

Mandala

Free-motion Challenge Quilting Along



Week 4 Expanded Quilting Diagrams & Tip Sheet

For more information about the challenge, visit FMQchallenge.com



Week 4

In the next part of the Mandala Free-motion Challenge Quilting Along, we are moving onto the purple section of the panel. We are not only going to see how to create motifs that wrap around the purple elements of the panel, we'll also learn how to use echoing to highlight different sides of the area.

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



Your Challenge

If you're quilting along with me on the custom Mandala panel, quilt the purple areas and the white areas around 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 lavender and white thread for this section.





Quilting the Background

The white background areas that wrap around the purple teardrops on the panel are irregularly shaped, pointy in some areas and wider in others. There are several different options for dealing with areas such as this!

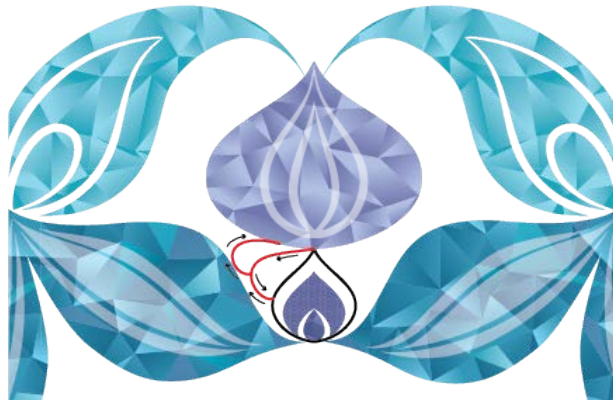
Option #1 - Creating Motifs

While a feather motif may not be the first design option that one might consider, it's actually a great way to add detail to these areas. To do this, we are going to use the edge of the purple teardrop as the "spine" of the feather. Using parts of the panel as the guide for the design means less marking and more quilting!



1. Starting from the bottom middle of the light purple teardrop, quilt a line that echoes around the smaller, dark purple teardrop and returns back to the starting point.

2. Quilt a part of the feather so that it extends out from the teardrop and curves down to touch the echo line below. Travel along the petal and then quilt the line so that it curves out and back into the "spine".



Tip: Try to quilt the "petals" of the feather so that they fill in the area as much as possible.

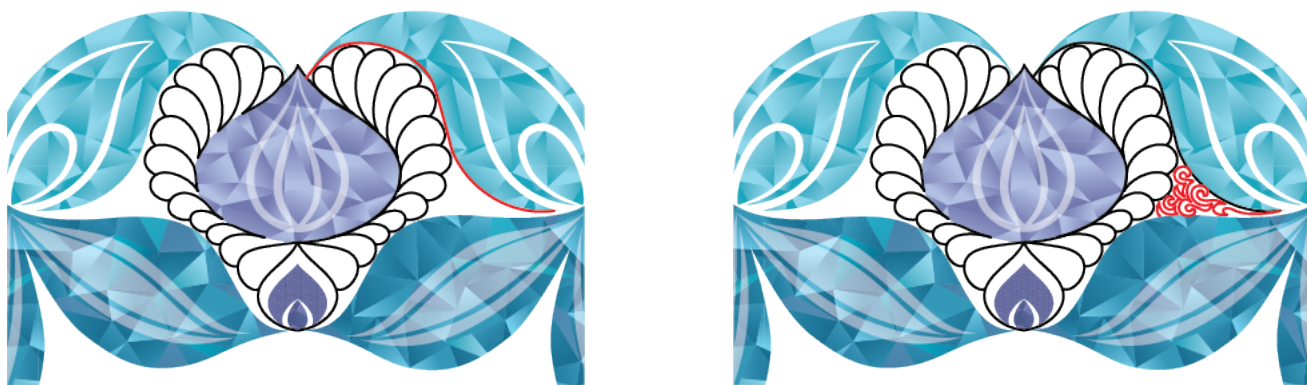
3. Continue quilting the feather along the edge of the purple teardrop until reaching the top. There will be some areas that the petals won't be able to fill in completely. Don't worry about it, we will come back later and fill them in.



4. Travel along the edge of the purple teardrop back to the bottom. If you don't love the idea of traveling, you can tie off and start a new line of quilting at the bottom. Repeat the steps above, quilting the petals along the opposite side of the teardrop until reaching the top again.

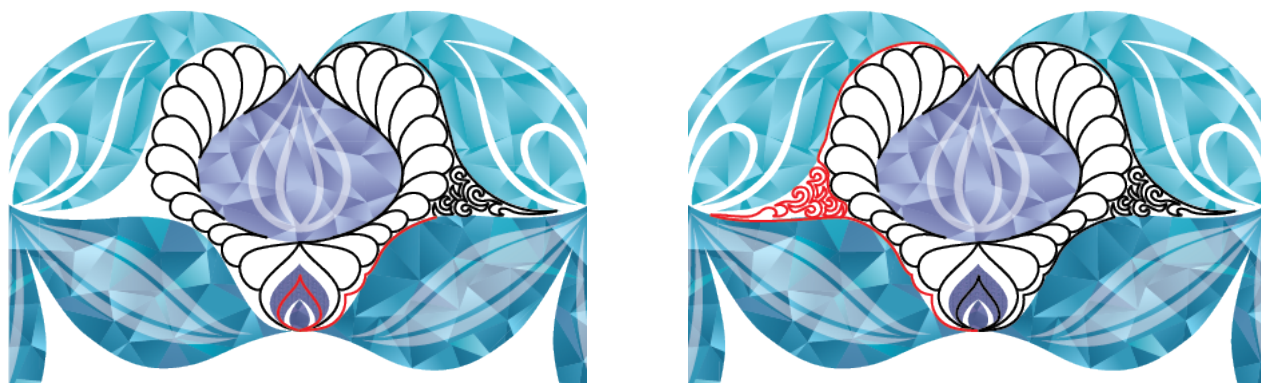


5. Once the motif is completed, it's time to fill in any gaps. Travel along the outer edge of the background area until reaching the unquilted areas, then fill them in with a filler design of your choice. I opted for swirls, but any meandering design will work!



