

## Welcome to This Week's Challenge: Nine Patch & Plus Blocks

We're starting the challenge with my favorite quilt blocks, the Nine Patch and it's close cousin, the Plus (or Cross) Block. This beloved block can be tricky to quilt, but not for the reasons you might think.

Since it's pieced on a grid with simple squares, the design possibilities are endless! Sometimes, deciding between so many different options can be difficult.

The good news is that once you settle on a design, the quilting is usually fun and quick thanks to the reference points that the seams create.

### *This Week's Challenge:*

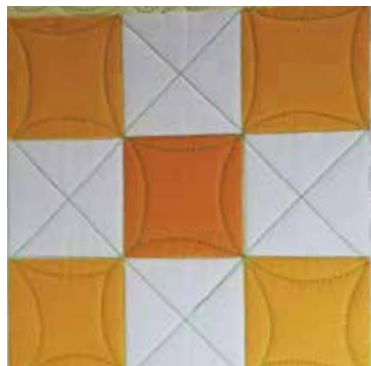
Quilt the Nine Patch and Plus blocks on the challenge quilt with the quilting designs of your choice. You can use the designs demonstrated in the video or create your own variations.

### *Nine Patch Blocks: Design #1*

This design is a little curvy and a little geometric, all while showing off the different prints in your quilt block.

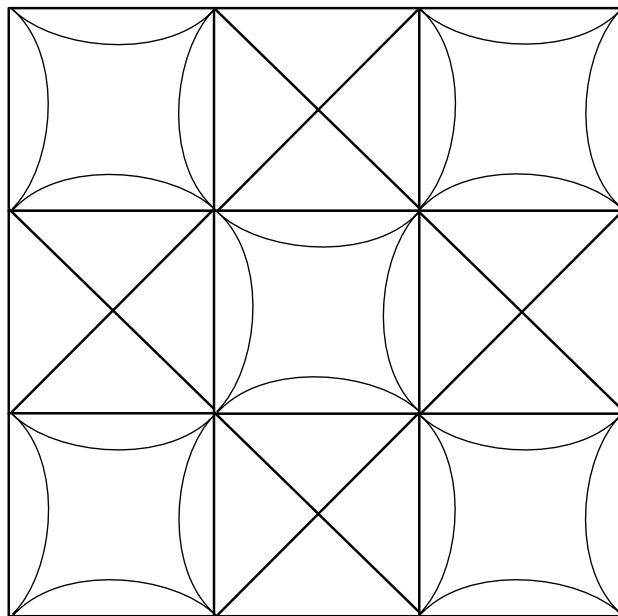
#### *Perfect For:*

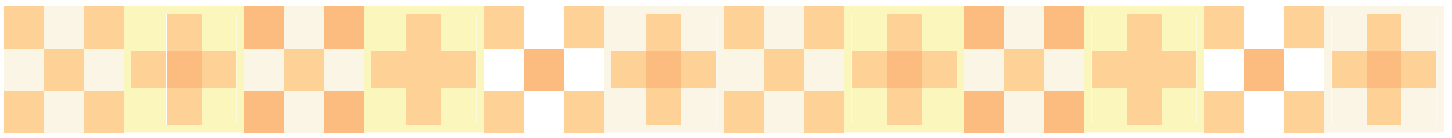
Blocks made with 2 different fabrics. The contrasting designs will help them stand apart just a bit.



#### *Additional Tips:*

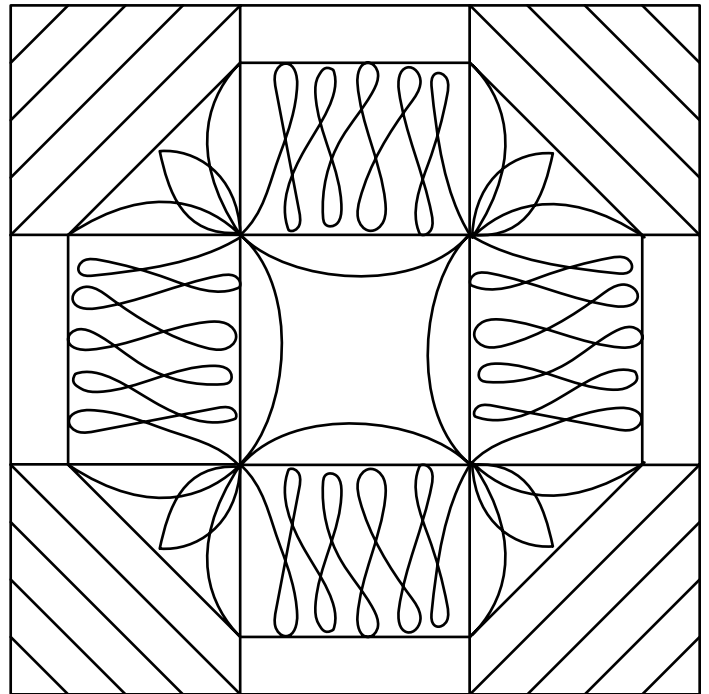
- Make this design fit blocks of all sizes by adding echo lines inside of the curves.
- Traveling along the seams of the block will allow you to quilt the block without stopping.





## Nine Patch Blocks: Design #2

Connect the dots to turn your blocks in a different shape, especially if the center fabric is the focus or if you don't have a preferred print in the block.



### Perfect For:

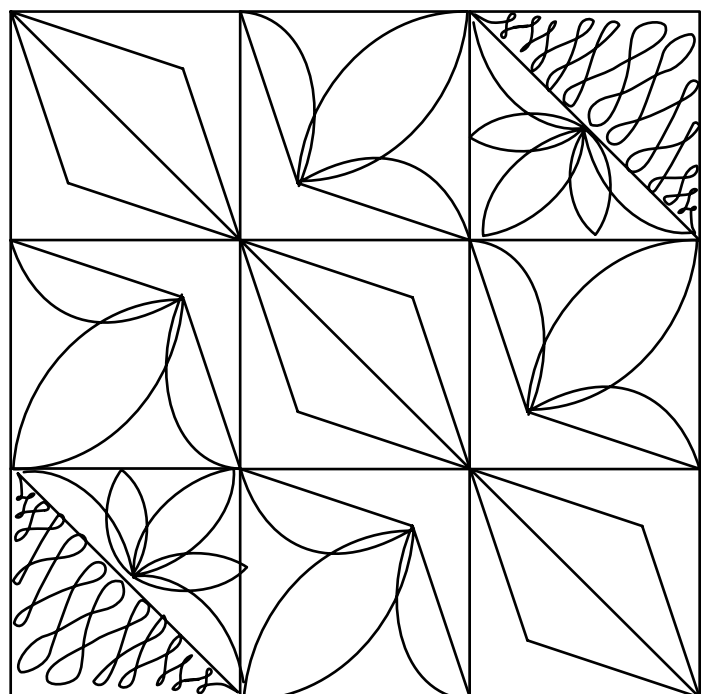
- Nine patch blocks of all sizes or blocks that might not have the best pieced corners.

### Additional Tips:

- Try different designs in the spaces to create your own variations
- Add even more straight echo lines to make larger blocks easier to manage.

## Nine Patch Blocks: Design #3

Create a directional design by quilting the block in sections. This helps create a secondary pattern with the quilting and enhances the overall quilt pattern.

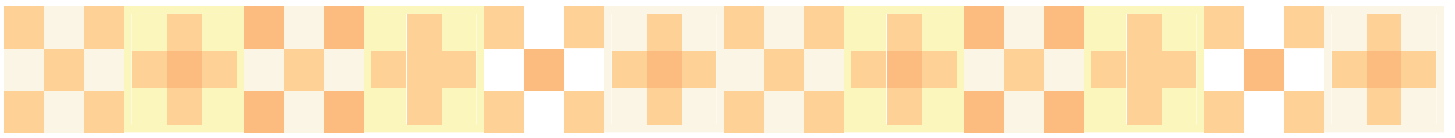


### Perfect For:

- Nine patch blocks that are a part of bigger arrangement, such as Irish Chain blocks and sampler quilts.

