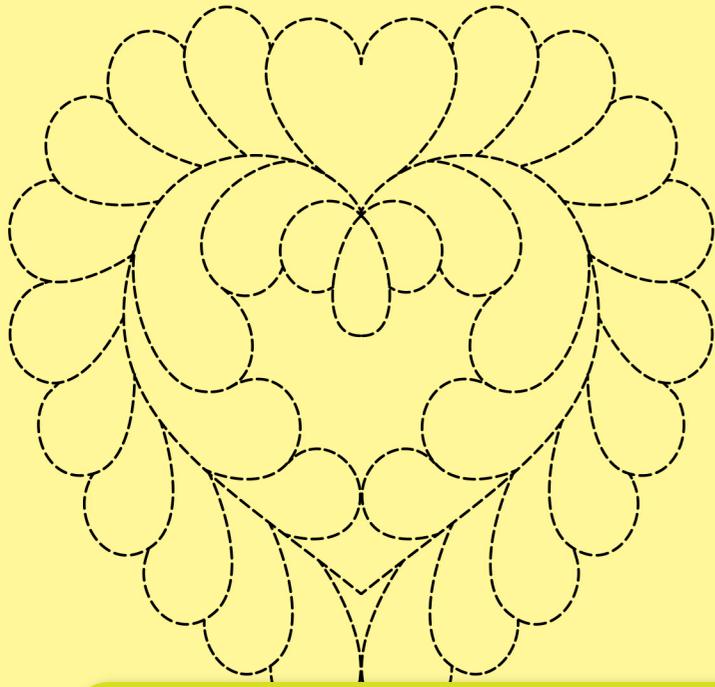


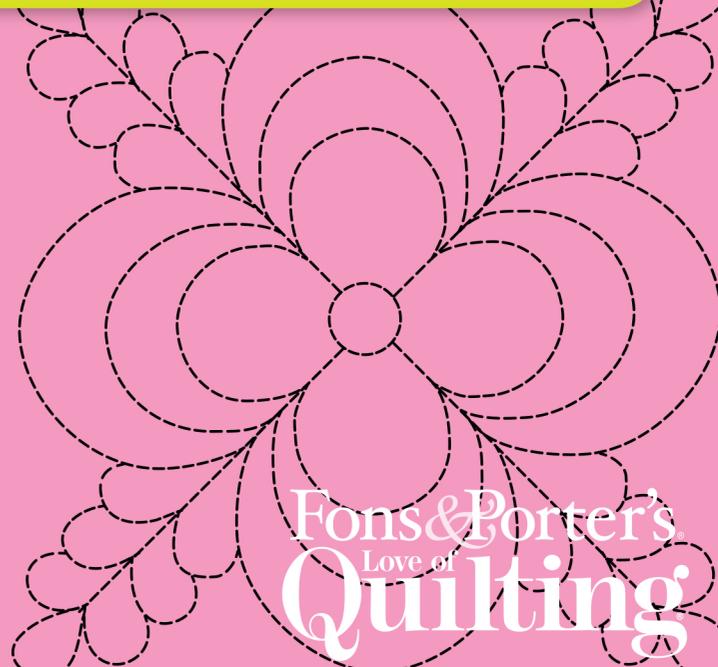
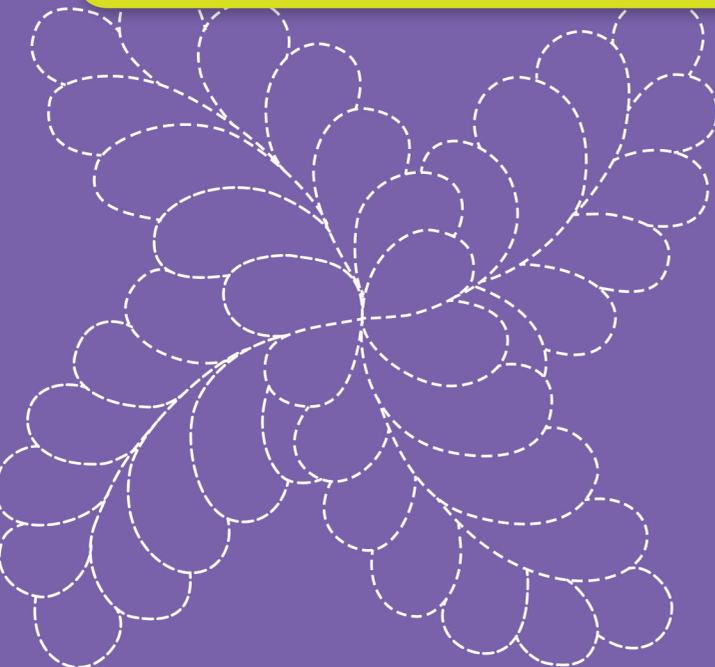
# Quilting the Quilt

APQS

QUILT FOREVER!



15 Creative patterns and motifs to fit any quilt



Fons & Porter's  
Love of  
Quilting

# Quilting the Quilt

When you've finished piecing your quilt, it's time to decide how you will quilt it. This is a dilemma for many quilters, so we've put together some design ideas to help you with your decision.

First, decide if your quilt needs a simple all-over design or would look better with motifs in the blocks. The freehand designs we've included are perfect for filling open areas or as all-over quilting. If you prefer something more detailed, try some of the floral, circle, or feather designs on pages 6–15. Use a copy machine with an enlargement feature to resize them to the perfect size for your quilt.

The designs included here are just a few of the endless possibilities for quilting your quilt. We hope they will help you take your quilting to the next level.

