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# Floral FRAMES

*Free-motion Challenge Quilting Along*

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***Week 1 Quilting Diagrams & Tip Sheet***  
*For more information about the challenge, visit [FMQchallenge.com](http://FMQchallenge.com)*

# Floral FRAMES

Free-motion Challenge Quilting Along

## Week 1 : Border Motifs

Welcome to the first week of the Floral Frames Free-motion Challenge Quilting Along! In the first video of this series, we are going to see how using motifs, or stand alone designs, in our borders might be an easier option for adding detail and interest to those areas of our quilts.

Simply quilt motif designs in strategic places in the borders, then fill in the rest of the space with a filler design of your choice. It's an easy option that can give the borders of your quilts an extra "wow" factor!

Scan the QR code to rewatch the Week 1 video tutorial.



### Your Challenge

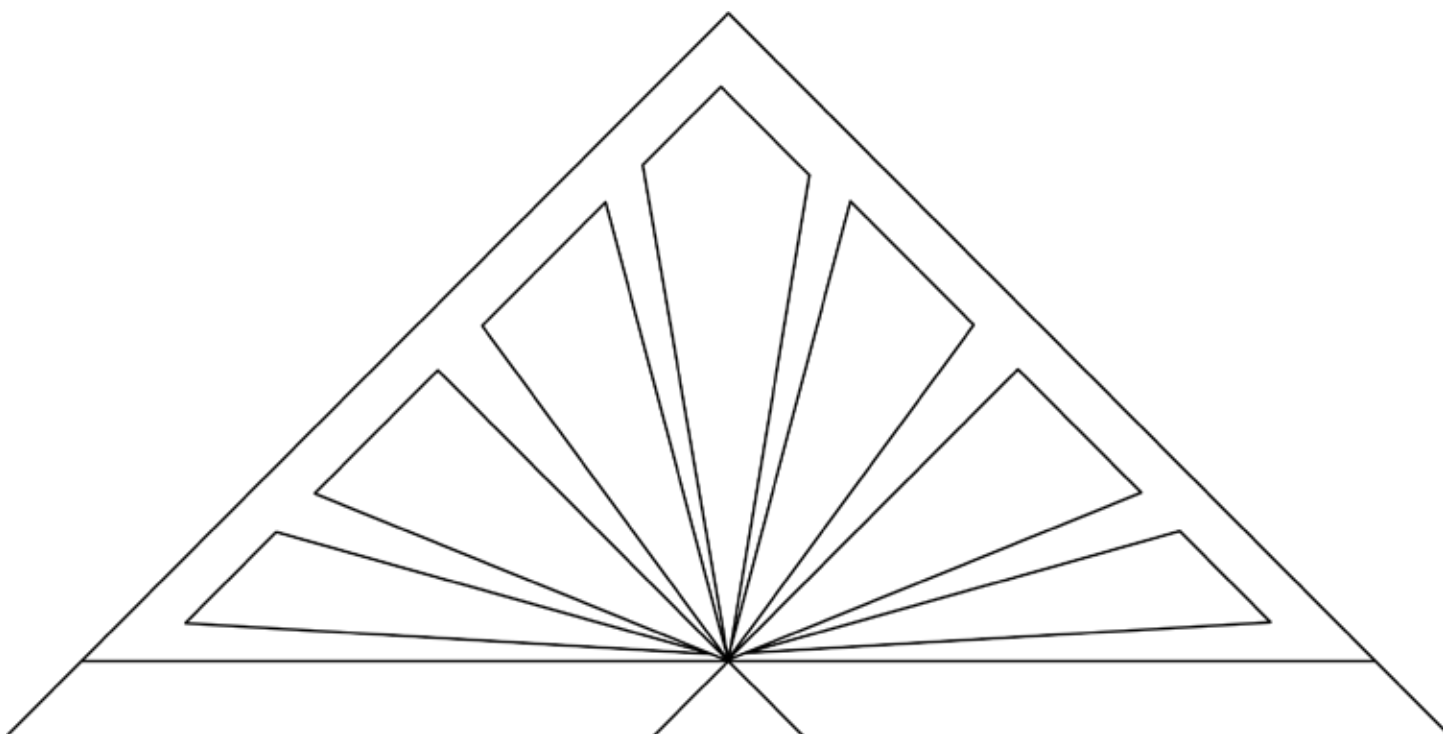
If you are quilting along with me on the custom panel designed for this challenge, quilt the outer border with the motifs of your choice. You can try out the motifs we learned in the video tutorial, or come up with your own variations. If you purchased the coordinating thread collection, use the Cobalt Blue or Cleopatra Gold thread in this area.





# Motifs

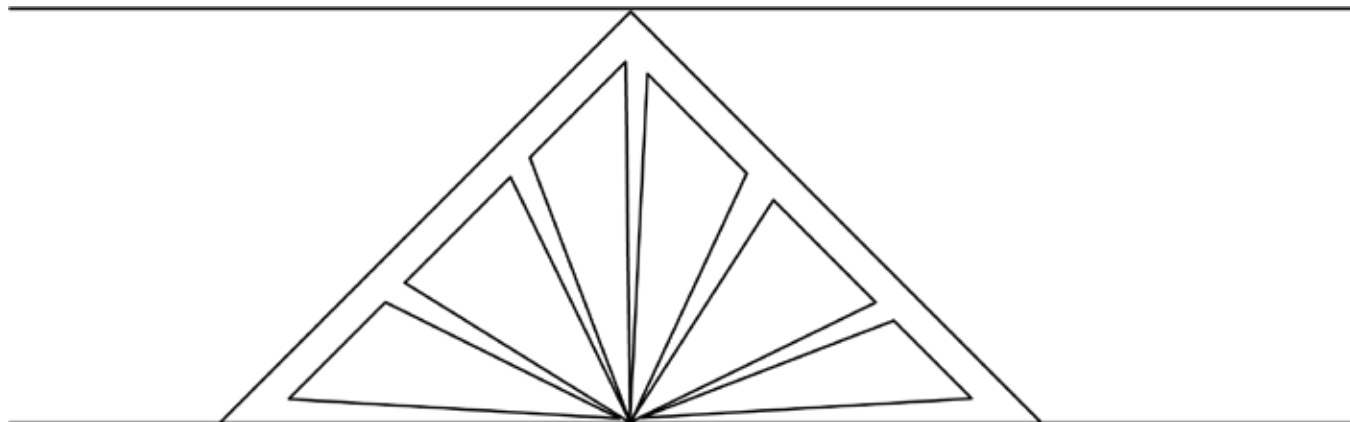
The word “motif” might sound fancy and difficult, but in reality quilting motifs aren’t hard at all! A motif is simply a decorative design or pattern. In machine quilting, I tend to think of a motif as a standalone design that isn’t continuous. These designs are meant to draw attention and can make areas of your quilt look amazing. Plus, there are so many different ways to use them on your quilts.





