



Fabulous FEATHERS

free-motion challenge quilting along

Week 1 Quilting Diagrams & Tip Sheet

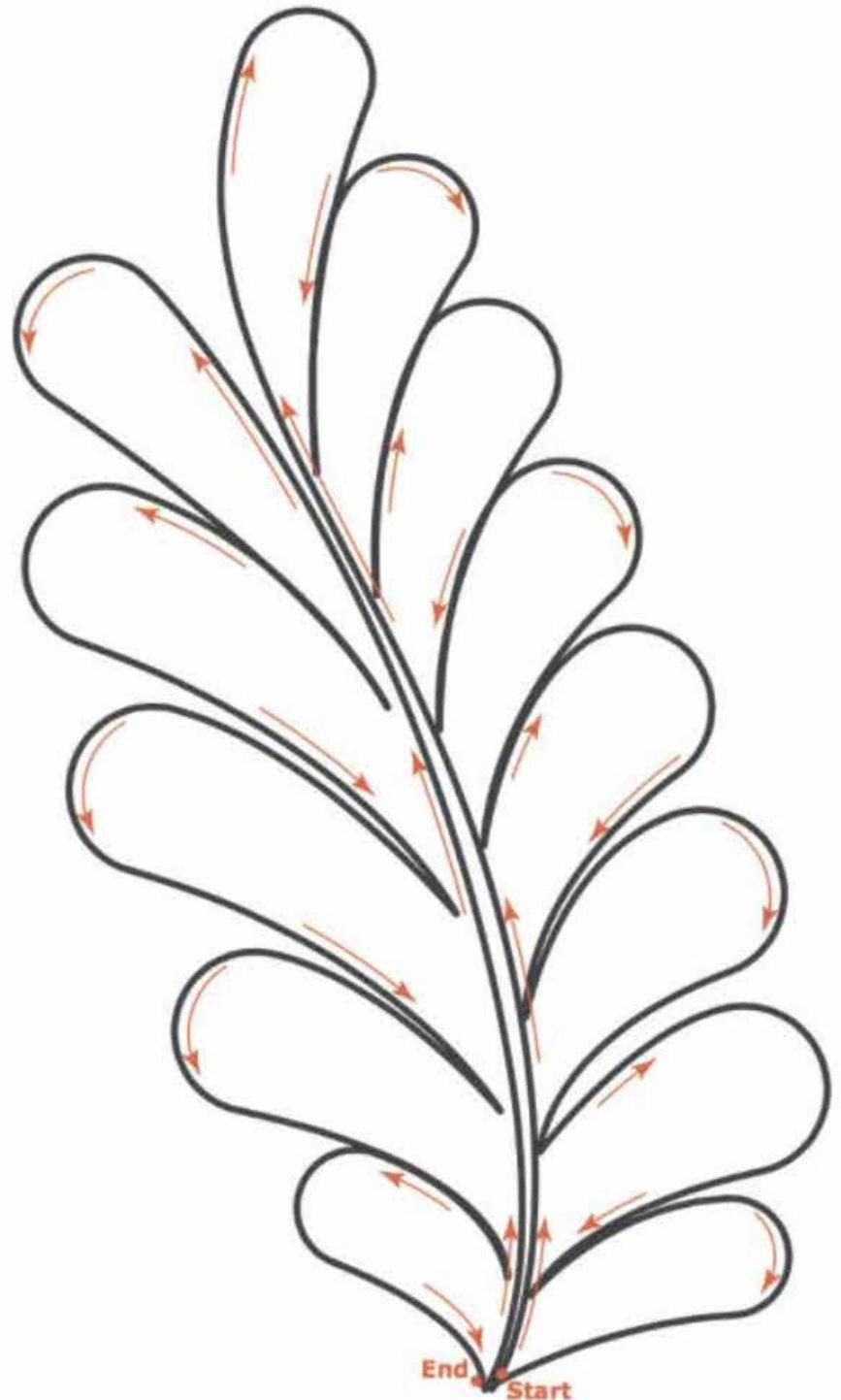
For more information about the challenge, visit FMQchallenge.com

This week we are learning the basics of free-motion quilting feathers. Learn how to quilt two types of feathers as well as how to fix common feather frustrations in this week's challenge.

The Basic Feather

The basic feather is one of the easier ones to quilt since there isn't any traveling or backtracking. Although I prefer to quilt the petals from the top down, you can also quilt the petals from the bottom up. It's up to you!

Try drawing along the diagram to get the hang of how it goes together.