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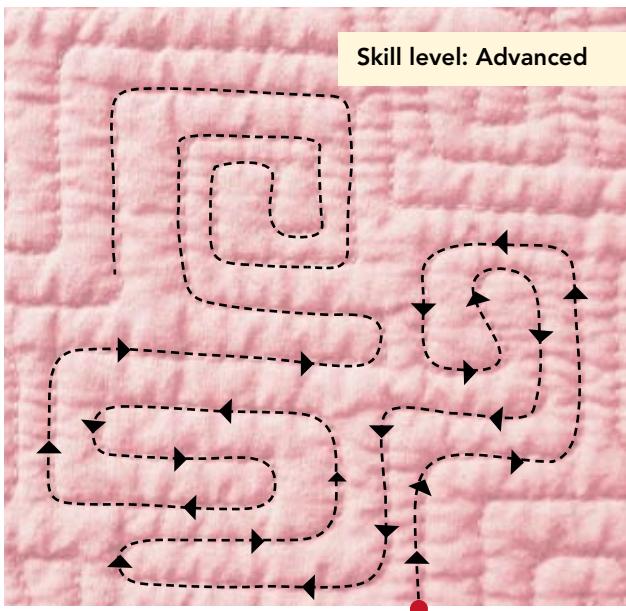
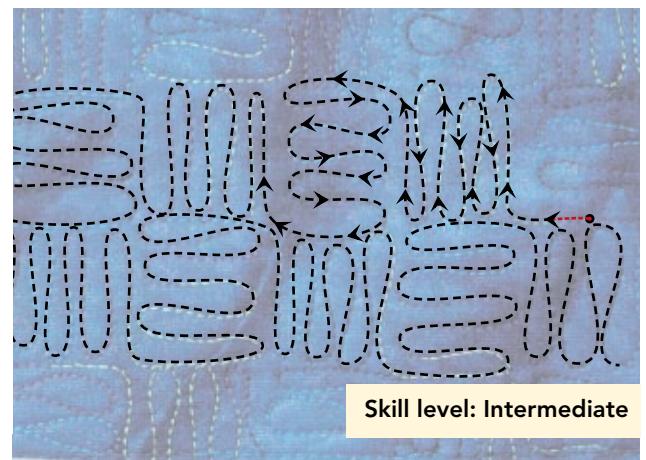
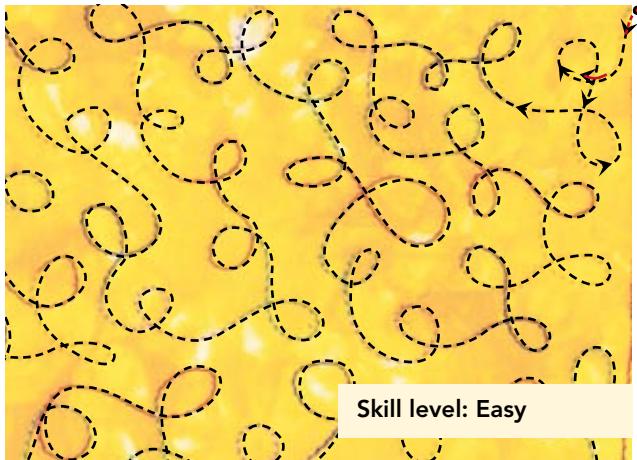
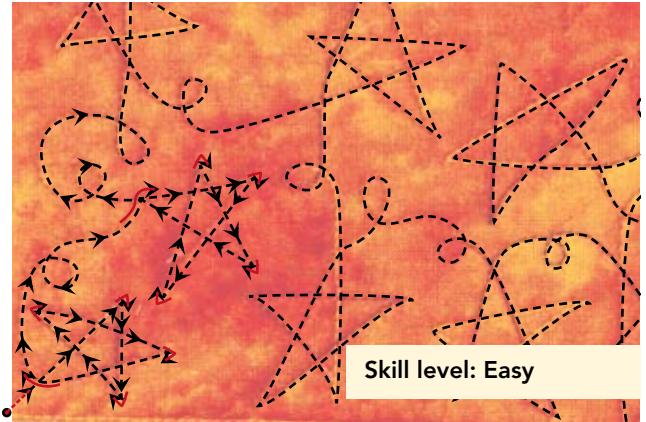
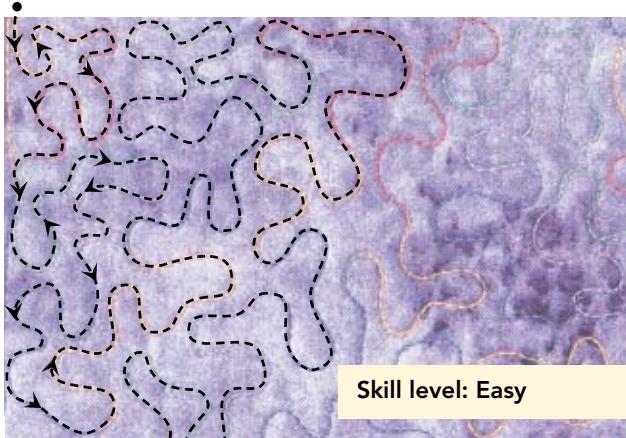
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# Freehand Quilting Designs

