

Mandala

Free-motion Challenge Quilting Along



Week 2 Expanded Quilting Diagrams & Tip Sheet

For more information about the challenge, visit FMQchallenge.com



Week 2

Welcome to the second week of the Mandala Free-motion Challenge Quilting Along! In this week's video, we are building off the previous week's quilting and moving to the next "ring" of our mandala panels. Not only will we see how to use designs in different types of areas, we will sample several different quilting designs. From wishbones to ribbon candy to feathers, this week's challenge is going to be a lot of fun!

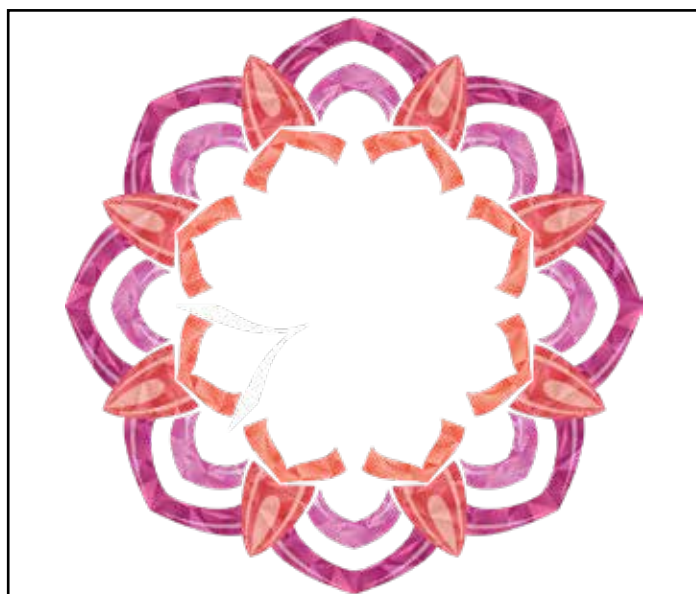
Scan the QR code to rewatch the Week 2 video tutorial.



Your Challenge

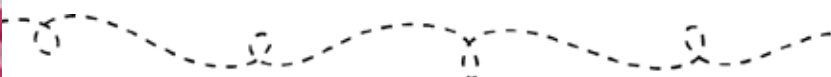
If you're quilting along with me on the custom Mandala panel, quilt the orange, red and pink areas (as well as the white areas between them) with the designs of your choice. You can try some of the ones shown in the video, or come up with your own variations.

If you purchased the coordinating thread collection, use the taffy and white thread for this section.





Quilting the Arcs



Even though the arcs of this panel are different colors, they are all similar in width. This means you can pick and choose which designs you want to use in each of the different colors. It's like a "choose your own" quilting adventure.

Option #1 - Echo Lines

In last week's challenge, we saw how to use echoing in different ways. This week, we are keeping the echo lines shorter (which can make them easier to quilt) as well as seeing a couple of different echoing options.

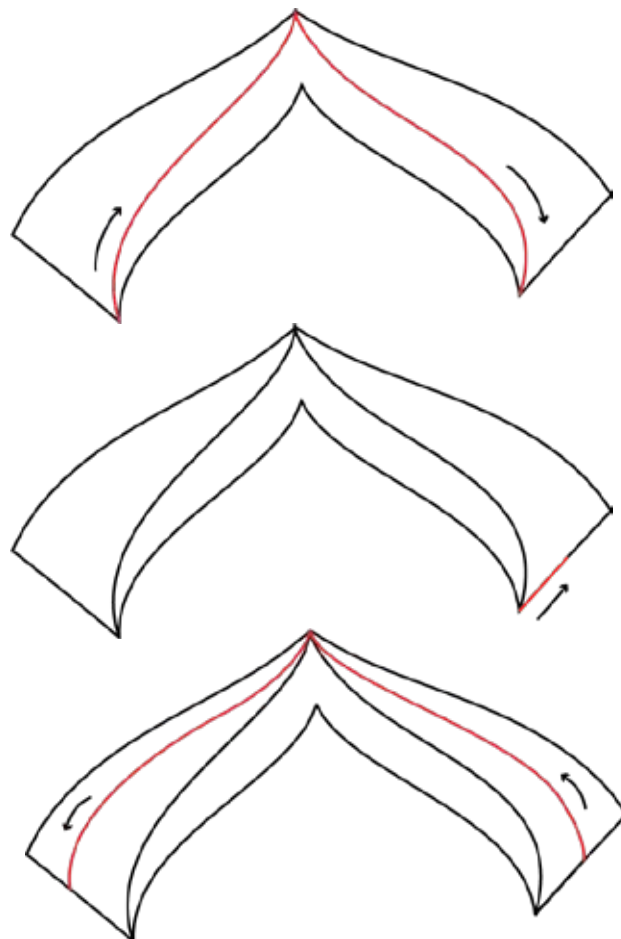


Echoing to a Point

Instead of quilting "traditional" echo lines, this design option brings the quilting to the point. You can use the taj ruler to help quilt the curvy, pointy lines, or you can freehand them. Add a more echo lines for even more quilting effect.

1. From the lower, inner corner, quilt a line the curves out then comes to the point of the arc. Continue quilting to the other side, ending across from the starting point.
2. Travel along the side stopping about halfway between the corners.
3. Quilt another line that arcs up to the point and then down the other side, stopping about halfway between the corners on the other side.

Tip: The lines don't have to be a perfect echo of each other.

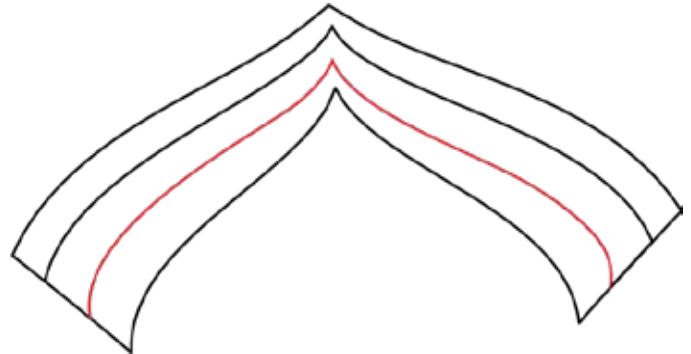
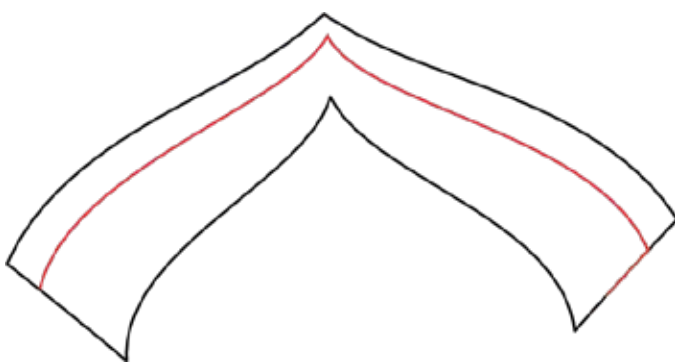