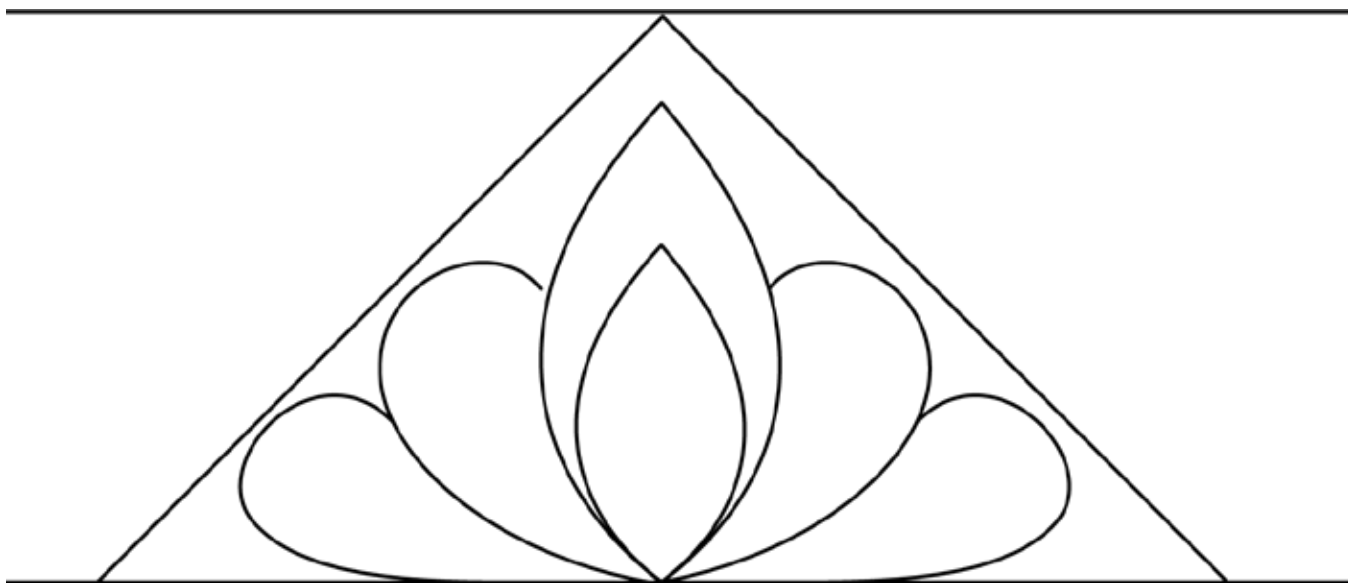
## Dot to Dot Side Border Motif

Quilting the Dot to Dot motif on the straight portion of the borders is very similar to quilting them in the border corners. Try this design in borders of all sizes, just adjust the number of wedges accordingly.



## Feather Motif

Instead of a geometric dot to dot design, try quilting a mini-feather motif. This adorable little feather motif is the perfect way to add an elegant, feathery look to thinner borders without committing to quilting a feather all the way around the quilt.



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***Week 2 Quilting Diagrams & Tip Sheet***  
*For more information about the challenge, visit [FMQchallenge.com](http://FMQchallenge.com)*

Welcome to the second week of the Floral Frames Free-motion Challenge Quilting Along. Last week, we saw that quilting border motifs can be an easy alternate to quilting a design that wraps around the whole quilt. In this week's tutorial, we are going to create the illusion of a wrap around design by breaking up the border into more manageable "chunks".



While "chunking" might not sound like a technical quilting term, it's a great way to approach the borders of your quilts. Instead of looking at the border as one big area, we are going to see just how to break it up and create quilting designs that look amazing!

Scan the QR code to rewatch the Week 2 video tutorial.



### Your Challenge

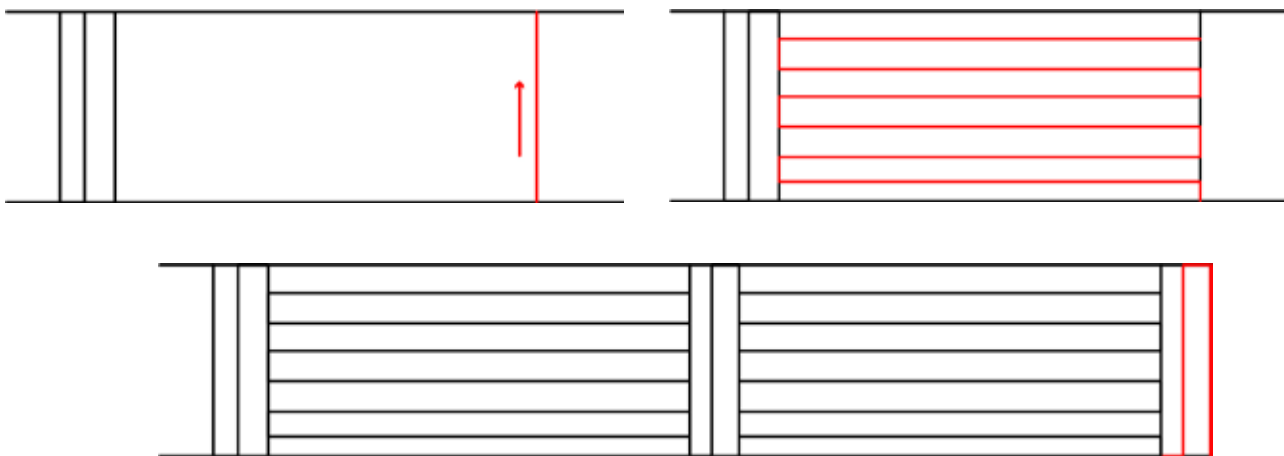
If you are quilting along with me on the custom panel designed for this challenge, quilt the border highlighted in red. You can try out the techniques we learned in the video tutorial, or come up with your own variations. If you purchased the coordinating thread collection, use the Key Lime green thread in this area.





