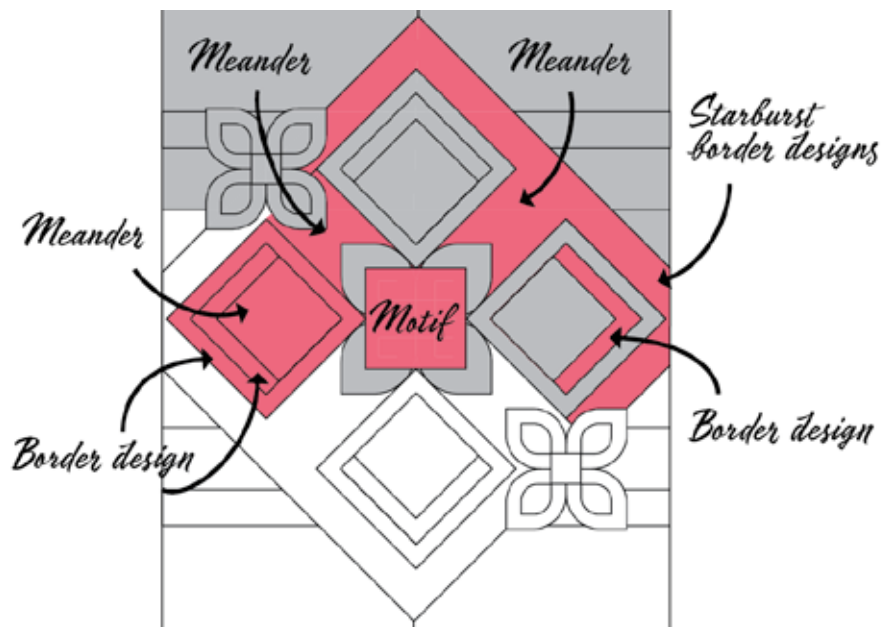
Motifs

Pivoting the ruler in all different directions without traveling will create a beautiful motif, no matter what shape ruler you are using. The more shapes you add, the more detail you will add to your gorgeous motif!



Your Challenge:

If you're quilting along with me on the custom challenge panel, fill in the areas highlighted in red with your cutout rulers.



For more information about the challenge, visit FMQchallenge.com

Taj

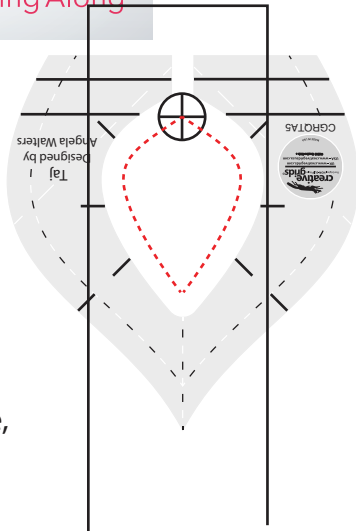
By Angela Walters

Leaves in Border With Taj

Quilting Along

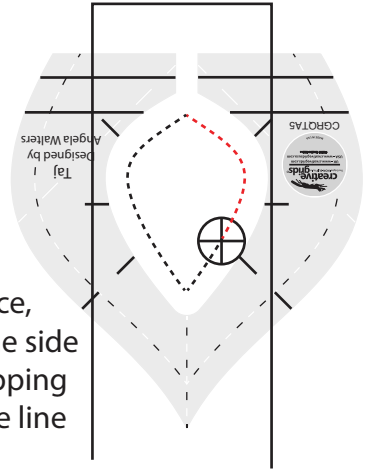
1

Position the ruler so that the cut out is centered in the border. Quilt along the inside, returning to the starting point.



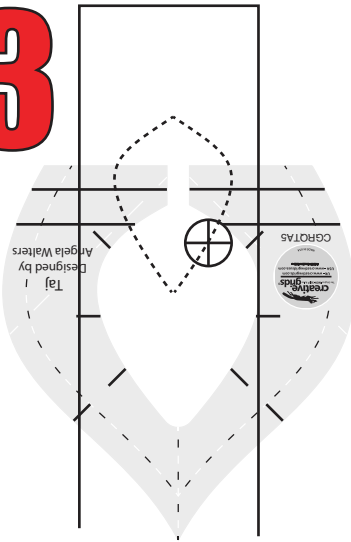
2

Keeping the ruler in place, travel along one side of the leaf, stopping at the reference line as shown.



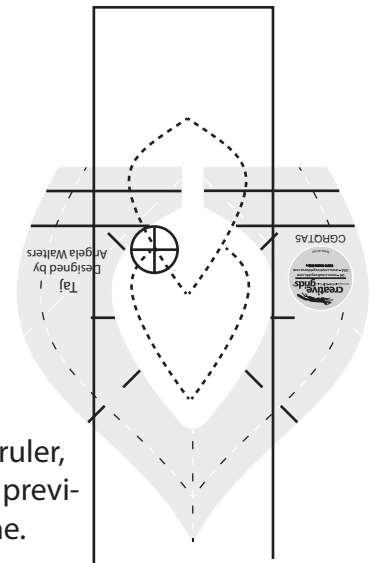
3

Reposition the ruler so that it is centered in the border and snug against the back of the ruler foot.



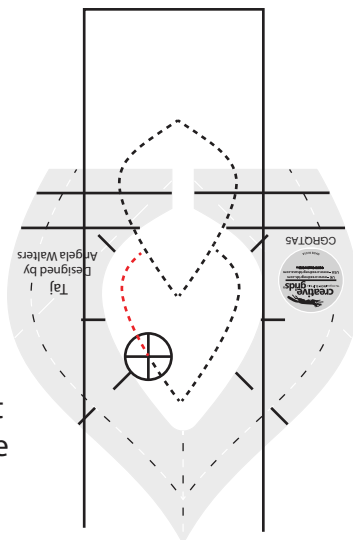
4

Quilt along the ruler, stopping at the previously quilted line.



5

Travel along the ruler, stopping at the reference line as shown.



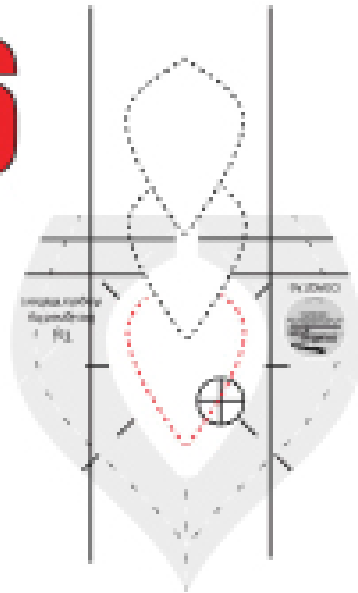
Taj

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Leaves in a Border with Taj

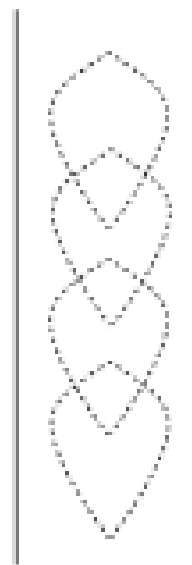
6

Repeat the steps above, repositioning the ruler, quilting along it, then traveling to the reference line.