Traditional Echoing

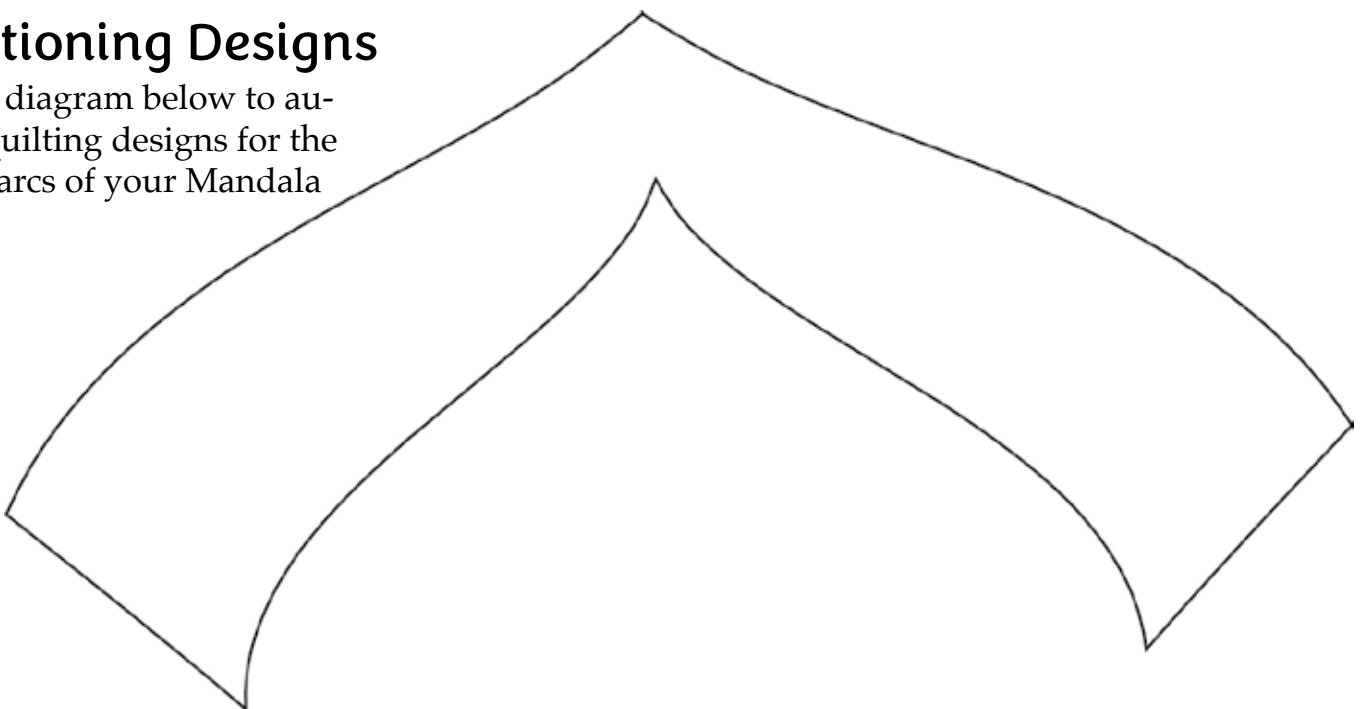
Echoing the sides of the arc will give the design a more “traditional” look. Customize the look of the design by quilting the echo lines closer, adding more lines, or filling in between the lines with a different design.

1. Starting about 1/4" away from the edge, quilt a line that echoes the side of the arc. Travel along the edge of the area, about 1/2" or so.
2. Quilt another echo line, stopping at the opposite edge of the area.
3. To add even more detail or interest, fill in the area between the lines with a different filler such as circles.



Auditioning Designs

Use the diagram below to audition quilting designs for the orange arcs of your Mandala panel.



Option #2 – Feathered Arcs

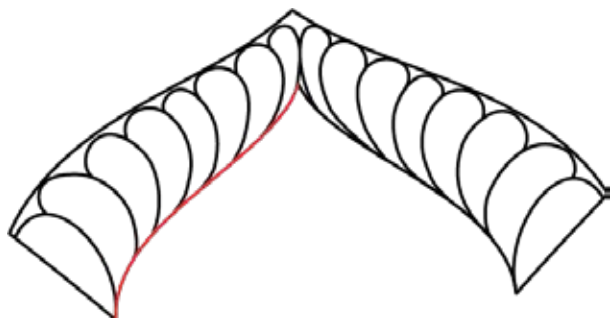
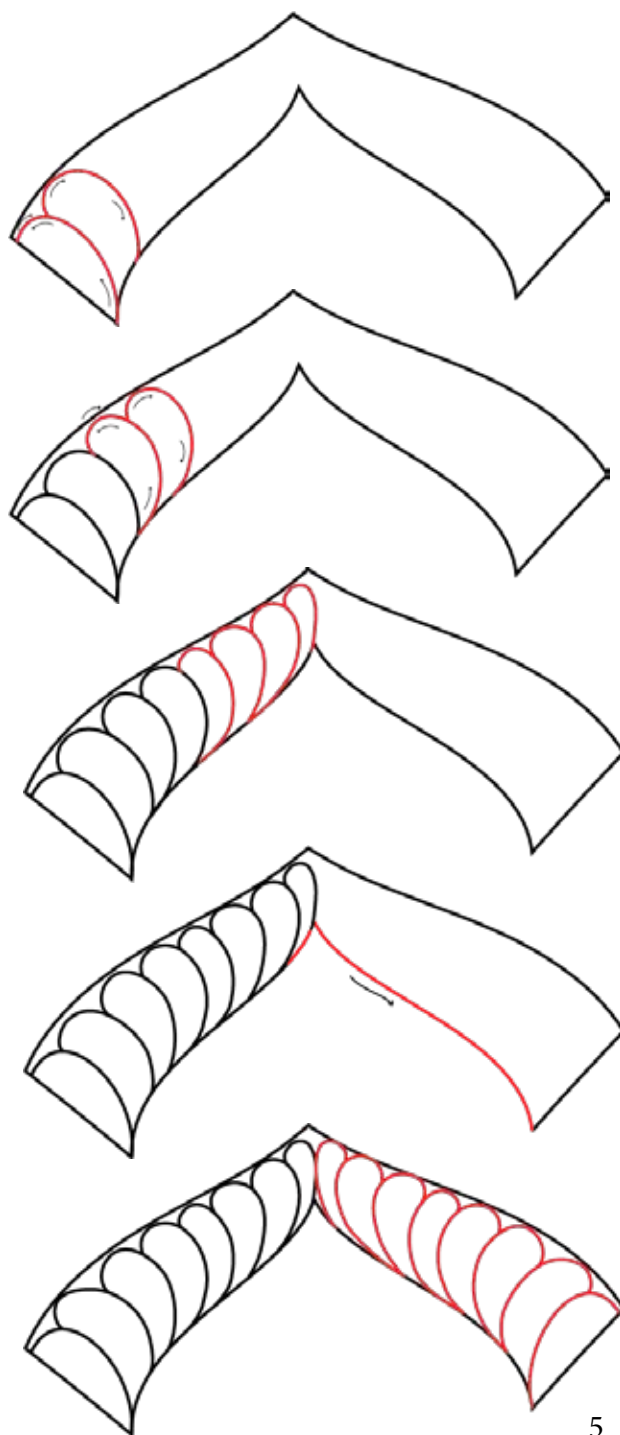
This option is perfect for adding a curvy, beautiful look to your quilt panel. Not only is it lovely, it's perfect for quilters that want to practice quilting feathers without committing to quilting a full feather. You can quilt the partial feathers so that they point to the top, or quilt them all in the same direction.



Instead of quilting a spine, we are going to quilt the feathers so that they extend from the edge of the area.