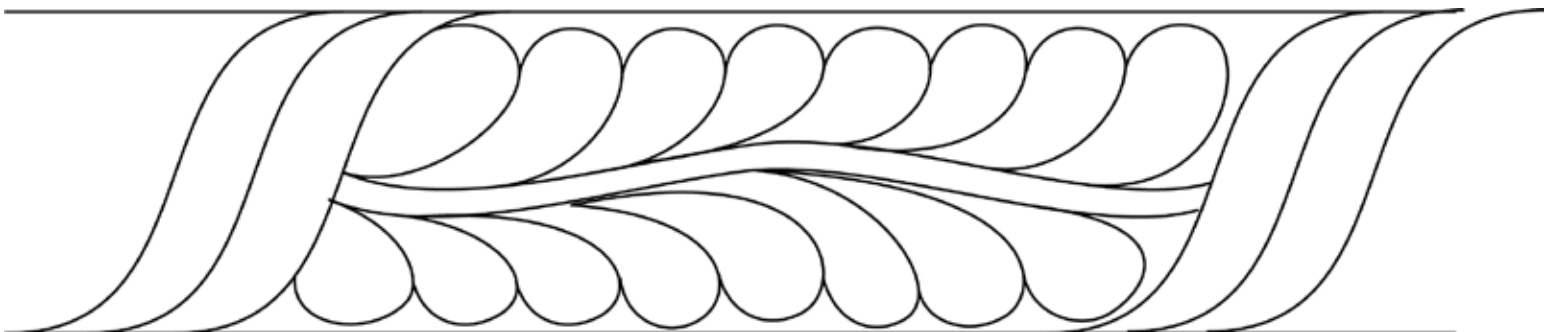
## Chunking Borders – The Technique

Let's go over the basic technique before learning the different ways you can use it on your quilts! For this technique, we actually need two different designs; the "main design" (such as a feather) and a "boundary design" which acts as the ends of our sections. Let's see the basic chunking technique using straight lines for both the main design and the boundary design.



## Chunked Feathers

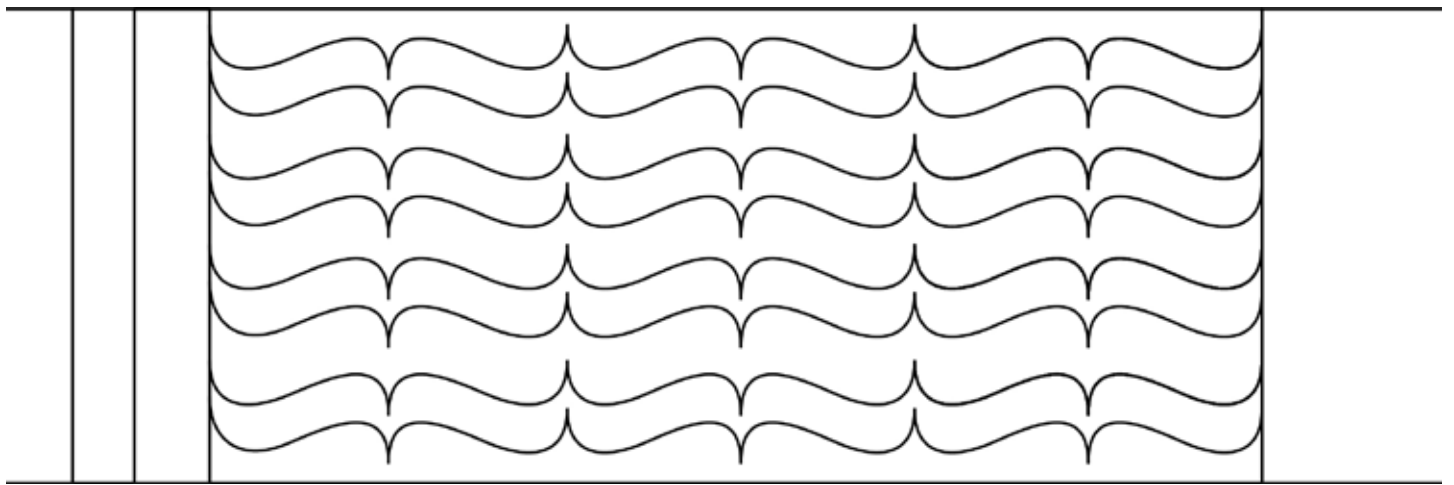
Who doesn't love the look of a beautiful border feather that wraps around the quilt? With this technique, we still get the same stunning look, without the hassle. For this variation, we are using a feather as the filler design and serpentine lines as the boundary design.





