

**HELP!**

# *How Do I Quilt It?*

Free-Motion Challenge Quilting Along

## ***Week 1 Quilting Diagrams***

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



# HELP!

## How Do I Quilt It?

Free-Motion Challenge Quilting Along

## Week 1

Welcome to the first week in the “Help! How Do I Quilt It?” Free-motion Challenge Quilting Along. In these videos I am going to help you build your machine quilting design library by showing you some of my favorite designs for a few common quilt blocks, including log cabin blocks, snowball blocks and curved blocks.

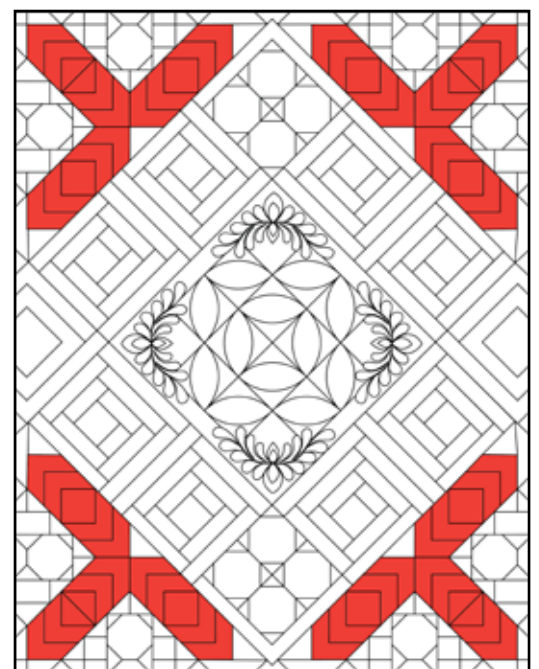
By the time we are finished, you will not only have learned some fun free-motion quilting designs, you’ll also have added to “quilting design library”. That way, you can refer to those designs the next you get stuck and can’t decide what to quilt!

In this week’s challenge, we are looking at machine quilting designs for chevron blocks. While at first, it might not seem like a common quilt block, the designs we are going to learn can be applied to other shapes as well!



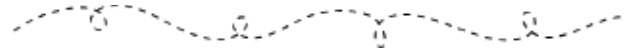
### Your Challenge

Now, it’s your turn! If you are quilting along with me on the panel I designed exclusively for this challenge, quilt the areas highlighted in red with the designs of your choice.

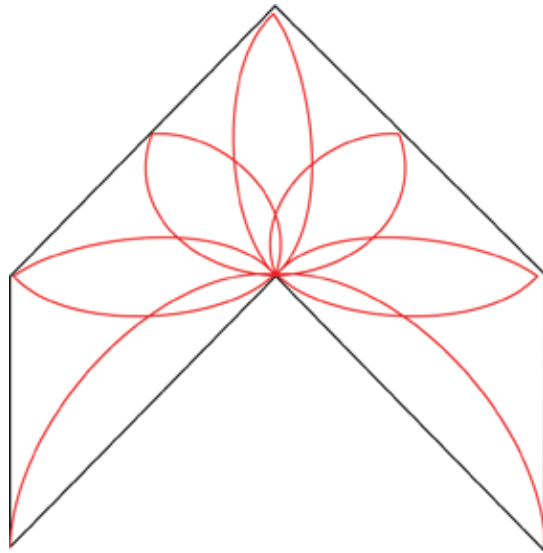




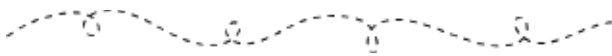
## Design # 1 – Continuous Curve



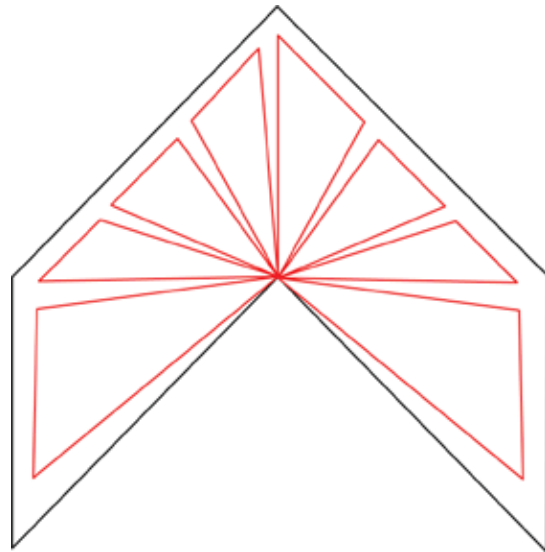
If there was ever a “MVP” of quilting designs, the continuous curve would definitely be it! It works in so many different shapes and is fun to quilt. In this example, we are starting at one side of the block and ending at the other side, which makes it perfect for chevron blocks that in a row.



## Design # 2 – Dot to Dot

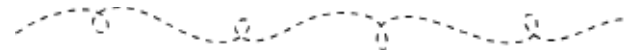


For the next design option, we are going to use the Dot to Dot method to fill in the block. We just learned this in the last challenge, but I couldn't resist including it in this one. This geometric-shaped design is going to highlight the inner corner of the block since all the lines come to this point, making it a perfect design for larger chevron blocks, or chevrons that are a part of a larger block.