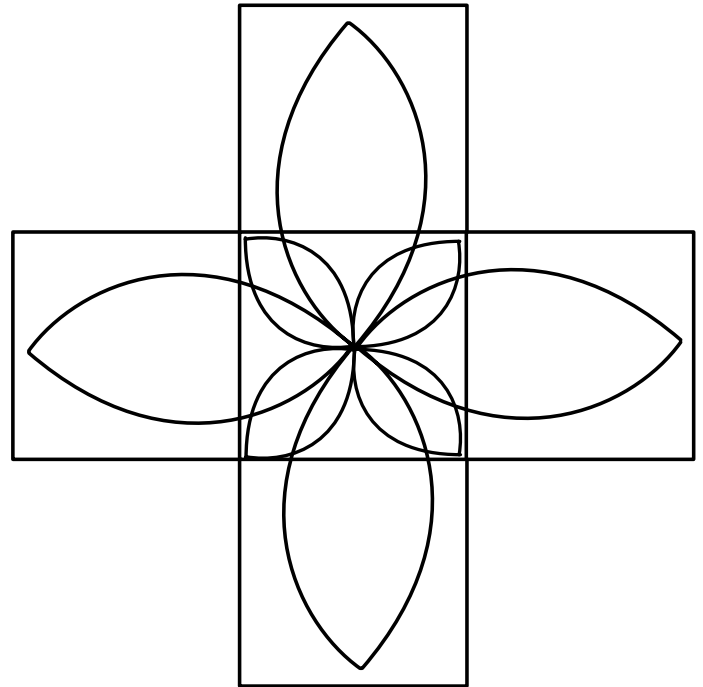
### Additional Tips:

- Try different designs in the spaces to create your own variations.
- Both sides of the block don't have to be quilted the same.



## Plus Blocks: Design #1

Give the continuous curve quilting design a little twist to create a design that will pull your eyes to the center of the block.



### Perfect For:

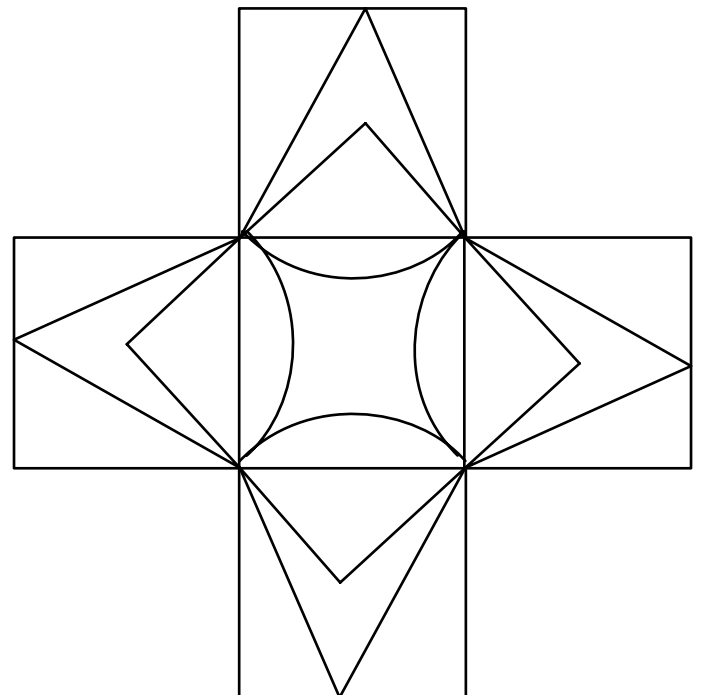
- Plus blocks that are pieced with the same fabric.
- Plus blocks in a range of sizes.

### Additional Tips:

- For larger Plus blocks, add more curves.
- Echoing around the outside helps separate the block from the filler.

## Plus Blocks: Design #2

Dot to Dot quilting and plus blocks go together like peanut butter and jelly! Use the corners of the block as reference points to quilt this design without marking.

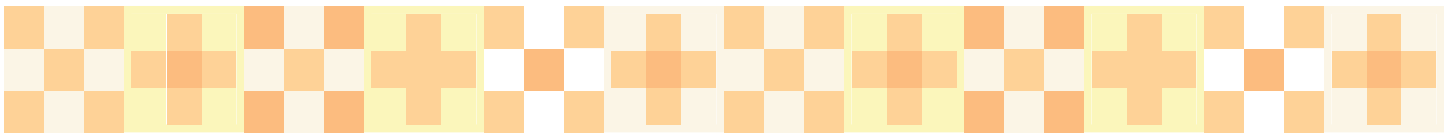


### Perfect For:

- Plus blocks of all sizes or blocks with perfectly pieced points.

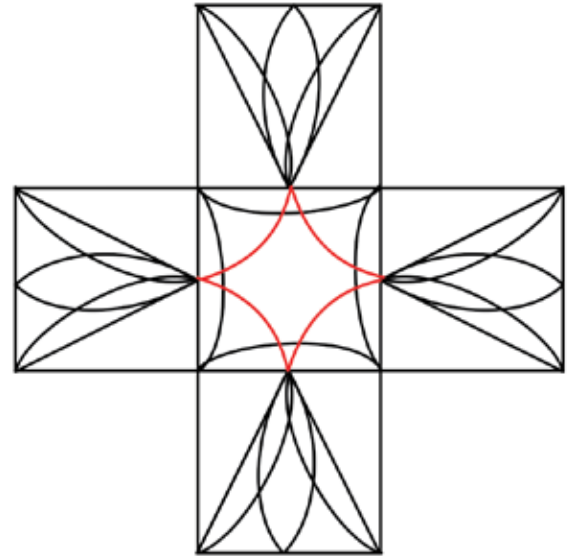
### Additional Tips:

- If you don't have a ruler, quilt the lines curvy instead of straight.
- Add more echos to fill in larger blocks.



## *Plus Blocks: Design #3*

Connect the dots to turn your blocks in a different shape, especially if the center fabric is the focus or if you don't have a preferred print in the block.



### *Perfect For:*

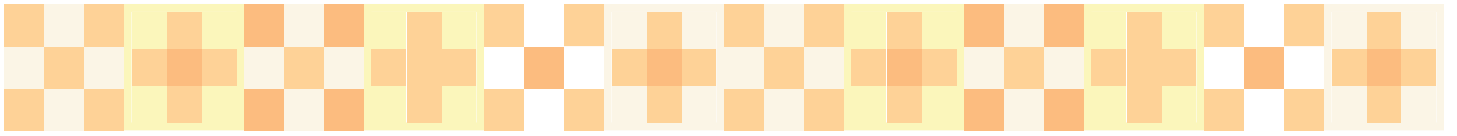
- Nine patch blocks of all sizes or blocks that might not have the best pieced corners.

### *Additional Tips:*

- Try different designs in the spaces to create your own variations
- Add even more straight echo lines to make larger blocks easier to manage.

## *Design Placement*





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## Welcome to This Week's Challenge: Flying Geese Blocks

I like to joke that Flying Geese blocks are kinda like ants. You never see just one. If a quilt pattern incorporates the flying geese block, chances are that you will see several of them.

When quilting these kind of blocks, I take the placement into consideration.....first deciding where I need to go, then picking a design that does that.

### *This Week's Challenge:*

Quilt the flying geese blocks on your quilt (both the row of red and pink flying geese as well as the row of blue flying geese blocks). You can use the designs in the tutorial or create your own variations.

### *Flying Geese Blocks: Design #1*

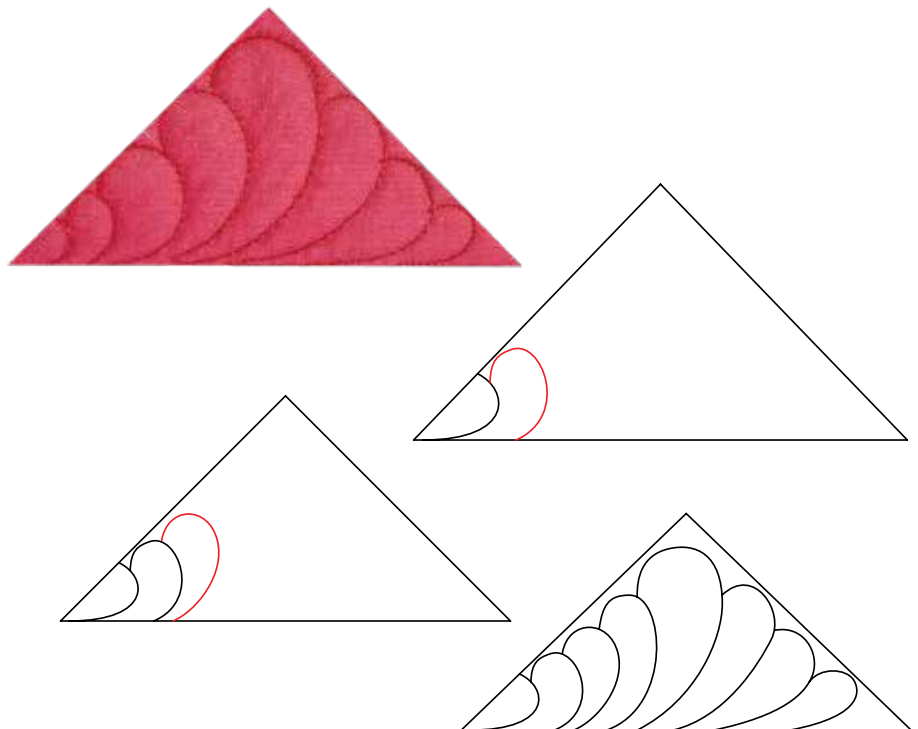
This is a perfect way to learn how to quilt the feather. You only have to quilt one side and you aren't committed to filling in a large area.