Feathers to the Point

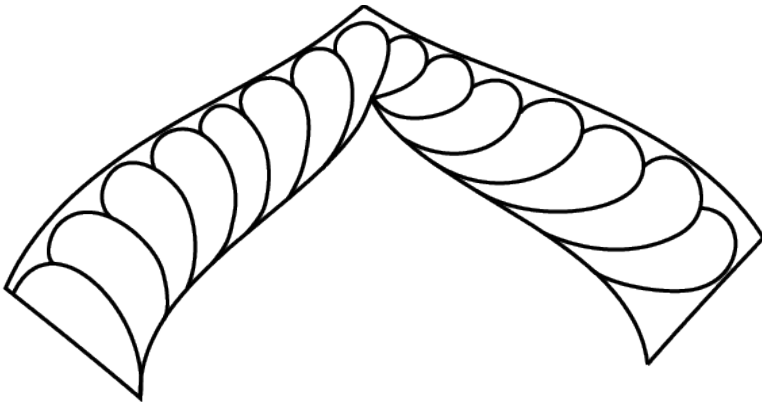
1. Starting on one side of the arc, quilt a line that extends out and curves down, touching the end of the arc. Travel back along the feather, then quilt a line that curves up and back into the edge of the area.
2. Quilt another set of petals repeating the steps above. Try to quilt the “petals” of the feather so that they go almost to the edge of the area.
3. Continue quilting the feather until you reach the top point of the arc.
4. Travel along the edge of the area to the other side. Since this type of feather is quilted from the bottom up, I need to use traveling to get to that point. However, if you wanted, you could tie off and start a new line of quilting.
5. Repeat the steps above, quilting the petals until you reach the top of the arc.
6. Optional: Travel along the edge of the area as shown to return to the starting point.





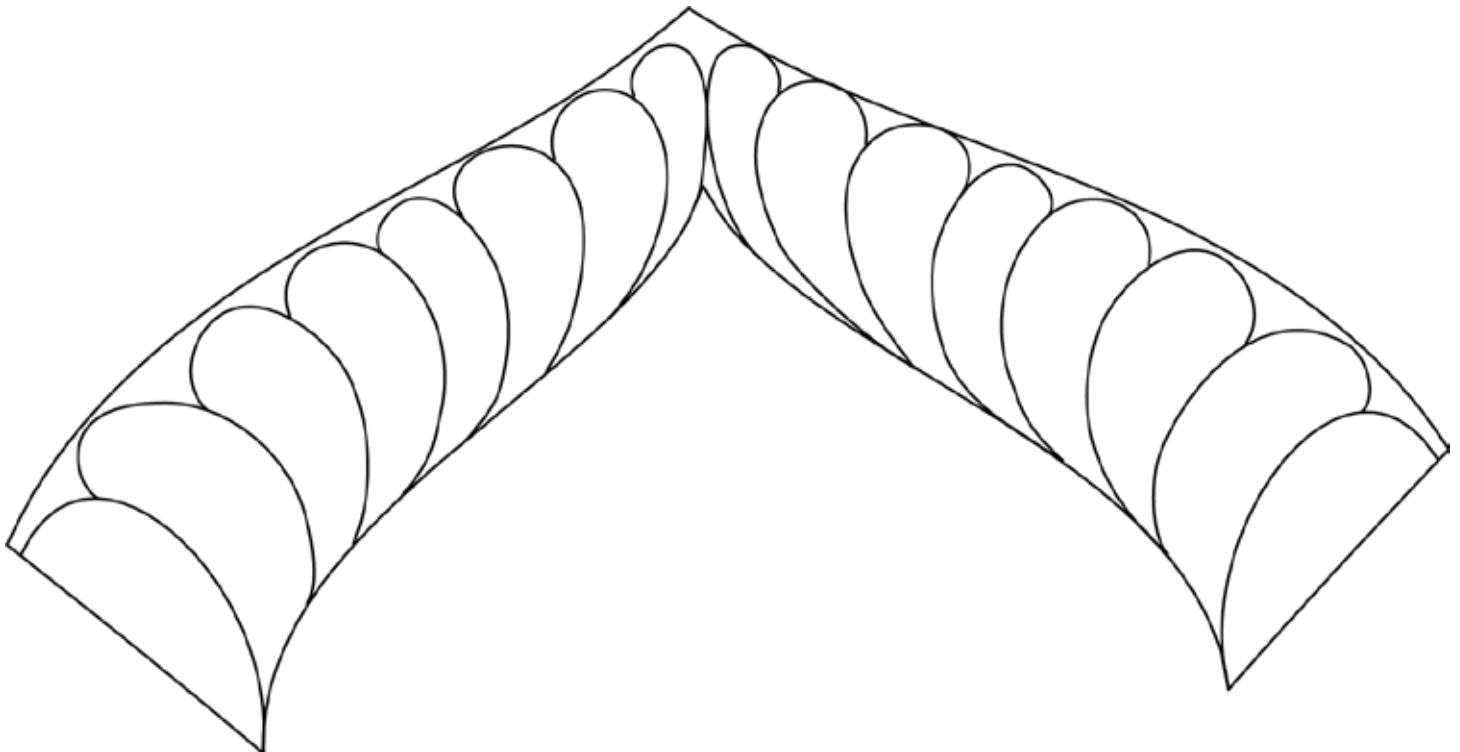
Wrap Around Feathers

For a “feather-ific” design with less traveling, try quilting the feather so that it’s facing the same direction.



Give it a Try

If you are struggling with the feather design, try tracing over the diagram below until it clicks.



Option #3 - Wishbones

Using quilting designs in unexpected ways can help make them more versatile! Even though these arcs are a little rounded and a little pointy, they are the perfect width for designs that work well in sashings.

The wishbone and ribbon candy designs are especially well-suited for these types of areas. The one thing that can be a little tricky is quilting them around the slight curve of the area.... but don't let that scare you. I'll show you just how easy it is to wrap these around those curves, whether you are using them in the colored arcs or in the white spaces between them.



1. Starting from one side of the area, quilt a line that angles toward the opposite side. Before reaching the opposite edge, quilt a loop and continue quilting angling towards opposite side. Quilt another loop before reaching the edge and head back the opposite direction.

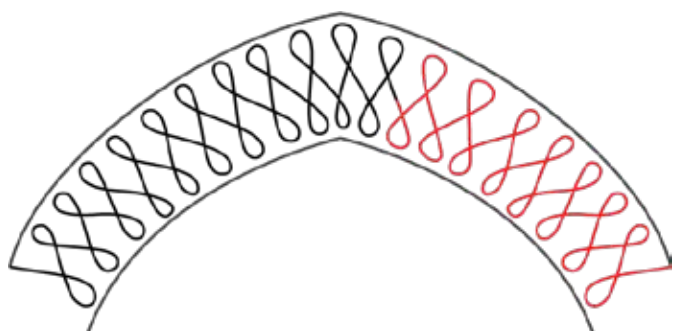
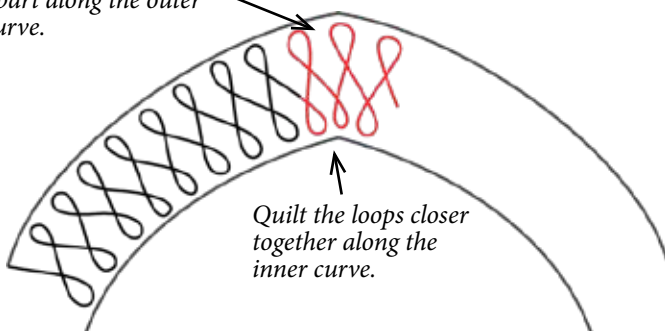
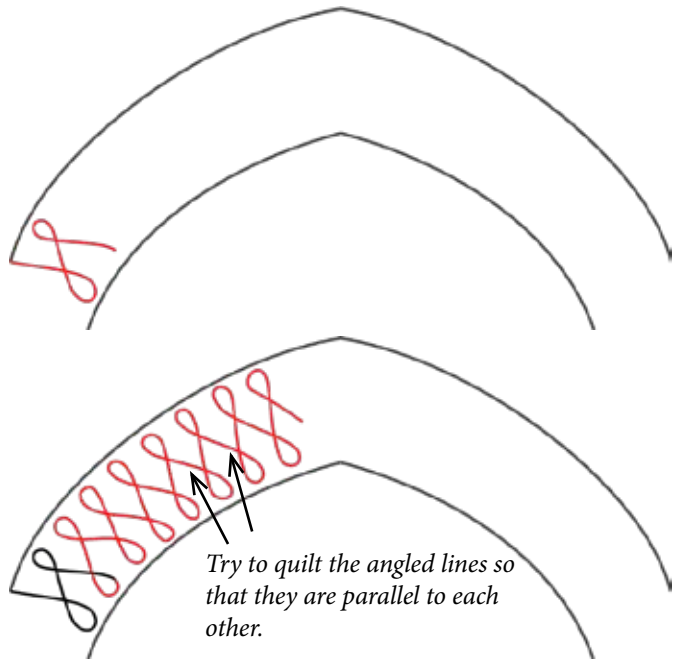
2. Continue quilting the wishbones. Try to quilt the angled lines of the wishbone so that they are parallel to each other. This helps the design progress consistently.