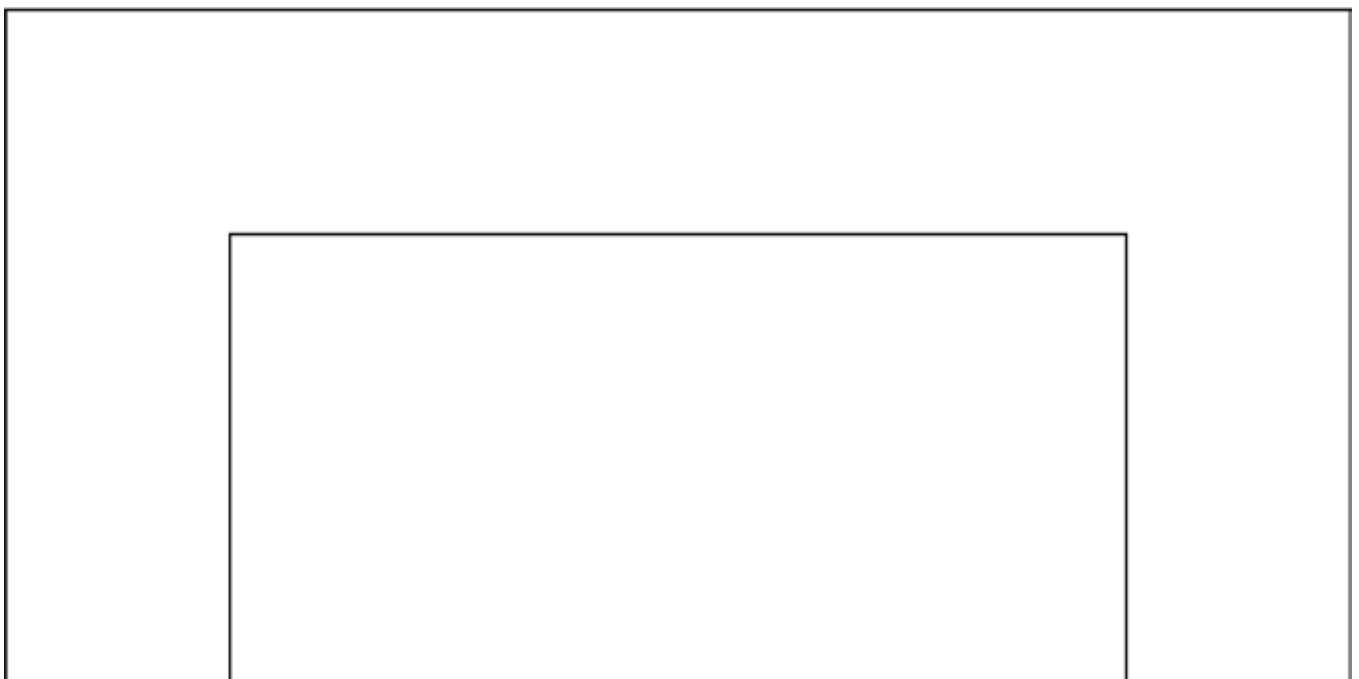
## Bracket Chunks

The brackets design is a little curvy, a little pointy, and a whole lotta awesome! Just like the feather design, it can be tricky to quilt in borders.....unless we use the chunking technique, of course.



## Audition Designs

Use the diagram to audition different designs for the borders of your quilts.



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***Week 3 Quilting Diagrams & Tip Sheet***  
*For more information about the challenge, visit [FMQchallenge.com](http://FMQchallenge.com)*

In this week's video tutorial, we are going to focus on another part of quilting borders that can be a little tricky.....the corners. While wrapping a design around the corners of your quilt might require a couple more steps, the results are so worth the effort! Not only will it give the border design a "framing" effect, it's just looks so darn nice.



But don't let the thought of turning the corner scare you! It's not as hard as you might think. In this week's video tutorial, I am going to share three different options for wrapping your design around this tricky part of the borders. Plus, we will explore the ribbon candy and wishbone designs.....both of which are perfect for narrow sashing and borders.

Scan the QR code to rewatch the Week 3 video tutorial.