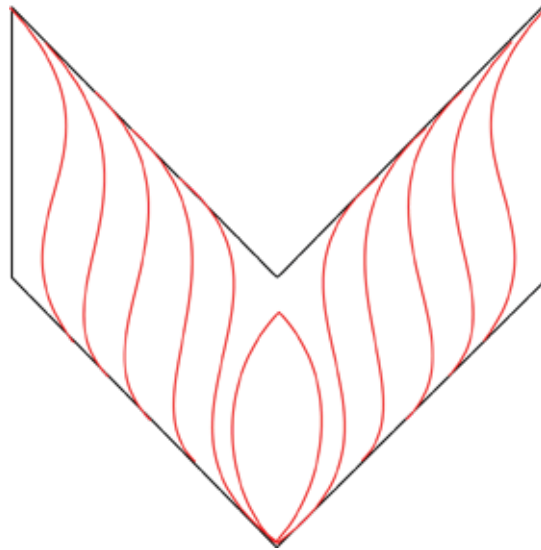




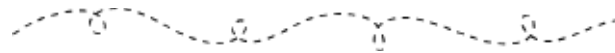
## Design # 3 – Serpentine Lines



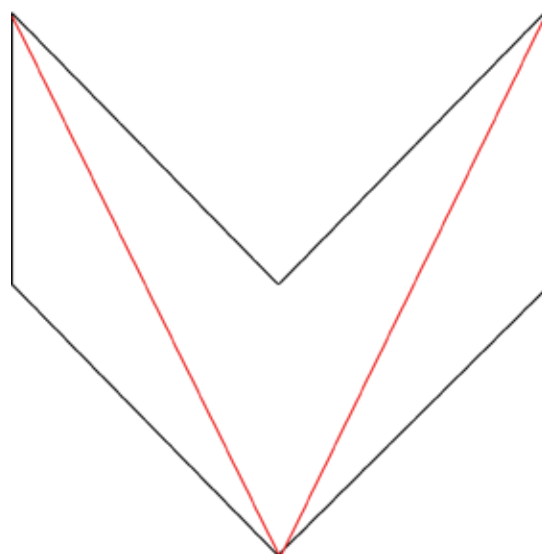
The next design uses serpentine lines to fill in our chevron blocks. While it works in almost any chevron block, I especially like to use in blocks that come together to make a star.



## Design # 4 – “V”



For a more simple looking design, we can use a “V” shape. I like to use this in smaller blocks, where there isn’t room to add a more complicated design, or in chevrons that are stacked in a column, since I can travel to the next block.





# HELP!

## How Do I Quilt It?

Free-Motion Challenge Quilting Along

## Week 2

In this week's "Help! How Do I Quilt It?" Free-motion Challenge Quilting Along, we are learning several design ideas for Snowball blocks. A snowball is a square quilt block with triangles in its corners that can be used as a stand-alone block or as a connector block in a quilt. These blocks can be used in so many different layouts, and can create secondary designs when combined with other blocks.

There are a few things to consider when deciding how to quilt a snowball block. The size of the block is probably the most important thing to take into consideration. There are designs that fit better in larger blocks and visa versa.

What kind of fabric the block is made with is also something I take into consideration as well. These blocks are fabulous for showing off your favorite large prints. But if it's made with a busy fabric, the quilting won't be as noticeable, so in that instance I like to opt for designs that are quick and easy to quilt.

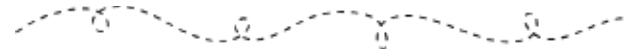
### Your Challenge

Now, it's your turn! If you are quilting along with me on the panel I designed exclusively for this challenge, quilt the areas highlighted in red with the designs of your choice.

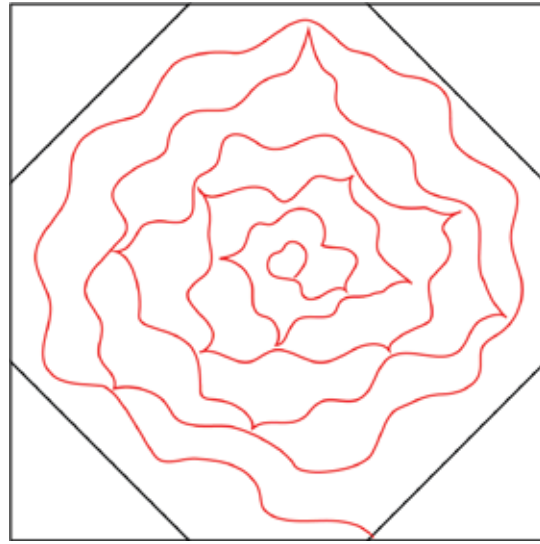




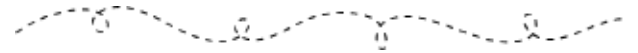
## Design # 1 – Wavy Swirls



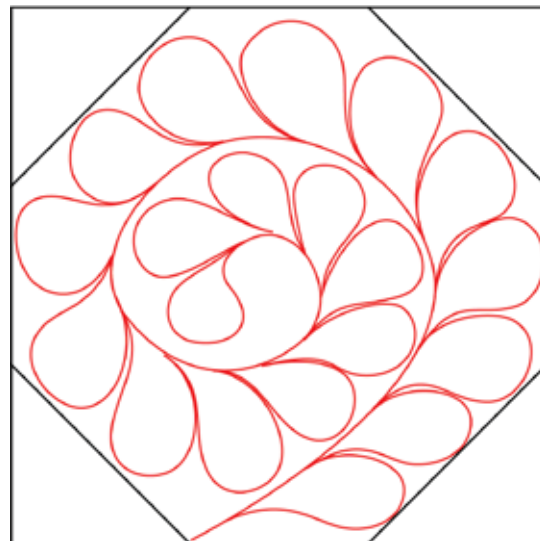
For a soft, wavy texture, try the Wavy Swirls design. It's quick to quilt and works in blocks of all sizes. I prefer to use this design in busier fabrics where the quilting doesn't really show.