3. Once you approach the curve, quilt the next few wishbones so that the loops along the inner part of the curve are closer together and the loops towards the outer part of the curve are further apart.

4. Once past the curve, continue quilting the wishbones normally until you reach the edge of the area.

Quilt the loops further apart along the outer curve.

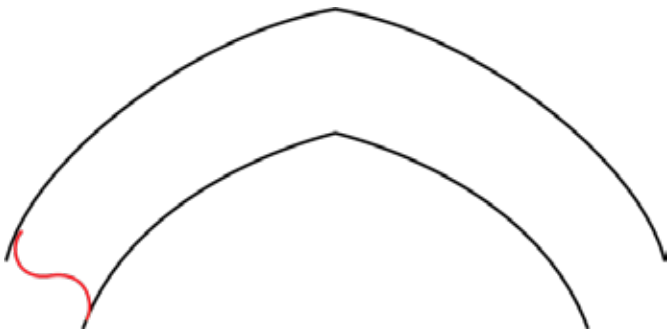
Quilt the loops closer together along the inner curve.



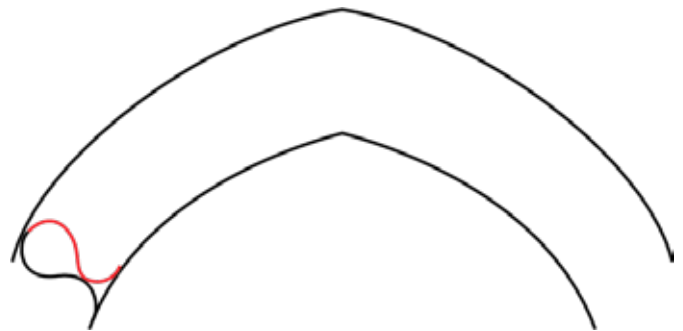
Option #4 - Ribbon Candy

Ribbon Candy is another versatile design that can be used in several different areas. We are going to approach the curve the same way we did with the wishbone design.

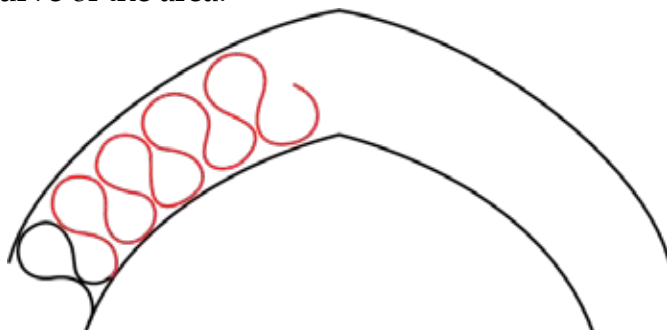
1. Starting from one edge of the area, begin quilting a line that curves out and back, like a backwards “s”.



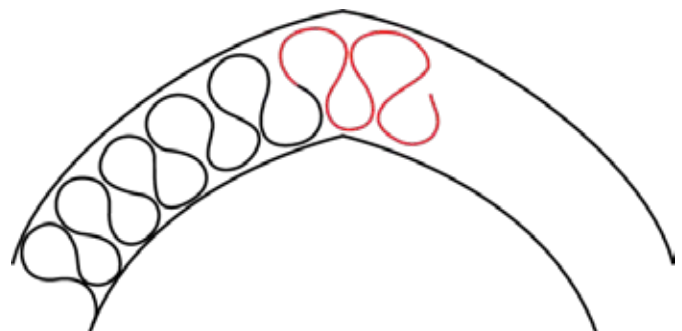
2. Continue quilting out and back to create a shape that is a mirror image of the first one.



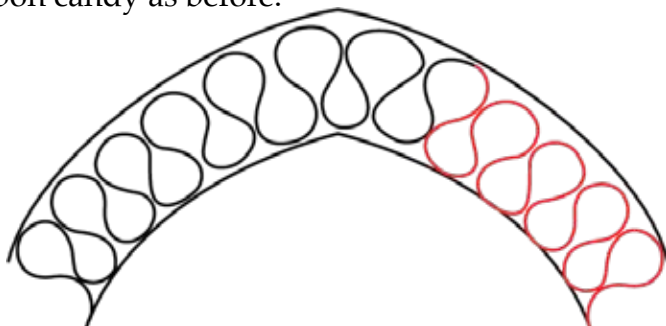
3. Repeat the steps above, quilting a line that curves out and back until you approach the curve of the area.



4. Quilt the ribbon candy so that the round parts of the design are slightly smaller along the inner curve and slight larger along the outer curve.



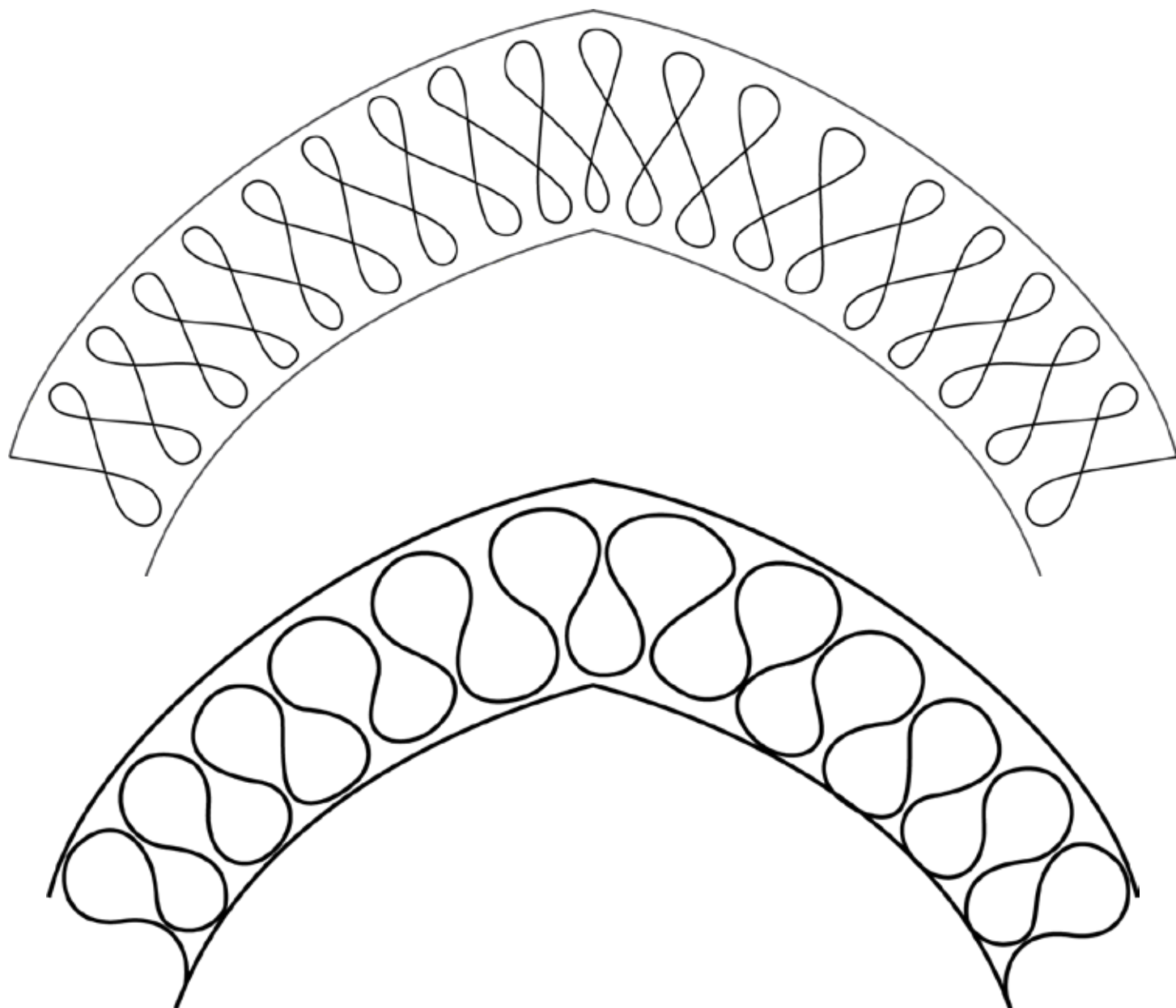
5. Once past the curve, continue quilting the ribbon candy as before.