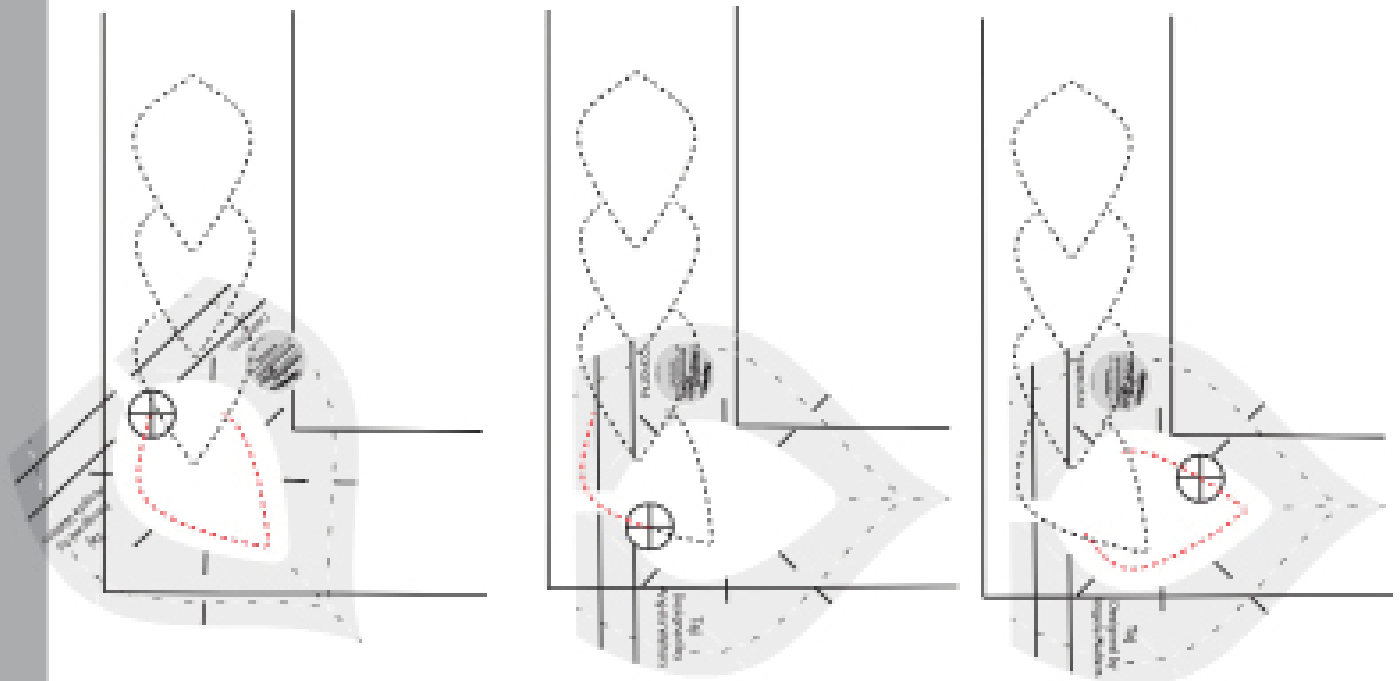


7

For a variation with a different texture, quilt along the whole shape so that they overlap.



Taj Tip: Turning the Corner



Once a quilted leaf crosses into the border corner, rotate the ruler so that the quilting will take up the most room possible (left). Quilt along the ruler, then travel to the reference line. (center) Reposition the ruler so that it is going the desired direction, and quilt along the ruler. Stop at the previously quilted line, then travel back to the reference point. (right)

Taj

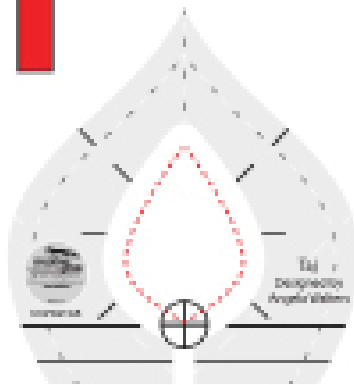
By Angela Walters

QuiltingIsMyTherapy.com

Meandering with Taj

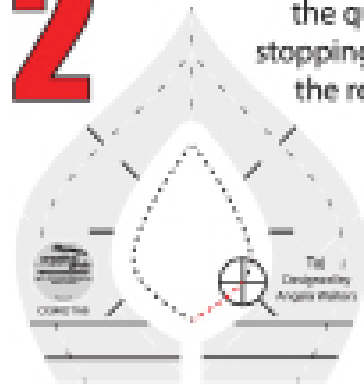
1

Place the quilting foot at the bottom of the leaf inside of the ruler. Position the ruler, then quilt around the inner shape.



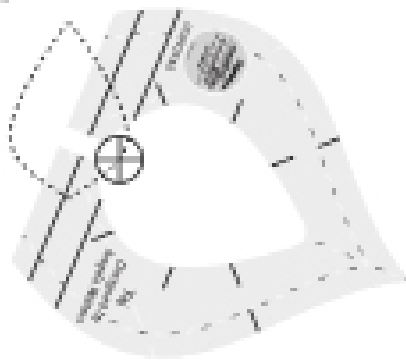
2

Without moving the ruler, travel along the quilted line, stopping at one of the registration marks.



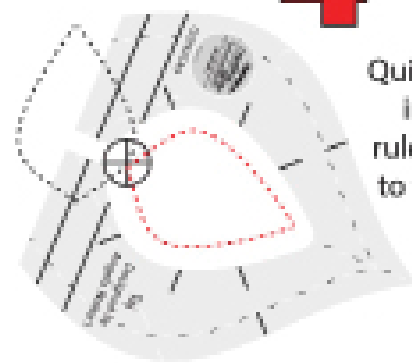
Leaving the needle down and the foot in place, reposition the ruler so that it's pointing in a different direction.

3



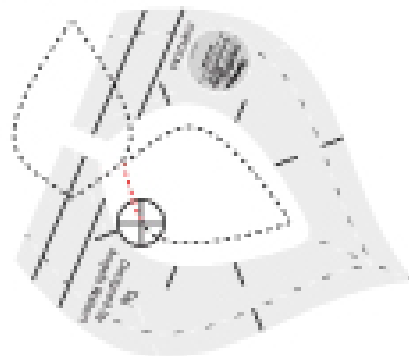
4

Quilt along the inside of the ruler returning to the starting point.



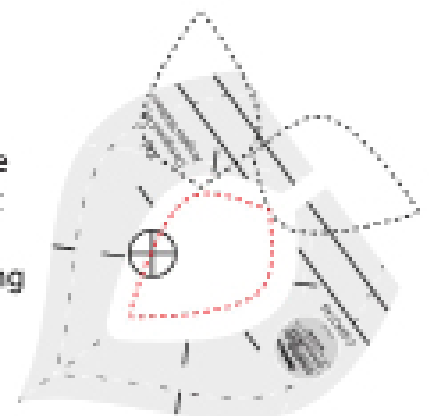
Travel along the quilted line to the reference mark.

5



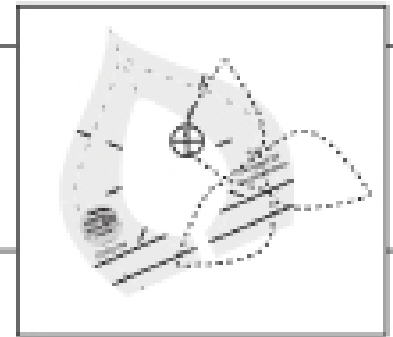
6

Reposition the ruler and quilt along the inside, traveling along the quilted line.



Taj Tip:

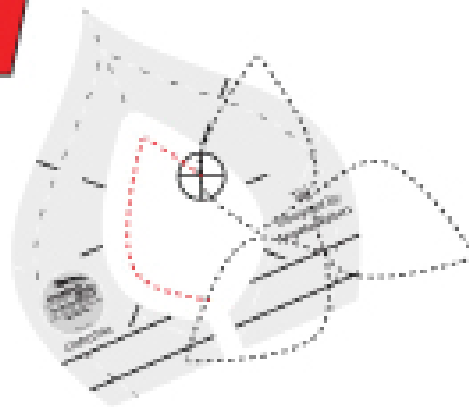
When repositioning the ruler, try to ensure that it's not overlapping a quilted line.