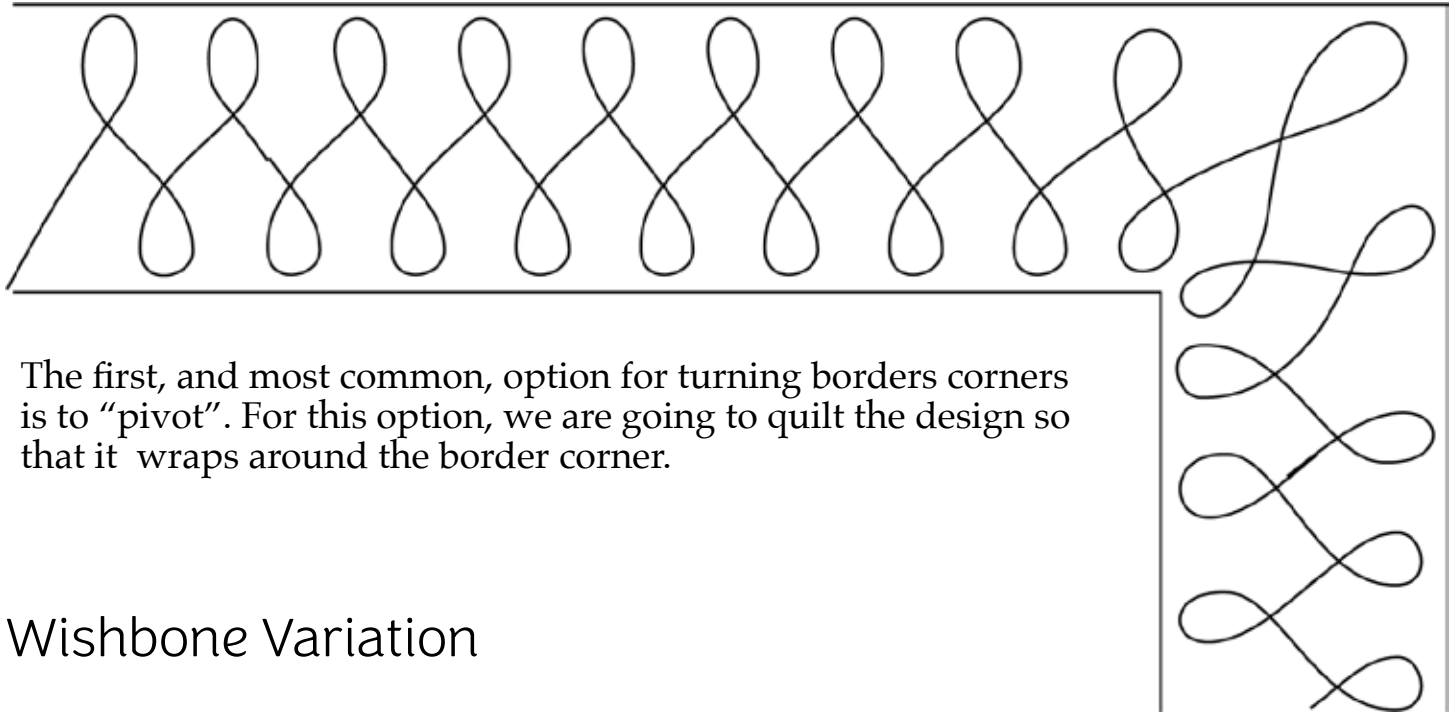
### Your Challenge

If you are quilting along with me on the custom panel designed for this challenge, quilt the borders and areas highlighted in red. You can try out the techniques in the video tutorial, or come up with your own variations. If you purchased the coordinating thread collection, use the Cobalt blue and Pale Mist threads in this area.





## Turning the Corner Option #1- Pivot



The first, and most common, option for turning borders corners is to “pivot”. For this option, we are going to quilt the design so that it wraps around the border corner.

## Wishbone Variation

This technique can be used with several different border designs, including this geometric wishbone variation. It comes together just like the wishbone, just with pointier edges.





## Turning the Corner Option #2 – Use a Different Design

If the idea of wrapping a design around the corner seems like too much to think about, then we can skip that option all together. Instead of “pivoting” we can put a completely different design in that area. For this example, we are going to use the Ribbon Candy design, but this technique can work with any border design!

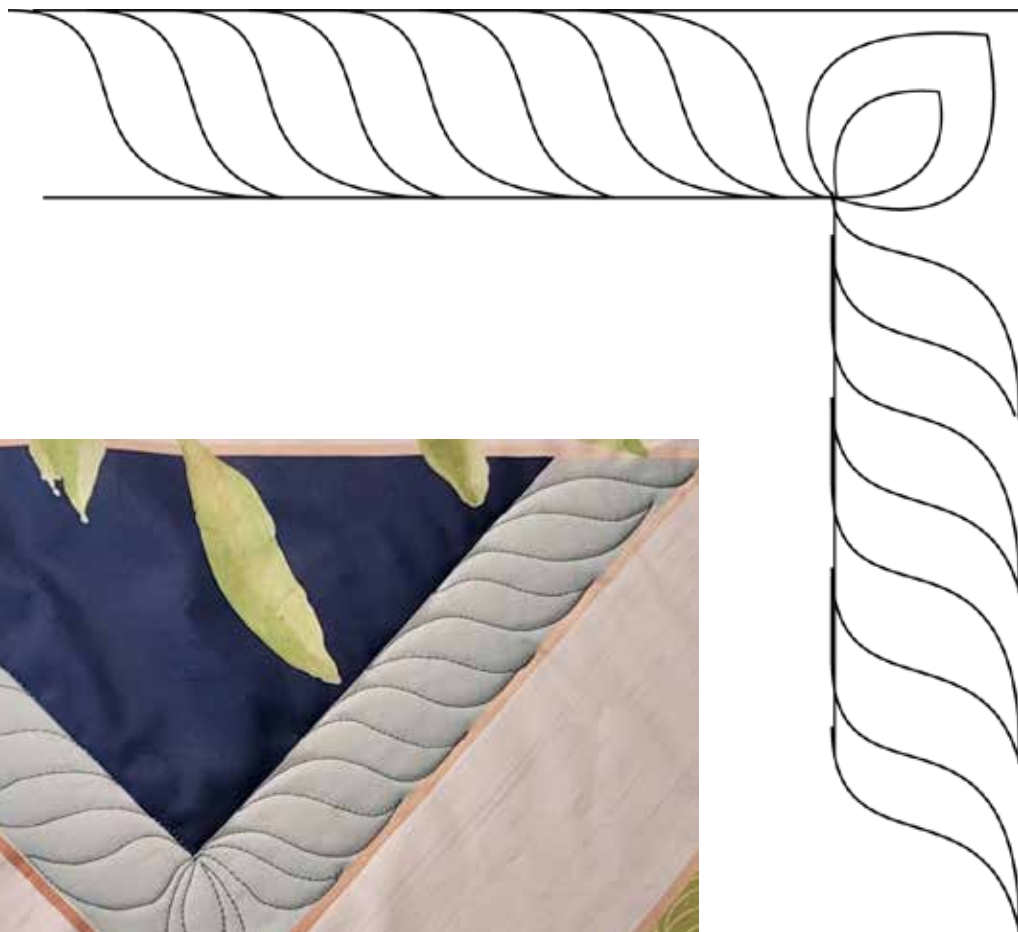


*Try different designs in the border corner to create different looks for your quilts.*



## Turning the Corner Option #3- Motif

For the third option, we are going to use the border corner as though it's the "center" of a motif. This is perfect for sashing or borders that don't go all the way around the quilt or for directional designs such as serpentine lines or feathers.



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***Week 4 Quilting Diagrams & Tip Sheet***  
*For more information about the challenge, visit [FMQchallenge.com](http://FMQchallenge.com)*

We have covered a lot throughout the last few videos in this series. We've learned border motifs, how to break borders into chunks as well as how to turn the border corners with some of my favorite designs. In this week's video tutorial, we are bringing everything together and learning an elegant border design that is easier to quilt than it might look. I am talking about the swirl chain, of course.