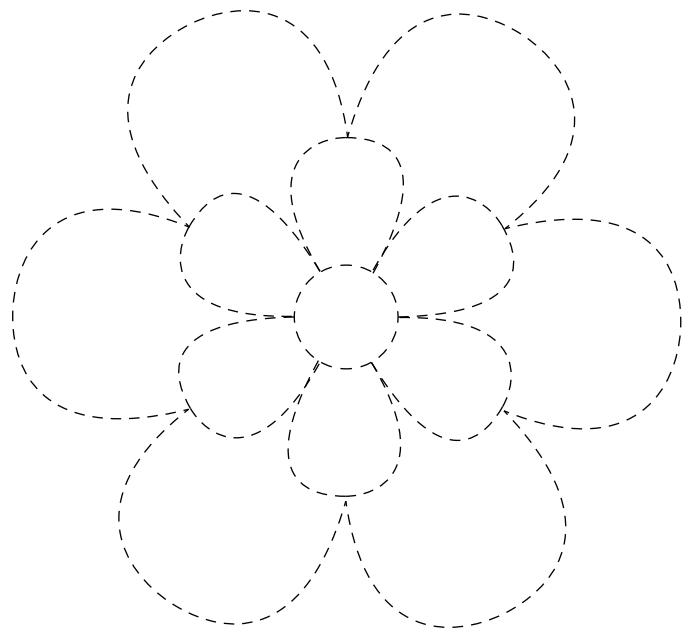
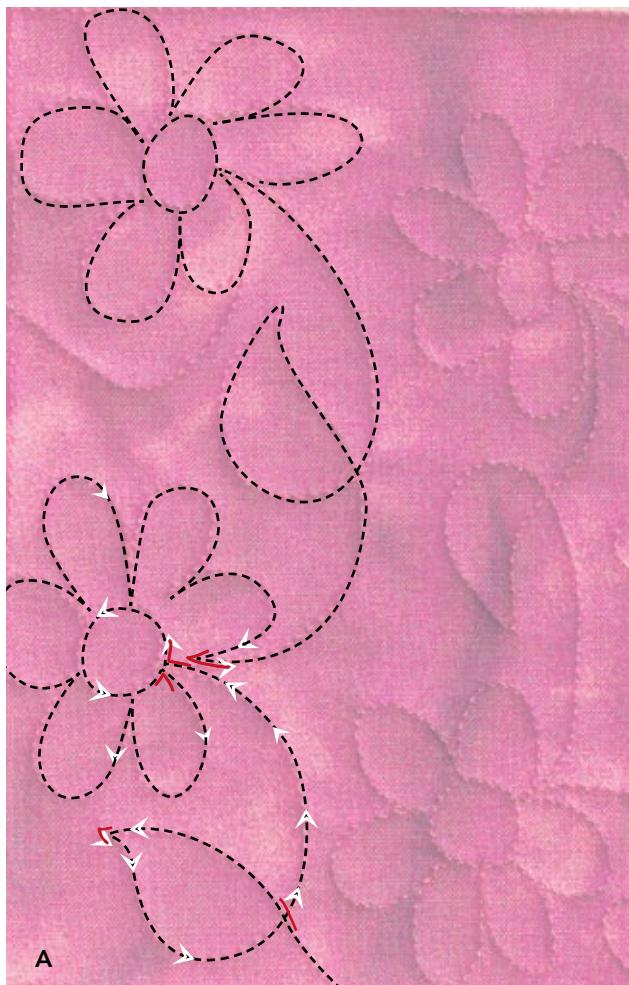
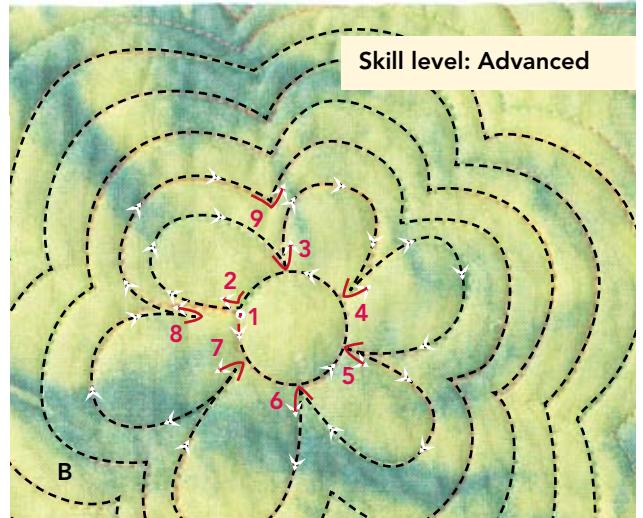
Freehand quilting designs are great because you don't need to use templates or follow marked patterns. Here are some freehand designs for various levels of expertise.

Begin stitching at the dot and continue in the direction of the arrows.