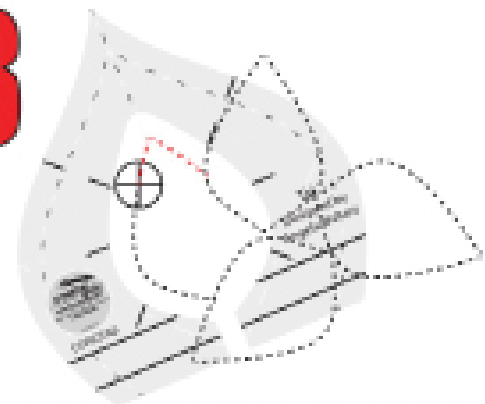
Meandering with Taj

If it's necessary to place the ruler over a quilted line, quilt along the ruler stopping when you run into the previously quilted leaf.

7

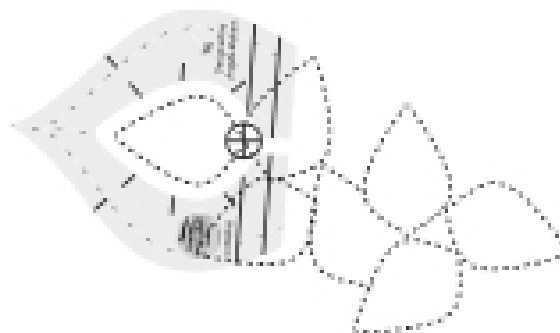
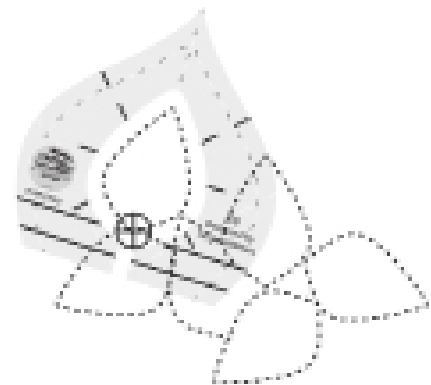
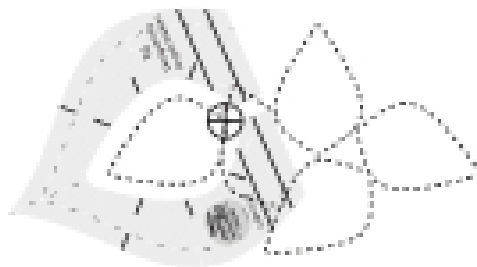


8



Travel around the quilted line until you get to an area where you can add another leaf.

Continue repositioning the ruler and quilting leaves in all different directions.



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Week 5 Tip Sheet & Quilting Diagrams

Creating designs with sharp points is easy when you know the trick! In this week's challenge, we will work with border designs and motifs.

Getting the Point

Going around the point of a ruler can result in a rounded shape due to the space between the needle and the edge of the foot. To get the sharp point, quilt all the way up to the point, but don't go around. Instead, reposition the ruler to the other side of foot and quilt down the other side.

Making It Fit

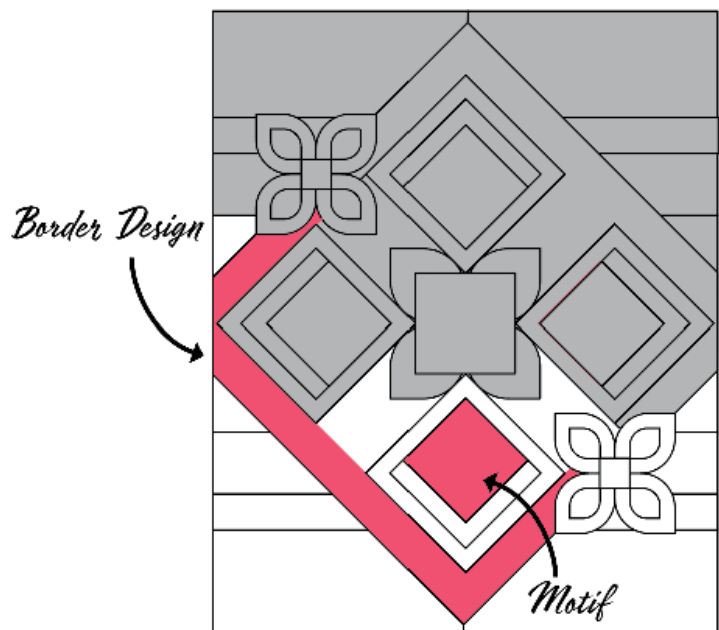
If the ruler is too big for the border, don't despair. You can still make it fit with a little change. You can either slide the ruler down so that you are quilting along the top portions. Or you can position the ruler as normal, quilt along the side then stop when you touch the seam. Reposition the ruler to the other side of the foot so that it's directly across from where you started. The first option will make a shorter shape, while the second option makes a thinner shape.

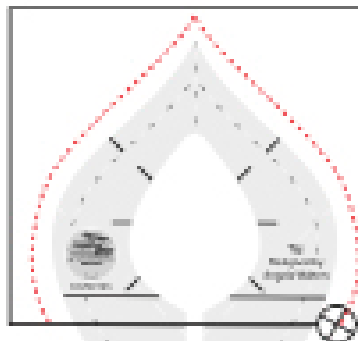


Your Challenge:

If you're quilting along with me on the custom challenge panel, fill in the areas highlighted in red with the designs we learned in this week's challenge

For more information about the challenge, visit FMQchallenge.com

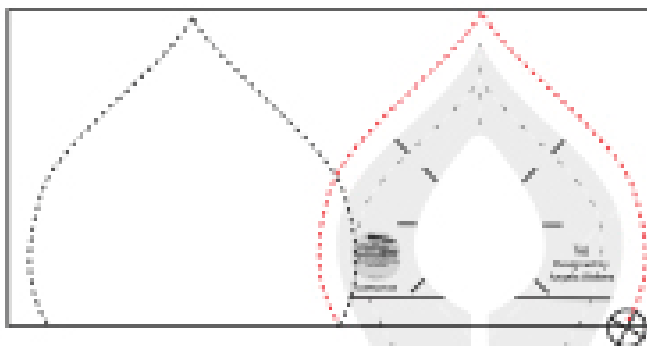




Starting about 1/2" away from the edge, position Taj along a seam of the border. Use the reference lines to ensure that the ruler is straight to the border.

1

Quilt along the outside of the ruler until you reach the seam on the opposite side.

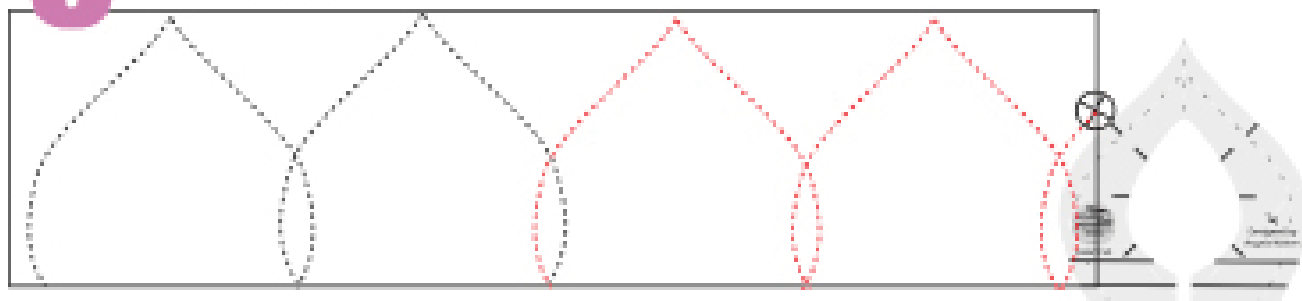


2

Leaving the needle in the down position, reposition Taj so that it is on the opposite side. Quilt along the outside until you reach the seam on the opposite side.