#### *Perfect For:*

Flying geese blocks that are medium to large size. Even though it's just half of a feather, it still needs a little room to develop.

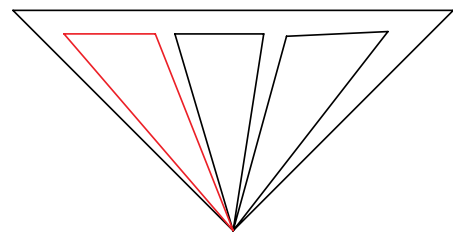
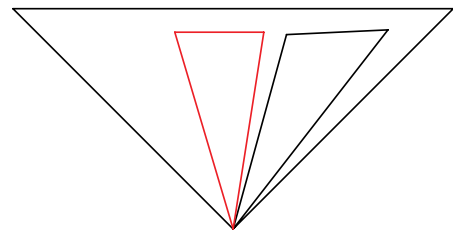
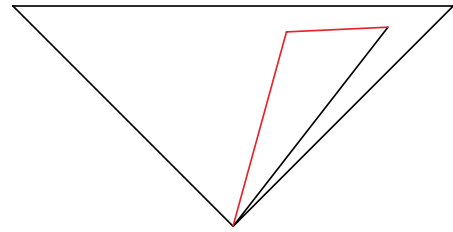
#### *Additional Tips:*

- You don't have to use the more custom type feather for this design. Try a more basic feather or even a paisley feather.
- Try to fill in the block as much as possible. People will notice a gap in the quilting before they notice an error.



## Flying Geese Blocks: Design #2

I use Dot to Dot quilting designs in all areas of a quilt, so it's no surprise that it's a go-to design for Flying Geese.



### Perfect For:

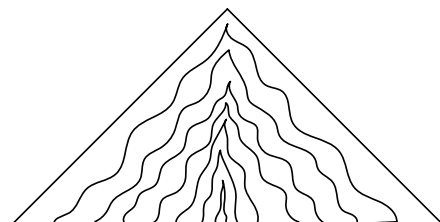
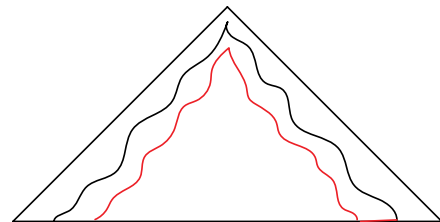
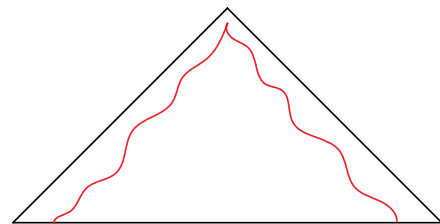
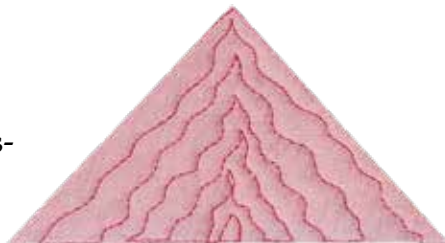
- Flying Geese blocks of all sizes, especially if I want to show off a perfectly pieced points.

### Additional Tips:

- Add more or less wedges to make it fit Flying Geese blocks of all sizes.
- Don't worry if all the lines don't come to the corner perfectly, it will still get the desired effect.

## Nine Patch Blocks: Design #3

We have seen this design before in the Borders Free-motion Quilting Challenge Quilting Along, but it obviously shines in blocks as well.



### Perfect For:

- Medium to larger flying geese blocks, or when you want to add a bit of texture.

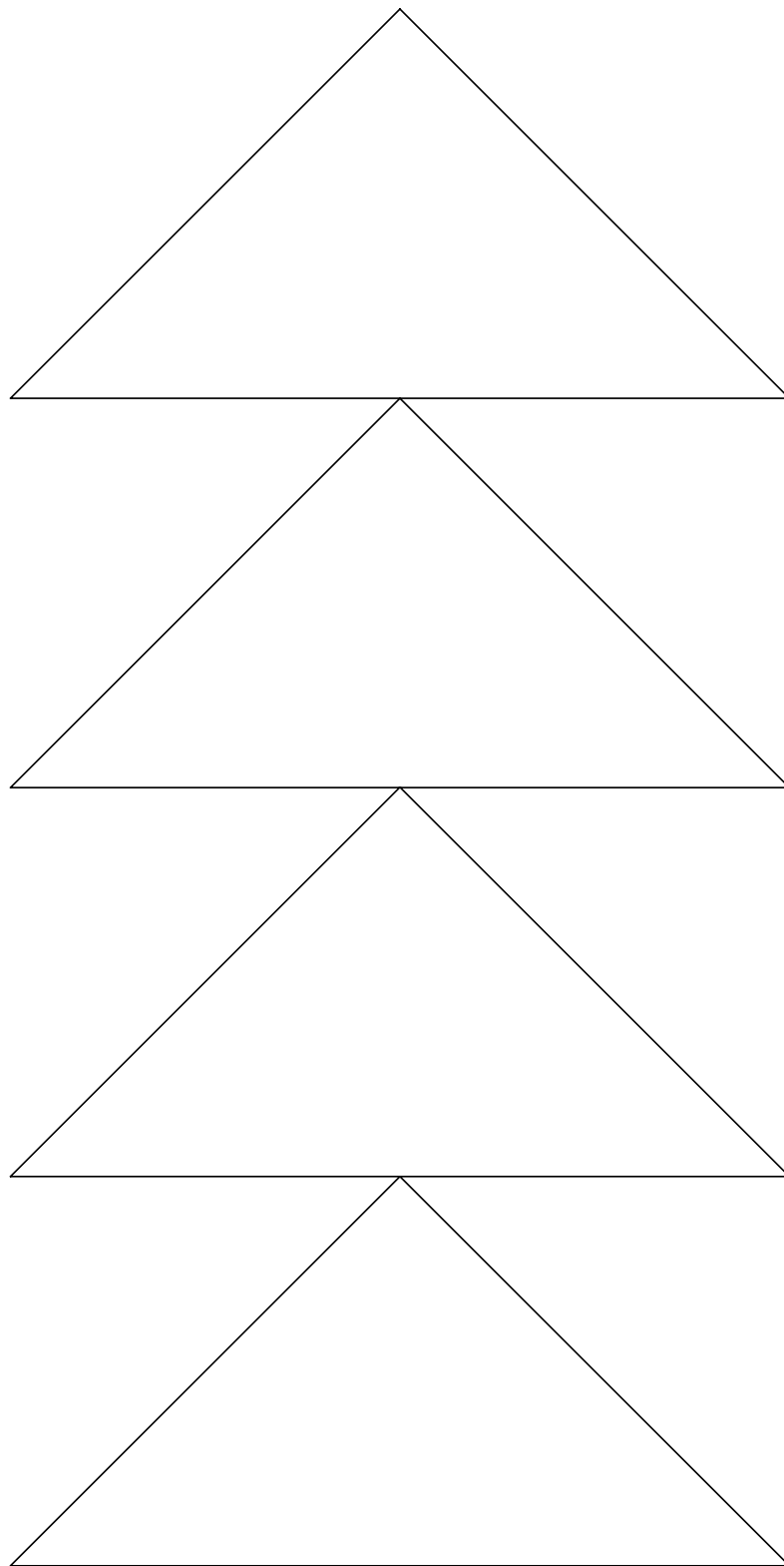
### Additional Tips:

- Add more lines to fill in larger blocks.
- Don't let the traveling keep you from trying this design. Once all the lines are quilted, it will practically disappear into the rest of the design.