## Design # 2 – Feathered Swirl



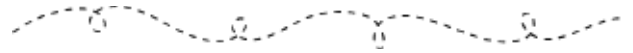
For this design option, we are going to add an elegant look to our snowball block by quilting a feather. This design can be adapted to fit snowball blocks of almost any size and is also a great way to practice quilting the feather design by using it in a contained area.



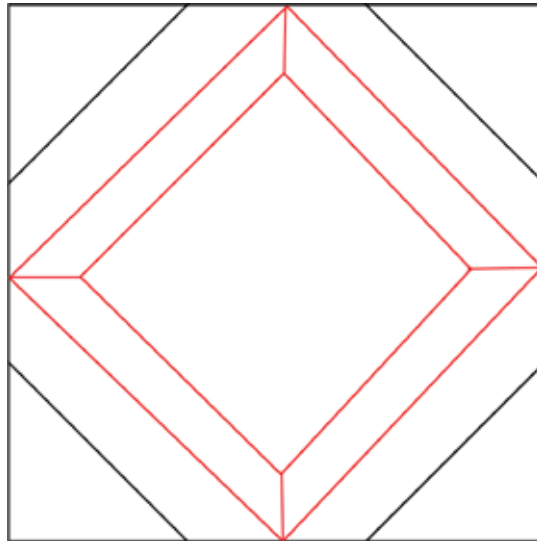




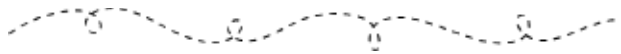
## Design # 3 – Filled Squares



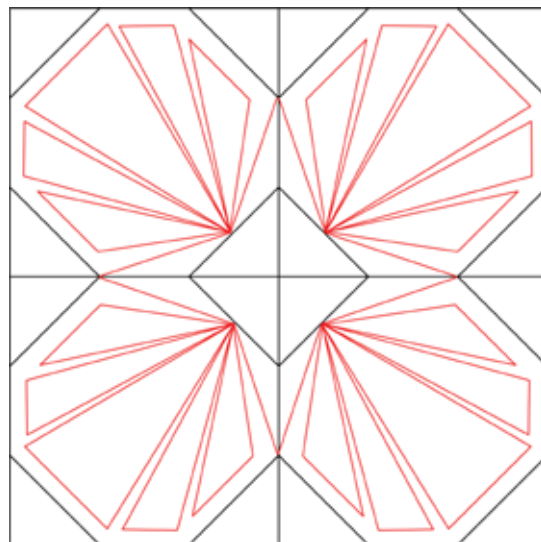
This design uses the quilting to create a square area to fill in with a different design. Once the square is quilted, you can use any design you'd like whether its a filler design or a motif. Since this design takes a little bit to come together, I'm prefer to use it in blocks made of solid or tonal fabric. That way, it doesn't just disappear in the fabric.



## Design # 4 – Dot to Dot Motif



If several snowball blocks come together to make a larger block, I like to use a design that pulls them together, kinda like a motif. This design incorporates the same "Dot to Dot" wedges we saw in last week's challenge, but it also includes extra lines as a way to transition from one block to another.



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## How Do I Quilt It?

Free-Motion Challenge Quilting Along

## Week 3

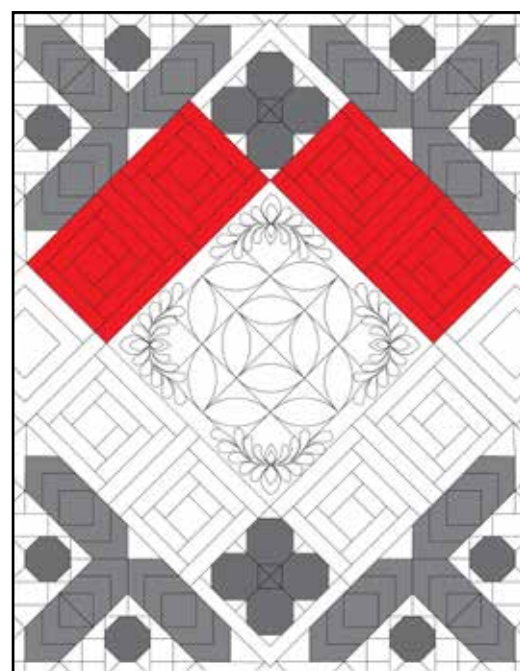
Welcome to the third week of the “Help! How Do I Quilt It?” Free-motion Challenge Quilting Along! In this week’s challenge we are going to learn some design options for Log Cabin blocks.

It seems as though log cabin blocks have been around as long as quilting itself! This traditional block has a lot of variations but it usually consists of a center square with strips of fabric that wrap around it. Usually the fabrics on one side of a log cabin are lighter than the other, which allows the it to be used in so many different layouts! The fact that there are so many different ways to make a log cabin block is the reason that they can be so tricky to quilt!

