

NEGATIVE Spaces

Free-Motion Challenge Quilting Along



Quilting Diagrams & Tip Sheet

For more information about the challenge, visit QuiltingIsMyTherapy.com

Suggested Supplies

Let's learn some of my favorite designs and techniques for quilting background areas in this free video series. Below are a list of the suggested supplies:

Sewing Machine with a Free-motion Quilting Foot

Of course, to practice free-motion quilting you'll need a sewing machine with a free-motion quilting foot. Any free-motion quilting foot will work. If you're quilting along with me on a longarm, no worries! I will be demonstrating the designs on both types of machines.

Quilt Sandwich

To play around with all the designs, you'll need something to practice on. You can quilt along with me on the custom challenge panel, use an unfinished quilt top, or even some fat quarters. You can baste your quilt sandwich with any method that you prefer.

Needles

For quilting on a sewing machine, I love Superior's Top-stitch Titanium needles, they are stronger and stay sharper longer. The size you use depends on the thread you are quilting with. I usually use a #90/14 or an #80/12.

Machine Quilting Thread

High quality thread can help prevent tension issues and thread breaks. I will be demonstrating the designs using, Glide, a 40 weight thread. 50wt cotton also works great for machine quilting.

Other Machine Quilting Notions

If quilting along on a sewing machine, a Supreme Slider, an extension table and machine quilting gloves may be helpful.



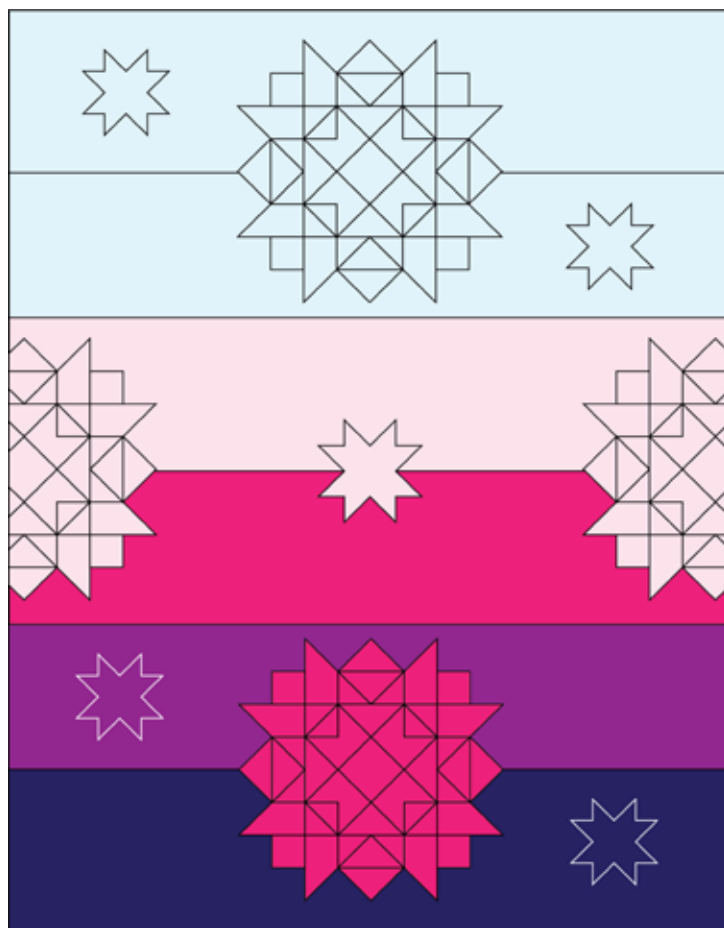
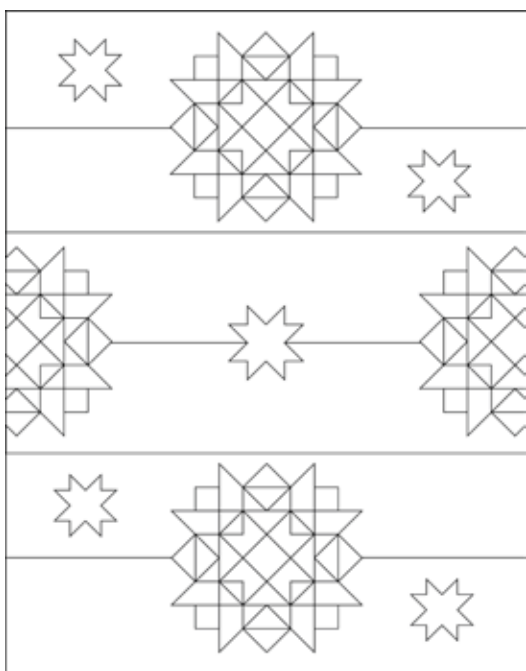
Optional Supplies:

While not necessary, you may find the following supplies helpful for this video series:

- **Removeable Marking Pen-** I prefer the Mark B Gone water soluble marker, but any type will work fine.
- **Designs with Lines Basic 8 Stencil-** helps you quickly marker reference points for quilting in the blocks.