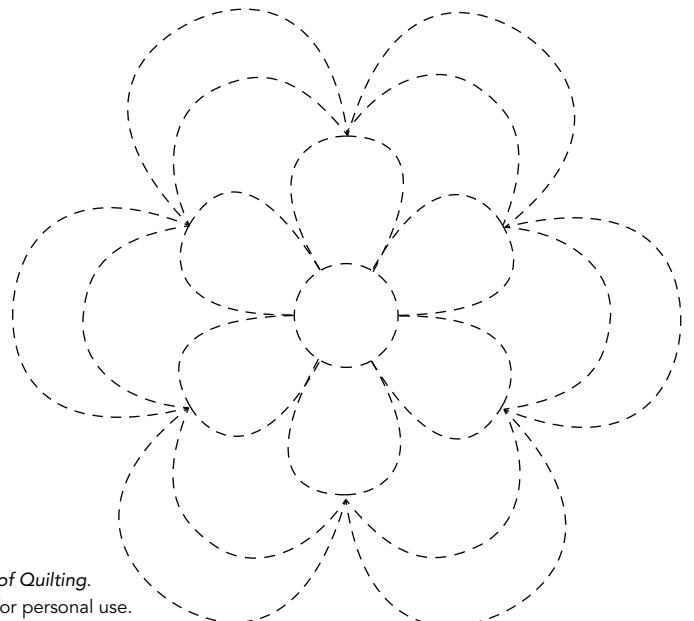


# Flower Power

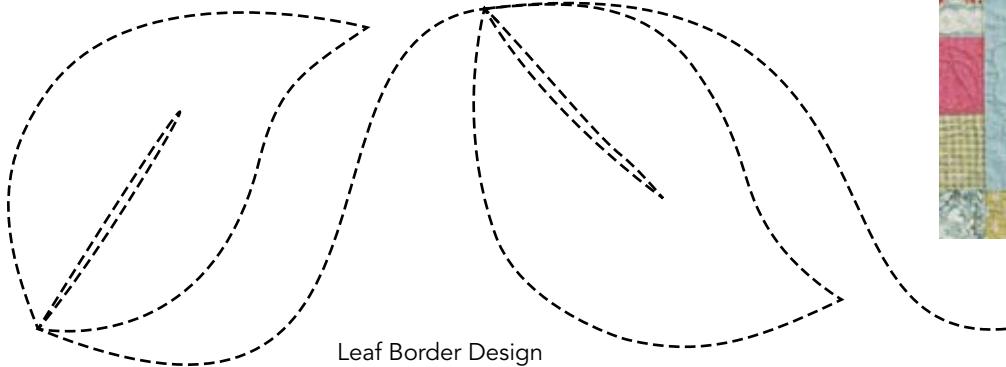
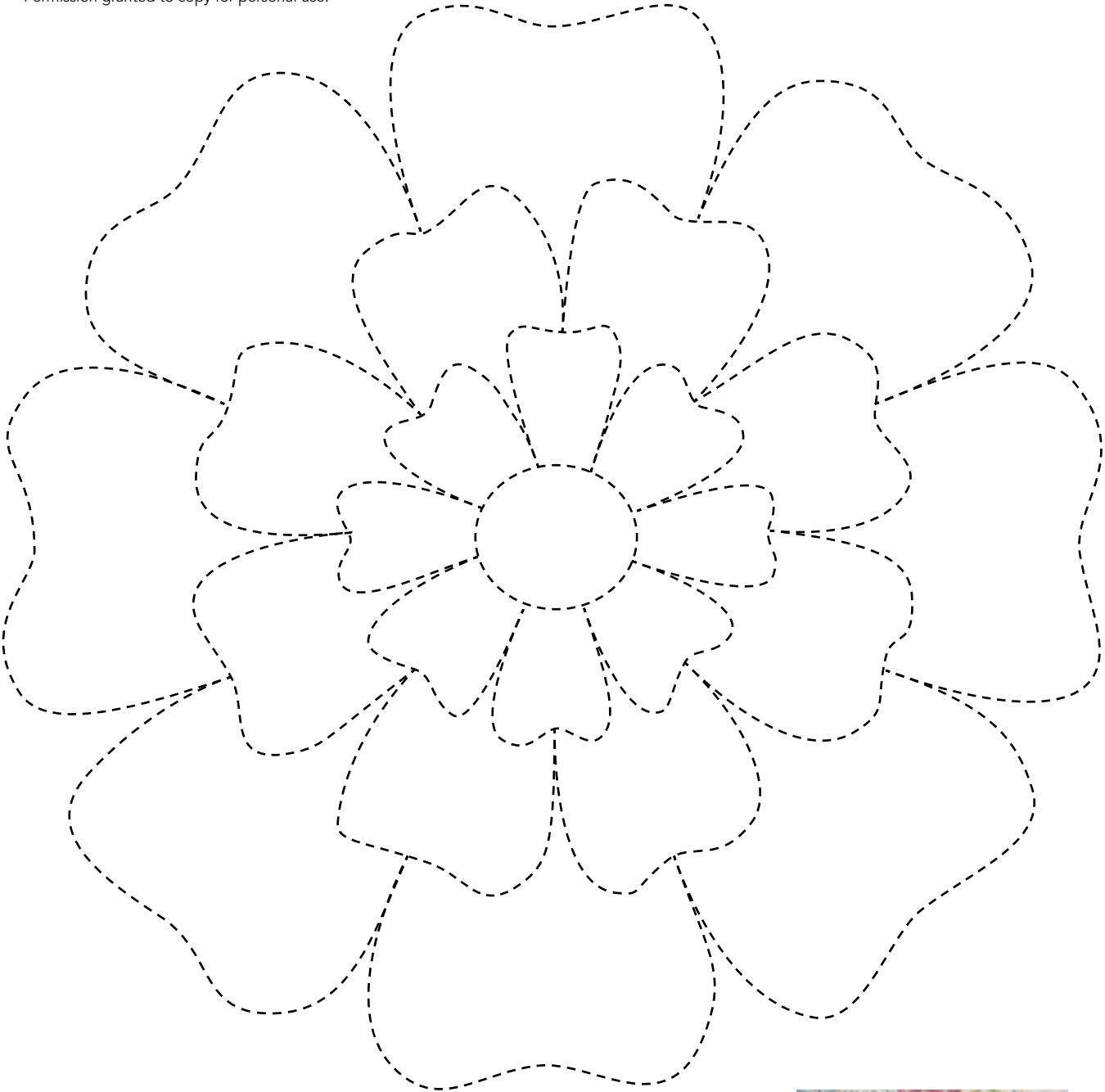
Freehand flowers are just right for some quilts. Photo A shows an all-over flower design. In Photo B, a single flower is stitched in the center of a block and lines of echo quilting fill the area around it. If you prefer a large flower motif, use one of the block designs at right.



Flower Block Designs



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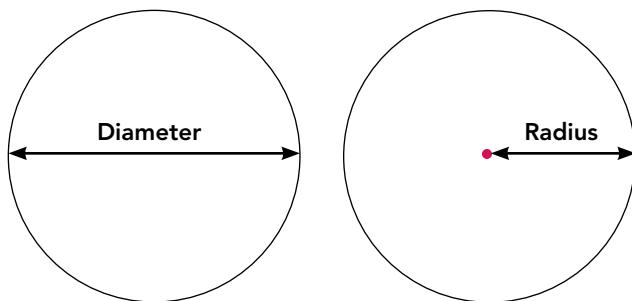
Leaf Border Design



# Quilting in Circles

Don't forget about circles when selecting quilting designs for your quilt! Combine them to fill a block; or, view the entire quilt as a single design space and fill it with circles.

Use circles or circular quilting designs in your machine quilting. The design possibilities are endless. When working with circles, you need to understand two basic terms—diameter and radius (*Circle Diagrams*). The diameter is the distance across a circle. The radius is the distance from the center of a circle to its outer edge, and is exactly half the length of the diameter. Using these measurements, you can easily create a variety of circular quilting designs.

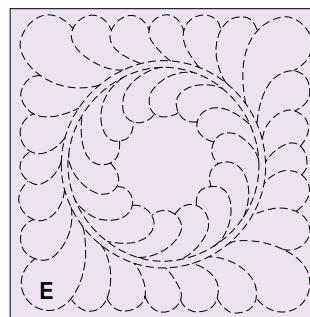
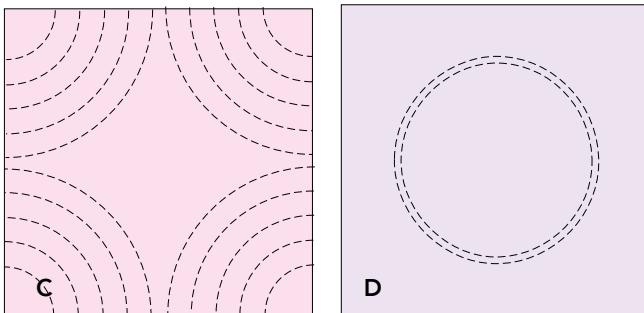
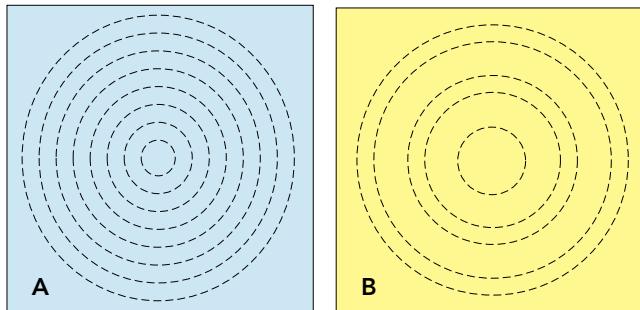


Circle Diagrams

## Block Designs

The diagrams at right show several ideas for using circles or partial circles to fill a block. The simplest design is a series of concentric circles in graduated sizes (*Diagram A*). Make the diameter of the largest one 1"–2" smaller than the block size. The next smaller circle will have a diameter 1"–2" smaller than the previous one. Continue making smaller circles until you reach the center of the block. You can adapt the concentric circle pattern by varying the distance between the circles in the design (*Diagram B*). If the fabric in your block has a fussy-cut central motif (such as a large flower), use partial circles to frame the printed motif (*Diagram C*). Stitch concentric quarter circles from each corner of the block, leaving an open area in the middle. For this design, the radius of the largest circle would be slightly smaller than half the finished block size.