In this week’s challenge, I am going to show you some different designs, while also giving you tips and suggestions for applying them to your quilts! In next week’s challenge, we will see even more design options for log cabin blocks.

### Your Challenge

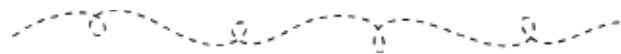
Now, it’s your turn! If you’re quilting along with me on the panel I designed exclusively for this challenge, quilt the areas highlighted in red with the designs of your choice.



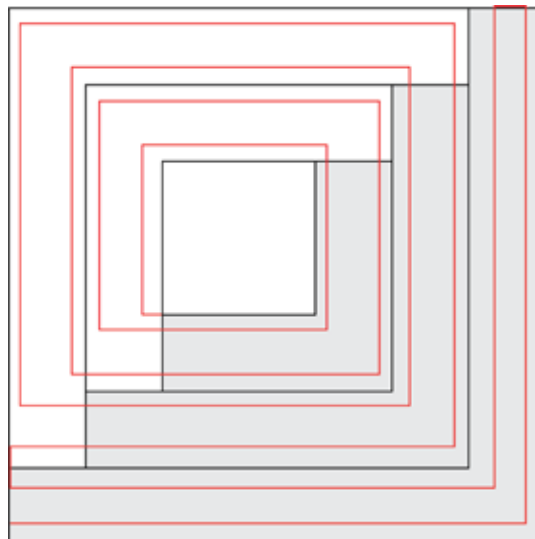




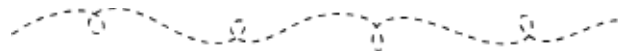
## Design # 1 – Echoed Lines



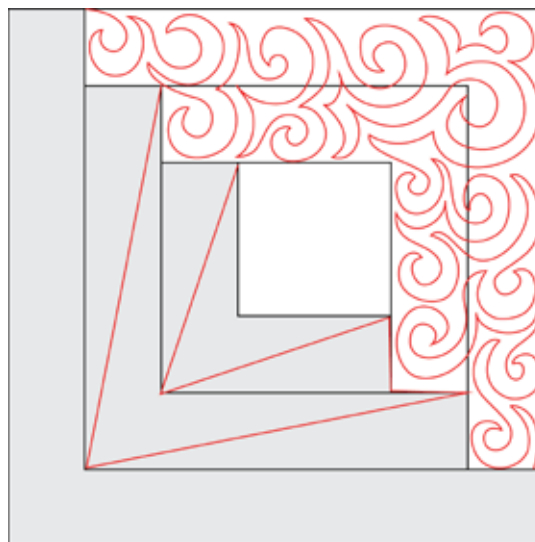
The first design uses echoing to highlight the individual pieces of a log cabin block. I love it because it sort of resembles how these blocks might have been hand quilted in the past! But instead of starting a new line of quilting for each echo line, we are quilting a large square spiral that gives the illusion of traditional echoing.



## Design # 2 – Halusies



Quilting doesn't have to be difficult to be impactful! Since most log cabin blocks have one side that is lighter than the other, we can use that to our advantage by quilting designs that also have contrast. By quilting a geometric Dot to Dot design on one side and using a curvy swirly design on the other, we can use the quilting to highlight the different parts of the block.





# HELP!

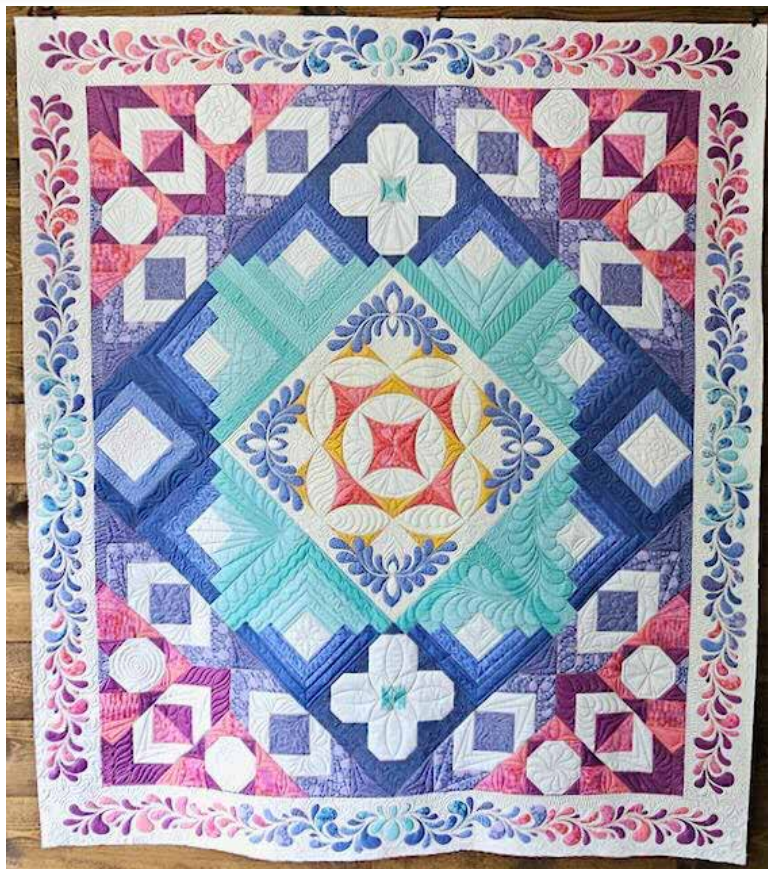
## How Do I Quilt It?