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## Welcome to This Week's Challenge: Square Blocks

It was a little difficult choosing the designs for this week's block. While there are so many ways to quilt it, one thing that I consider first is the placement of the fabric in the block. Often, if the corners are pieced with a different fabric, I will highlight that with by quilting a different design in that area. The good news is, the more you quilt these kinds of blocks, the more you know what you like.

### *This Week's Challenge:*

Quilt the square in a square block on your quilt.. You can use the designs in the tutorial or create your own variations.

### *Square Blocks: Design #1*

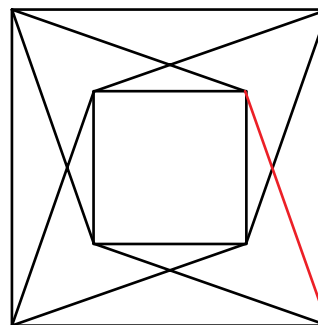
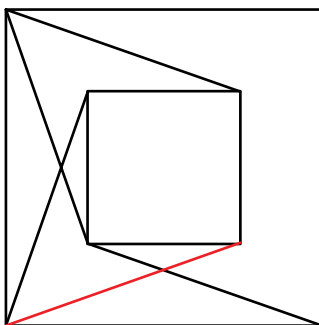
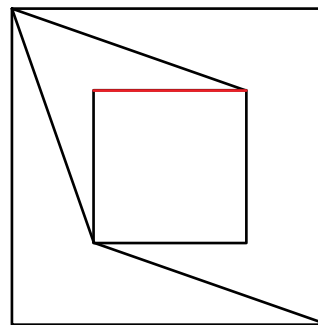
Connect the dots to create an intricate looking design for your blocks. If at any time you aren't sure where to go next, use your fingers to trace out the next couple of steps.

#### *Perfect For:*

Blocks of all sizes. You can add more or less lines depending on the effect that you are going for.

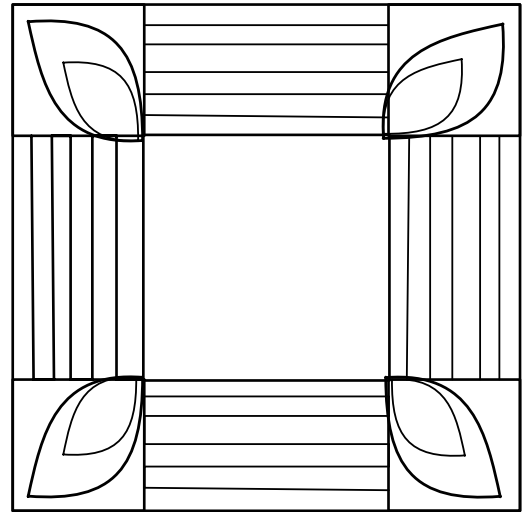
#### *Additional Tips:*

- This is just one dot to dot idea, try to come up with even more variations by connecting different dots and incorporating different fillers.



## Square Blocks: Design #2

Echoing the pieces of a block is a perfect way to show it off as well as highlight whatever is in the center. You can echo inside or outside of the block, and you can make the quilting as dense as you'd like.



### Perfect For:

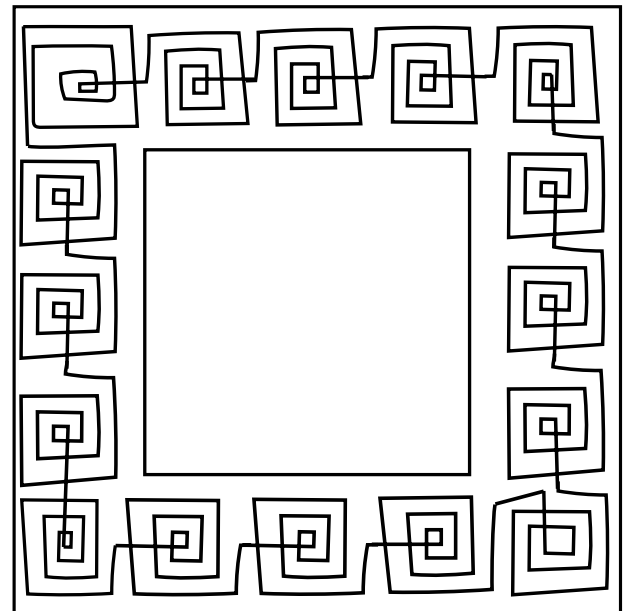
Just as with the first design, this design is perfect for blocks of all sizes. You can add more or less lines depending on the effect that you are going for.

### Additional Tips:

Instead of quilting only echo lines, you can quilt an echo line on each side and then fill in the space between them with a different design, such as wishbone or ribbon candy.

## Square Blocks: Design #3

Think outside of the block to come up with even more design options. Even if a design is normally used in background or all-over the whole quilt, it might be a great option for a block.



### Perfect For:

Square blocks that are medium to large size, especially if using a design that needs a little space to develop.

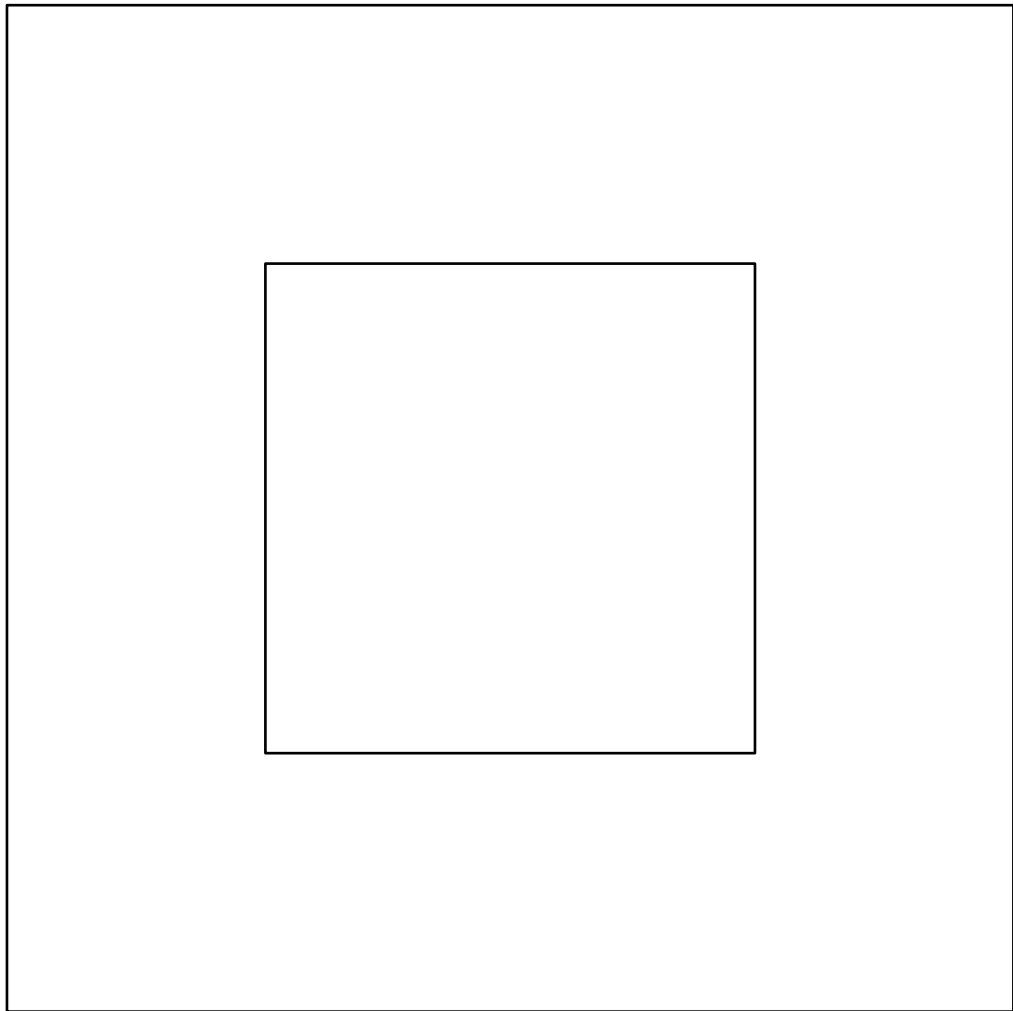
### Additional Tips:

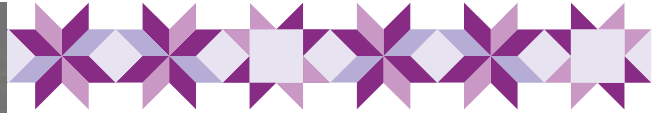
Consider contrasting designs when quilting these blocks. If one design is geometric, make the other one curvy. It's not a rule, it's more of a suggestion which might make picking designs a little easier.