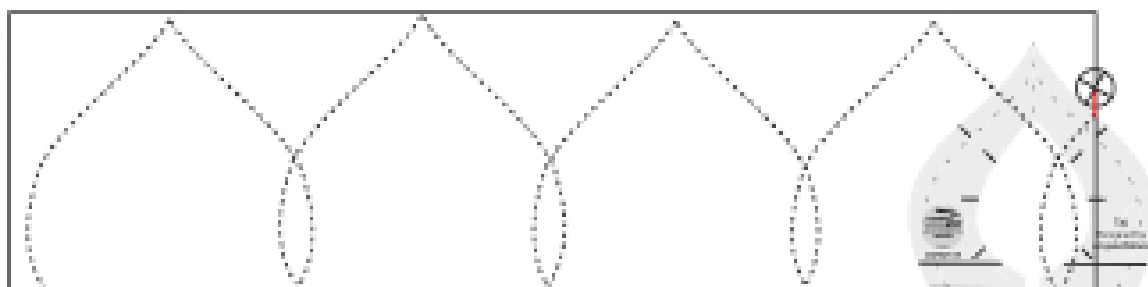
3

Repeat the steps above until you run into the opposite edge of the border.



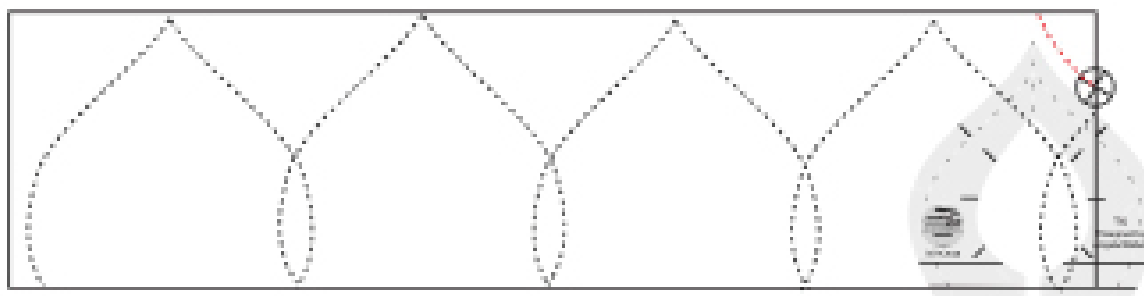


4



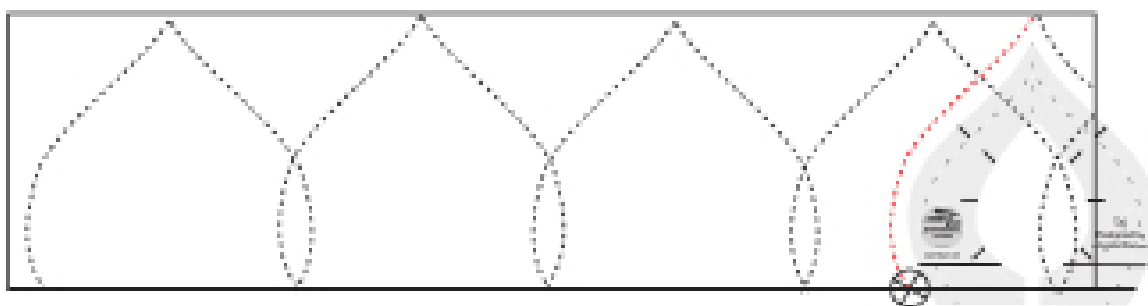
Travel along the edge of the area if necessary.

5



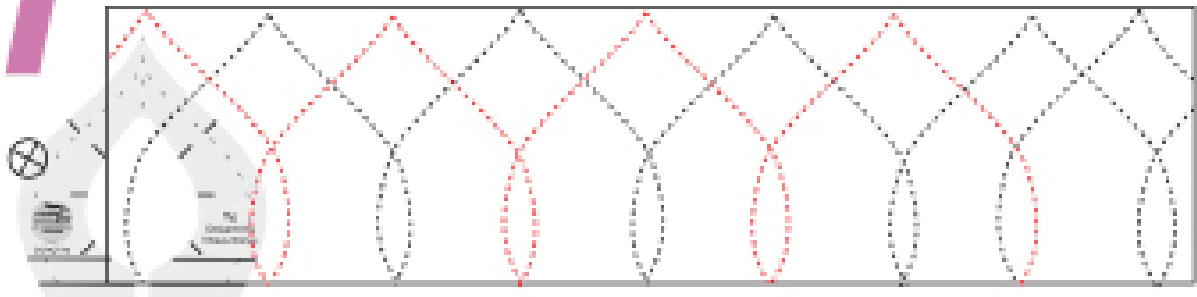
Quilt along the ruler heading in the opposite direction.

6

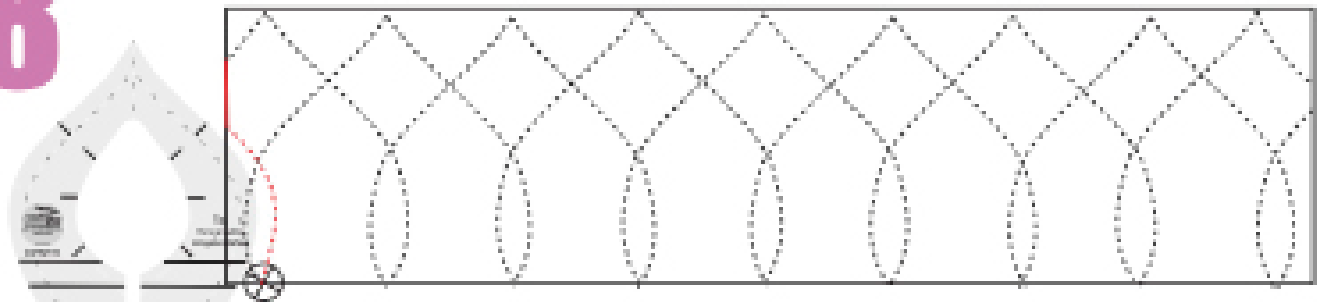




7

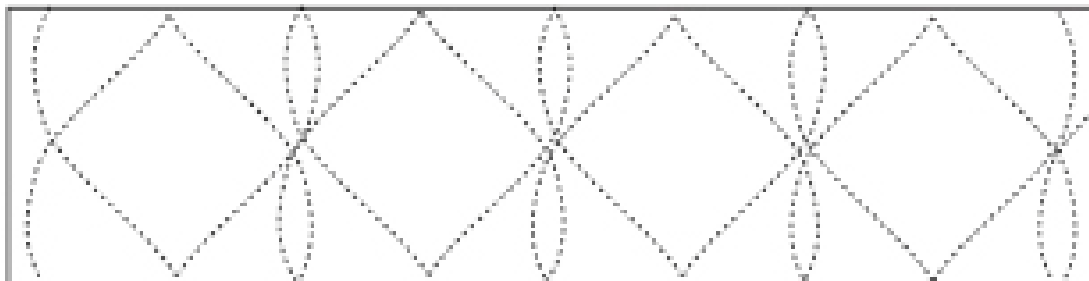


8



If there are any gaps, you can travel along the edge, then quilt along the ruler to fill it in.

Optional Variation:



Quilt the second part of the design upside down to get a different border design.

