



## Machine Quilting **RULERS** *Free-motion-challenge* Quilting Along

# COMMON FRUSTRATIONS

### **Common Frustration:** Skipped Stitches

#### **Possible Cause:** Ruler Foot too high

If you have an adjustable ruler foot, check that it isn't too high. The quilt sandwich should be able to move freely under it without skipping stitches.

### **Common Frustration:** Trouble Quilting Along the Ruler

#### **Possible Cause:** Not being aware of the point of contact between the ruler and your foot.

As the shape of the ruler changes, so does the point of contact. Being aware of this will help you be intentional about quilting along it. This is something that will get better with practice.

### **Common Frustration:** Inconsistent stitch size

#### **Possible Cause:** Starting too fast (or slow) after repositioning the ruler.

This is something that gets better with practice.

### **Common Frustration:** Ruler won't stay in place

#### **Possible Cause:** Quilting past your fingertips

No matter the length of the ruler, you will have the most control when the ruler foot is along the portion of the ruler that your hand is on.

### **Common Frustration:** Ruler hits part of the foot

#### **Possible Cause:** Using a high shank ruler with a low shank sewing machine.

Lower shank machines can have screws or other parts of the foot that are too low to quilt around the ruler.

## RULER TIPS:

A few tips to help you be successful when machine quilting with rulers

- Watch your speed, quilting too slow and pushing on the ruler too hard can result in bent needles (unless you have a stitch regulator)
- Try quilting with rulers in different directions, you might find one that is easier for you.
- Experiment with different hand positions to find a grip that feel comfortable for you.
- Remember, rulers are meant to make for perfect quilting, they are a tool to help you create beautiful designs.

*For more information,  
visit [FMQchallenge.com](http://FMQchallenge.com)*