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## Welcome to This Week's Challenge: Star Block

When it comes to quilting Star Quilt blocks, considering the fabric placement is key to selecting the perfect machine quilting designs to make your blocks sparkle. Whether it's an Ohio Star, LeMoyne Star, or any block with points, this week we are going to learn some of my favorite designs for those blocks.

### *This Week's Challenge:*

Quilt the star blocks on your quilt. You can use the designs in the tutorial or create your own variations.

### *Star Blocks: Design #1 Swirl Hook*

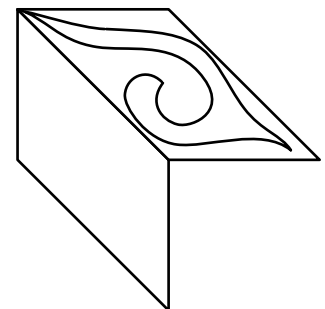
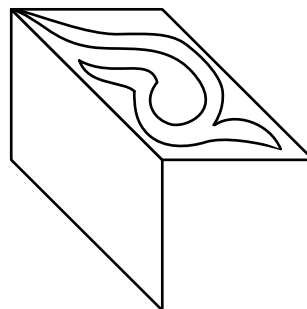
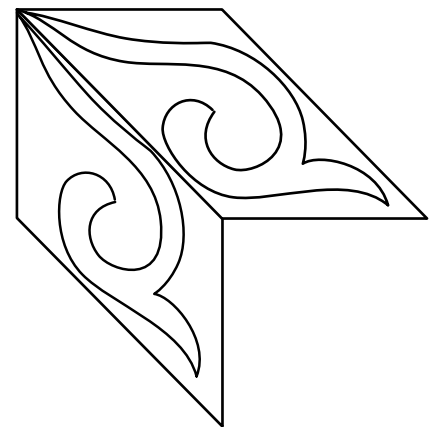
Machine quilters tend to have a love/hate relationship with this design. If you have struggled with this design as an allover, you might find that it's easier to quilt it within a block. The defined boundary and set sequence of steps might be just the things needed to help this design "click".

#### *Perfect For:*

Diamond shaped blocks in all arrangements, not just stars. Try it in Lonestar quilts or even in chevrons.

#### *Additional Tips:*

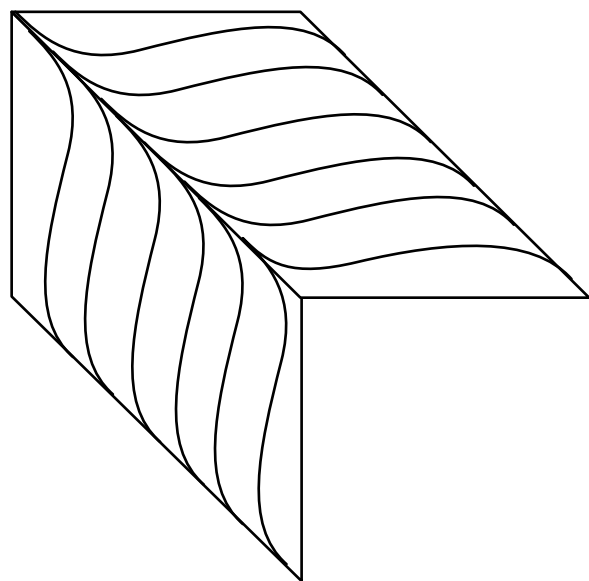
There are so many variations for this design. If at first you don't succeed, keep trying different options until you find one that work





## Star Blocks: Design #2 Serpentine Lines

This curvy design is perfect for narrow borders, sashings and irregular shapes such as the diamonds in the star block. Focus on just two sides of the block and quilt the points in groups of two so you can return back to the center of the star.



### *Perfect For:*

Blocks of all sizes. Quilt them closer together or further apart to change the density of the design.

### *Additional Tips:*

If you are having trouble with the Serpentine line, you can quilt a leaf shape instead. Most quilters have an easier time with this shape since we can visualize what it looks like.

## Star Blocks: Design #3

Make your block sparkle! Use this design to highlight a center fabric that you really want to show off.

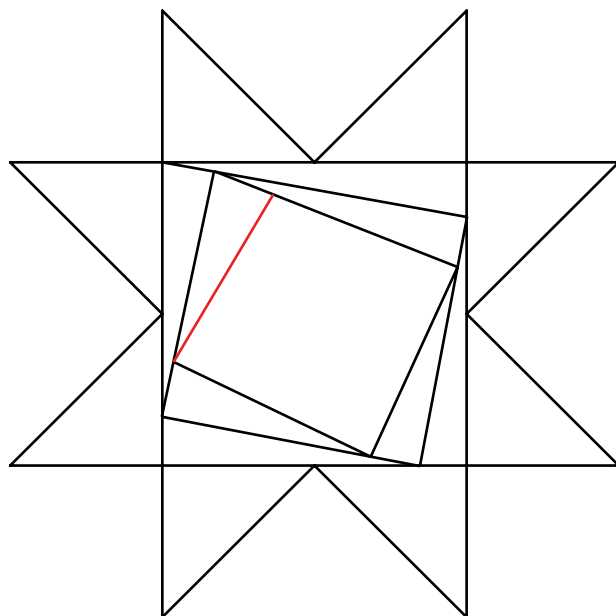


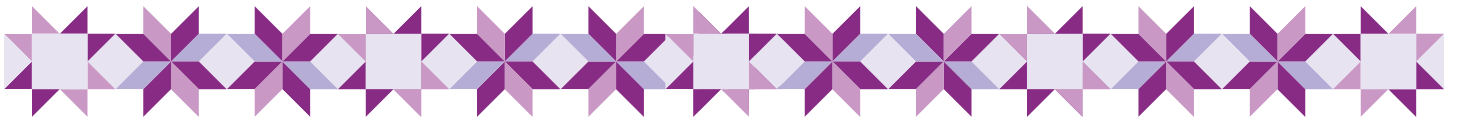
### *Perfect For:*

Larger blocks with a favorite fabric in the center. Use in any blocks with corners, for instance triangles, hexagons, etc.

### *Additional Tips:*

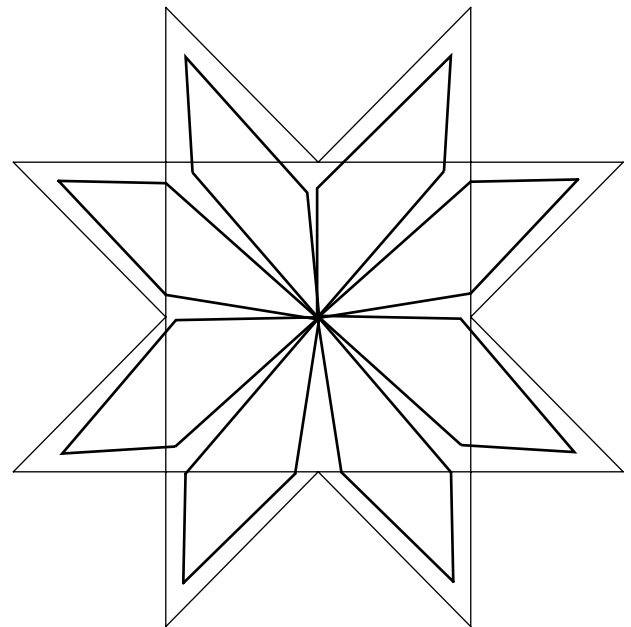
Continue quilting the lines until you reach the center if you prefer a more geometric look for your block.