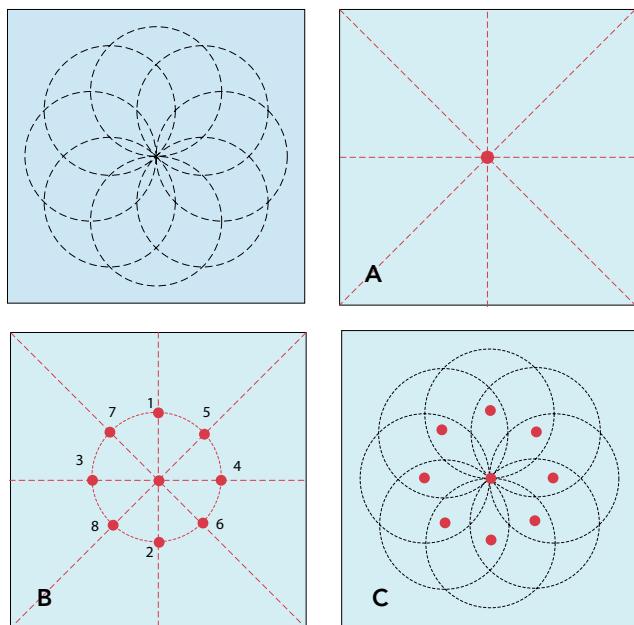
Stitch two circles about ¼" apart to form the vein of a feather design (*Diagram D*). The diameter of the larger circle should be about two thirds the size of the finished block. Then, mark and stitch or freehand stitch feathers on each side of center vein (*Diagram E*).



As you become more proficient at stitching circles, try one of the medallion designs shown here. Although they are a bit tedious to stitch, the results will be stunning.

## Eight Circle Medallion

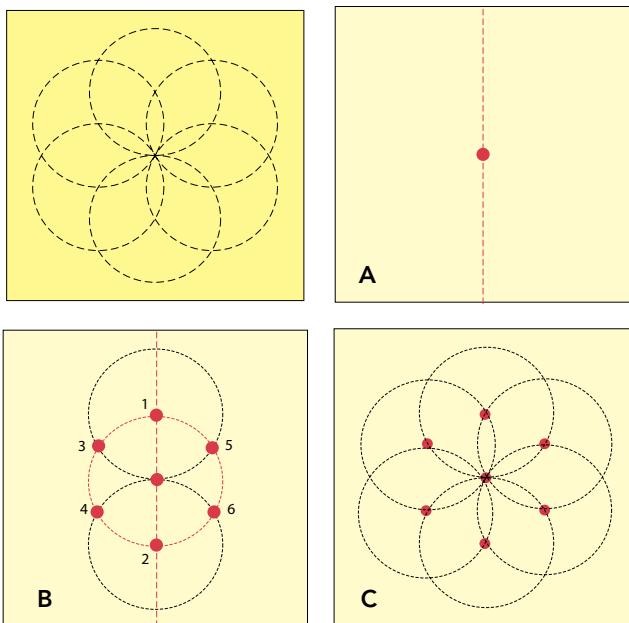
1. Lightly mark horizontal, vertical, and diagonal registration lines on your block as shown in Eight Circle Medallion *Diagram A*.
2. Measure the distance from the center where these lines intersect to the top edge of the block. For this design, use a circle with a diameter about  $\frac{1}{2}$ " smaller than this measurement. Mark the circle, centering it on the block (*Diagram B*).
3. Mark dots at the points labeled 1 through 8 in *Diagram B*. These will be the centers of the eight circles in the design. 4. Stitch the circles to complete the medallion (*Diagram C*). Erase registration marks.



## Six Circle Medallion

1. Lightly mark a vertical registration line on your block as shown in Six Circle Medallion *Diagram A*. Mark the center of block.
2. Measure the distance from the center to the top edge of the block. For this design, use a circle with a diameter about  $\frac{1}{2}$ " smaller than this measurement. Mark the circle, centering it on the block (*Diagram B*).

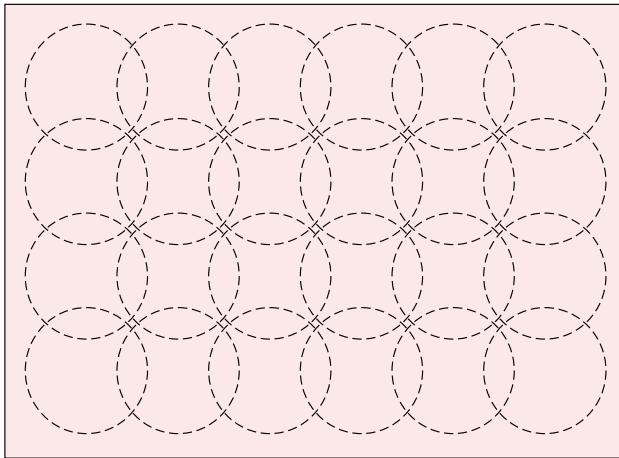
3. Mark dots at the points labeled 1 and 2 in *Diagram B*. Stitch the first two circles of the design, using the dots as the centers of the circles.
4. Mark dots at the points labeled 3 through 6 where the two stitched circles intersect the marked circle (*Diagram B*). These will be the centers of the remaining circles in the design.
5. Stitch circles #3–#6 to complete the medallion (*Diagram C*). Erase registration marks.



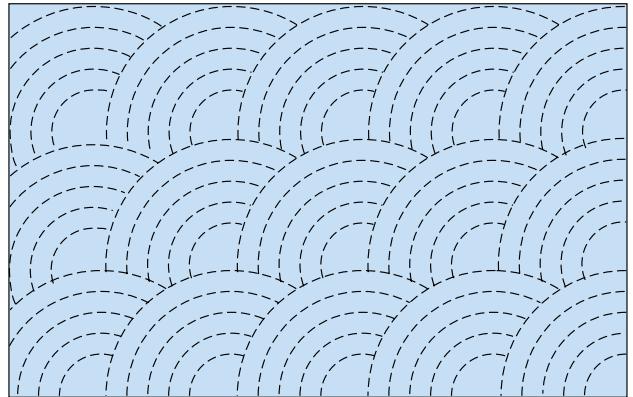
## Allover Circle Designs

Sometimes, the perfect quilting solution is to think "outside the block." Treat all (or most) of the quilt top as one design area by using an allover design. Allover circle designs work well with "busy" patchwork quilts that need to be calmed down.