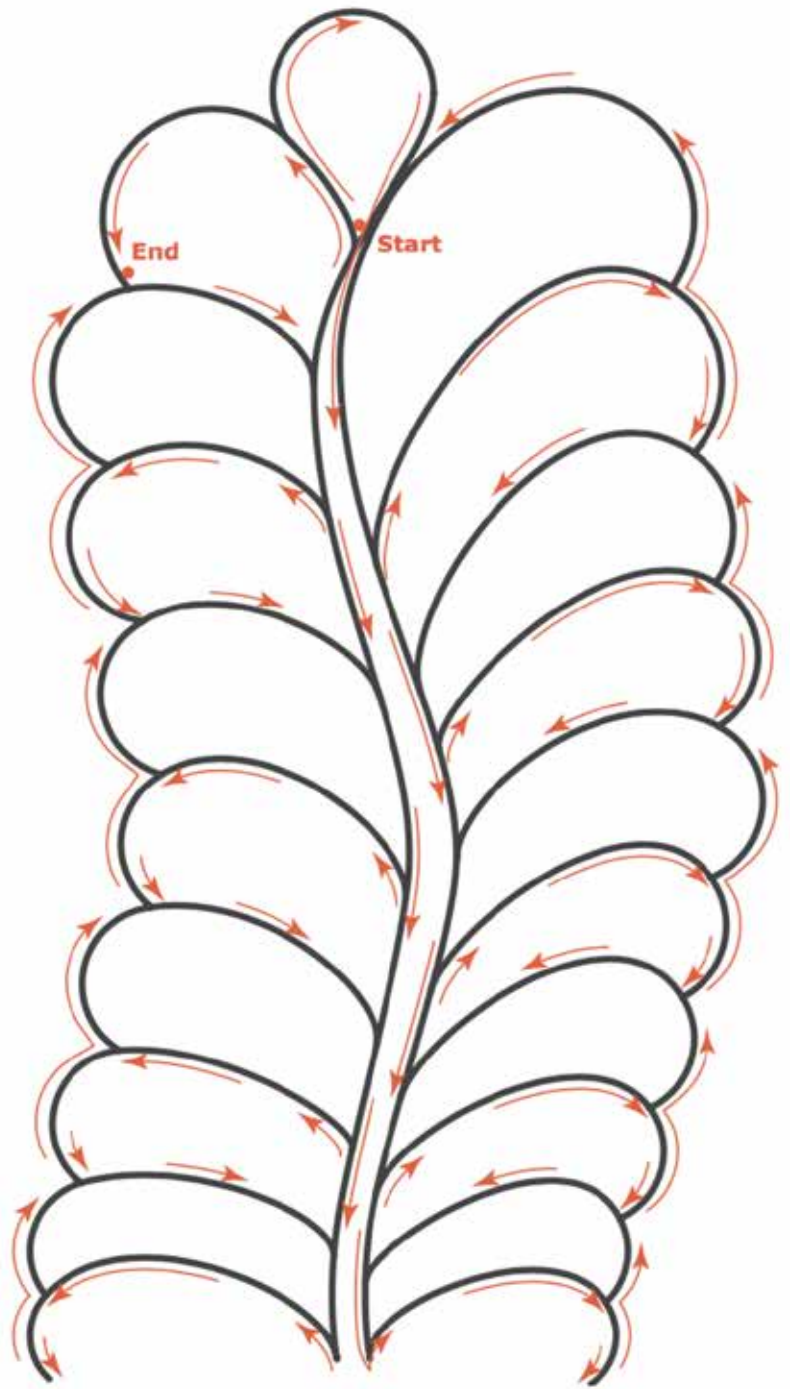


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The Custom Feather

Custom feathers incorporate a little traveling along a previously quilted line. It may take a little longer but the result is well worth the effort!

Starting from the bottom, the petals of this feather are quilted in groups of two. One petal goes out, travel back along the curve and quilt a second petal back into the spine. Try tracing along the quilting diagram until you get the hang of how it goes together.



Solving Common Feather Frustrations:

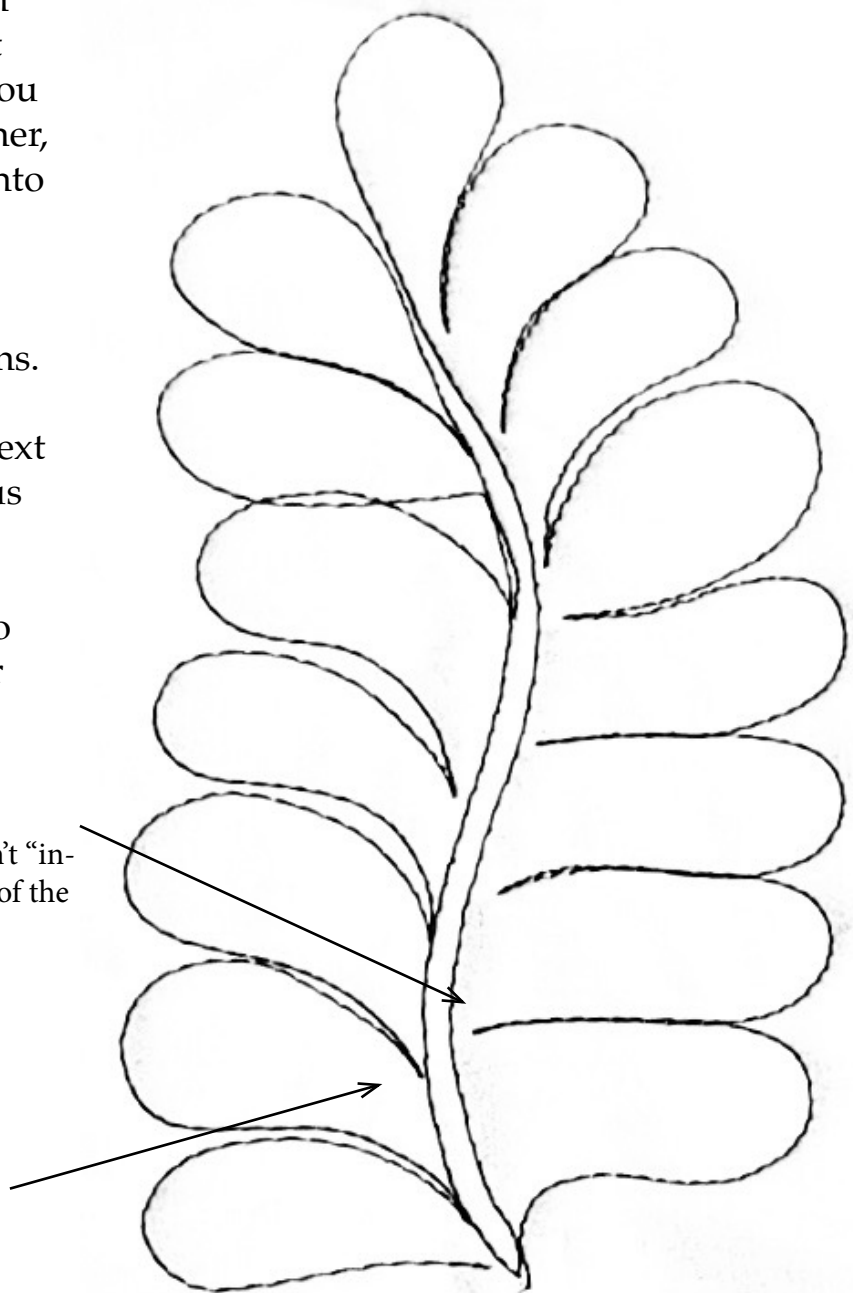
Frustration #1: Not quilting the petals so that they “merge” into the spine.

I have taught a lot of classes and one of the most common feather frustrations that I see happen is not quilting the petals so that they merge into the spine. As you work down the side of the feather, quilt them so that they merge into the spine.....almost like an “on-ramp”.

This is important for two reasons. First, when quilting the basic feather, it leaves room for the next petal and makes it more obvious where it should go. Second, for both kinds of feathers, quilting the lines so that they merge into the spine just makes the feather look a little nicer.

The petals shouldn't “intersect” the spine of the feather.

Lines should like they are going to merge into the spine.



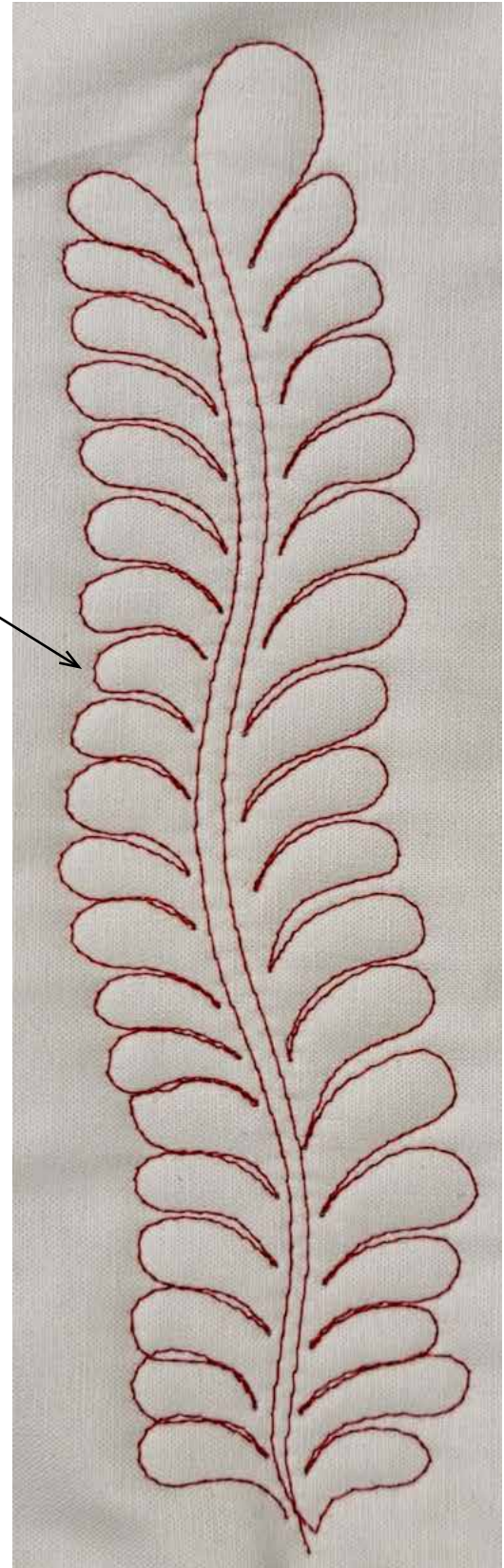
Frustration #2: Quilting the petals too thin and narrow.