Give it a Try

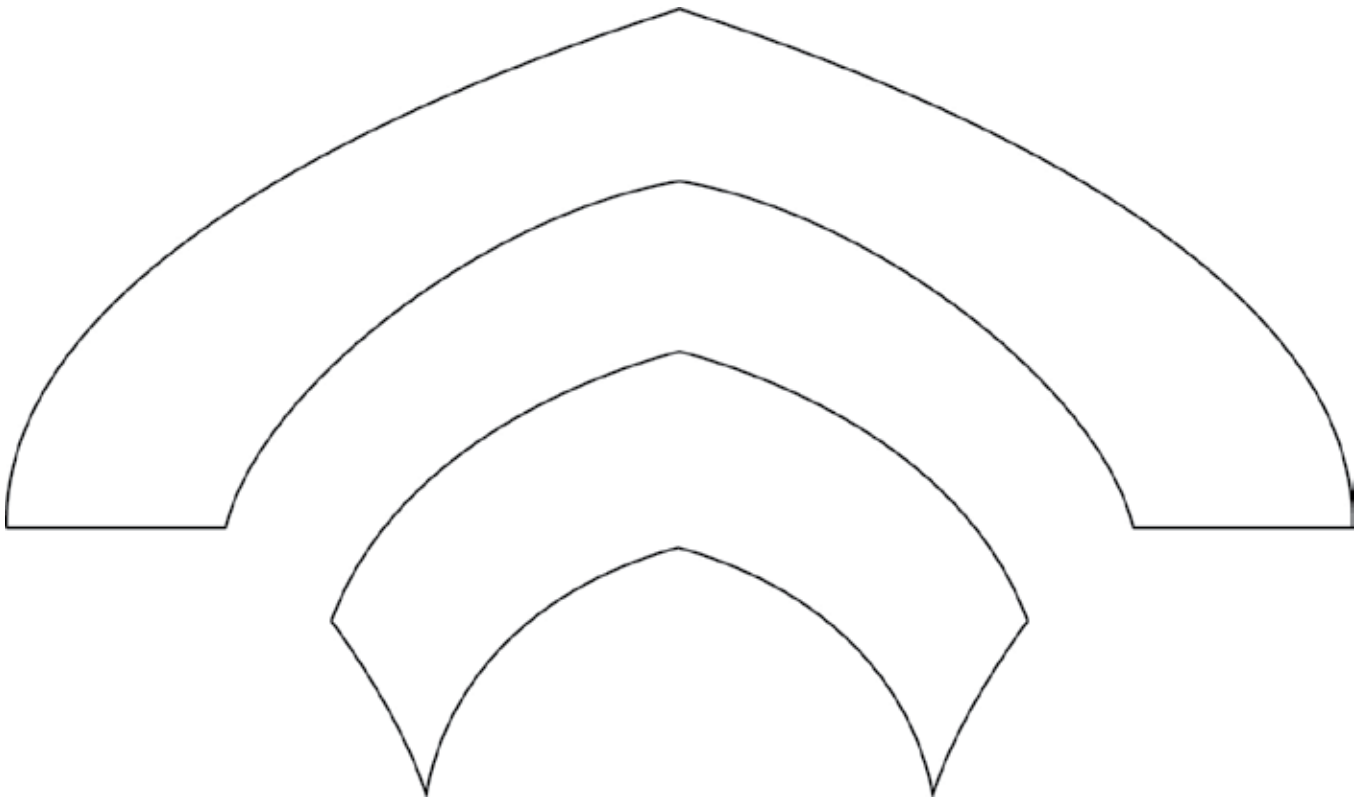
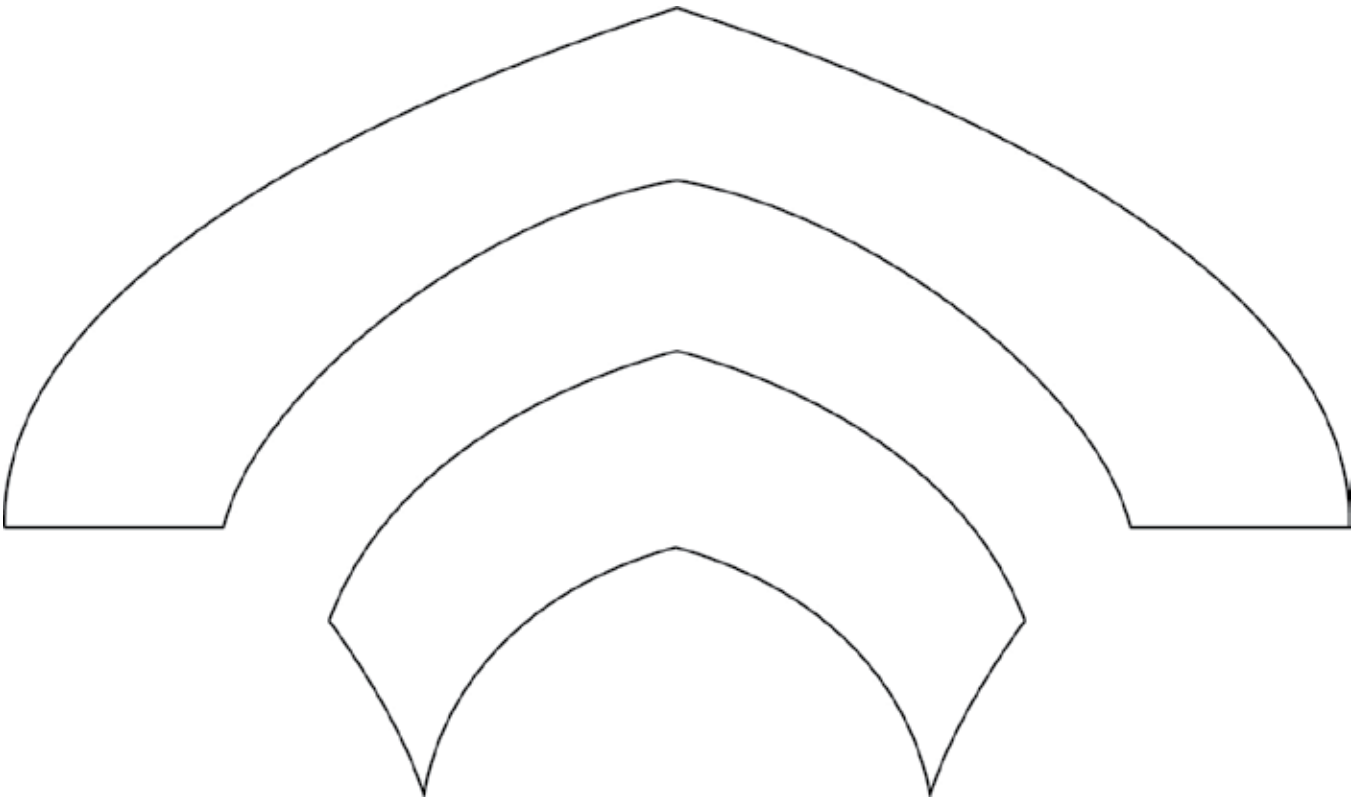
Sometimes tracing along a design will help you learn how the design flows.