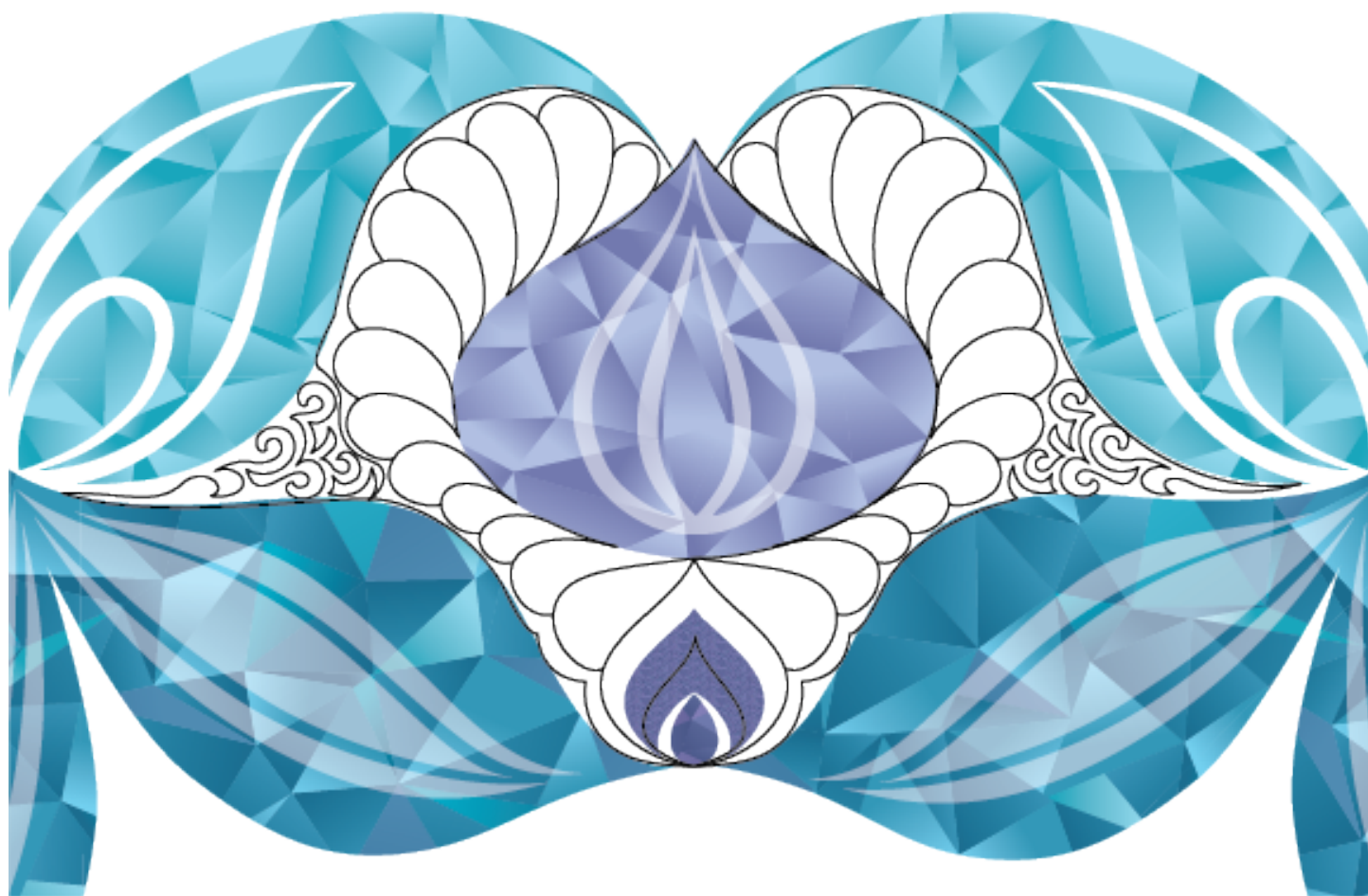


6. Continue filling in any unquilted areas, traveling along the edge of the area if necessary.

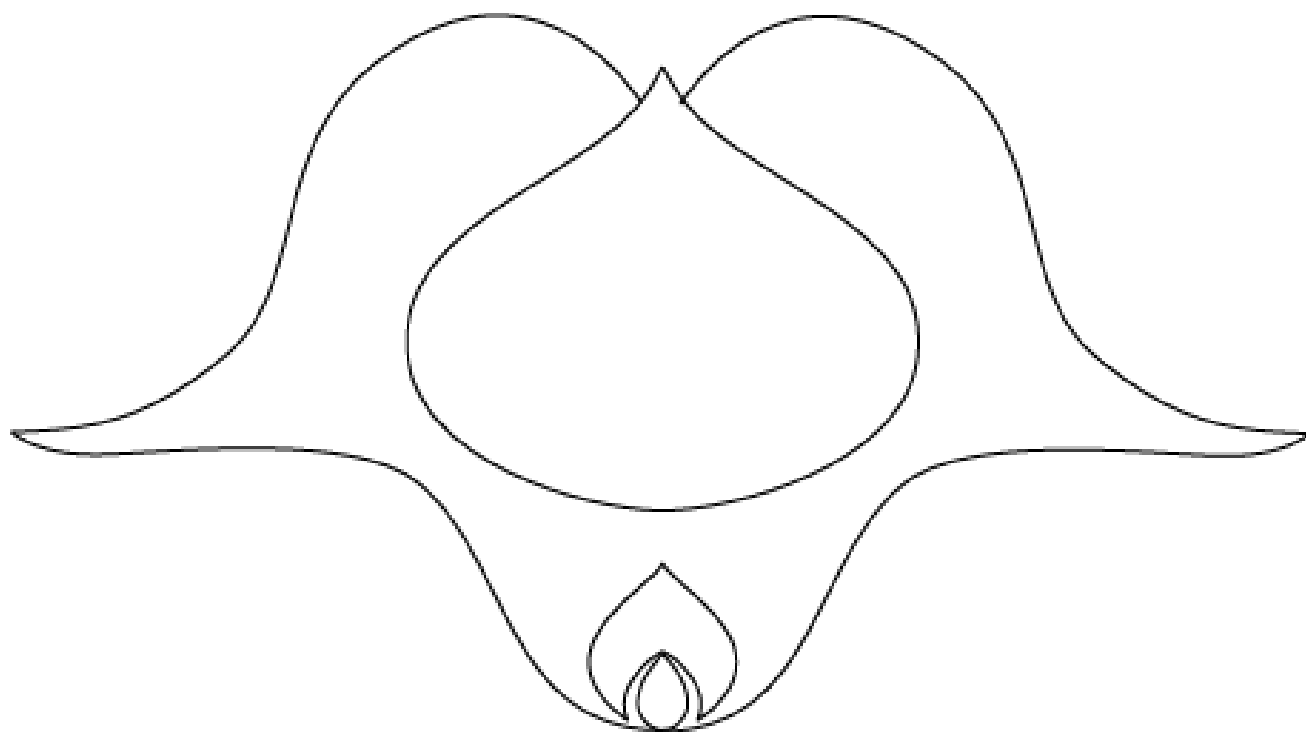


Give it a Try

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



Audition Designs

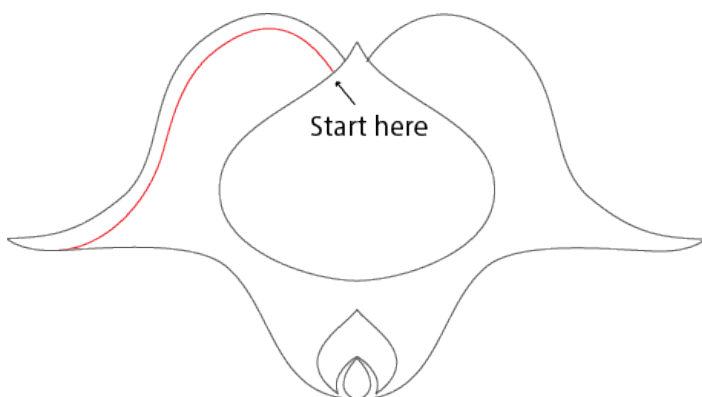


Option #2 - Echoing the Top of the Area

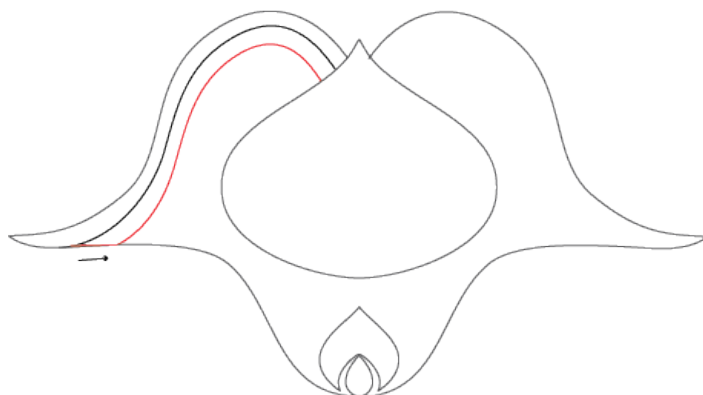
If the idea of quilting a feather motif seems like too much, quilting echo lines might be a better option! Even though we have already seen echoing a few times during this video series, these echo lines are a bit longer and have a change in direction as well. Just take your time quilting them and try to focus on keeping the lines smooth. You can choose to echo the top of the area or the bottom.