Thread Placement Suggestions

Below, you'll find the suggested thread color placement for the thread collection that coordinates with the Negative Spaces Free-motion Challenge panel.



Negative Spaces Panel



Eggplant



Mulberry



Passion



Blush



Baby Blue



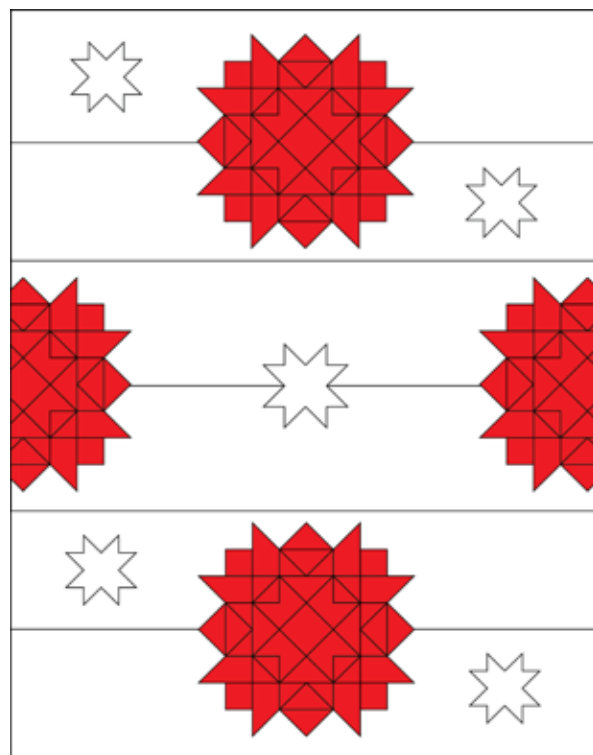
Welcome to the first week of the Negative Spaces Free-motion Challenge Quilting Along, I am so excited to show you my favorite quilting designs and techniques for quilting the negative spaces on our quilts!

But before we tackle the background areas, we're going to first focus on quilt blocks. This week's challenge includes two different video tutorials.

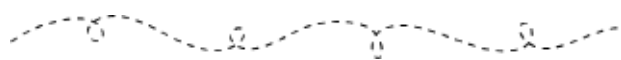
In the first video, you'll learn several continuous curve designs for blocks of all shapes and sizes. Then, in the second video, we're going to echo, echo, echo! Echoing around quilt blocks is a great way to show them off. I'll show you three different ways to echo a quilt block to help it stand out from the rest of the quilting.

Your Challenge

If you're quilting along with me on the custom class panel, quilt the areas highlighted in red. Try using some of the continuous curve designs we learned in the video, or come up with your own variations. Then, try echoing around some of the blocks in the panel.



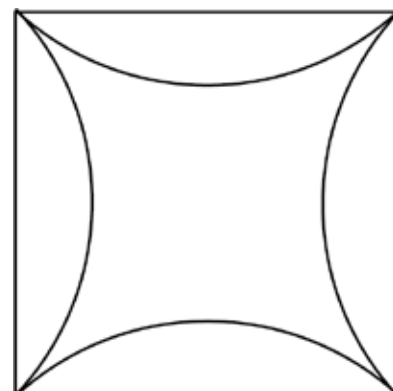
Continuous Curve



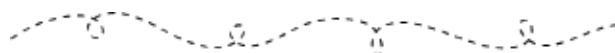
Continuous Curves are a quick and efficient way to quilt blocks of all sizes. This technique consists of quilting a line that curves to different points of a quilt block. While it may seem basic at first, there are so many different ways to use this design on your quilts.



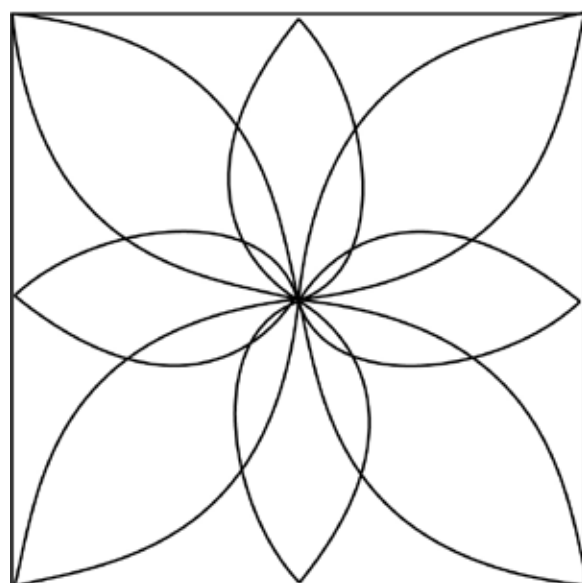
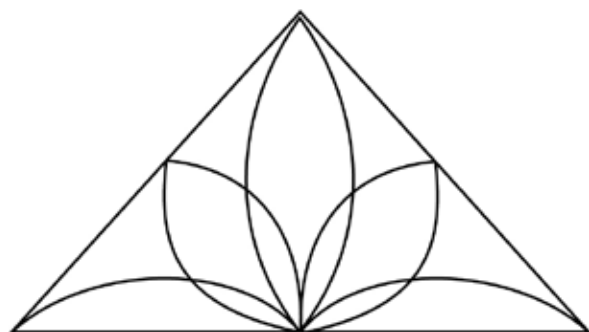
The most basic example of continuous curve is perfect for smaller blocks. Starting from one corner of the block, quilt a line that curves to the next corner. Continue quilting curves from corner to corner, returning back to the starting point.