Audition Designs

Use the diagrams below to audition different designs for the arcs in the panel.





Quilting the Red Areas

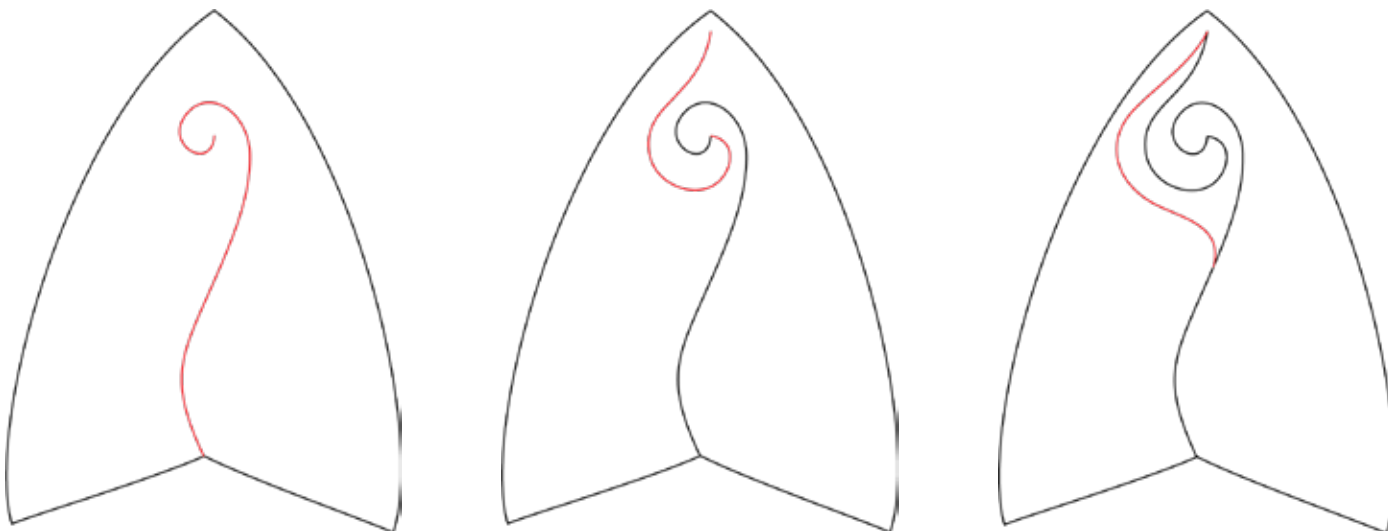
The next portion of the panel that we are working on this week consists of the red areas. Wide and rounded, these irregularly-shaped areas might seem tricky to quilt at first. To fill in the shape and help give it a beautiful texture, we are going to revisit a couple of designs from last week: the plume feather and echo lines.

Using designs multiple times in the same quilt can not only make choosing designs easier, it also gives the quilting a little continuity.

Option #1 – Plume Feathers

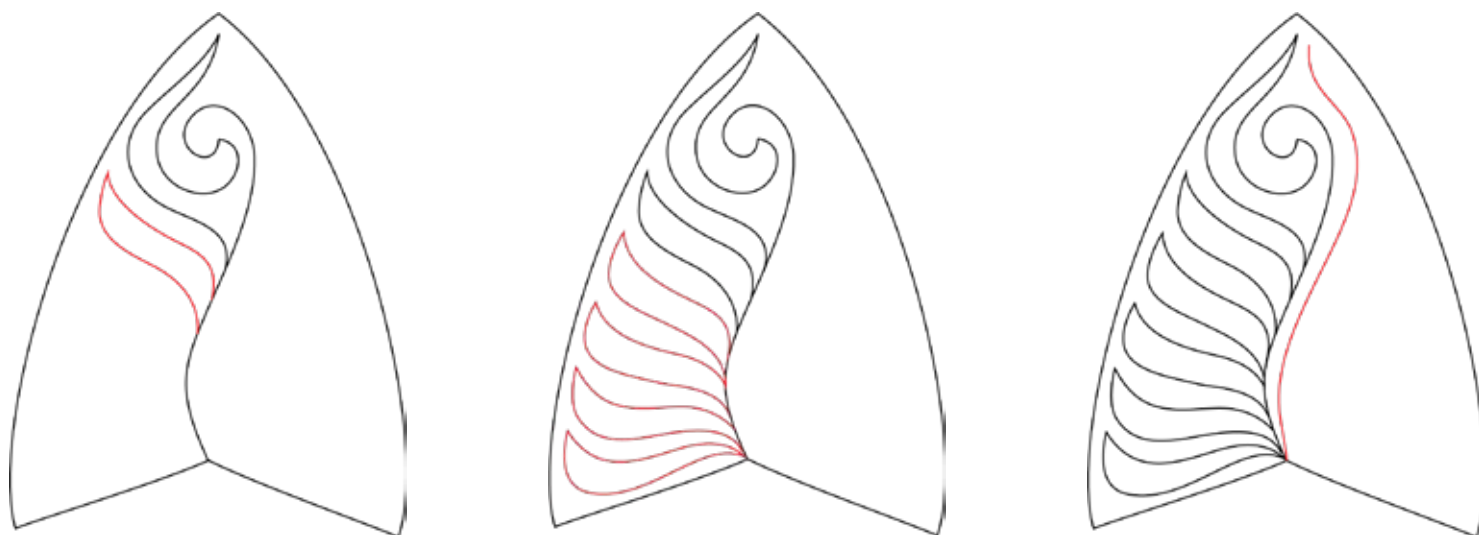
What makes this design so appealing is that it can easily fit almost any shape. The trick to making it look great is to quilt the “ferns” of the plume feather so that they extend out and fill in the area as much as possible.

1. Starting at the bottom of the area, quilt a gently curvy line towards the top, ending in a swirl that stops before reaching the edge.
2. Echo out of the swirl, then continue quilting a point up to the top.
3. Echo around the outside of the previously quilted line, until merging into the spine.

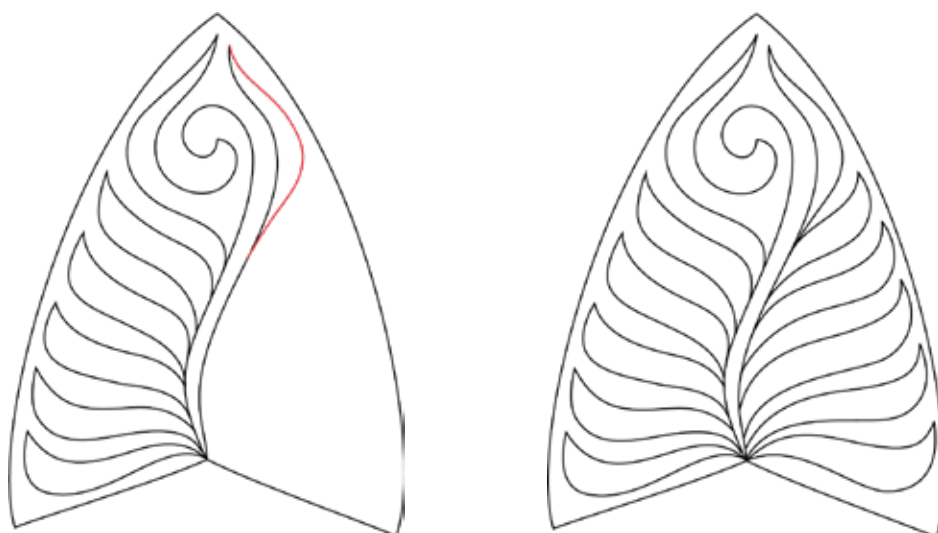




4. Travel along the spine just a bit, then quilt a line that curves out to the edge, stopping just before reaching the edge of the area. Echo back towards the spine, quilting the line so that it merges into the spine.
5. Continue quilting down the spine echoing the “ferny” shape, extending out towards the edge and back, until you reach the bottom of the spine.
6. Echo the spine up the top, ending at the point.