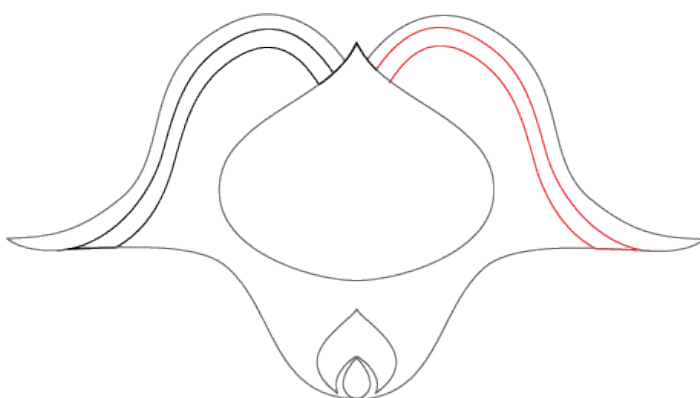
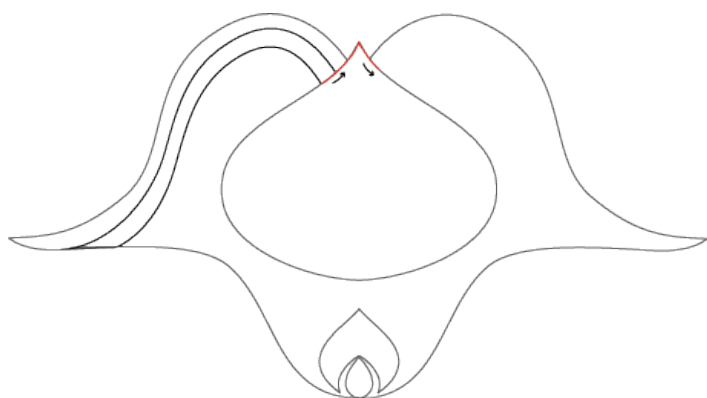
1. Starting about $\frac{1}{4}$ " - $\frac{1}{2}$ " away from the top of the purple teardrop, echo the top of the area, stopping when you reach the bottom edge.



2. Travel along the edge about $\frac{1}{2}$ " or so then echo the previously quilted line.

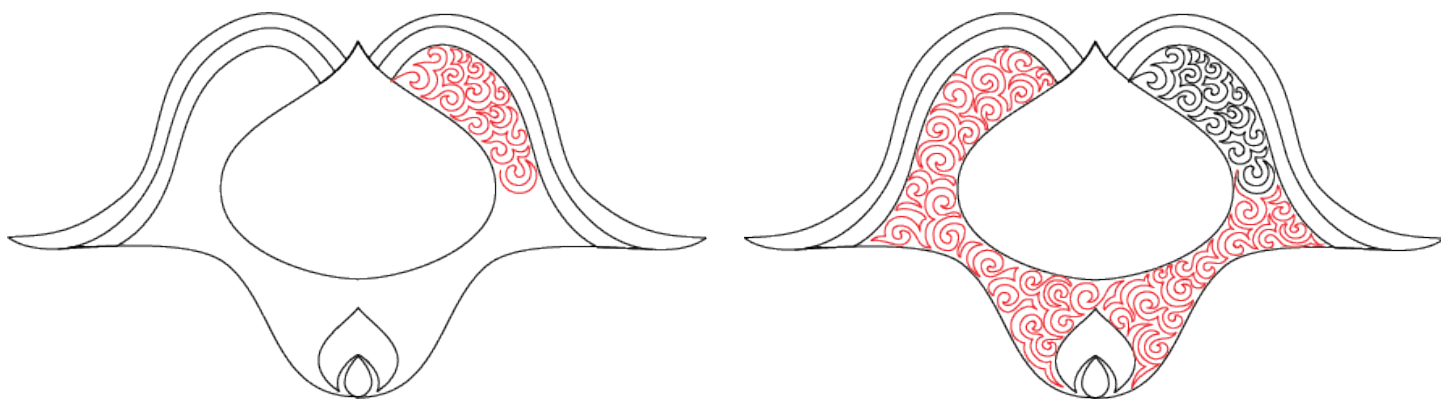


3. Travel along the outside of the purple teardrop, then repeat on the other side of the area. You can travel along the point of the teardrop, around the bottom or you can tie off and start a new line of quilting on the other side. Then, repeat the steps above on the other side of the area.





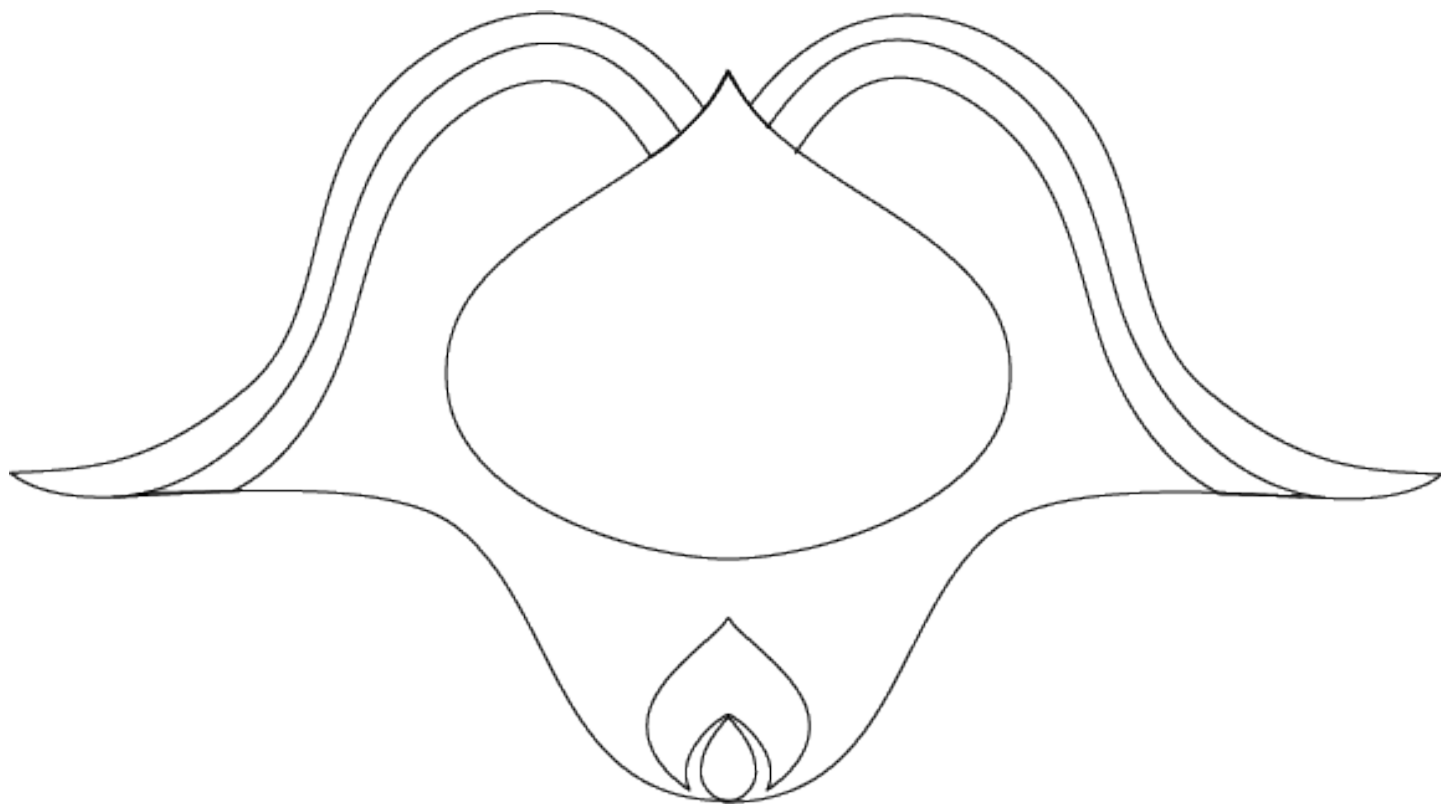
5. After the echo lines are quilted, fill in the rest of the area with the filler design of your choice. I am using my favorite design, swirls, but you can use any design you are comfortable with quilting.



- As you begin to fill in the unquilted area, you might find yourself stuck. Use traveling or echoing to help get “un-stuck” and then continue quilting.
- To really make your echo lines “pop”, quilt the filler design so that it is slightly more dense than the echo lines. For instance, if your echo lines are $1/2$ ” apart, quilt the filler design so that the lines are about $1/4$ ” apart.