The *Overlapping Circles Diagram* shows a way to use circles as an allover quilting pattern. The rows of circles overlap to form a secondary pattern. Note that circles are spaced so the stitched lines don't meet where they intersect. This is to allow a little room for error, as a slight variation won't be noticeable.



Overlapping Circles Diagram

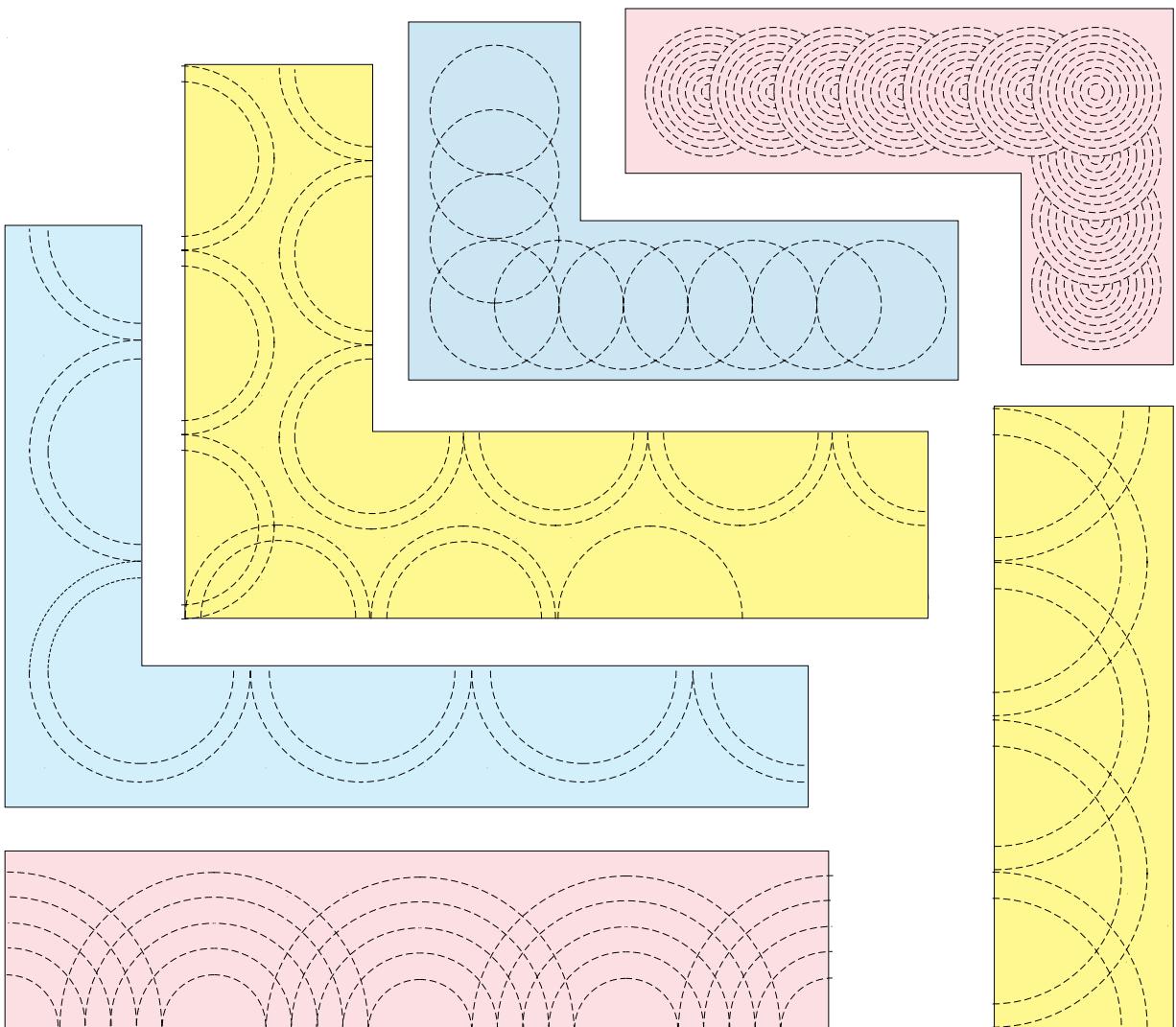


Baptist Fan Diagram

One of the most popular circular quilting designs is known as Baptist Fan (*Baptist Fan Diagram*). This is an overall design of partial circles which covers an entire quilt top. Begin stitching groups of arcs at the bottom right corner

of the quilt and work across to form a row. Continue stitching in rows until the entire top is quilted.

Circular patterns work well in borders as well. When searching for just the right quilting design to complement your latest quilt, try one of these circle ideas.



# Basic Feathering

The beautiful feathered quilting designs admired on classic Amish and other antique quilts are the *crème de la crème* of quilting motifs. With a little practice, you can draw them yourself.

A valentine heart is a familiar shape that anyone can draw. Feather designs are made up of simple half hearts positioned on opposite sides of a center line, or vein (*Diagram A*). On one side of the vein you have left-hand sides of hearts, on the other, right-hand sides of hearts. The single, half hearts that make up feather designs have a "hump" and a "tail" (*Diagram B*).

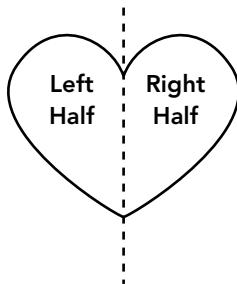


Diagram A



Diagram B

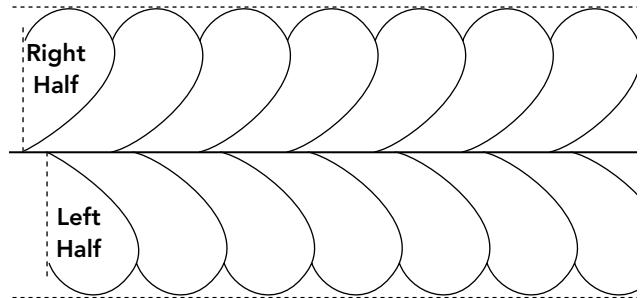


Diagram D

## Straight Feathers

On a piece of paper, draw a straight line about 3" from the top edge of the paper to make a center vein. Draw outer guidelines 1½" to each side of the center vein. Use a quarter to draw helping scallops just inside the outer guidelines on each side (*Diagram C*). Draw nice, even half circles. Offset the half circles slightly on opposite sides so the tails of your feathers won't meet at the middle. Draw right-hand sides of hearts on one side of the center vein and left-hand sides of hearts on the other side as shown (*Diagram D*). Keep the humps nicely rounded.