## Star Blocks: Design #4

Use this dot to dot design to combine smaller pieces of a block. You can mark out the points or just eyeball them for a complex looking motif that's easy to quilt.



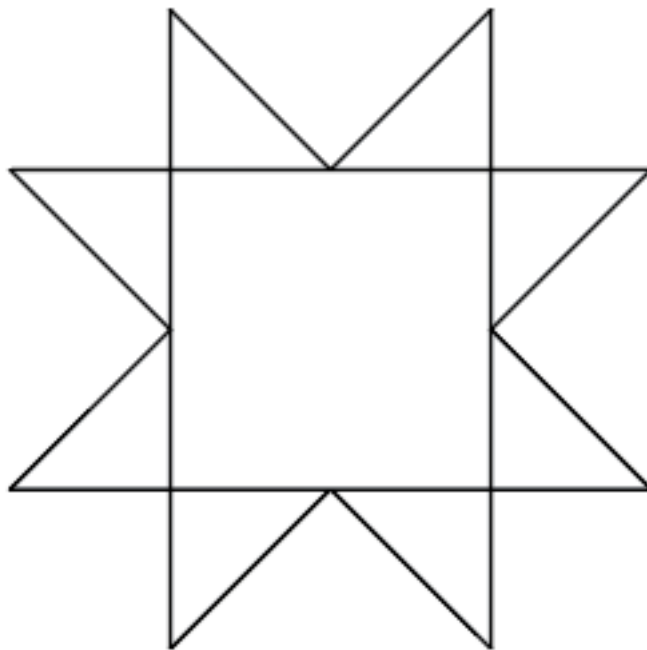
### *Perfect For:*

Larger quilt blocks or blocks with irregular edges.

### *Additional Tips:*

Quilt the dot to dot design in every other point to create a different look for your design

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## Welcome to This Week's Challenge: Pinwheel Blocks

When quilting Pinwheel blocks, it's not so much the size that I take into consideration, it's the arrangement of the blocks. I love picking designs that will help give the block a look of movement.

### *This Week's Challenge:*

Quilt the Pinwheel blocks on your quilt. You can use the designs that I showed in the video, or come up with your own variations.

### *Pinwheel Blocks: Design #1*

Motifs are a great way to highlight all the pieces in a block. But a motif doesn't have to be the same design in all the pieces.

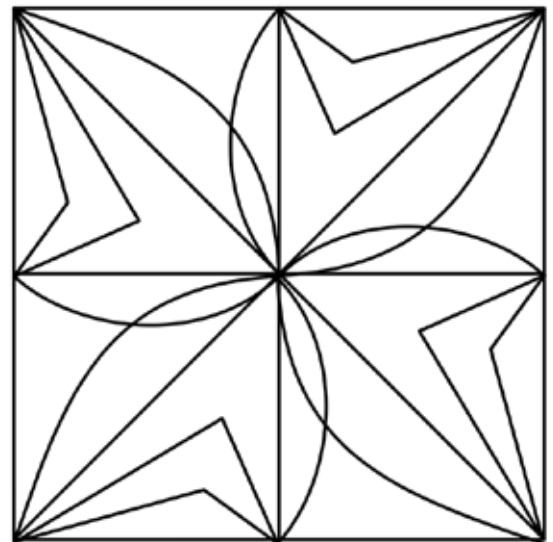
#### *Perfect For:*

Pinwheel blocks in which both the fabrics are important.



#### *Additional Tips:*

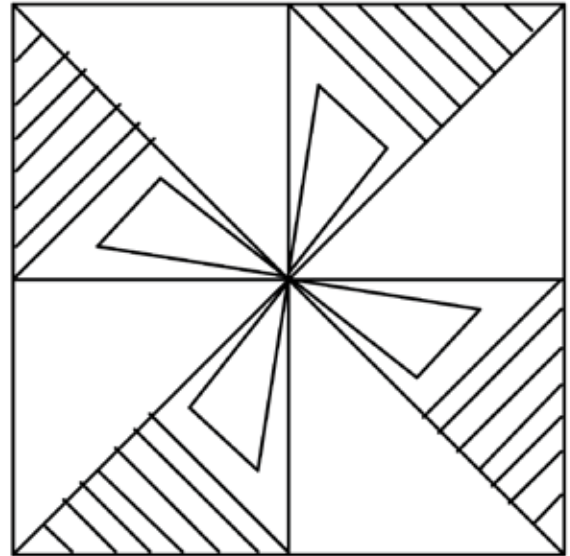
- Don't forget that repositioning your hands while quilting the curves will help give you the most control.
- You can also use a ruler to help quilt the curves.





## Pinwheel Blocks: Design #2

Using the quilting to create little pinwheels is a fun, whimsical way to quilt your pinwheel blocks.



### Perfect For:

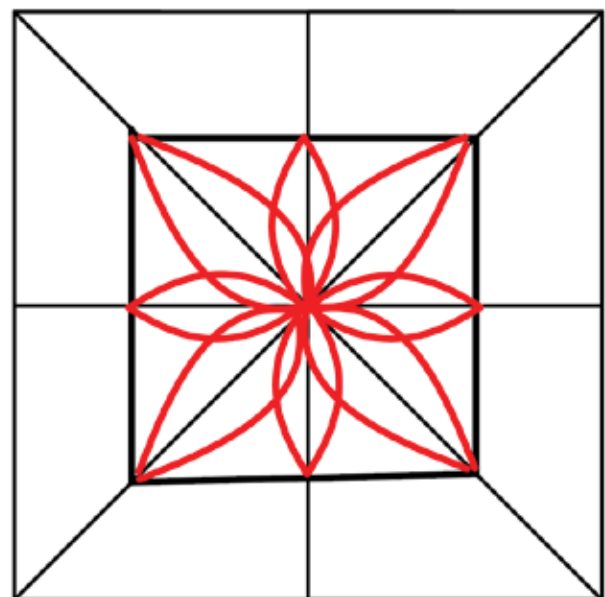
- Pinwheel blocks of all sizes, especially ones that have beautifully pieced centers.

### Additional Tips:

- This design takes a little longer to develop since it incorporates traveling, be sure to use it in your favorite blocks in the quilt.

## Blocks: Design #3

Larger quilt blocks can be easy to piece, but can be a little daunting to quilt. This design uses the quilting to create a smaller pinwheel with a border.



### Perfect For:

- Larger pinwheel quilt blocks.

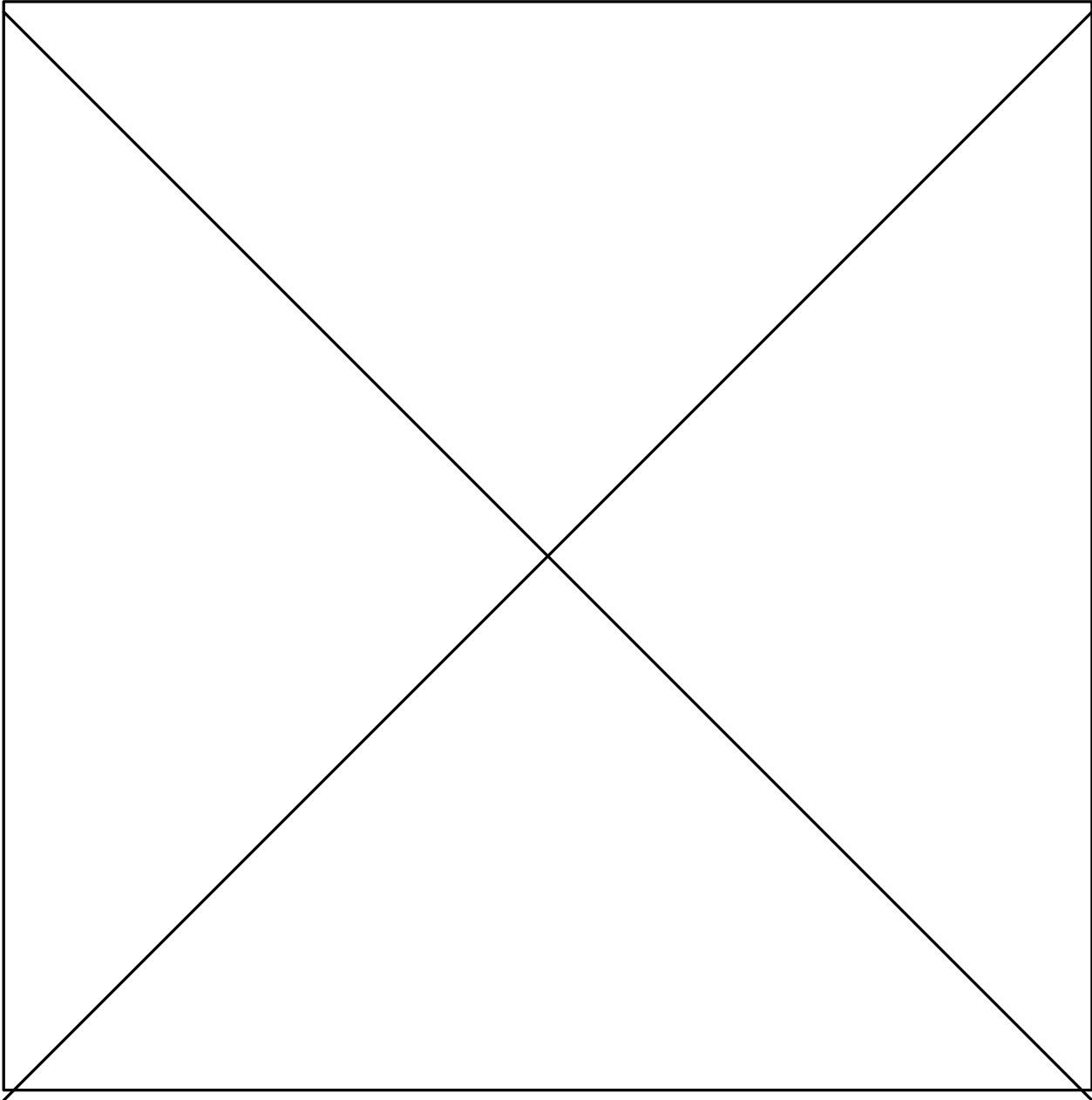
### Additional Tips:

- There are so many different ways to change this design. Try adding more or less echo lines, different fillers or quilt the center square with a different design.





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## Welcome to This Week's Challenge: X Blocks

We have already worked with Triangle shaped blocks in week 3, the flying geese blocks. However, the triangle pieces in X blocks (or Quarter Square Triangles) can be bigger than flying geese. But don't let that intimidate you, the arrangement of the pieces means that we can create some intricate looking motifs with basic shapes.

When quilting Pinwheel blocks, it's not so much the size that I take

into consideration, it's the arrangement of the blocks. I love picking designs that will help give the block a look of movement.

### *This Week's Challenge:*

Quilt the X blocks (Quarter Square Blocks) on your quilt. You can use the designs that I showed in the video, or come up with your own variations.

### *X Blocks: Design #1*

This design uses a basic shape to create an intricate looking motif.



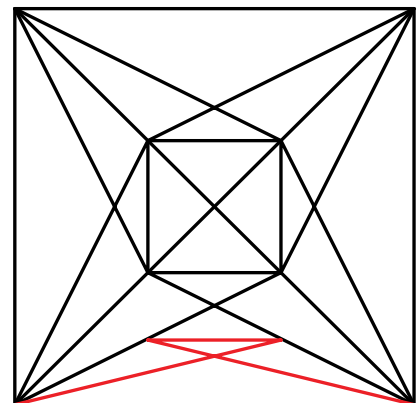
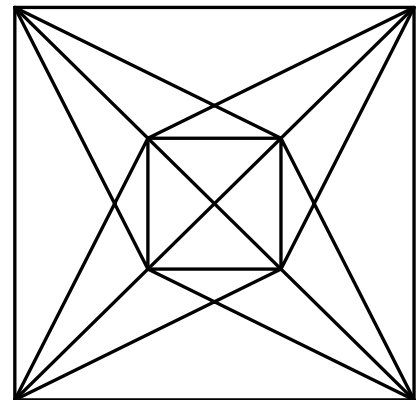
#### *Perfect For:*

X Blocks of all sizes and types. You can also try it in other triangle-shaped areas, such as flying geese and border corners.

#### *Additional Tips:*

- Make this design fit blocks of all sizes by quilting the same design in the area between the first row and the edge of the quilt.
- Replace the straight lines for curved lines to give it a softer look.

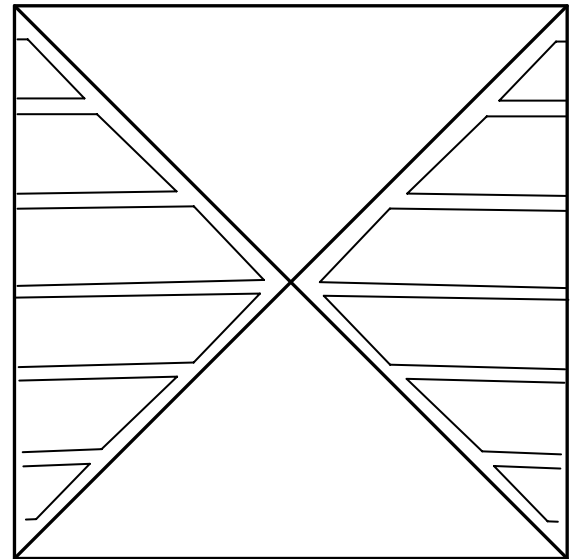
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## *X Blocks: Design #2*

Echoing portions of a block is a great way to show it off! In this design, we are using echoing in a slightly different way for a more modern, geometric look.



### *Perfect For:*

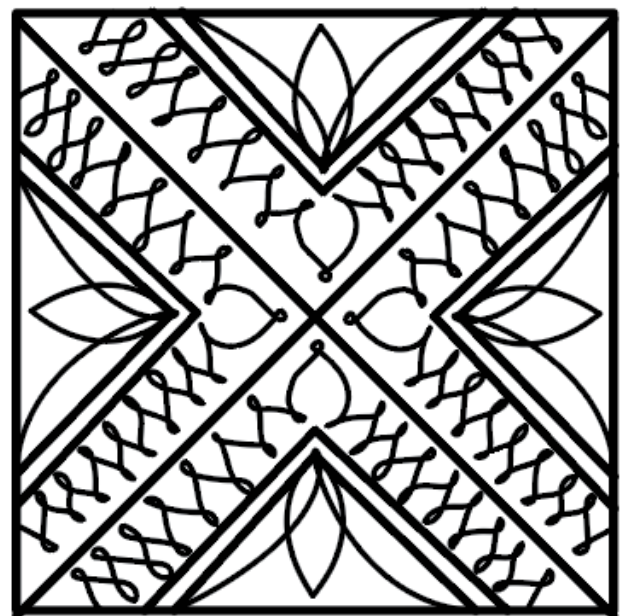
- X Blocks of all sizes, or even in the areas around triangle shaped blocks.

### *Additional Tips:*

- Keeps the spacing between the segments consistent for a more conventional look, or vary the size and spacing to give it a more “modern” twist.
- Try this in the areas around blocks as well!

## *X Blocks: Design #3*

Larger quilt blocks can be easy to piece, but can be a little daunting to quilt. Use echoing to break them up into smaller pieces....it will make them easier to manage.