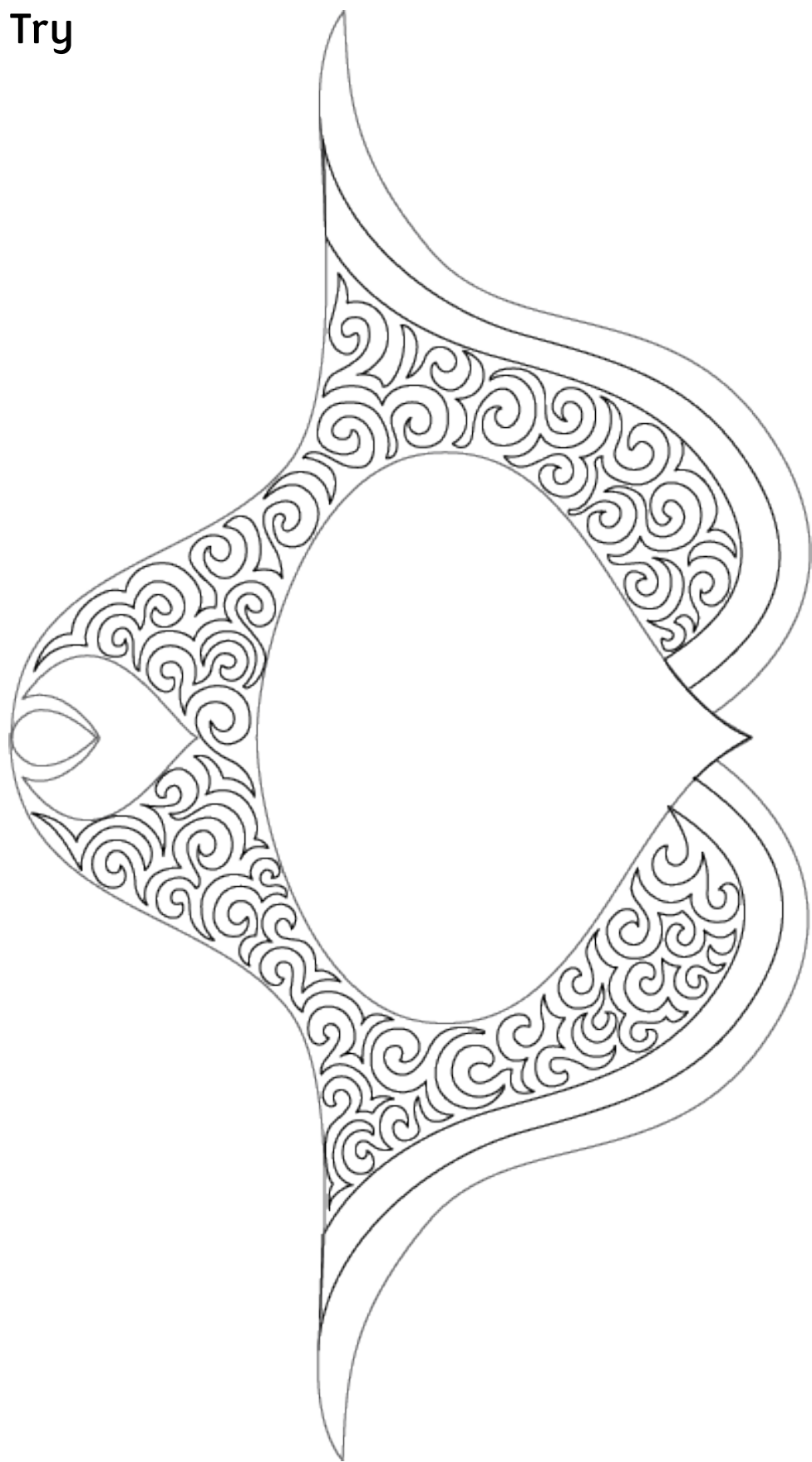
Give it a Try

Try drawing the filler of your choice in the blank area on the diagram below:





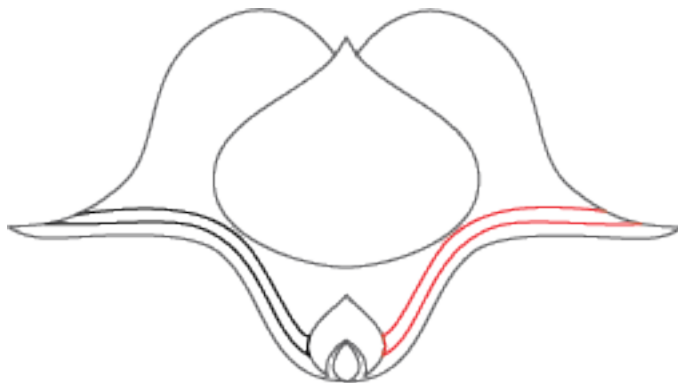
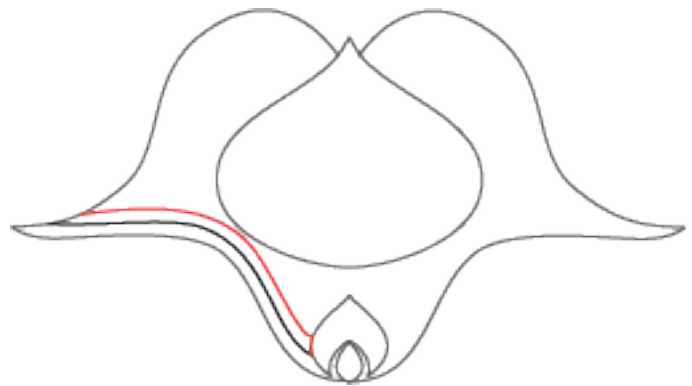
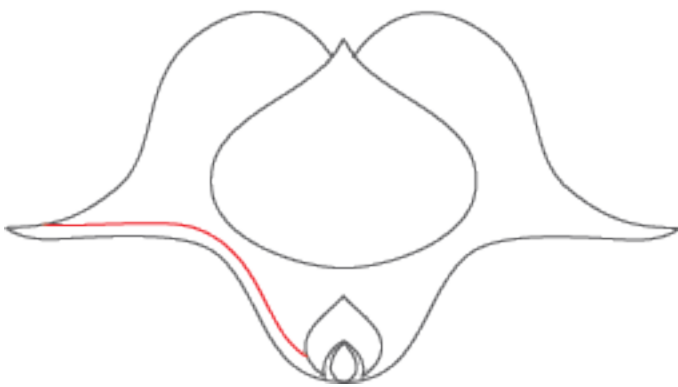
Give it a Try



Option #3 - Echoing the Bottom of the Area

Echoing the bottom of the area instead of the top will give you a similar look. However the lines are a little bit shorter and less drastic in the shape which means that they might be a little easier to quilt.

Simply follow the same steps as before, echoing the bottom of the area instead of the top.



Note: Traveling along the edge of the area to start the second echo line is not only more efficient, it also creates a secondary pattern when repeated in the other areas.



Quilting the Purple Area

The pretty purple teardrop shapes on this panel are the perfect opportunity to try out several different types of designs. Whether you pick a design that compliments the quilting in the white background (such as feathers) or keep it nice and simple with some echo lines, it's going to look great!