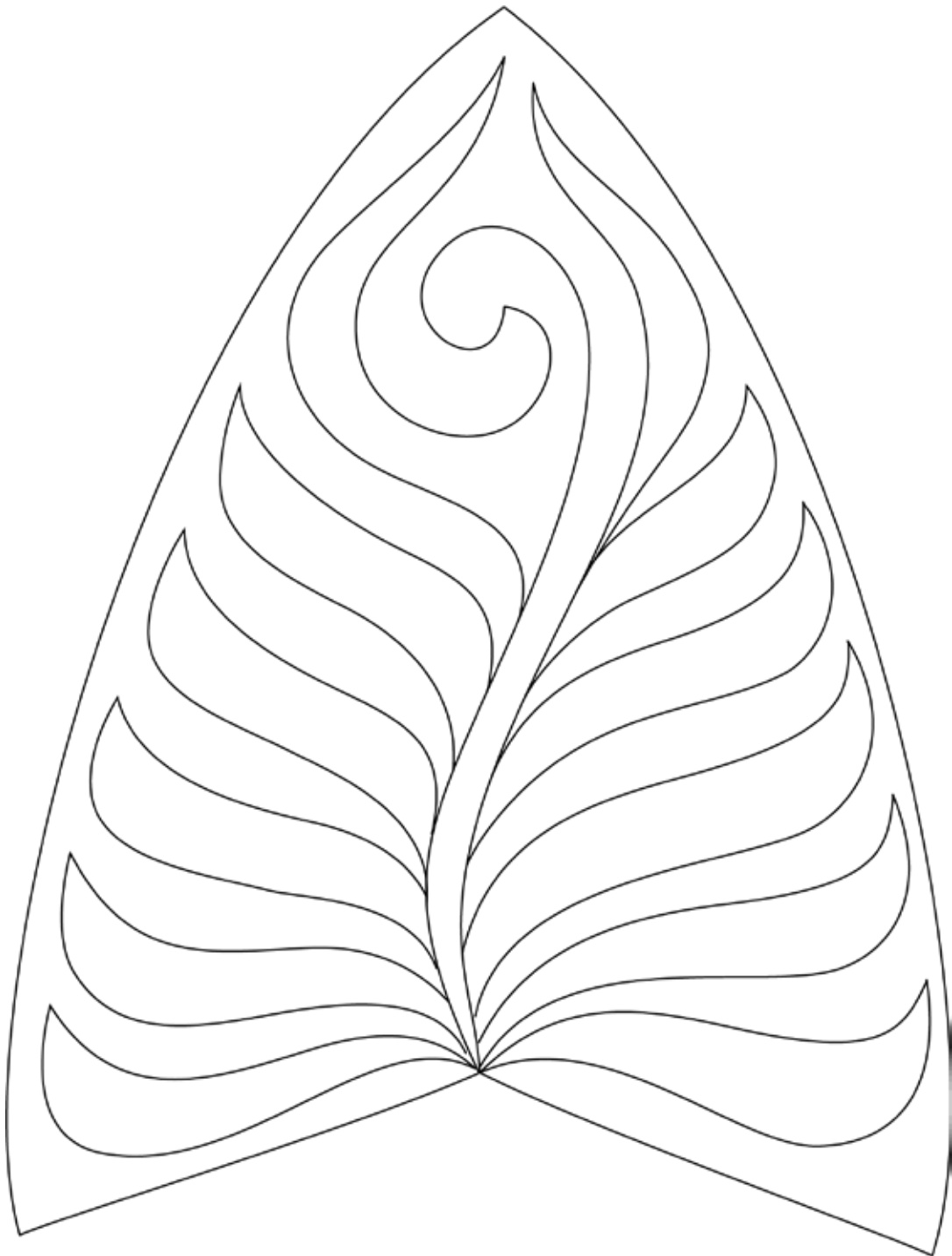
7. Echo around the outside of the previously quilted line, until merging into the spine.
8. Repeat the steps above, quilting the other side of the plume feather.





Give it a Try

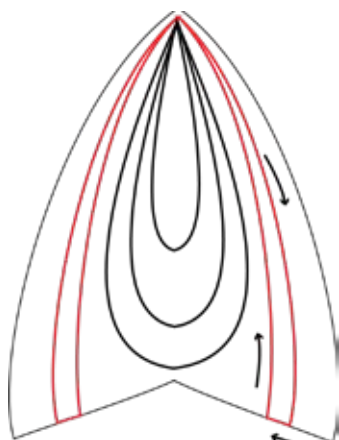
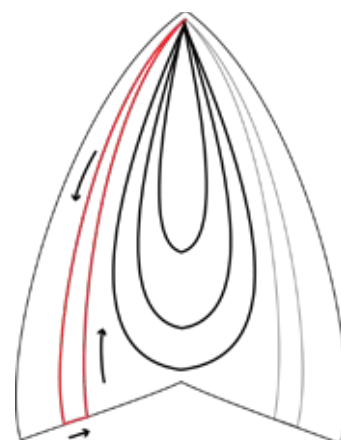
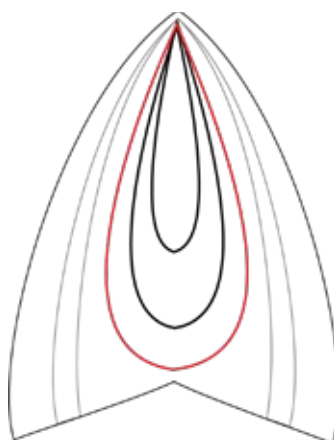
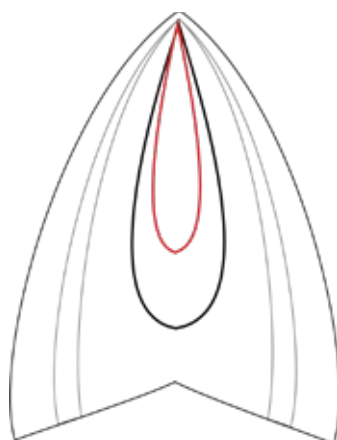
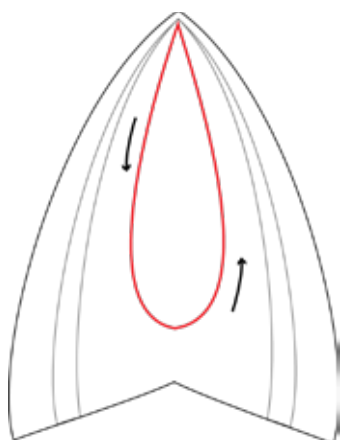
Some quilters can find quilting the serpentine shape of the “ferns” a little tricky. Try tracing along the quilting diagram to get the hang of how it goes together.



Option #2 – Echoes and Filler

For this next option, we are going to use the fabric design as our guide. Quilting along details in the fabric can be an easier option since all we have to do is follow the lines. Play around with this option to see what other variations you can come up with!