We've seen this design before as an all-over design, but now we are going to see just how amazing it looks in borders. Not only will I show you how the swirl chain goes together, you'll also learn how to turn the corner, how to embellish it as well as how to pick out filler designs to quilt around it. When we are finished, I think you are going to love this beautiful design as much as I do!

Scan the QR code to rewatch the Week 4 video tutorial.



### Your Challenge

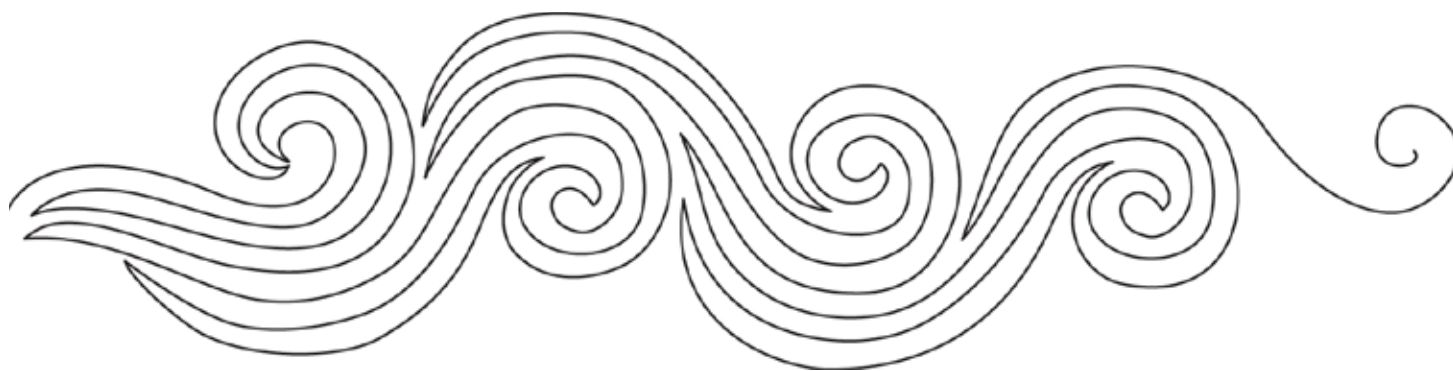
If you are quilting along with me on the custom panel designed for this challenge, quilt the swirl chain design in the areas highlighted in red. If you purchased the coordinating thread collection, use the Linen or Pale Mist threads in this area.





## About the Swirl Chain Design

I like to say that quilting the swirl chain is like a party trick. It's impressive to look at but easy to quilt (once you get the hang of it!) It gets its elegant look from elongated swirls and lots of echo lines. But this design isn't just pretty to look at, it's so versatile and easy to customize. You can use it in wide or narrow borders, and it can go around the border corner easily.



## Turning the Corner

Quilting the swirl chain so that it wraps around the border corner isn't too difficult at all, thanks to echoing!





## Swirl Chain Variations

Once you're comfortable quilting the swirl chain, it's easy to create different variations! Not only will these add more variety to your "quilting design toolbox", it also helps this design work in different areas of your quilts.

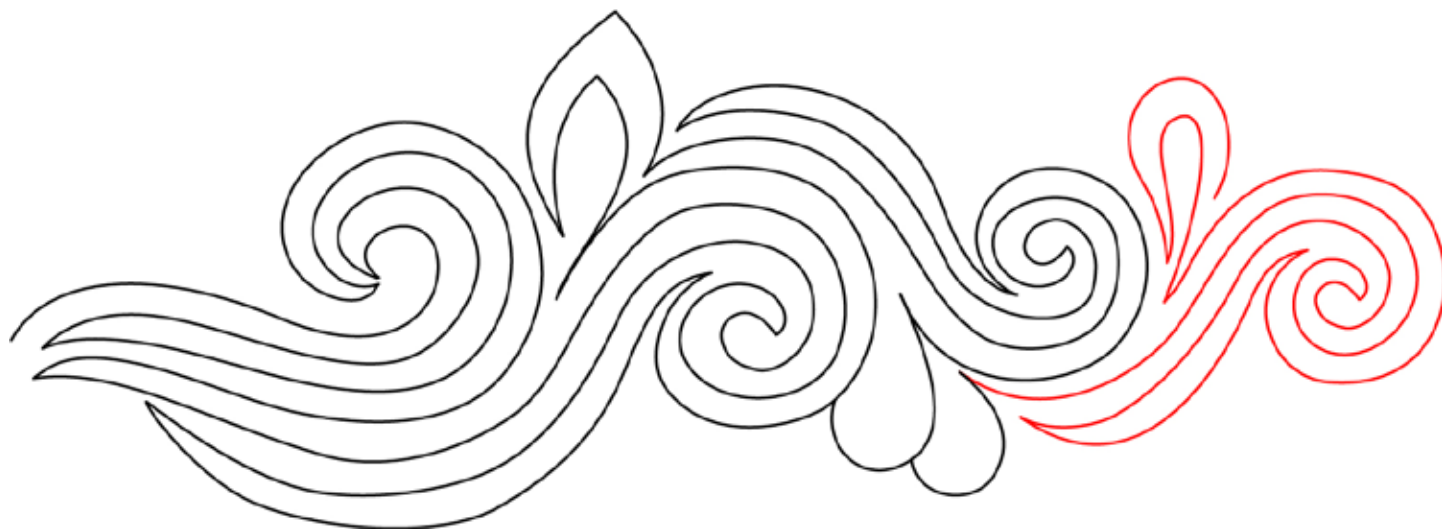
### Slim Swirl Chain

The swirl chain can get big pretty quickly! But it's easy to use in thinner borders, simply omit the echo lines to create a thinner version. This is also a great way to learn how the design goes together, since we are stripping it down to the basics.



### Embellished Swirl Chain

For larger borders or a more ornate looking design, try incorporating other designs into the swirl chain. Embellish it with several different designs or keep them all the same, it's totally up to you! Try quilting paisleys, feathers, leaves or even a combination of the three.