Variations



There are so many different variations you can create with this technique. Whether you quilt a the curves to form a motif or connect multiple points on a block, it's a great way to handle blocks of all shapes and sizes.



Echoing Quilt Blocks

Echoing is a simple, yet impactful way to show off your favorite quilt blocks. Not only does it help separate the block from the rest of the quilting, it can also be used to “build” up smaller blocks. Even though echoing is fairly simple, it doesn’t have to be boring. You can make it as basic or as complex as you want.

The number of echo lines and the spacing of them is up to you! I prefer 1/4” spacing, since I can use the foot of my machine as a guide. Adding more echo lines, takes a little longer to quilt, but it really puts the emphasis on the block.



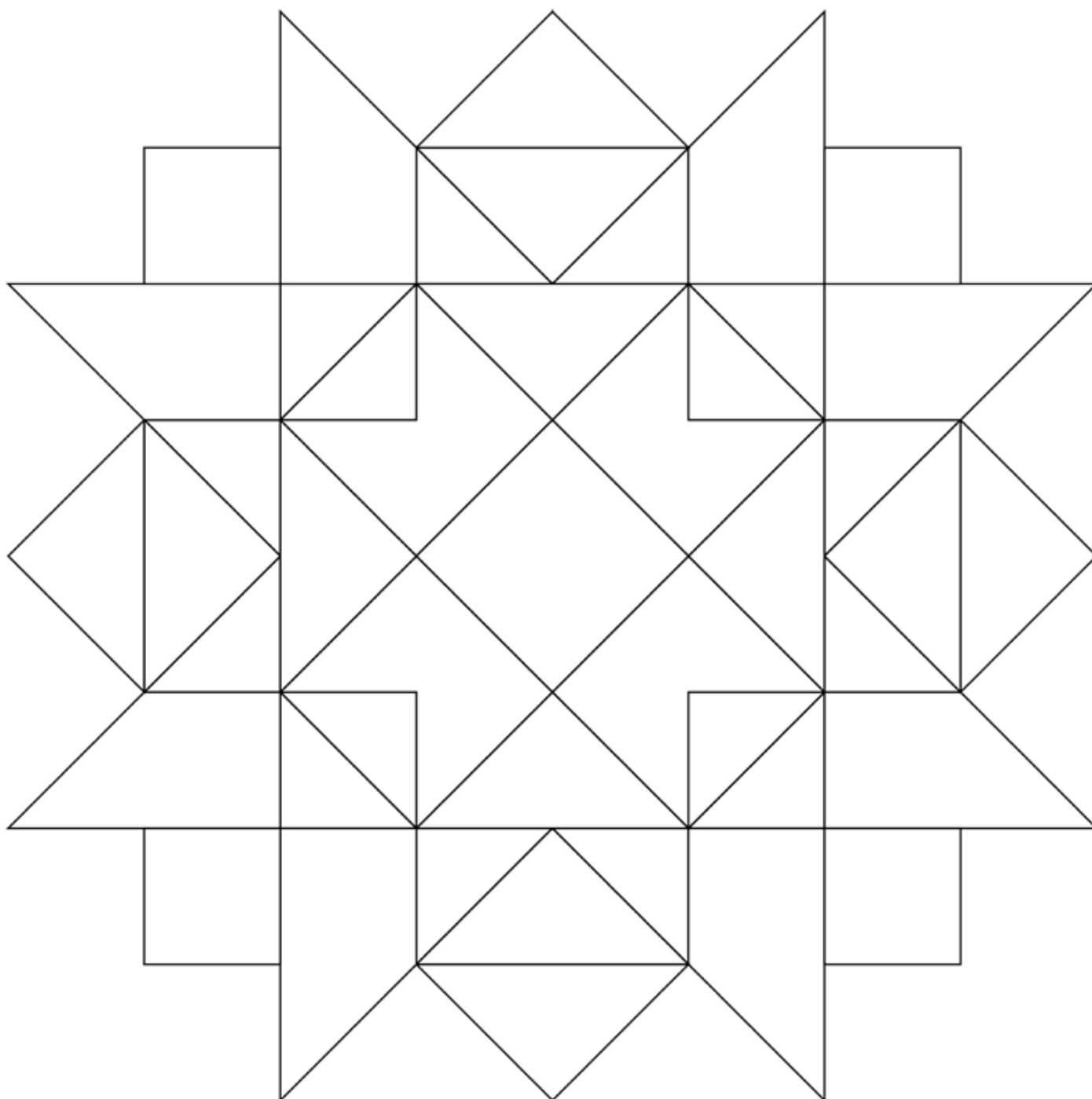
To emphasize certain parts of the block you can add a little “embellishment” as you quilt the echo lines. This can also “build up” smaller blocks to help prevent them from being overwhelmed by the rest of the quilting.