Sometimes newer quilters can tend to quilt designs on the smaller side. This works great for fillers, but I think that feathers look better when the petals are big and round. Doing so allows the unquilted area in the petal to shine. If you are having trouble quilting the petals rounder, try marking the feather out beforehand. Having a line to follow might make it easier.

Quilt the petals so that they are bigger and wider



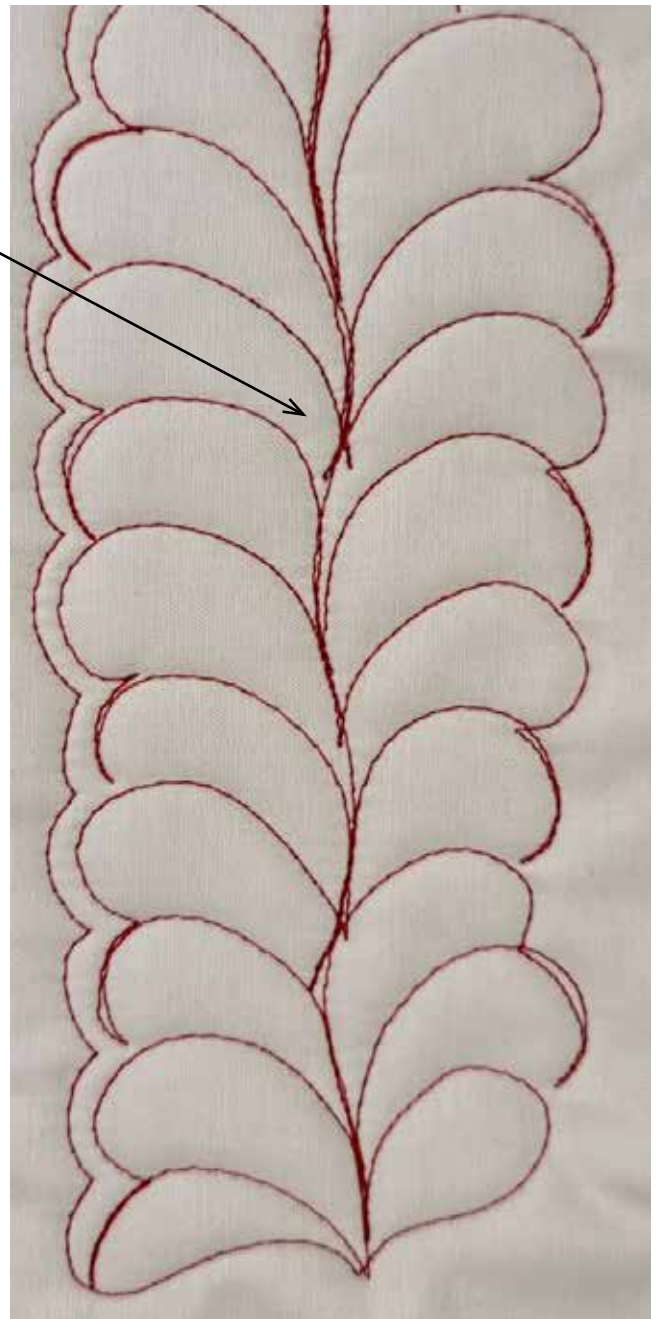
The petals are thinner and narrower.



Frustration #3: Thread build up on the spine of the feather.

You can make sure you merge the petals into the spine and quilt them nice and round, but if it still doesn't look quite right it could be an issue of thread build up. If you are struggling with getting the petals to land on the spine, try stopping about 1/4" away. As long as you do it on most of the feathers, it will look intentional.

Thread buildup on the spine can be distracting. Try stopping 1/4" away from the spine instead



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