Free-Motion Challenge Quilting Along

## Week 4

Welcome to the fourth video in the "Help! How do I Quilt It?" Free-motion Challenge Quilting Along! Last week, we learned several quilting designs for log cabin blocks, and this week we are learning even more designs for these traditional blocks!

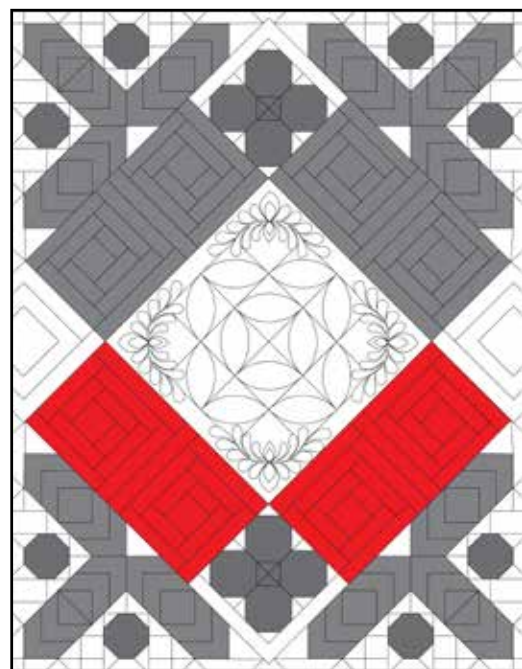
These designs range in skill level and can be applied to most log cabin quilt blocks. And since each design can be broken down into two separate designs, you can mix and match them to create even more design options for log cabin blocks.



### Your Challenge

Now, it's your turn! If you're quilting along with me on the panel I designed exclusively for this challenge, quilt the areas highlighted in red with the designs of your choice.

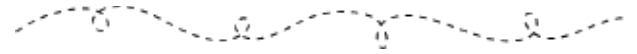
As you quilt the "blocks" on the panel, you can quilt the surrounding areas however you want. Try an all-over filler design, such as swirls, or quilt the individual blocks separately.....whichever you prefer!



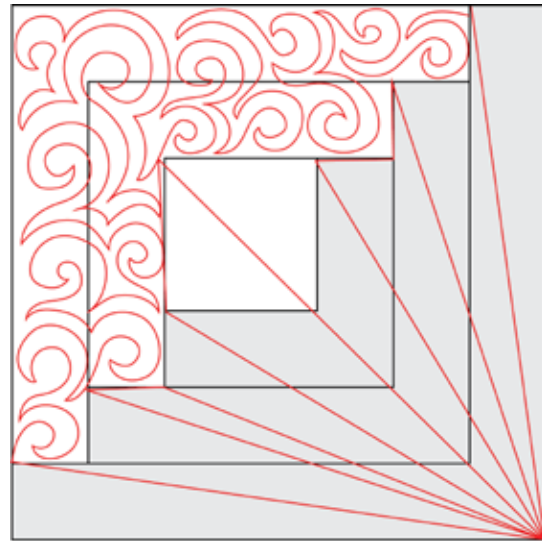




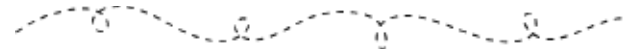
## Design # 1 – Rays



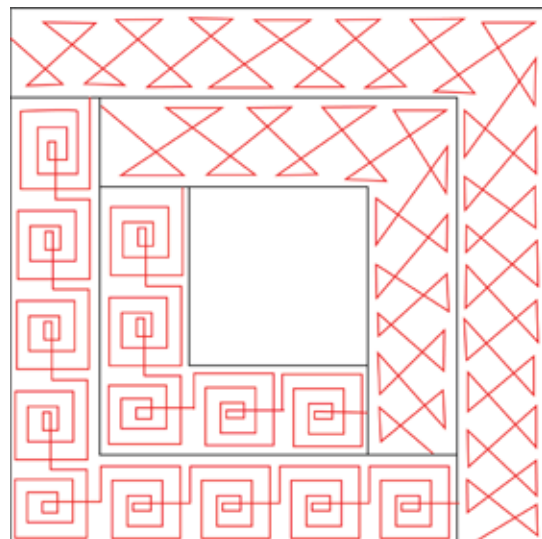
This design option uses diagonal lines to connect reference points on the block. Since all the lines go to one point, it will draw attention to that area, making it perfect for highlighting some of your favorite blocks. On the other side, try using an all-over design, such as swirls, or any design that you feel comfortable quilting, for a curvy contrast to the straight lines.



## Design # 2 – Sashing Designs

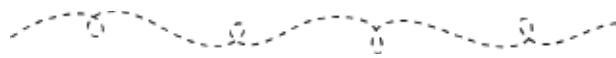


Instead of highlighting the whole block, try out some of your favorite sashing designs in the individual strips. You can pick two designs and alternate between them, or quilt each strip with a different design, it's like a choose your own adventure! For a more geometric, angular look, try the boxy filler or the pointy wishbone.