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# Floral FRAMES

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***Week 5 Quilting Diagrams & Tip Sheet***  
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# Floral FRAMES

Free-motion Challenge Quilting Along

## Week 5: Quilting Large Prints

In this week's challenge, we are leaving the borders behind and focusing on the center of our Floral Frames panel. Quilting fabric that has a large focal print can be so much fun! We can either use the quilting to highlight the designs in the fabric print or we can use the fabric for design inspiration. In this video, we will learn a couple different flower designs, plus I'll also show you how to use the quilting in the background areas to make the main elements "pop".



Scan the QR code to rewatch the Week 5 video tutorial.



### Your Challenge

If you are quilting along with me on the custom panel designed for this challenge, quilt the flowers around the center as well as the areas highlighted in red. If you purchased the coordinating thread collection, use the Cobalt Blue, Linen and Pale Mist threads in this area.





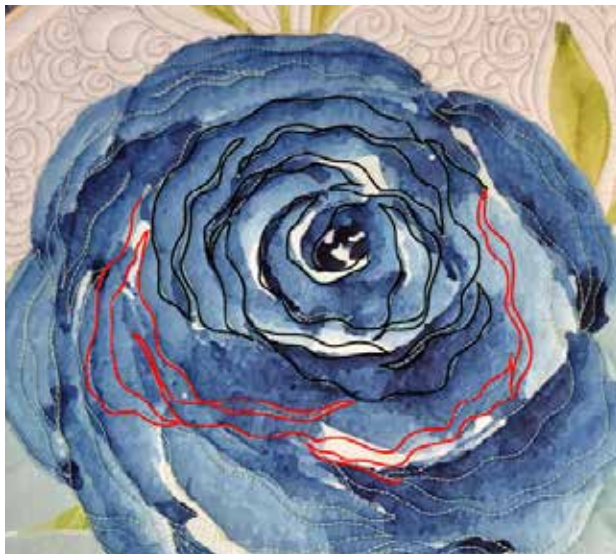
## Adding Detail with the Quilting

I love quilting fabric with large, decorative prints. I figure that the fabric designer has done all the difficult work, I can simply quilt along the lines of their designs to add detail with the quilting. With the Floral Frames panel, the large watercolor flowers are just begging to be quilted along the lines to create a textured looking flower.

Basically, for this technique, we are going to start in the center of the flower and quilt along the “lines” of the flower. But don’t let the thought of this stress you out, we don’t have to hit the lines perfectly or even quilt on all of them. The trick to enjoying this process is to not overthink it. The quilting design doesn’t have to stand on it’s own, so it doesn’t have to be realistic.

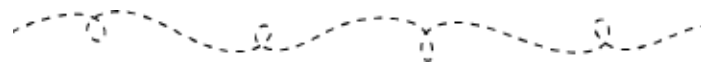
As you quilt, remember that you can add as much or as little detail as you prefer. It really depends on how dense you want the quilting to be. You can also quilt details that aren’t in the fabric, for instance, I could add more “petals” to the fabric design. This is especially helpful if you want to keep consistent texture or as a way to move around the area.





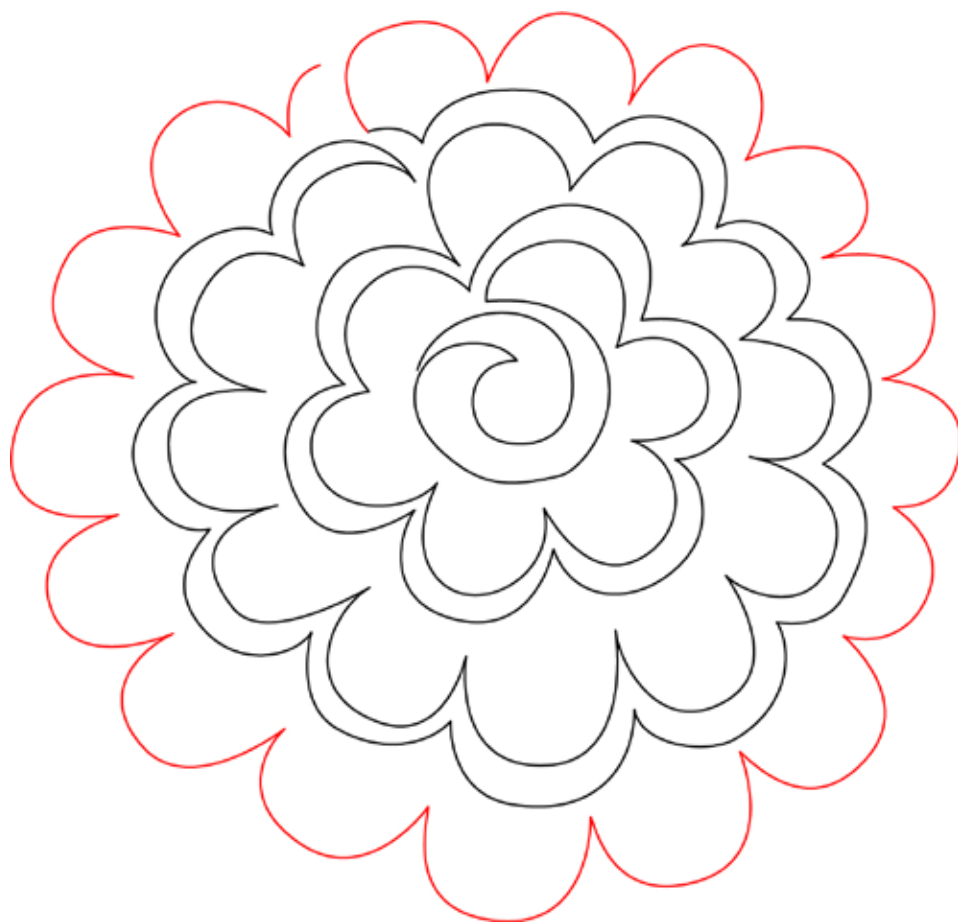


## Using the Fabric for Inspiration



If the idea of quilting along the lines of the fabric seems a little stressful, we can use the fabric as a guide for picking out the designs. For instance, on the Floral Frames panel that I designed just for this video series, the large watercolor flowers make it easy to select a design.....a nice big flower quilted right on top.