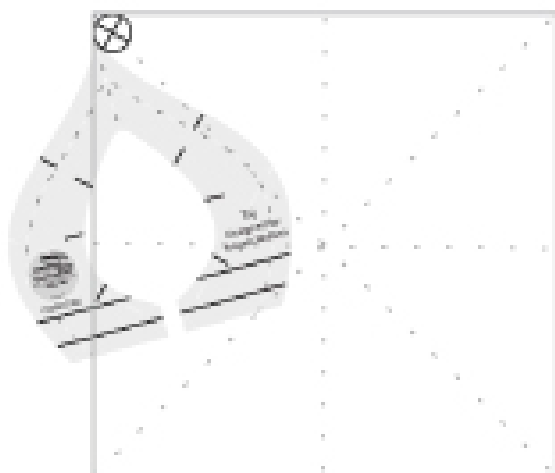
Machine Quilting RULERS

Free-motion Challenge Quilting Along



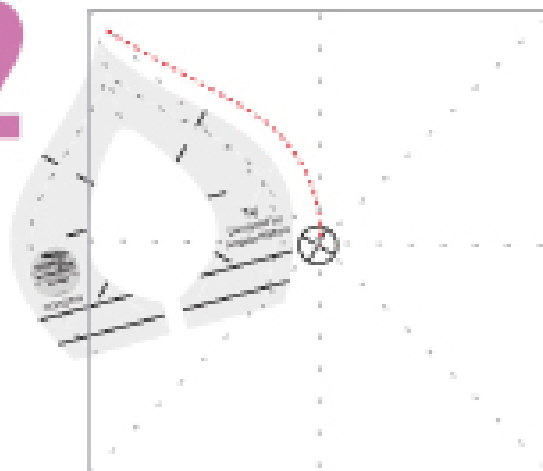
Motif Designs

1



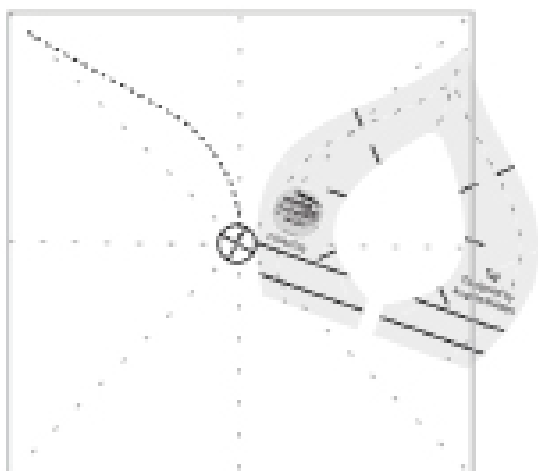
Start with the foot of the machine about 1/4"-1/2" inside of a block corner. Rotate the ruler so that the point makes contact with the foot. Maintaining contact with the foot, position it so that the center of the block is about 1/4" away from some part of the ruler.

2



Quilt along the edge of the ruler, until you are at the center of the block. Stop quilting at the center even if you aren't to the end of the ruler.

3

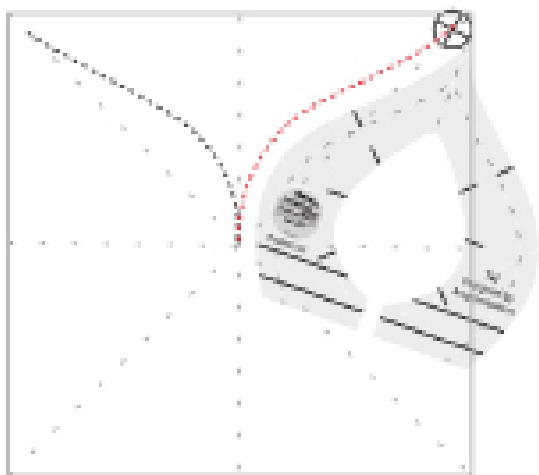


Reposition the ruler so that it is on the right side of the quilting foot with the point about a 1/4" away from the marked lines.



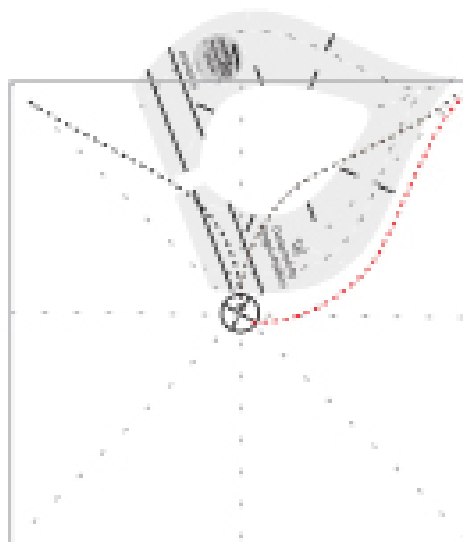
Motif Designs

4



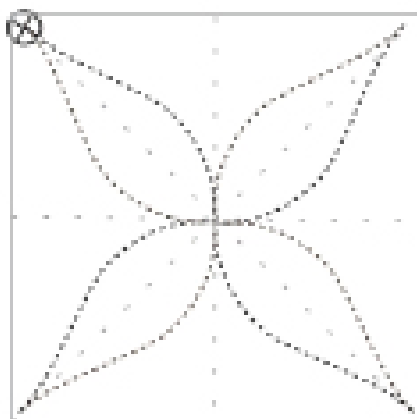
Quilt along the edge of the ruler until you reach the marked line.

5



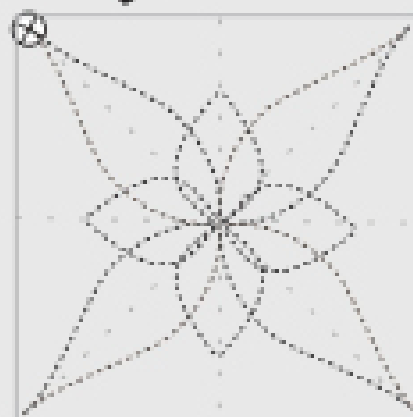
Reposition the ruler as shown and quilt along the other side of the ruler, returning to the starting point.

6



Repeat the steps above, quilting curves to all four corners of the block, returning to the starting point.

Design Idea:



To add more detail, use the inside of the Taj ruler to add more curves on the inside of the motif.



In the final video of this Free-motion Challenge Quilting Along, we are going to use everything that we have learned over the last 5 weeks to create the clamshell design. In this video, I am using the Shelly and HQ multi-clam ruler, but you can use anything that can be repositioned consistently. You can try the Archie ruler or the top of an arc ruler. No matter which ruler you use, you can do a lot of different designs.