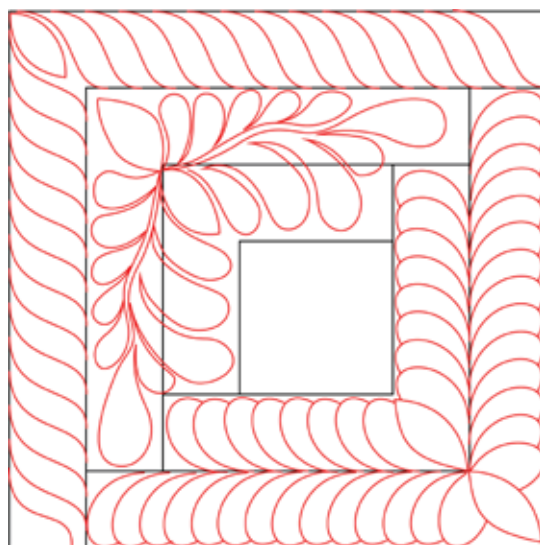




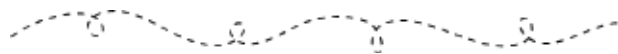
## Design # 3 – Feathers



Quilting feather motifs in log cabin blocks gives the quilting an elegant look, but it can take a little longer than other designs. I prefer to use these in larger blocks where there is room for the feather to develop. You can quilt the feathers so that they fill in a defined area (such as in half of the block) or so that they fit the strips of the block. Either way looks amazing!



## Think Big



In the previous example, we used the feather design to fill in a portion of a log cabin block, but you can also fill in areas that are formed when 2 or more blocks come together. This is a great way to use feathers in log cabin blocks that come together to make secondary designs.







# HELP!

## How Do I Quilt It? Free-Motion Challenge Quilting Along

### Week 5

Welcome to the fifth video in the “Help! How do I Quilt It?” Free-motion Challenge Quilting Along! I can’t believe that we have already quilted our way through four week’s of quilting fun.

In this week’s challenge, we are leaving geometric blocks behind and exploring design ideas for curved quilt blocks. Whether it’s a Drunkard’s Path block made from a quarter circle, or an Orange Peel block with a leaf shaped center, I’d much rather quilt them than piece them!

In the video tutorial, I’m sharing several different designs you can use in curved blocks. From minimal overlapping echos to elegant feathers, these designs will leave you inspired to try them out on your quilts!

### Your Challenge

Now, it’s your turn! If you’re quilting along with me on the panel I designed exclusively for this challenge, quilt the center with the designs of your choice.

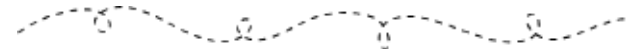
Fill in any other unquilted areas on your panel with the designs of your choice.



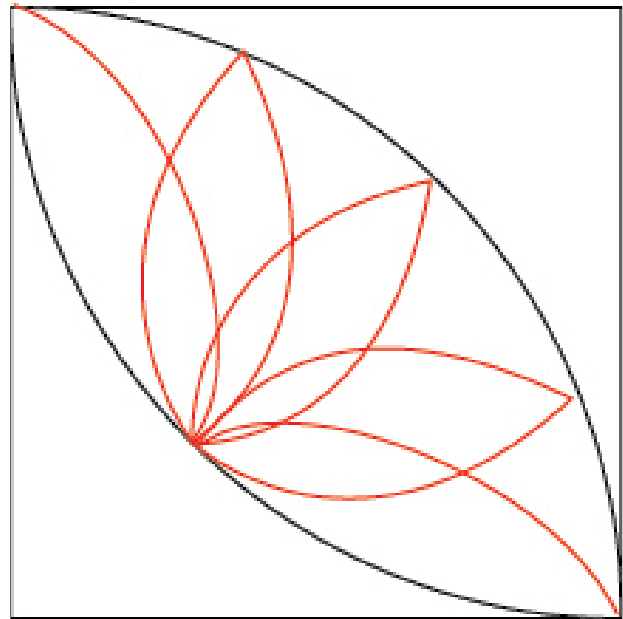
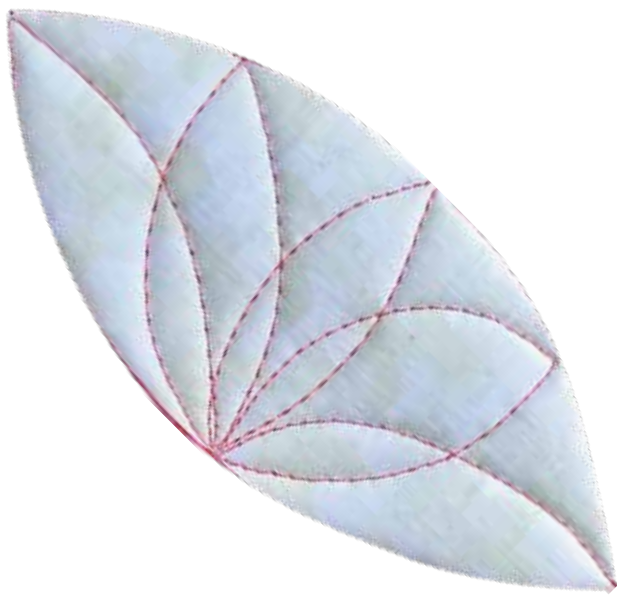