Option #1 - Feathers

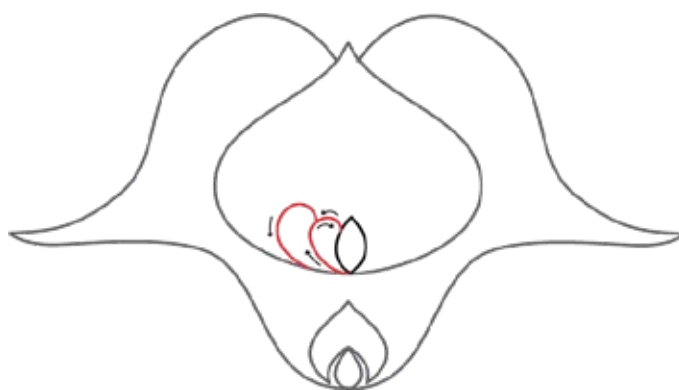
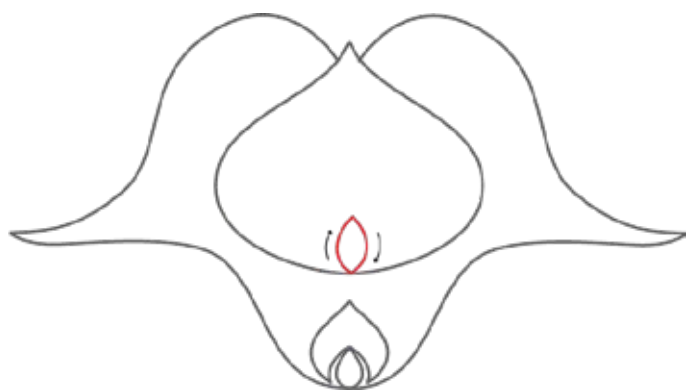
Create the ultimate motif by combining feathers inside the purple areas as well as outside (as we saw earlier). It looks elegant and is actually not that difficult once you get the hang of it!

Using parts of the panel as the guide for the design means less marking and more quilting!



1. Starting at the bottom, middle part of the teardrop, quilt a line that curves out to a point and back. This will act as the “center” of the motif and helps pull the two sides together.

2. Begin quilting the “petals” of the feather using the outside edge of the area as a “spine”. Like we saw earlier, the petals are quilted in groups of two, with one going out towards the center of the area, and one coming back towards the outside of the area.



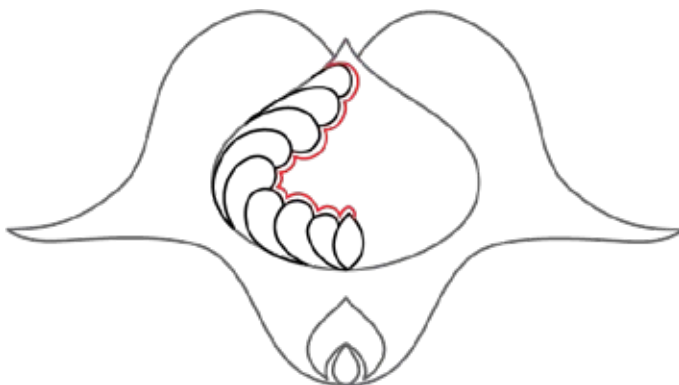
Tip: Try to quilt the “petals” of the feather so that they fill in the area as much as possible.



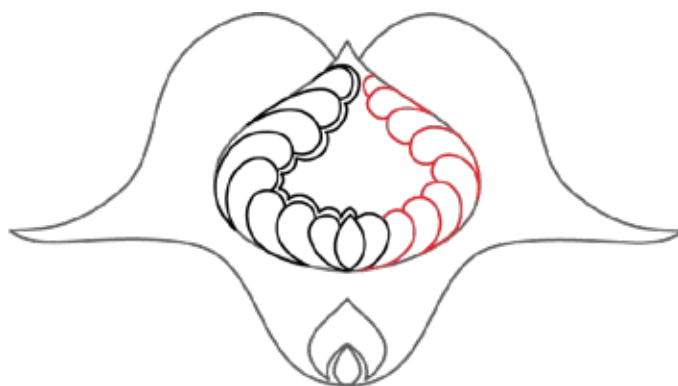
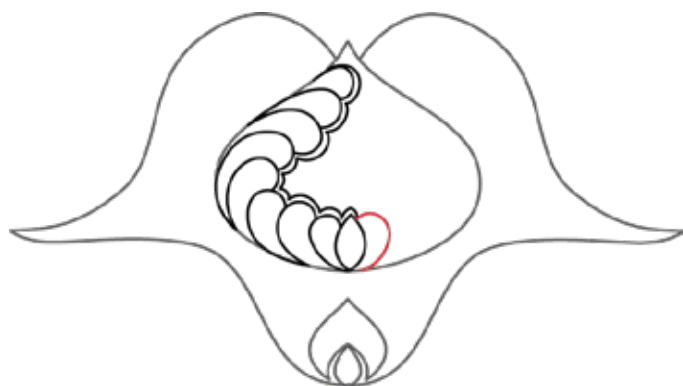
3. Continue quilting the feather along the outer edge until you near the top point.



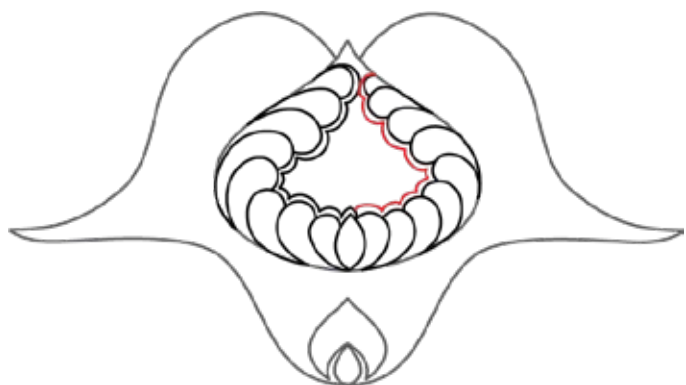
4. Once half of the feather is finished, it's time to do the other side. You can either travel along the edge of the area or echo the feather back to the bottom.