For a less traditional look, you can selectively echo only certain parts of the block. This helps put the emphasis on individual parts of the block and can also be helpful when quilting larger blocks. Whether you opt for a basic echo line, go crazy with embellished echos or skip the echoing altogether, just remember there is no wrong way to quilt your quilts!

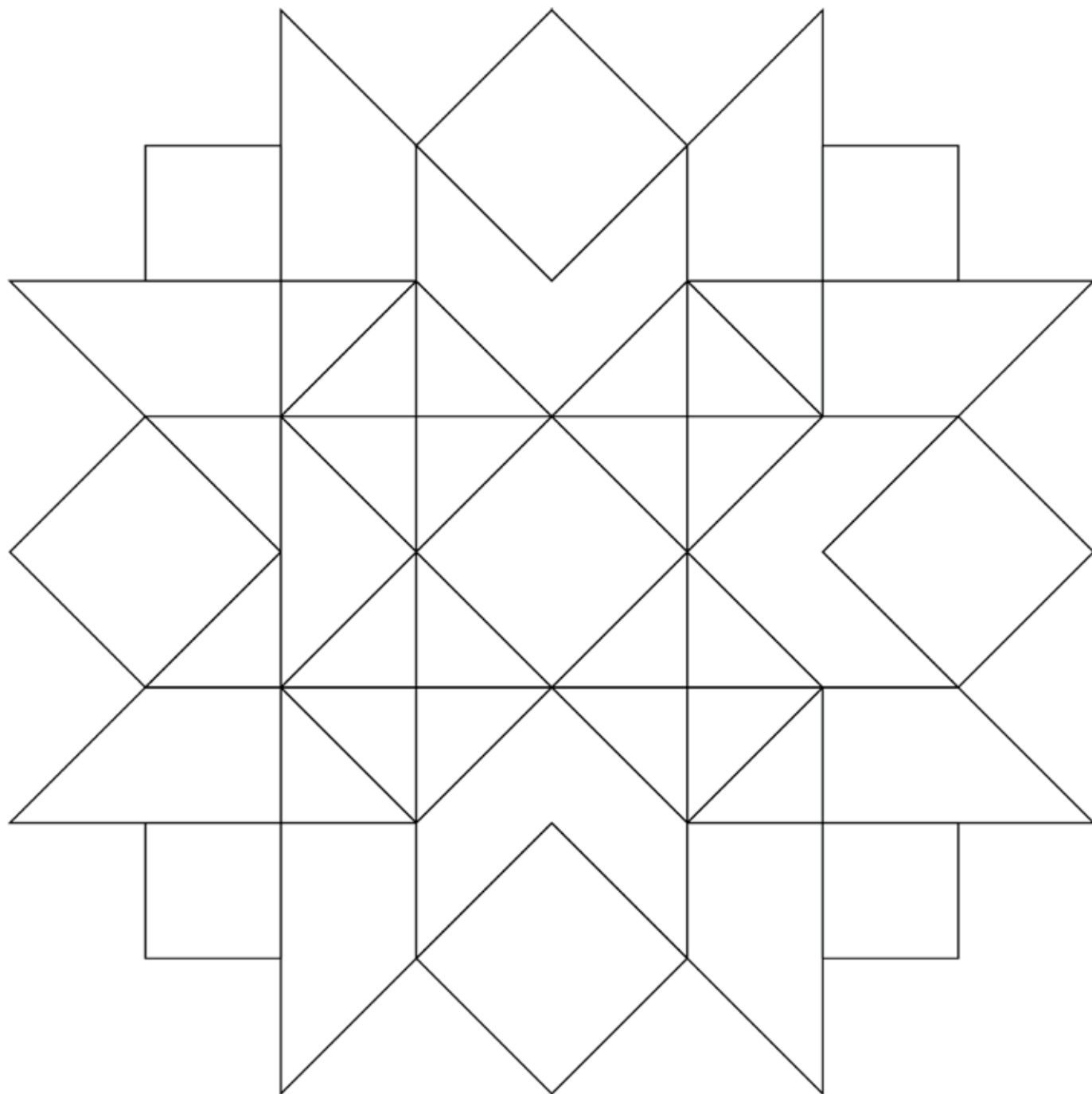
Audition Designs

Use the diagram below to audition designs for the “blocks” on the panel.