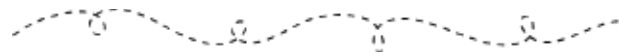
## Design # 1 – Continuous Curve



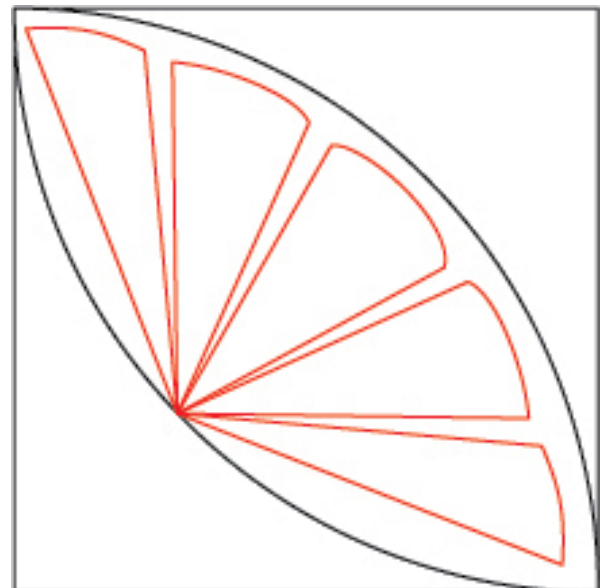
Even though we saw the Continuous Curve design earlier in this challenge, it's too versatile not to use it again! Instead of quilting the arcs to the corners of the block, we are picking our own points. I especially love how this design starts on one side of the block and ends on the other, allowing me to efficiently work my way through the area.



## Design # 2 – Dot to Dot



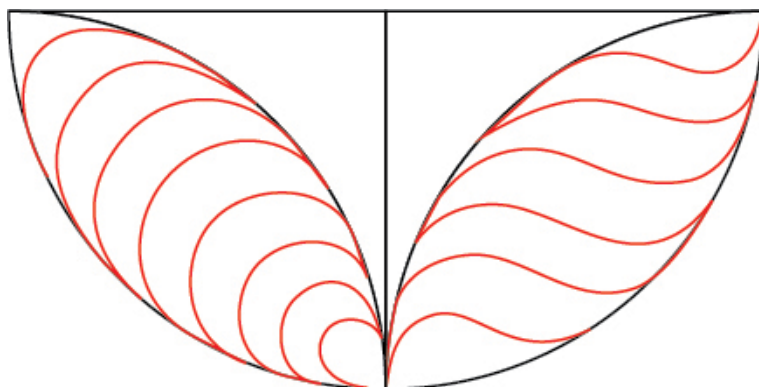
Normally, the dot to dot design can be found in geometric blocks, but we can use it in curved blocks as well by giving it a softer, curvy edge. The lines of this design draw attention to the side of the block, making it perfect for curved blocks that come together to make a bigger block.





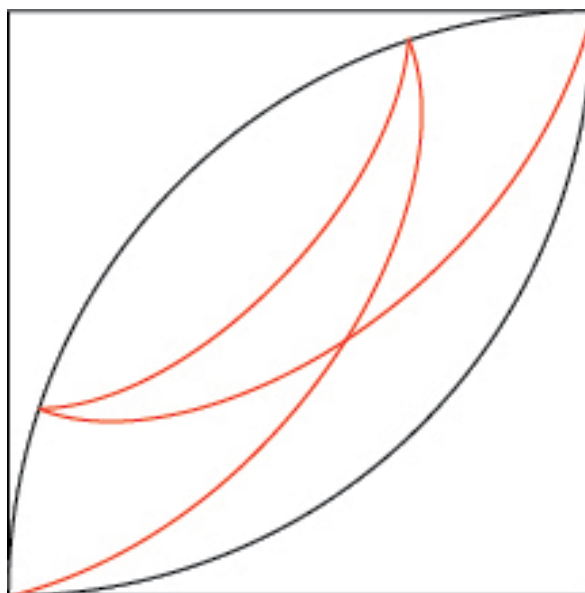
## Design # 3 – Serpentine Lines/Arcs

If the curved block is pieced with a busy or focal print, I prefer to use a design that adds nice texture without being fussy or complicated. The curve of the serpentine line adds a gorgeous look without taking away from the rest of the block. If the idea of quilting serpentine lines makes you a little nervous, switch them out with arcs for a similar look.



## Design # 4 – Overlapping Arcs

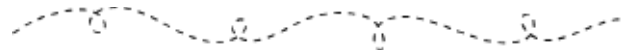
This design is perfect for smaller blocks or when you want less dense quilting. It's technically a variation of the continuous curve design, but it doesn't draw attention to just one point on the block. Instead, you get a curvy design that starts at one corner of the block and ends on the other. For larger blocks, you could use an arc ruler, such as Smiley, to help keep the lines smooth.