5. Repeat on the other side, quilting the feather so that it extends from the outer edge of the area.

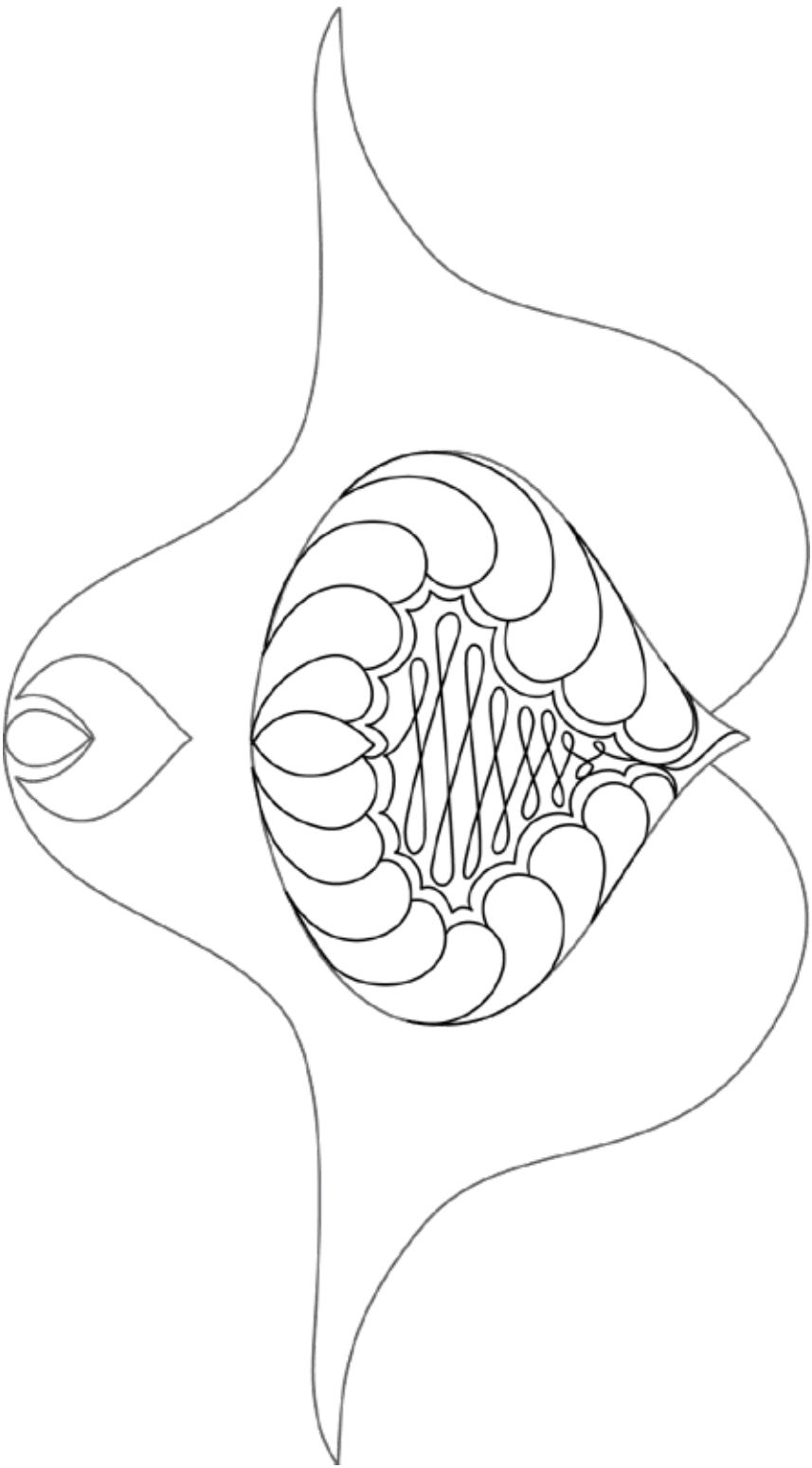


6. If you echoed the feather on the previous step, go ahead and do the same on this side. Then fill in the space between them with the design of your choice. You can use a filler design, such as swirls or wish-bones, it's up to you!





Give it a Try

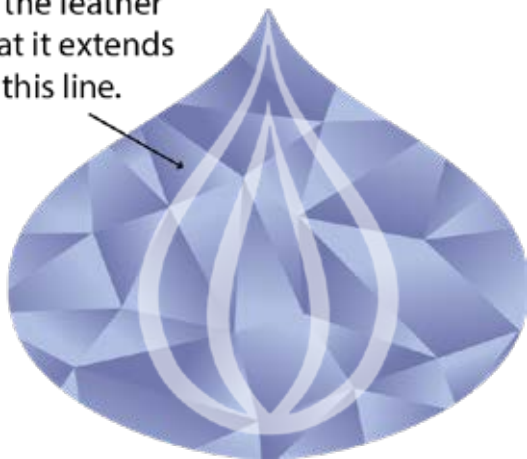


Option #2 – Opposite Feathers

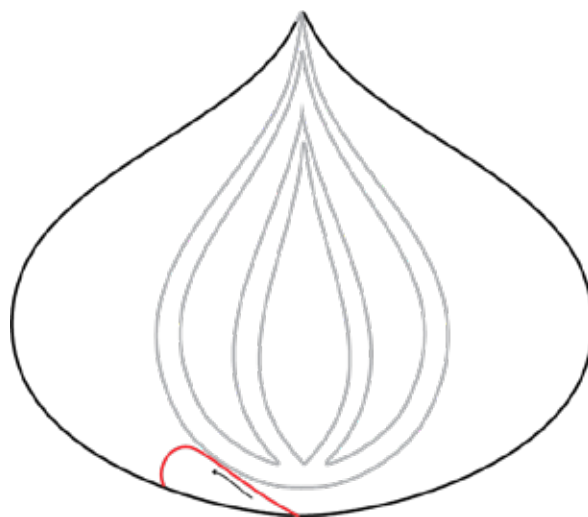
If you didn't quilt feathers in the background area, try quilting feathers in the purple areas so that they face the opposite direction as before. Instead of using the outer edge of the area as the "spine", let's use the lines inside of the teardrop for our feather.



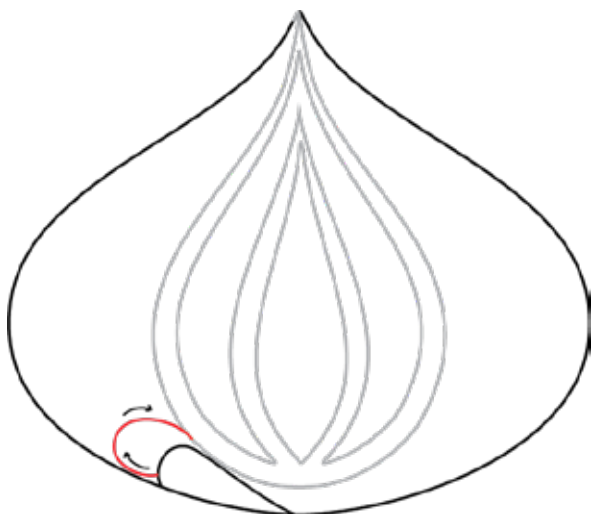
Quilt the feather
so that it extends
from this line.



1. Starting at the bottom middle of the teardrop, quilt the first "petal" of the feather so that it fits between the edge of the area and the line we are using as the spine.

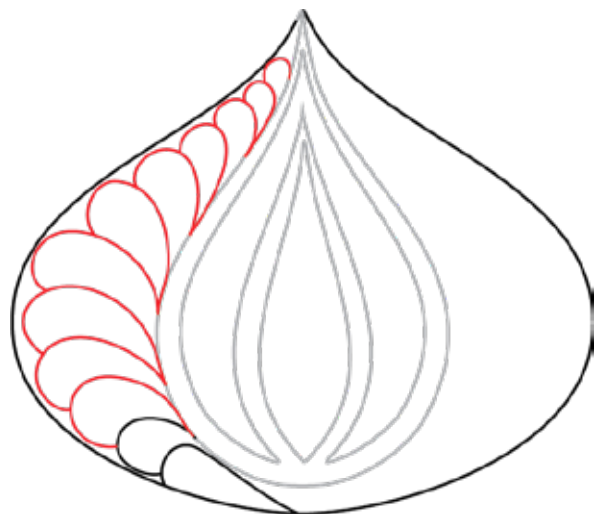


2. Travel back along the feather and quilt another petal that comes back into the spine.

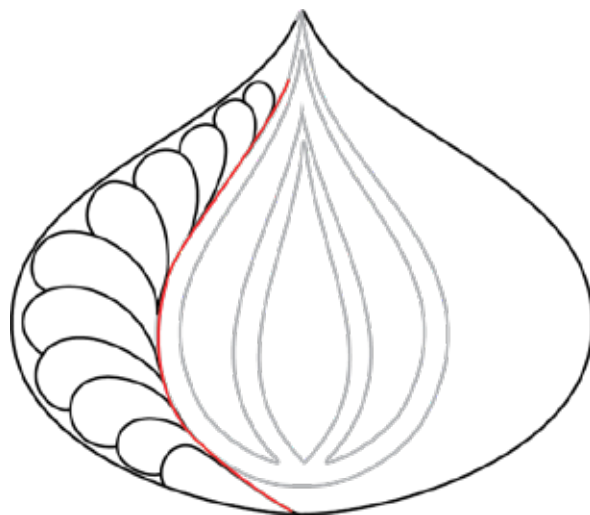




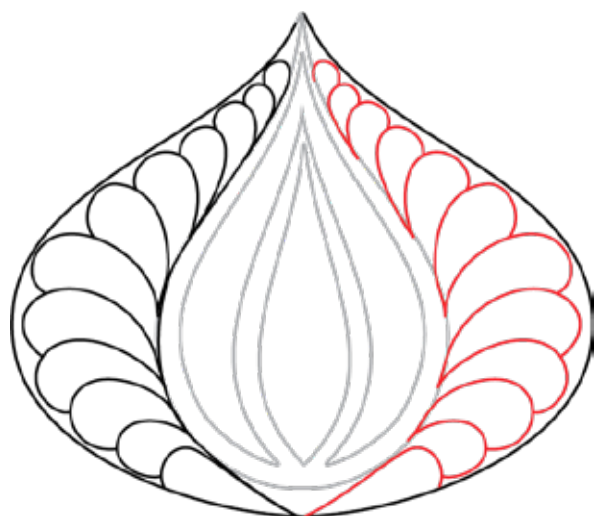
3. Continue quilting the petals of the feather until you get close to the top of the area. You don't have to go all the way to the point, stop once you can't fit any more petals in the area.