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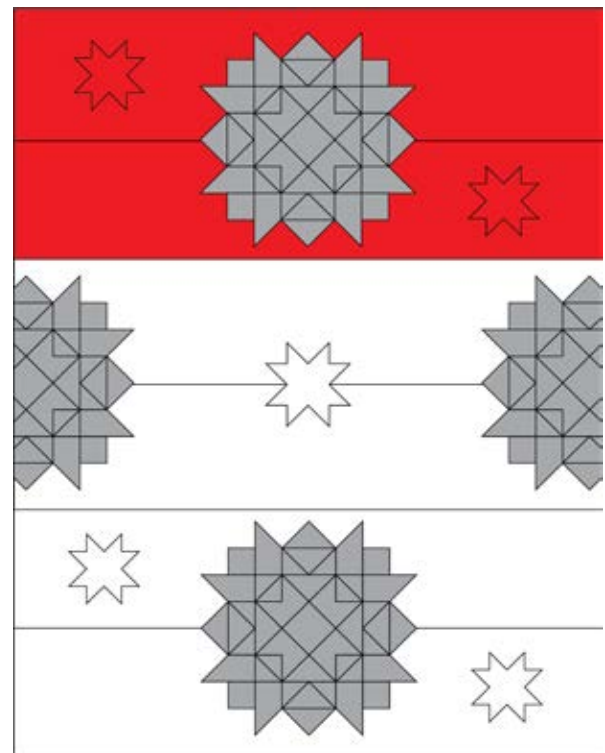
Welcome to the second week of the Negative Spaces Free-motion Challenge Quilting Along. In this series, I'm teaching some of my favorite designs for negative spaces.

The quilting designs used in the background areas of your quilts can create many different effects. In this week's video tutorial, we are learning two wavy designs that can add movement to background areas of all sizes. The Wavy, Wavy and Ogee designs look amazing and can also help draw attention to areas of a quilt.

I'll show you how the designs go together and how to quilt different variations. Then we'll learn how to quilt them in irregularly shaped areas such as in between blocks and other quilting designs.

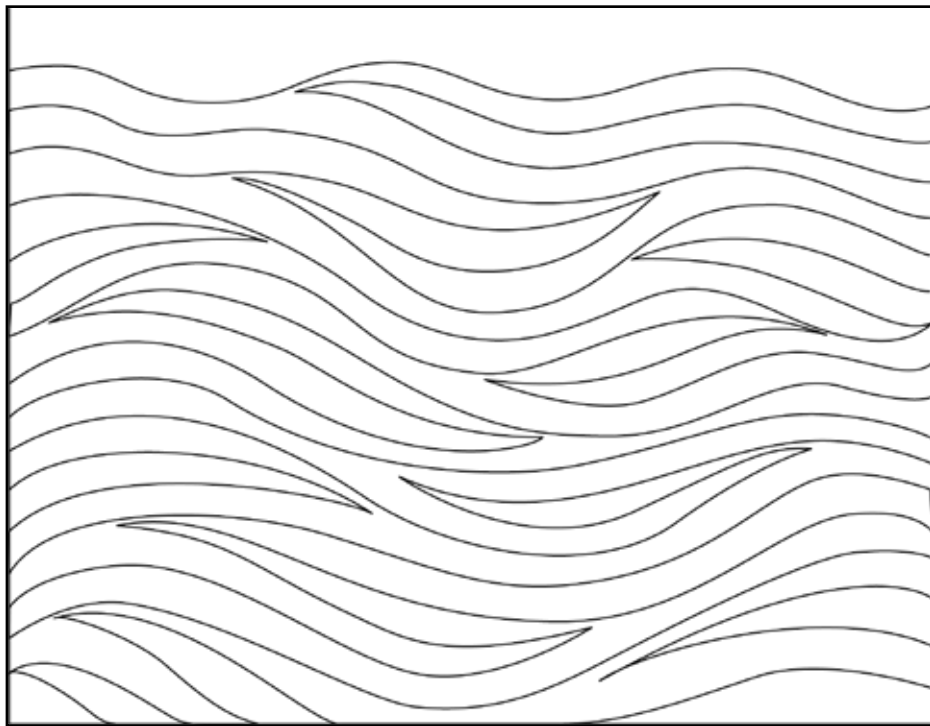
Your Challenge

If you're quilting along with me on the custom class panel, quilt the areas highlighted in red. You can quilt both of the wavy designs or just one of them, it's up to you!