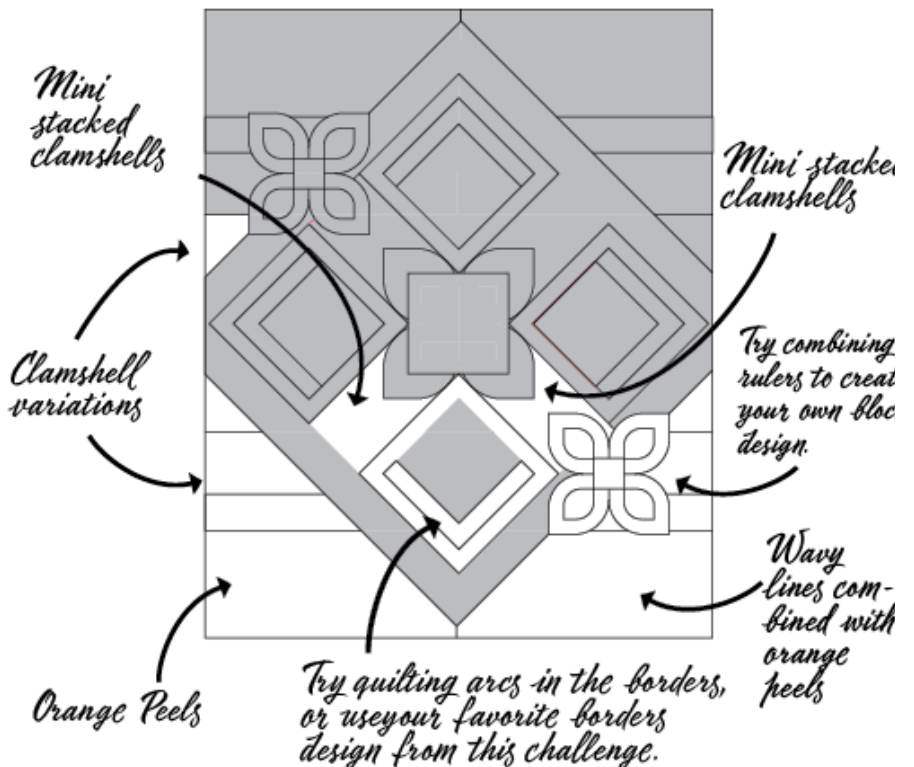
Clamshell Variations



Orange peels are created by quilting a row of arcs, then quilting another row of arcs turned upside down and offset. This is a way to create a more dense quilting design or to add a different look to your quilting.

Your Challenge:

Fill in the rest of your challenge quilt panel with some of the clamshell designs we learned in this week's video. You can also use any of the other rulers we learned in this challenge.



For more information about the challenge, visit FMQchallenge.com



Echoed Clamshells

Before quilting the next row of arcs, echo the arcs quilted in the first row. These will help you fill in any gaps between the arcs and the edge of the area.



Short Clamshells

If you are filling in a defined area, you could find that you don't have quite enough room to add the last row of clamshells. If that's the case, quilt the last row so that they are a little shorter.





Wavy Clamshells

Try quilting the clamshells in small sections and fill in the remaining space with a different design, such as wavy lines.



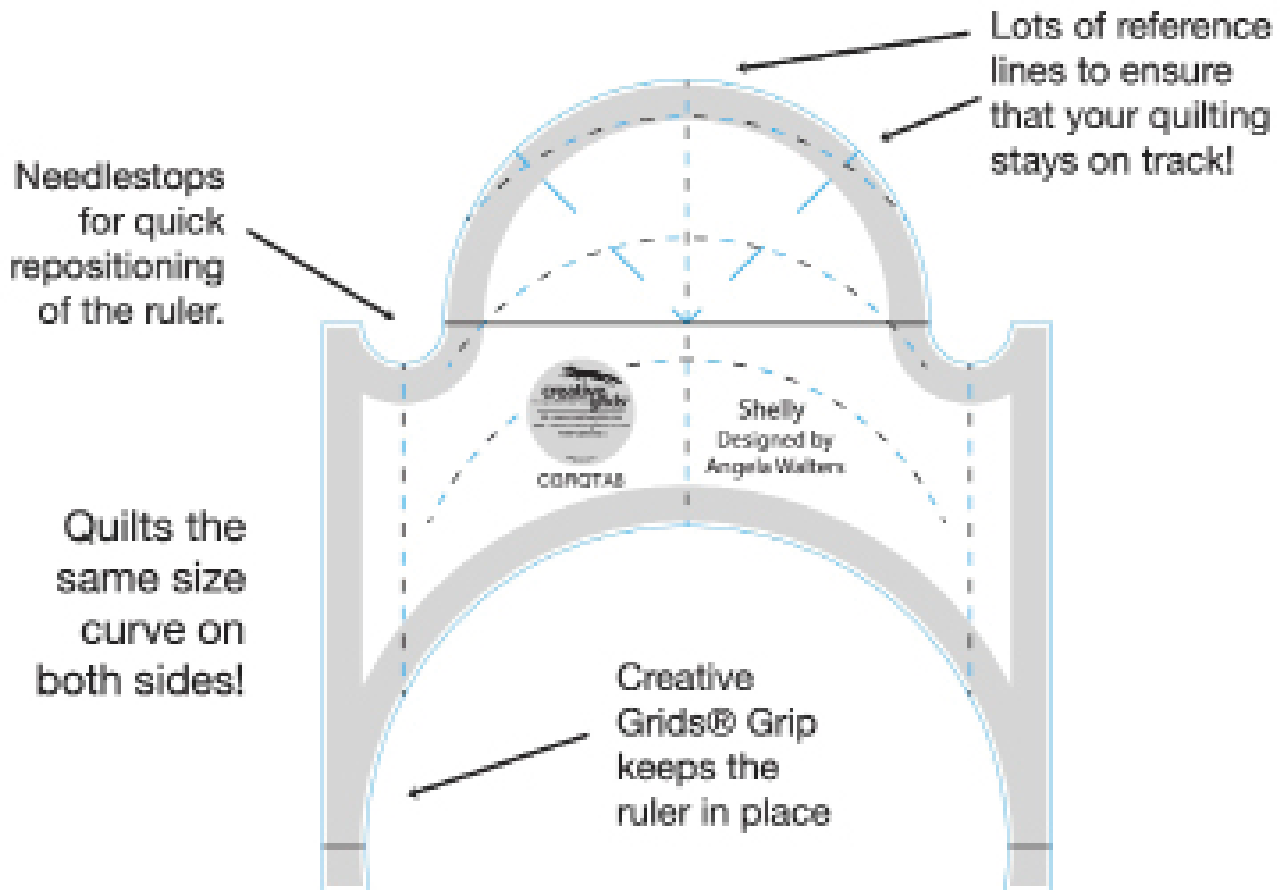
Block Designs

The curvy shape of a clamshell can also be used to create motif designs, such as in this block. I also used a cutout circle, an arc ruler and a straight edge ruler to create this design.



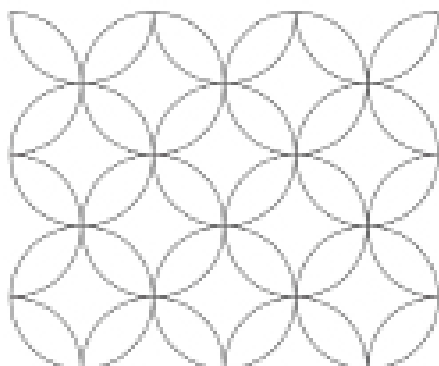


Clamshell Rulers

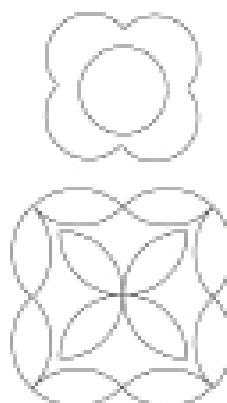


Use Shelly for:

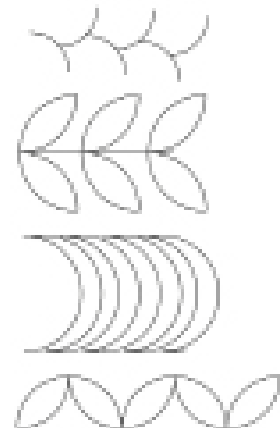
Allover Designs



Block Designs



Border Designs



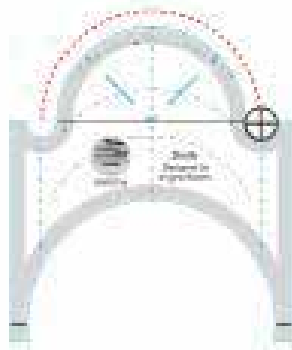
Machine Quilting RULERS

Free-motion Challenge Quilting Along

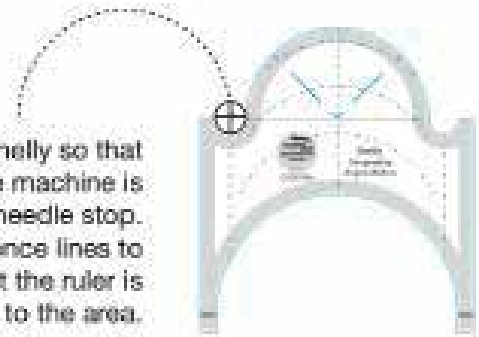


Orange Peel Designs

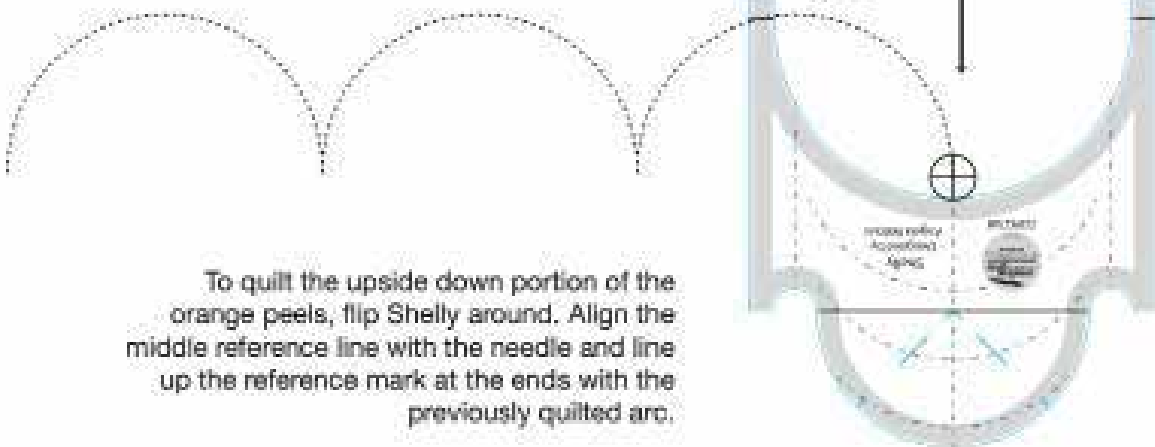
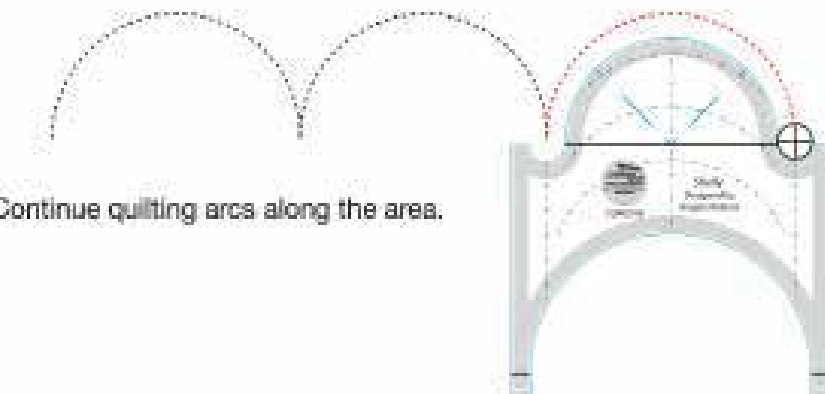
Align the ruler along the edge of the quilting area. Quilt from one needle stop to the other.



Reposition Shelly so that the foot of the machine is in the first needle stop. Use the reference lines to ensure that the ruler is straight to the area.



Continue quilting arcs along the area.



To quilt the upside down portion of the orange peels, flip Shelly around. Align the middle reference line with the needle and line up the reference mark at the ends with the previously quilted arc.

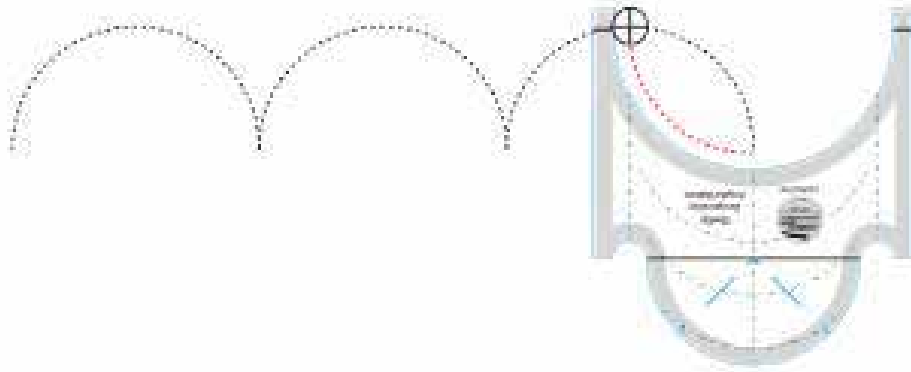
Machine Quilting

RULERS

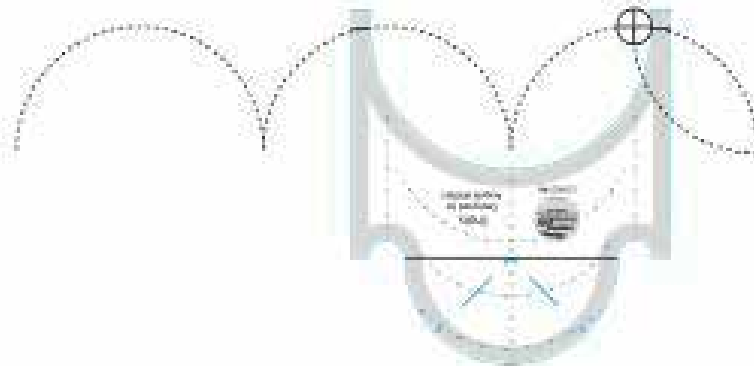
Free-motion Challenge Quilting Along



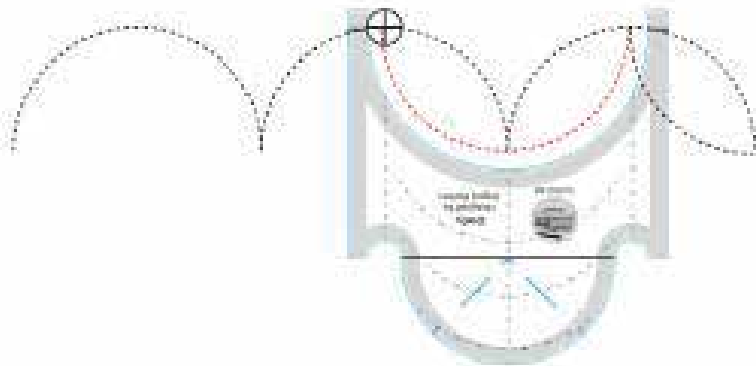
Orange Peel Designs



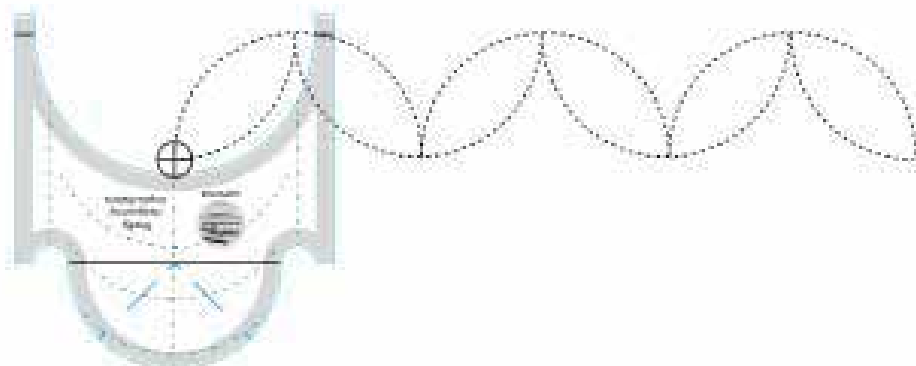
Quilt along the ruler, stopping when you reach the previously quilted arc.



