

QUILTING MADE EASY TIPS AND FAQ'S ANSWERED

Place corners first then adjust border strip between corners, expanding or overlapping at vertical lines for a better fit. Adhesive strips are repositionable.

To remove paper, hold a finger on the stitches so they won't pull up then tear away with other hand. Paper should remove neatly where needle perforated paper. Stray flecks of paper can be scratched away or use sharp tweezers to remove. See tutorial for a visual and tool tips for removing paper (www.QuiltingMadeEasy.com/tutorial).

All 100 series patterns (101-116) & #'s 304 & 307 can be stitched with a regular or walking foot, the machine controls the stitch length. Great for beginners that are intimidated by free motion quilting.

Stitch length does not have to be tight to remove the paper-this is not paper piecing. Recommended stitch length is 8-10 stitches per inch.

Free motion designs should be used as a guide, don't stress about staying on the line! It will look great when the paper is removed and no one will know you strayed! You don't have to worry about where you are going next or about crossing over previous stitching, the paper allows you to concentrate on your stitch length. The 300 & 400 line of stipple and border patterns are a great learning tool for beginners that are uncomfortable with free-motion quilting. Practice on the paper without thread in the machine.

Instructions and corners (for most borders) are in core or printed on the pattern.

Some patterns have solid and dashed lines for ease in following the pattern and aligning corners, there is no order that they should be stitched, your choice.

These patterns can also be used by longarm quilters as a cheaper alternative to pantographs. They can be placed right on the quilt and stitched through or placed on the pattern table and using a stylus or laser.

Many hand quilters use these designs. If you rock your needle through the layers and pick up several stitches, these patterns won't work for you because you can't see through the paper. If you use the 'stab' method where you go straight up and down, then you can use the patterns as a guide. Paper removal is a little trickier, I recommend using a dart marker, or blunt needle (see tutorial at www.QuiltingMadeEasy.com) to weaken the paper before you tear away.

When free-motion quilting, the stitch length depends on how fast you move the fabric in relation to the speed of the machine. Stitch at a speed that keeps you in

control. Focus on the line you are stitching and its direction instead of the needle. Always stop with needle down when repositioning your quilt.

The choice of needle depends on the thread used. The finer the thread, the finer the needle. Quilting needles (size 90/14) has a thin tapered design that prevents skipped stitches and easily stitches through the quilt sandwich. However, an 80/12 size needle will work fine also.

To knot the thread for starting, take one stitch, pull the bobbin thread up to the top, then stitch 3-4 very small stitches, or use the knot stitch on your machine. Now stitch an inch or so with a regular length stitch, then stop and cut the thread tails close to the quilt top being careful not to cut the top. Doing this now instead of later eliminates the possibility of later stitching over the tails and stitching them down making it harder to snip them off. When stopping, use your knot stitch on your machine or stitch several very small stitches, lift the pressure foot and cut the threads close to the top, again being careful not to snip your quilt top.

Quilt your top yourself and save money. Quilting Made Easy patterns can give professional results at a significant savings over sending your quilt out. Using these patterns is an economical alternative to sending tops out to be quilted.

If you have any other questions you may contact me at 208-676-8689 and leave a message and I will call you back. Or, you can ask your question(s) on the Contact Us page.

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