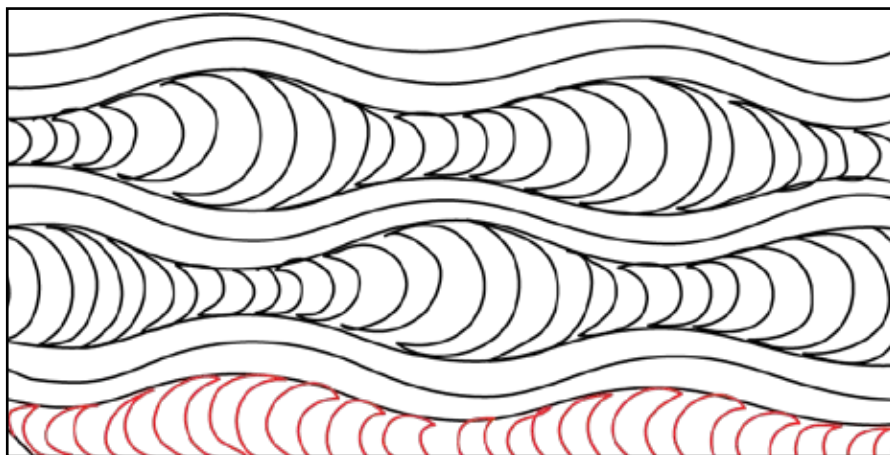
Wavy, Wavy

Quilting wavy lines that “touch” in random places creates a filler that’s perfect for areas of all sizes! The trick to this design is to fill in the area as completely as possible so that it creates a gorgeous all over texture.



Ogee

The Ogee design incorporates echo lines to add beautiful movement and wavy texture to your quilts.....all starting with a wavy line. It’s also a great design for managing larger areas, since you can break the quilting into different “chunks”.



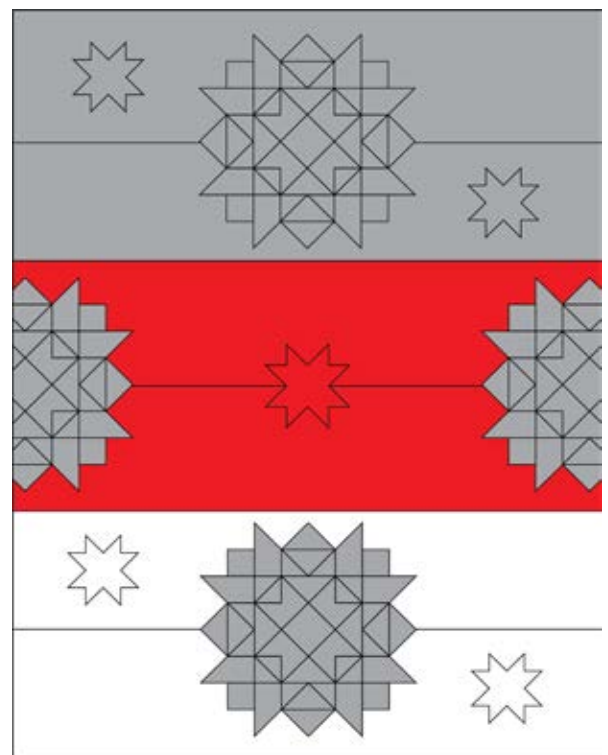
Week 3

Quilting doesn't have to be difficult to have a positive impact on your quilts! In this week's video challenge we're exploring how changing the scale, or size, of a quilting design can highlight parts of a quilt as well as add interest to background areas of all sizes! Not only does it look amazing on your quilts, you can use this technique with any quilting design! In this week's video tutorial, I'll show you just how easy it is.



Your Challenge

If you're quilting along with me on the custom class panel, quilt the areas highlighted in red. You can try quilting a design with a gradual change of scale or use intentional placement of larger designs to create a different effect.



Changing Design Scale

Changing up the scale of a design allows you to add a ton of interest to your quilt using the same design over the whole area. First, using a marking pen divide the area into different sections (they can be any size or shape). Next, designate a design size for each area and start quilting it in each of the sections. Once the area is filled in, remove the marked lines.



Another way you can use a change of scale in the background area, is to intentionally place larger scaled designs so that they frame a block or help divide up an area.



Using the quilting to create secondary patterns in background areas is a fun way to add something a little unexpected to your quilts.

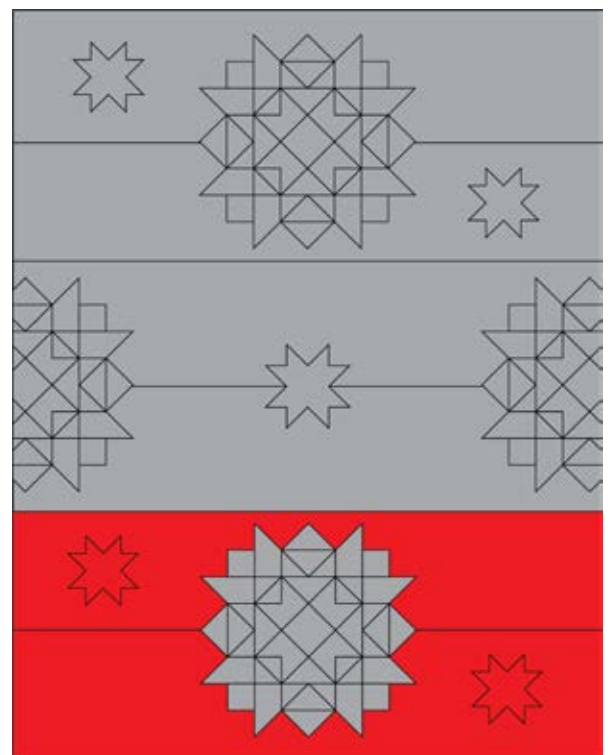
Admittedly, this technique is a little abstract, since every quilt is different, but I promise it's worth learning. In this week's video tutorial, I'll share how I use the piecing as a guide for creating secondary designs, how to break up larger areas into more manageable chunks, and how to use this technique to fill in irregularly shaped areas on our quilts.