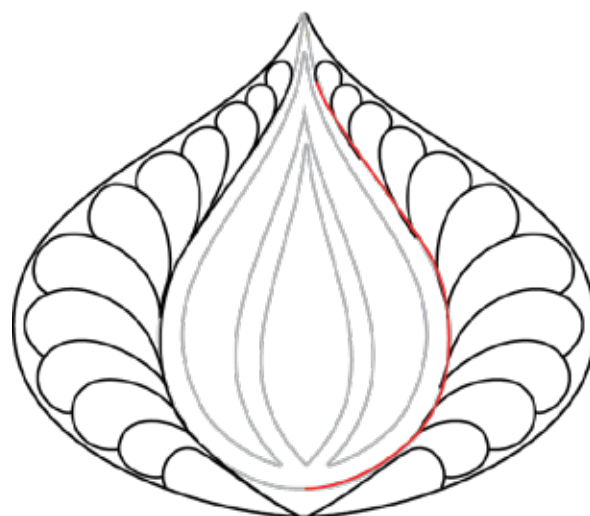
4. Travel along the "spine" or along the outer edge of the area, stopping at the original starting point.



5. Repeat on the other side, quilting petals that fill in the space on the other side.



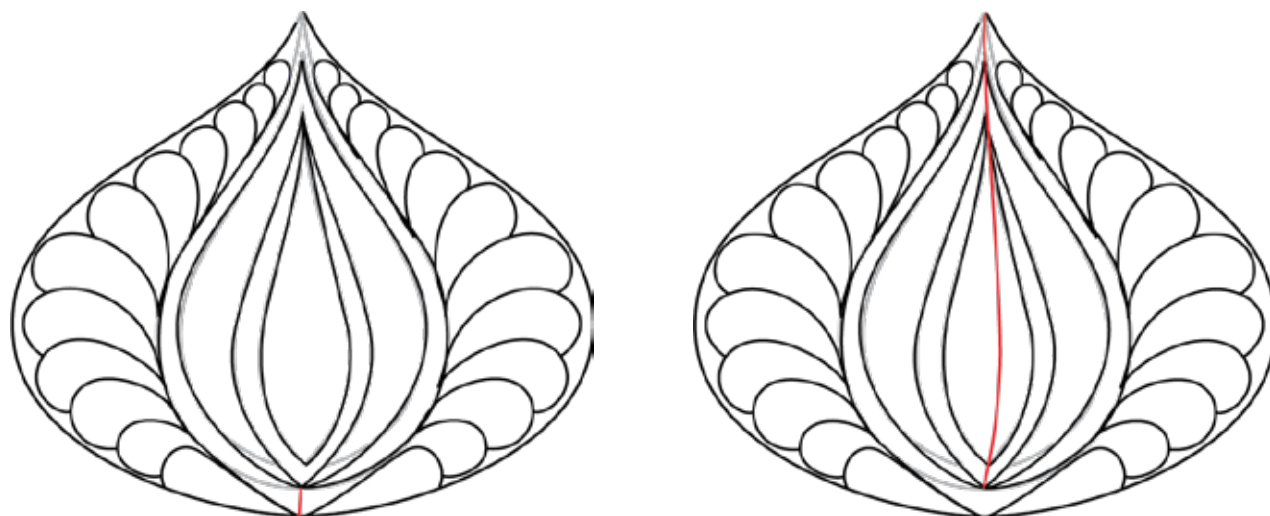
6. The good news is that once the feathers are quilted, you can choose a completely different design for the rest of the unquilted area.



7. Try quilting echo lines or even another filler. You don't have to quilt along the lines exactly, just get it close and keep going!



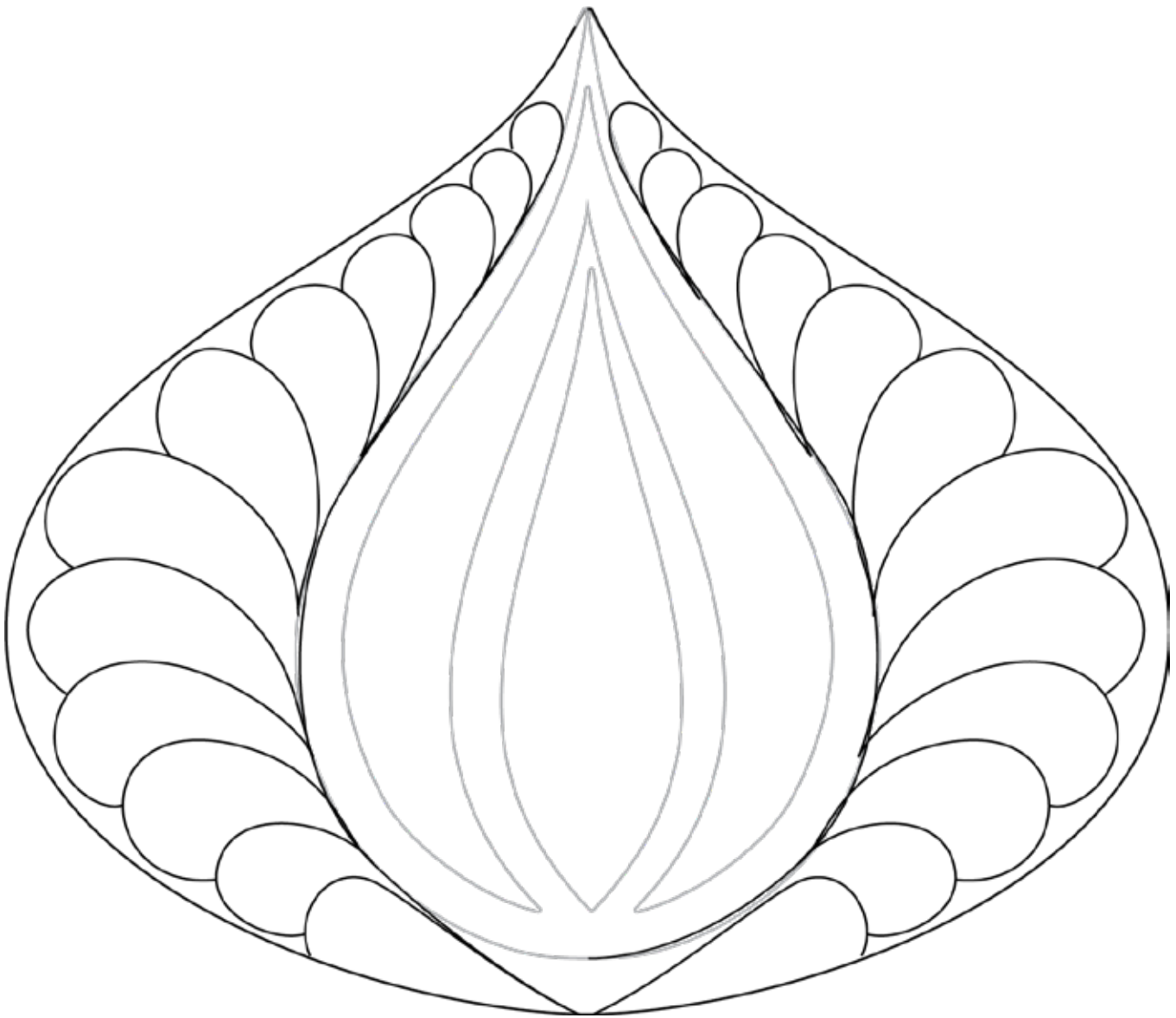
8. Once the whole shape is filled in, quilt a line out to the bottom edge or up to the point to get out of the block and move on. (Or, of course, you can tie off and start a new line of quilting in the next area.)