Even though the quilted lines won't match up to the fabric, we are still going to get a nice texture that complements the fabric.



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# Floral FRAMES

Free-motion Challenge Quilting Along

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***Week 6 Quilting Diagrams & Tip Sheet***  
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# Floral FRAMES

Free-motion Challenge Quilting Along

## Week 6: Finishing the Panel

This week we are finally finishing our Floral Frames panel by quilting the center area. In the video tutorial, I'll show you how to create a couple of "motifs" just by using simple shapes. For the first one, we will be incorporating squares and echo lines to help draw attention to the center of the quilt. Then, I'll talk about using designs from other areas of the quilt to create interest. By the time we are done, your beautiful Floral Frames panel will be finished.



Scan the QR code to rewatch the Week 6 video tutorial.



### Your Challenge

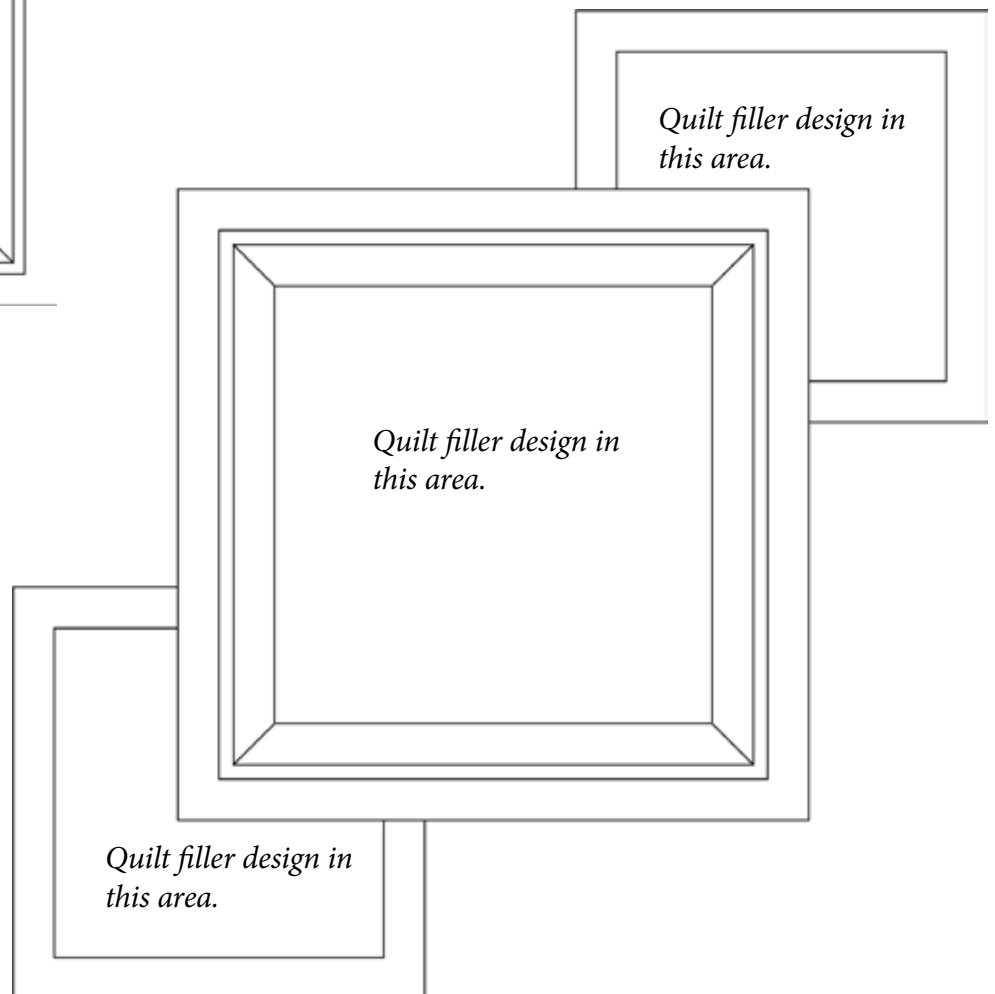
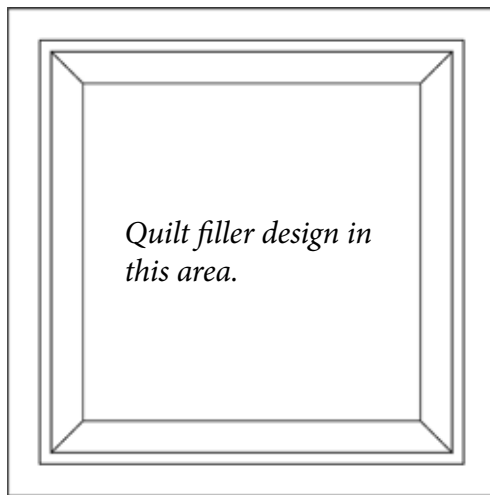
If you are quilting along with me on the custom panel designed for this challenge, quilt the center, highlighted in red, with the motif or design of your choice. If you purchased the coordinating thread collection, use the Cobalt Blue, Gold or Pale Mist threads in this area.





## Center Motif

Breaking up the center of the panel with a few squares and echo lines is a fun and easy way to create a stunning look. Quilt a square so that it's centered in the area and fill it in with the design of your choice, then quilt a few echo lines around it to help it stand out. Add partial squares in the corners and then fill in the rest of the area.





## Bunches of Flowers

For this example, we are going to use the flower design we quilted last week to add interest to the center of the panel. Quilt a few large flowers in the center of the panel, making them as big, or as little, as you prefer. To really make them stand out, use a slightly contrasting thread. Once the flowers are quilted, fill in the rest of the area with a different design.