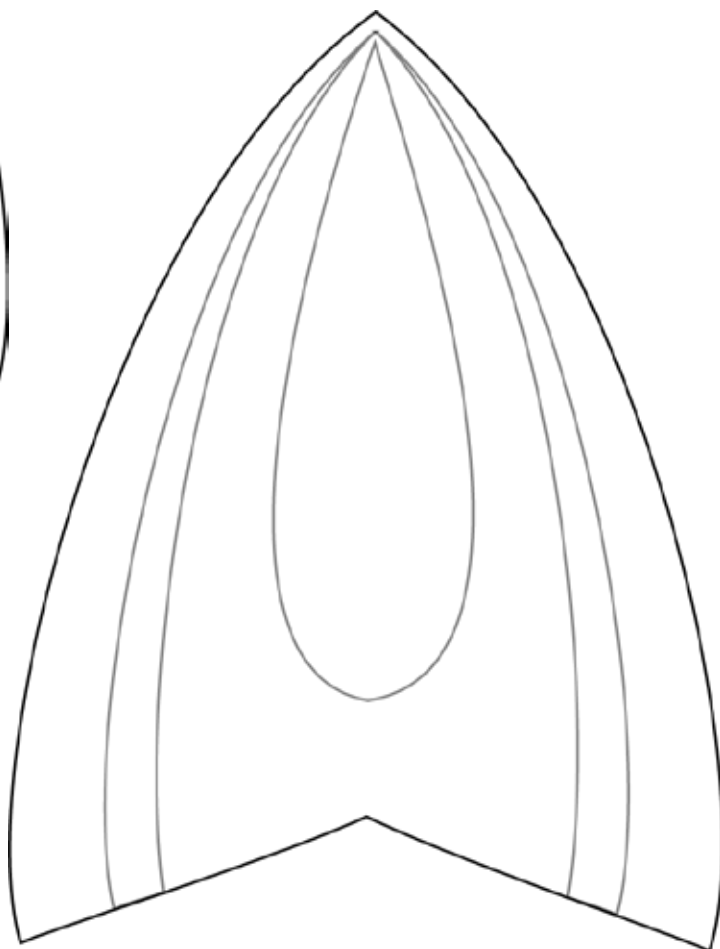
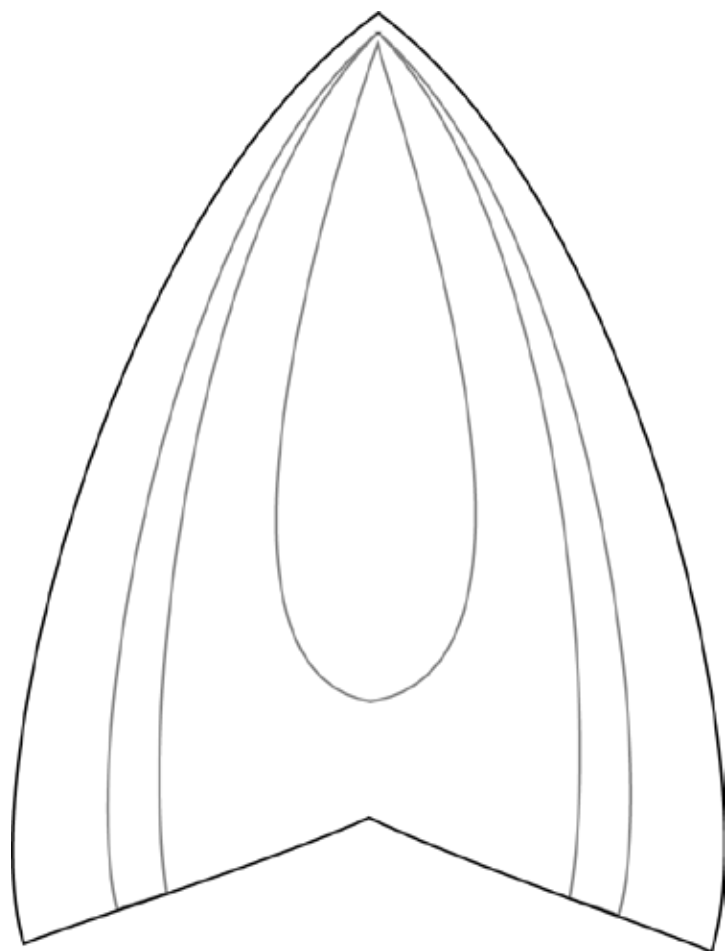
1. Starting at the outer point of the area, quilt around the teardrop in the center, returning to the starting point. Don't worry if the quilting isn't perfectly on the line, just get as close as you can.
2. Fill inside the quilted teardrop with the design of your choice. You could quilt pebbles, wishbones or just echo inside the shape. Or, you can leave the area unquilted if you prefer.
3. Echo around the outside of the teardrop shape returning to the starting point.
4. Quilt along the one of the lines on one side, travel along the edge and quilt along the second line, returning to the starting point. Repeat on the opposite side.





Audition Designs

Use the diagrams below to audition quilting designs for the red portions of your Mandala panel. The diagram is close to actual size of the red area on the panel.





Quilting the White Clamshells

Nestled beneath the pink arcs and between the red shapes is a clamshell-shaped white area. While one could argue that this part of the panel is technically the background, that doesn't mean that we can't make it shine a bit with some fun quilting designs. If you purchased the coordinating thread collection, you can use the white or yellow thread in this area.....or, if you're feeling brave, use the taffy pink thread!

Option #1 - Continuous Curve

While the curve shape of the continuous curve design lends itself nicely to block of all sizes, it's also a great option for the clamshell shaped areas. Not only will it add a curvy, motif type look to the quilting, it also ends across from the starting point, which means you can move onto the next section. Marking out the design or even registration lines might make it easier for newer machine quilters.



1. Starting from a point on one side of the area, quilt a line that curves out to the point of the yellow portion of the quilt.
2. From there, quilt a line that curves out to the left a bit and back, returning to the starting point.
3. Quilt another line that curves out directly above to the opposite edge and back.



4. Quilt another line that arcs out to the right and back.
5. Finally, quilt another line that arcs out to the opposite side of the area.





Continuous Curve Variations

The versatility of the continuous curve technique makes it one that's worth learning! There are so many different ways you can change it up. To create an even more complex looking design, add more arcs to the design. Or, try using this technique in the arcs of the panel.



Give it a Try



Option #2 – Echoes and Filler

If you want a slightly easier option for quilting this area, incorporate echoing and filler to help the curvy clamshell shape stand out.

1. Quilt a line that echos the top of the area, starting from one side and ending on the opposite side. If needed, you can use a ruler to quilt the curved echo, or just freehand the lines. If you'd like to quilt a second echo line, travel along the edge of the area and echo the previously quilted line.

2. Fill in the rest of the space with the filler of your choice. For this example, I quilted my favorite go-to filler design, swirls.



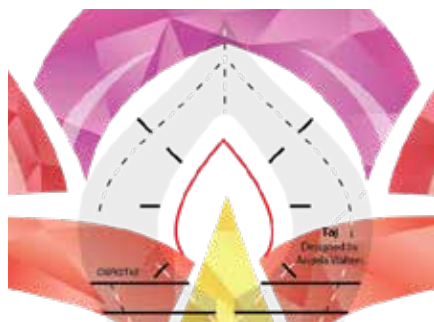
Option #3 – Embellished Arcs

Drawing attention to this area is as easy as adding a little embellishment and filling in around it. For this design, I used the taj ruler, however you could use a differently shaped ruler or just freehand the design.

1. Quilt a line that arcs from one side of the area, around the yellow point and onto the other side.

2. Travel along the edge of the area about 1/4", then echo around the shape.

3. Fill in the remaining area with the design of your choice. Try a filler design or even ribbon candy.



Audtioning Designs



Audtioning Designs