Give it a Try

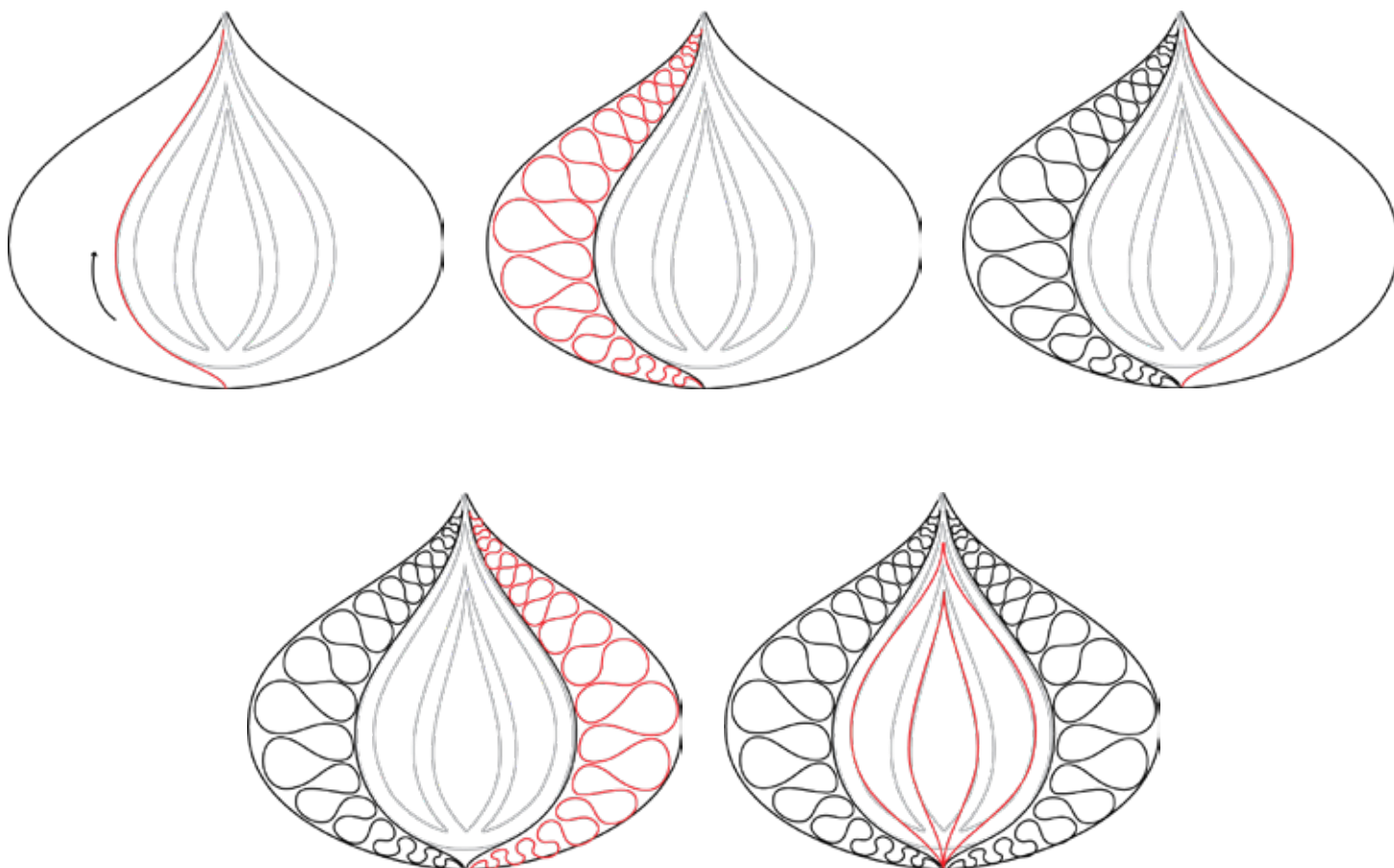
Try tracing along the lines of the diagram below to get the hang of the design.





Option #3 – Filler

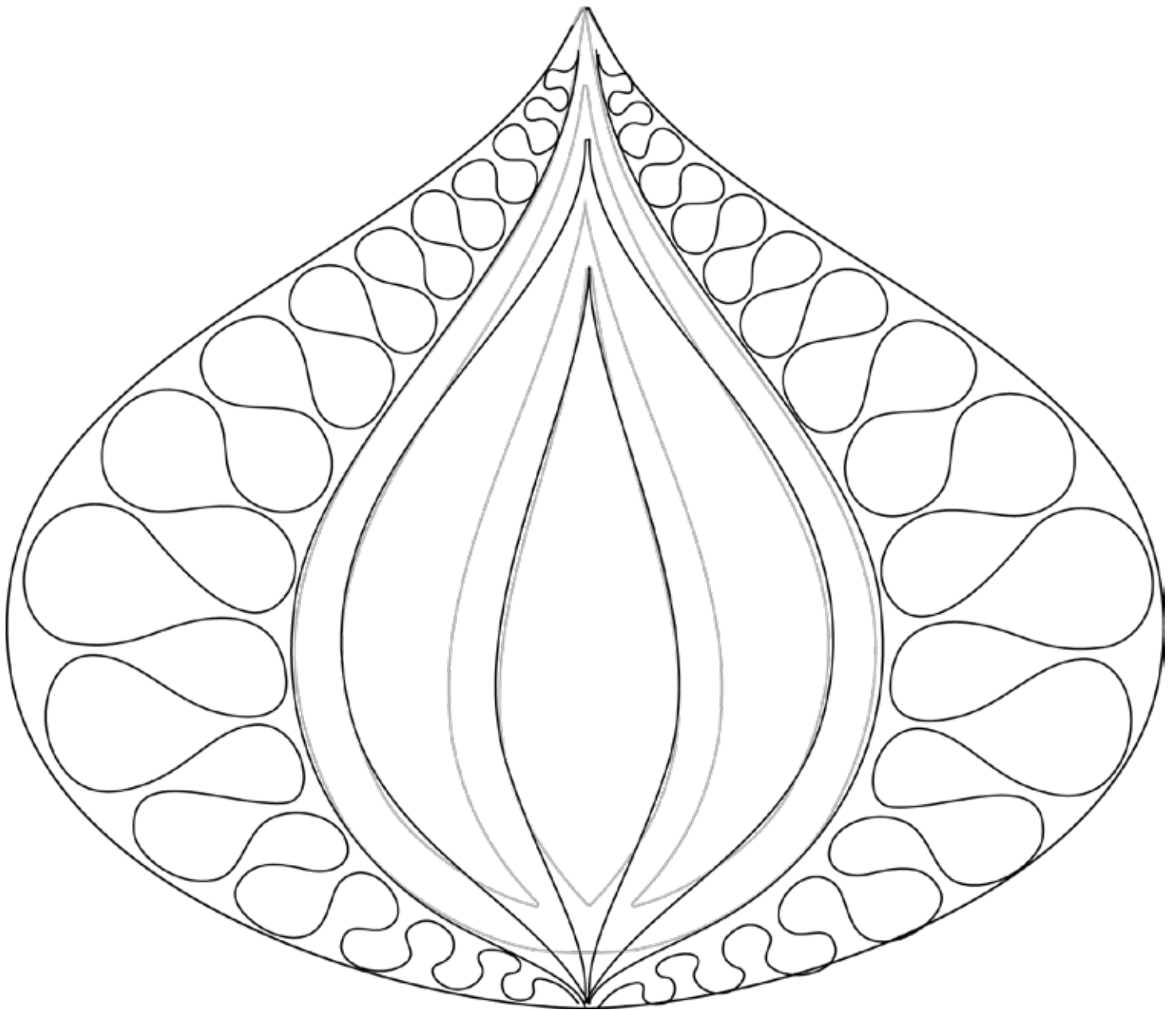
Instead of quilting an elaborate feather motif, a slightly easier option would be to incorporate a different design, such as ribbon candy. While not difficult, getting the hang of quilting the ribbon candy in the irregular areas might take a little practice. As the area gets smaller, the ribbon candy will be smaller and as the area gets larger, they will be more spread out. The key is to not worry too much about the perfection of the design, instead just try to keep the lines smooth and fill in the area as much as possible.





Give it a Try

Try drawing along the line in the diagram below to get the hang of the ribbon candy design.





Audtioning Designs

Use the diagram below to audition different design options for your panel.