When we're done, you'll be inspired to use this technique on all your quilts!



Your Challenge

If you're quilting along with me on the custom class panel, finish the panel by quilting the areas highlighted in red. You can try creating a secondary design with the quilting, or use one of the techniques showed in the previous videos.

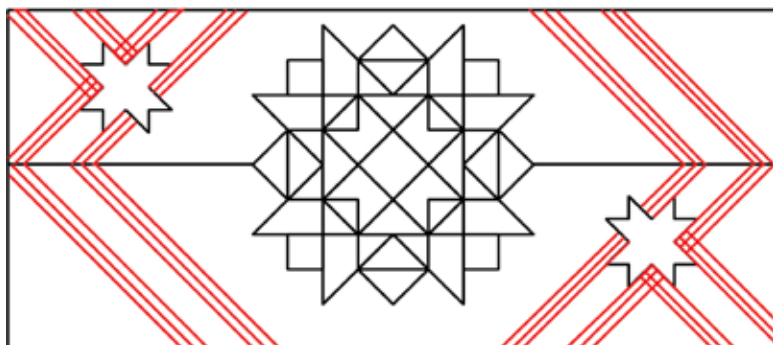


Creating Secondary Patterns

Since every quilt is different, there's not one certain way to go about creating secondary patterns with the quilting. But no matter what quilt your working on, there are a few things that might help inspire secondary design ideas.

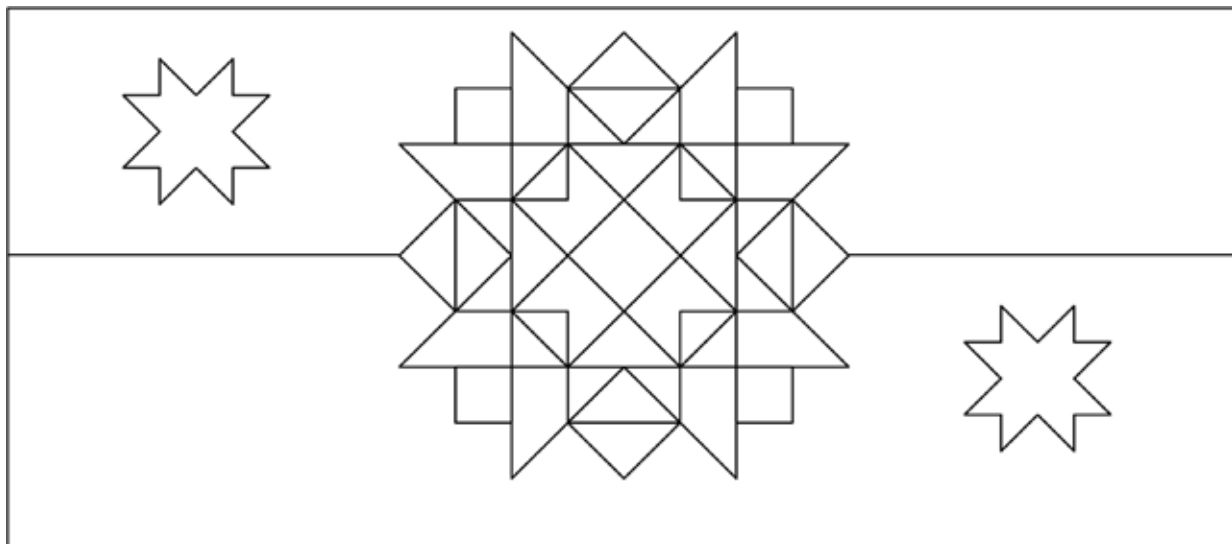
One way is to imagine the sides of a block extending out into the background area. In this example, I extended the sides of the star blocks towards the edge of the area and echoed them a few times before filling in the rest of the area.

Another thing to consider, is if there are any seams in the piecing that can be used as a guide. If that doesn't work, I'll see if there are any blocks that I can "group" together with the quilting. If this all seems too scary or complicated, try thinking of it as breaking the background into smaller sections.....which can make it seem less daunting. But no matter what you end up quilting, I hope that you'll have fun with this technique!



Audition Designs

Use the diagram below to see what secondary patterns you can create with the quilting.





Bonus: Quilting the Borders

If you purchased the optional border panel for the Negative Spaces quilt panel, then you have just one more portion to finish! Since the panel has so much open area, I designed the borders to add a “pieced” element to the quilt. But since the borders incorporate several different prints, the quilting isn’t really going to be all that noticeable. Since that’s the case, I would use quilting designs that are fairly easy (for you) to quilt.