### *Perfect For:*

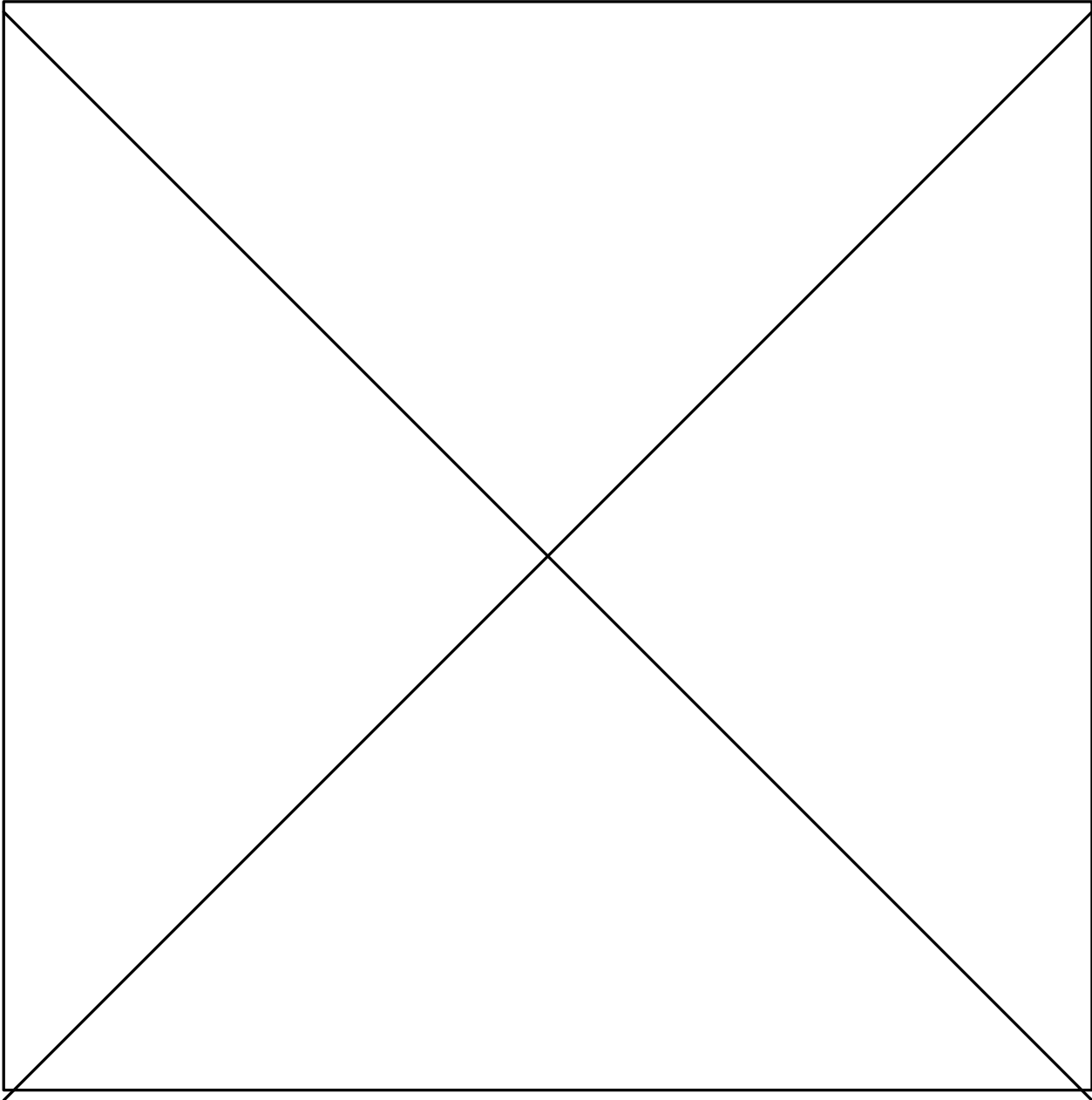
- Larger quilt blocks of any shape or size, not just triangles.

### *Additional Tips:*

- There are so many different ways to change this design. Try adding more or less echo lines, different fillers or leave some areas unquilted.



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## Welcome to This Week's Challenge: Complex Blocks

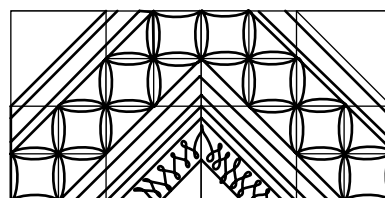
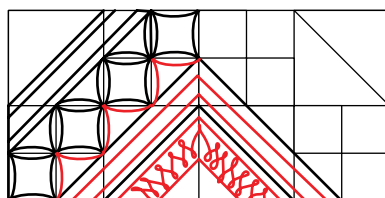
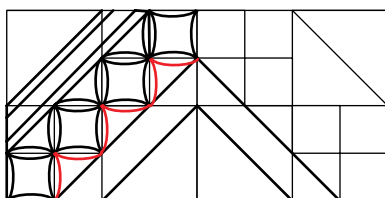
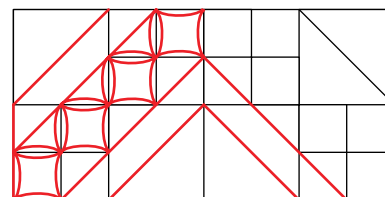
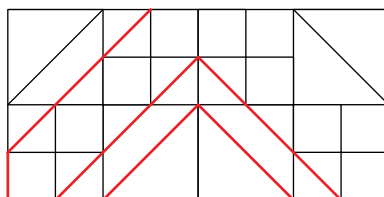
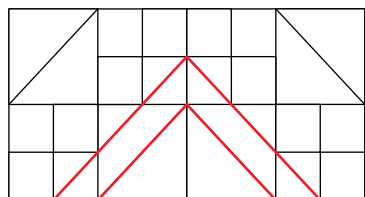
Let's wrap up this challenge by using the designs we have already learned on more complex blocks. Before starting, I like to first decide the most important part of the block, then pick designs that will highlight that.

### *This Week's Challenge:*

Quilt the last row of blocks on the challenge quilt panel. You can use the designs I showed or you can come up with your own variations.

### *Week 6: Design #1*

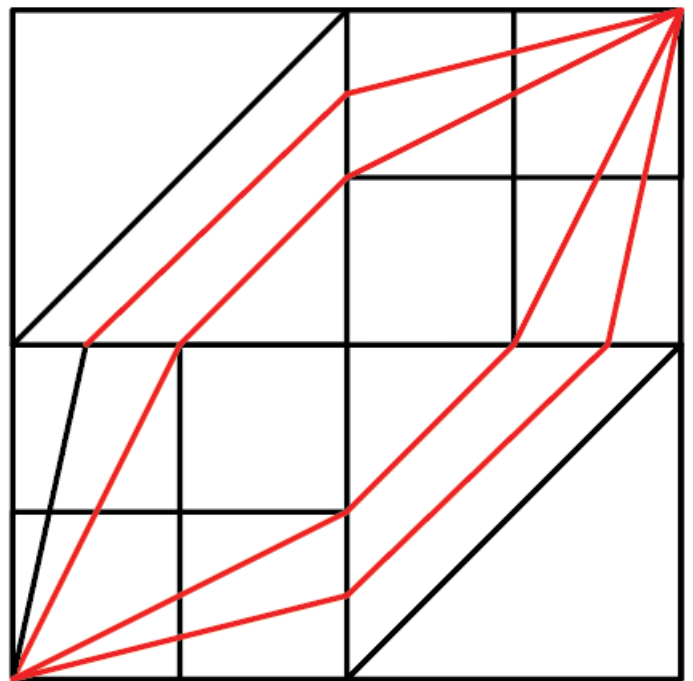
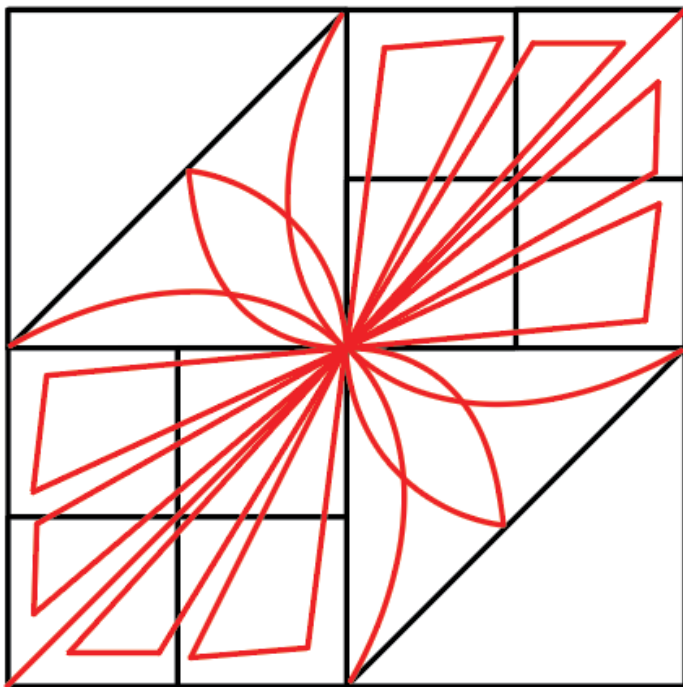
Using the blocks as reference points will allow you to quickly quilt the blocks. Plus, you can highlight your favorite part of the block!





## *Design #2*

Use the quilting to group multiple blocks together to create some amazing designs.





*Create Your Own*