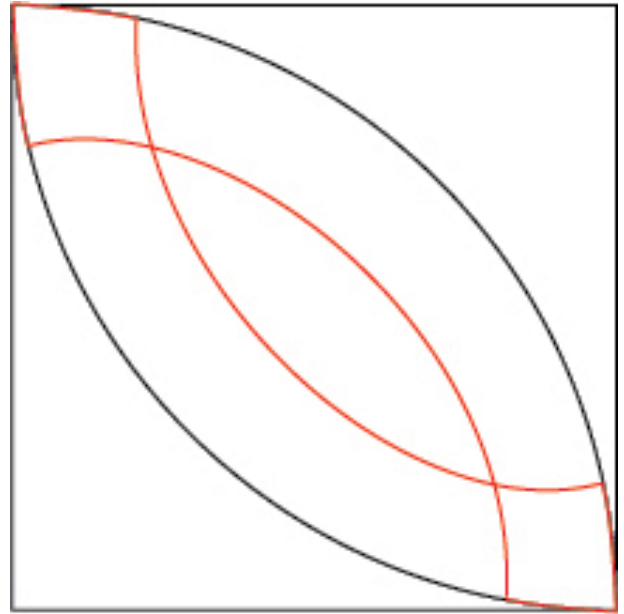




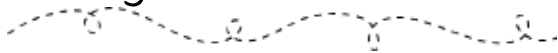
## Design # 5 - Double Echoes



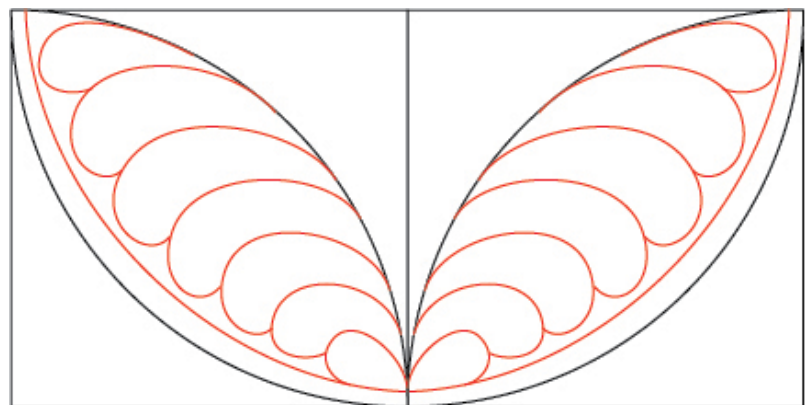
For a more traditional look, try echoing the sides of a curved block so that they overlap. For larger blocks, you could quilt more echo lines or even fill in the space between them with a different quilting design altogether. Traveling along the points of the block can help you transition from one echo line to the next.



## Design # 6 - Feathers



There's nothing quite like the elegant look of a feather design! If a block is too small for a whole feather, you can use half of one to fill in the space. Echoing one side of the block first can help the design stand out from the rest of the quilting.

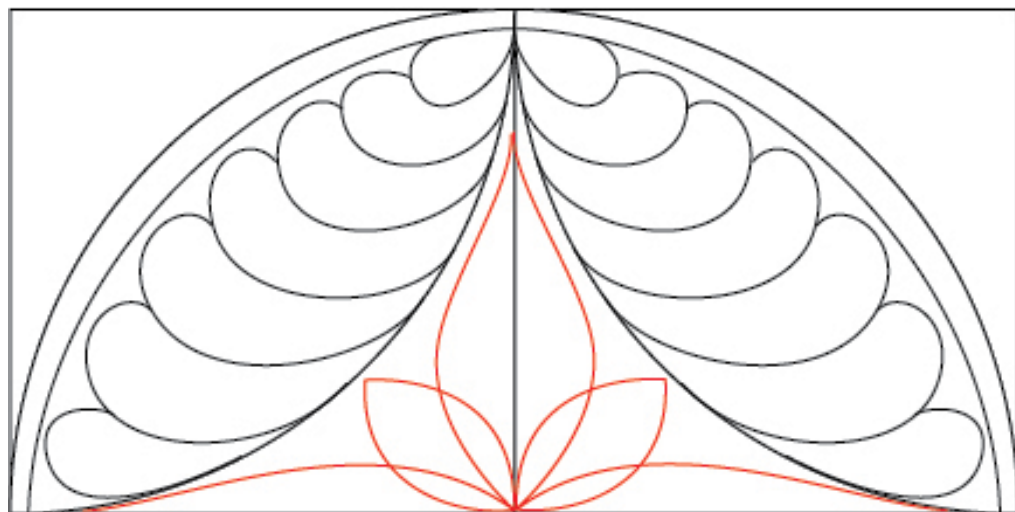






## Quilting the Rest of the Center

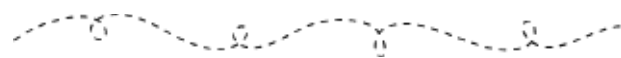
If you're quilting along with me on the panel, fill in the rest of the center area. On my panel, I quilted a continuous curve design that fills in the remaining part of the blocks. A mini feather motif would also look great as well. I also quilted around the feather motifs of the panel and echoed around them before quilting a swirl filler in the rest of the background.







## Quilting the Optional Borders



I designed the optional borders for the challenge panel, so that they would resemble appliqué. While we didn't have to spend hours upon hours actually piecing these intricate borders, we can still use the quilting to make them shine!

Try quilting along the edges of the printed shapes to help separate them from the rest of the filler. Echoing around the outside of the shapes is another way to highlight the design.

You can fill in the rest of the area with more tear drop shapes and echo lines. Or, for an even more stunning look, use a dense filler around the designs. Swirls or wishbones are always a great option. In the examples below, I use gold thread so that you could see the quilting. But, using a light thread color will allow the texture of the quilting to show, without detracting from the lovely border design.