Reposition the ruler so that the both reference lines at the ends are lined up on the previously quilted arc. The middle reference line should be about a 1/4" below the point of the arcs.



Quilt along the ruler until you reach the previously quilted arc. Continue until you get to the starting point.

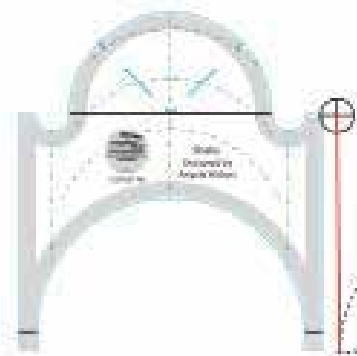


Machine Quilting RULERS

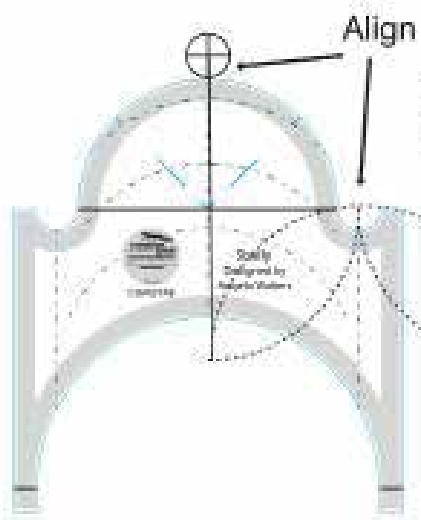
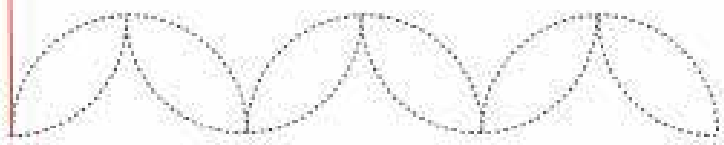
Free-motion challenge Quilting Along



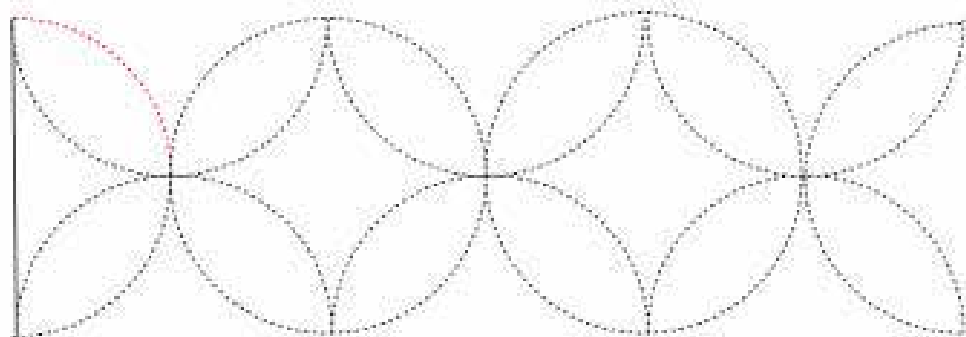
Orange Peel Designs



Travel along the edge of the area quilting along Shelly's straight edge.



Align
Reposition the ruler so that the middle reference mark is along the edge of the area and the middle reference line is even with the first



Quilt the next row of arcs and repeat the steps above to quilt the second row of orange peels.



Can you believe that we are already at the end of the Machine Quilting with Rulers Free-motion Challenge Quilting Along? In this bonus video, I am going to share some design ideas for quilting borders with rulers. This week's challenge is to quilt the borders of you quilt with the designs of your choice.

Border Management

When deciding what to quilt in the borders of my quilts, I usually opt for designs that can be broken in “chunks”, or sections. This allows to me to quilt a portion of the border, then transition to the center of the quilt and back again. This is going to make the quilting a little more manageable. Let's see some of the border designs that we have already seen during this challenge.

Overlapping Arcs

You can create this design with an arc shaped ruler. This sample was quilted with Taj, but you could use the Archie ruler or any other small arc.



Starbursts

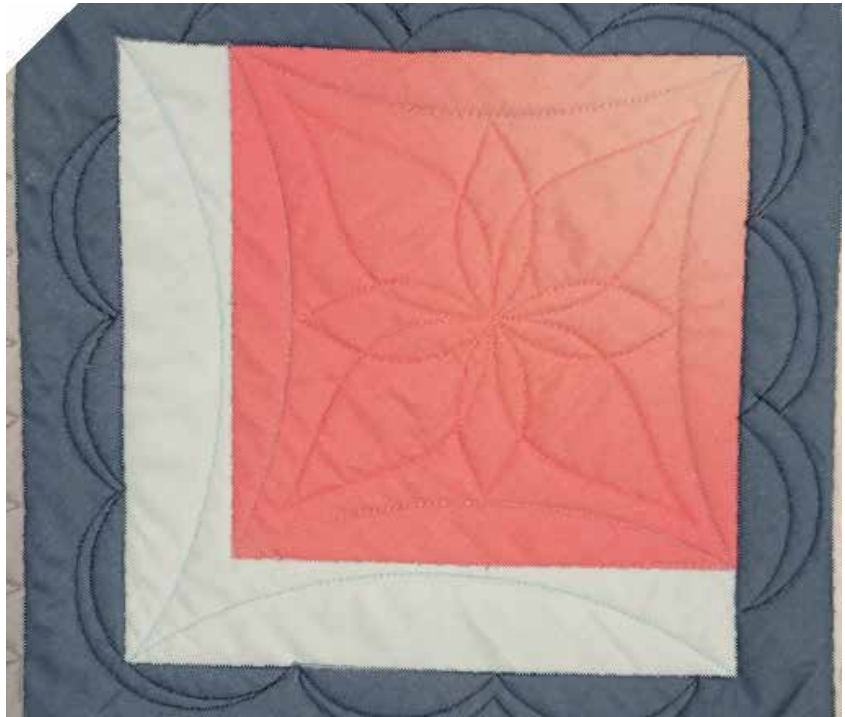
For wider borders, try quiltign two rows of a design, such as the starburst. One drawback to this technique is that its difficult to break this design into sections.





Scallops

Another border design option is to quilt scallops using a curvy ruler as shown in the dark blue border. This design is perfect for thinner borders or when you want a simple, less densely quilted design. Use echoing to make the design fill the space as much as possible.



Turning the Corner

Quilting a design around the corner of the border can be a little tricky. One alternative can be to quilt a different design in the border corner. It can be a boxy design as shown on the left, or a filler design. The choice is up to you!





Piano Keys

One of my go-to designs, piano keys are the perfect example that quilting doesn't have to be difficult to be impactful! Try this design in wider borders, busier fabrics, or on quilts that you don't want the quilting in the border to outshine the center of the quilt.



Pieced Borders

When the borders consists of blocks, using echoing to show off the piecing is a fun option. Echo lines don't have to be straight. Try quilting arcs around the blocks for a different variation.