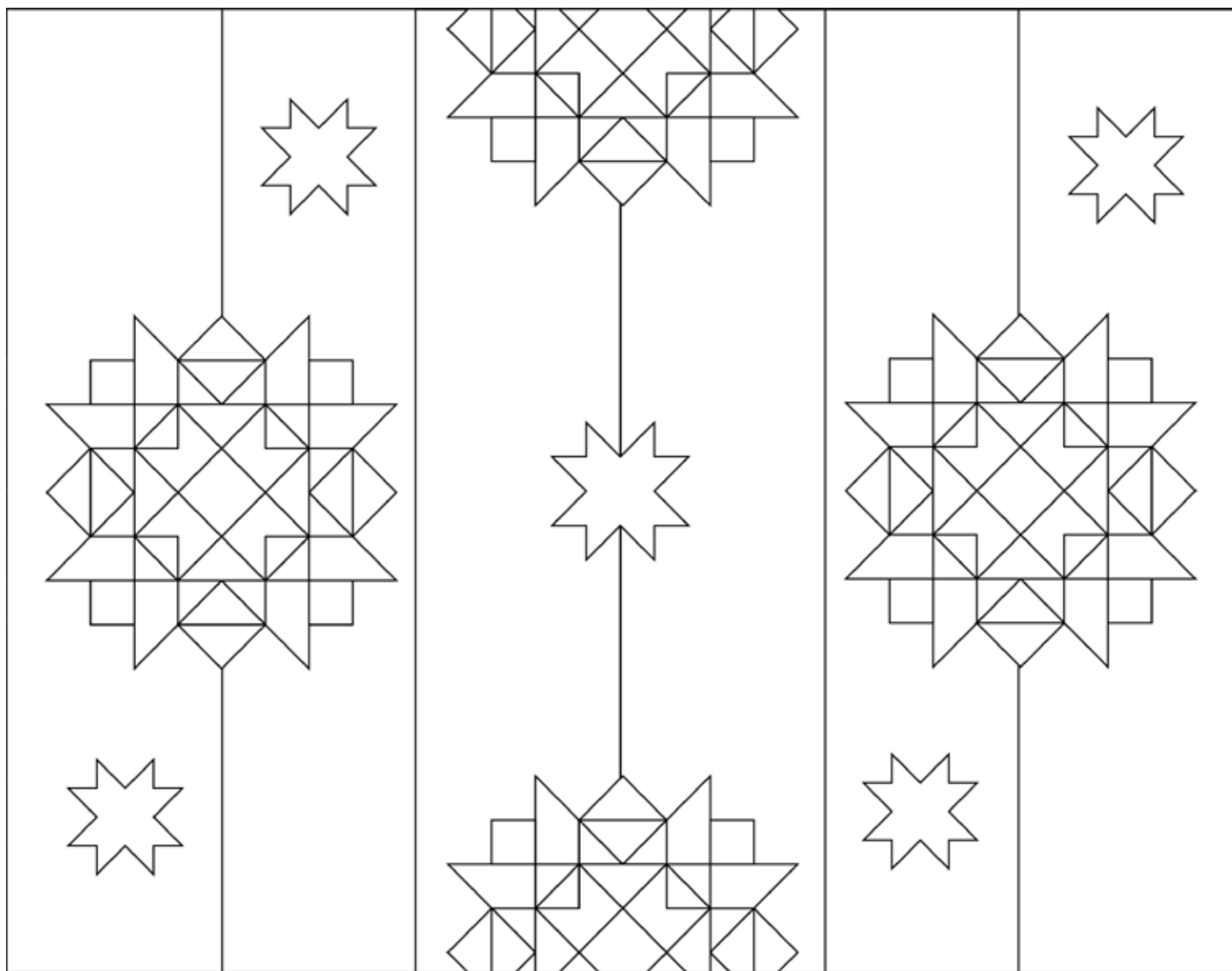
In some of the strips, try quilting lines that echo the sides. Then in the rest, try quilting some of your favorite sashing designs, such as wishbones or ribbon candy. The solid squares are the perfect size for continuous curve designs.



Your Challenge:

You are in the home stretch! Finish quilting the borders of your quilt with the designs of your choice. Once the borders are finished, congratulate yourself on a job well done!

Use the diagram below to audition different designs for your FMQ Challenge Panel:



Congratulations!

Throughout this video series, we have learned so many different quilting designs and techniques, you should be so proud of all that you have accomplished! I can't thank you enough for quilting along with me. I hope you'll share pictures of your finished quilt, either on the Free-motion Challenge Quilting Along Facebook group or on social media.....I love a quilty show & tell!

Even though this video series is finished, I'll be back soon with another Free-motion Challenge Quilting Along. In the meantime, you can check out my previous challenges on my website, QuiltingIsMyTherapy.com. Happy Quilting!



Angela Walters