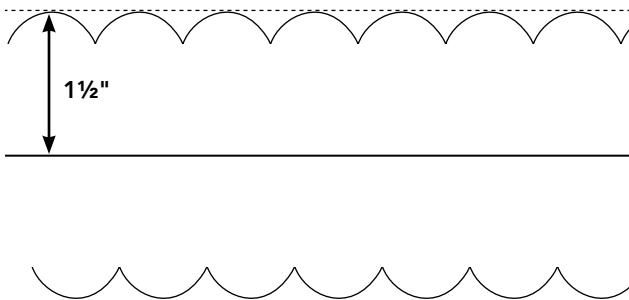


Diagram C

## Curving Feathers

On another piece of paper, draw a curving center vein line as shown in *Diagram E*. By eye, draw outer guidelines 1" to each side of this curved line. Use a penny to draw helping scallops just inside the outer guidelines on each side. Make sure you draw almost a half circle, not just a short arc, each time you use the penny. Complete the half hearts as shown in *Diagram F*. As you draw, be sure the

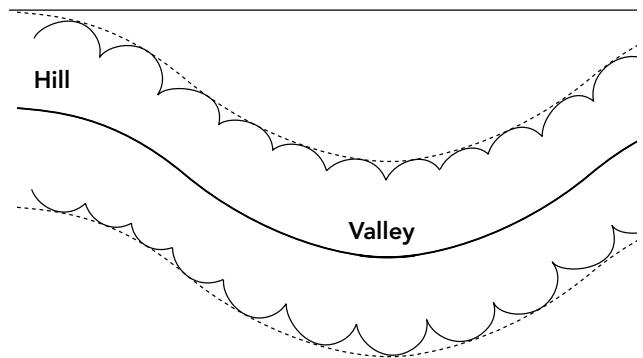


Diagram E

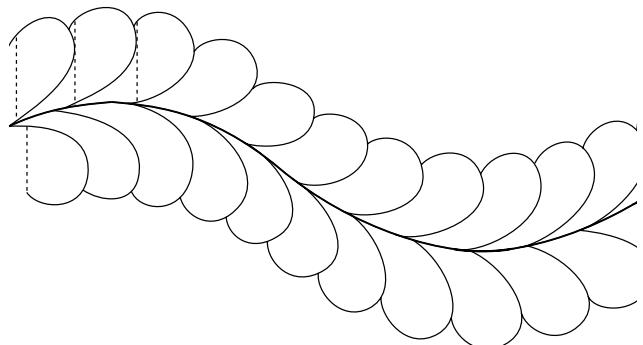


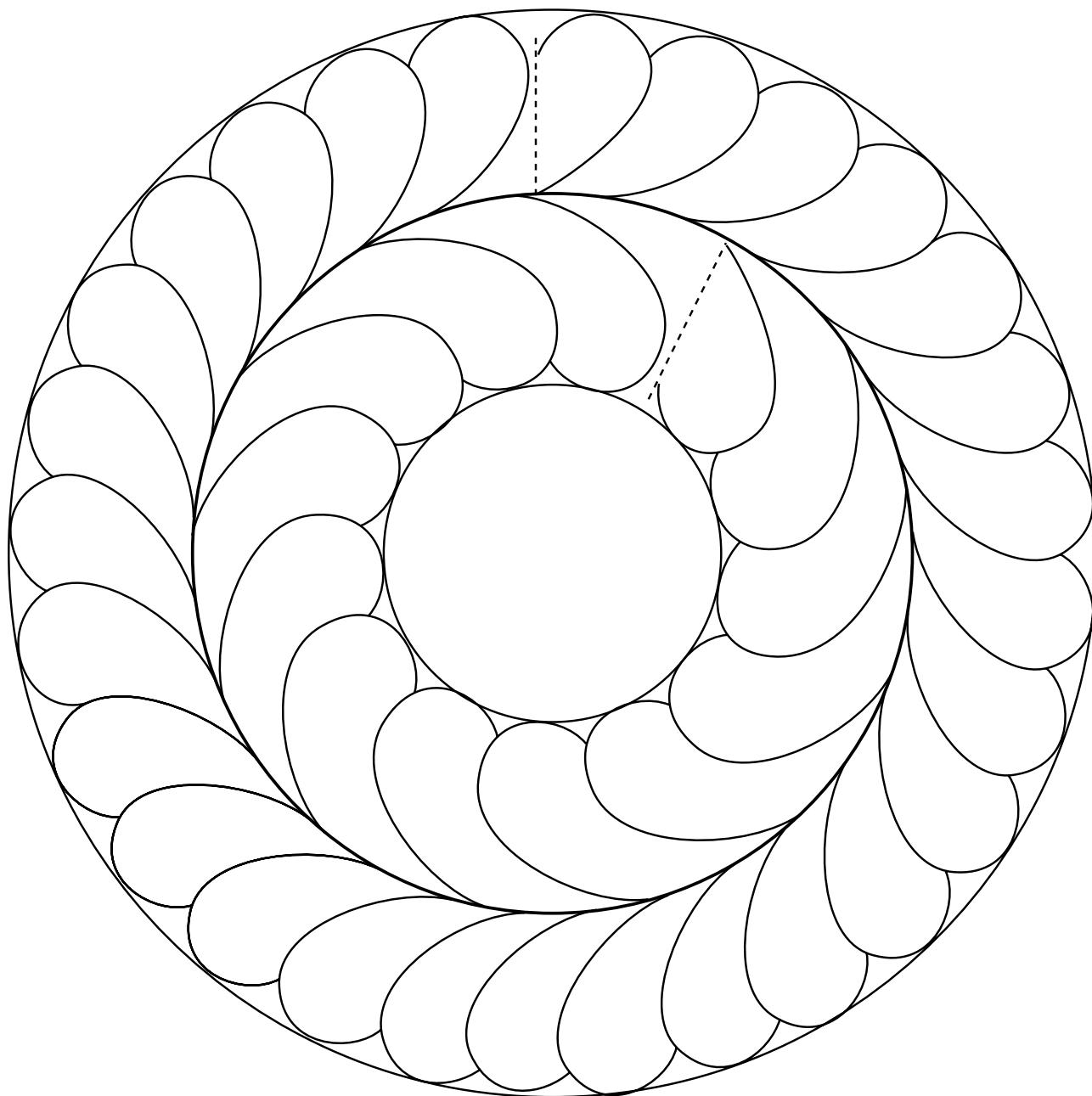
Diagram F

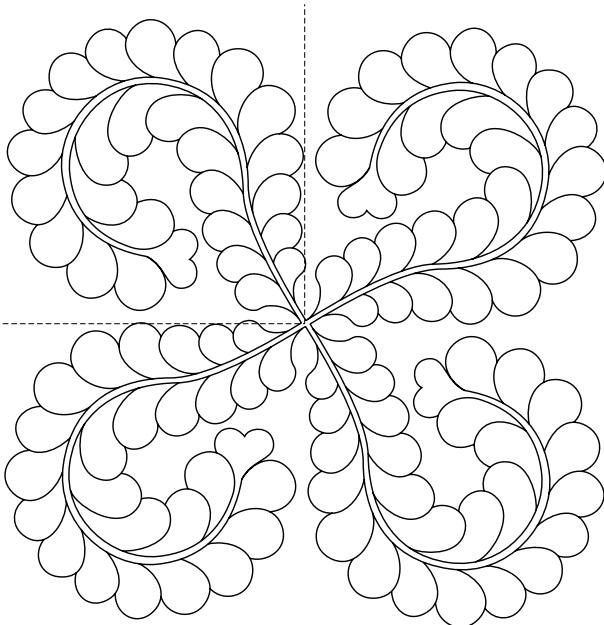
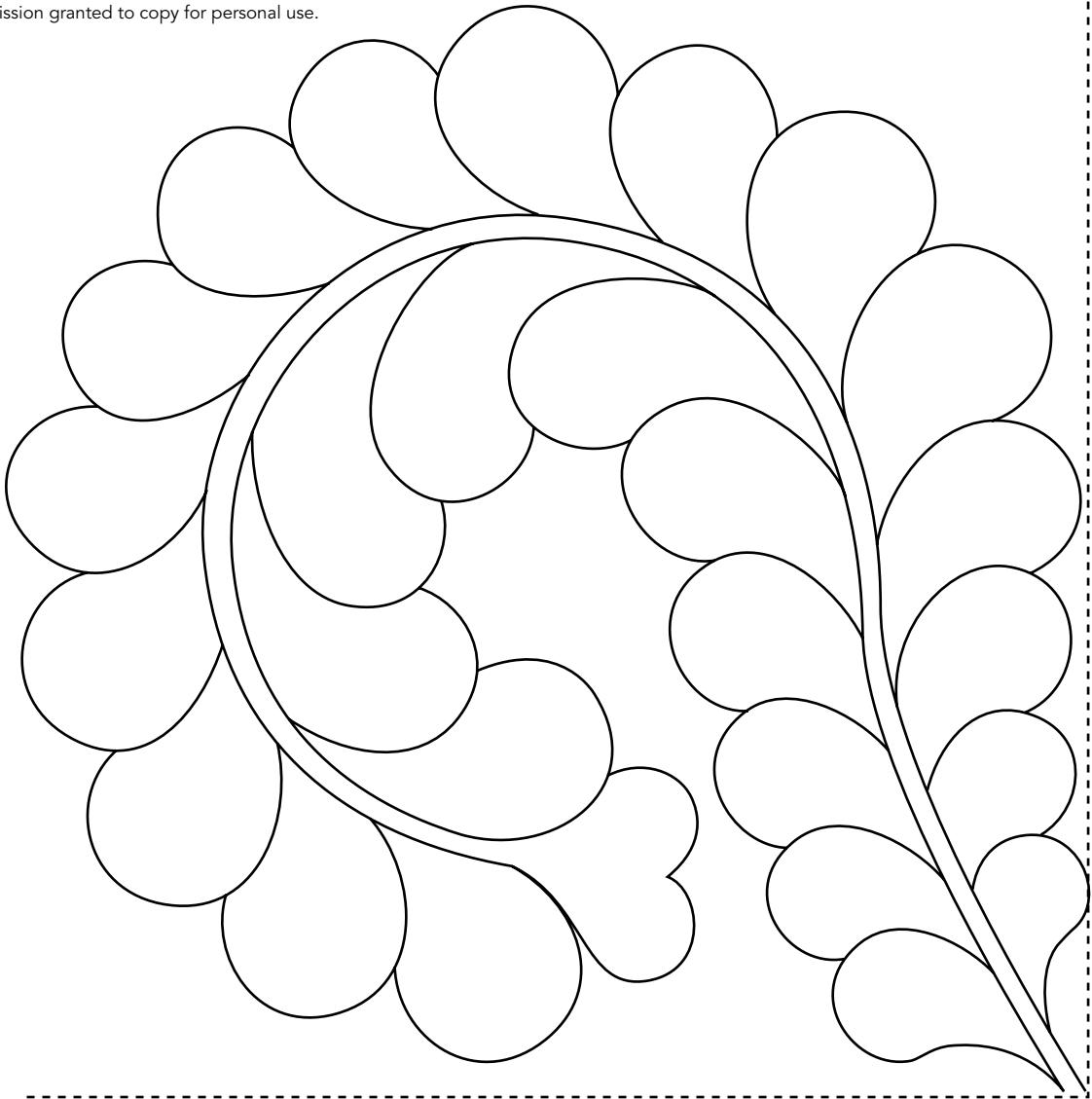
tail of each heart is directly opposite the beginning of the scallop. As you feather your way along these "hills" and "valleys," the half heart tips back and forth. On the "hills" you will have plenty of room for the top humps of the hearts and the bottom tails. In the "valleys," you will have more space between one tail and the next. The smoother your center vein, the more naturally your heart tails will flow into it.

## Feather Circles

Begin by drawing a circle the outer dimension you desire. For example, if you want an 11" circle to fill a 12" setting

block, first draw an 11" circle. Draw another circle within the first one for your center vein. Finally, draw a smaller circle inside the second one. The final circle is the guideline for the inner feather ring. Choose a coin to use for your helping scallops. A nickel works well for an 11" circle. Draw helping scallops just inside the outer guidelines of both rings. Feather the circle. The outer ring of feathers is like a continuous "hill." The inner ring is like a continuous "valley." Make sure the ending tail of each half heart is directly opposite the beginning of the hump. You will have many more feathers in the outer ring than in the inner one.





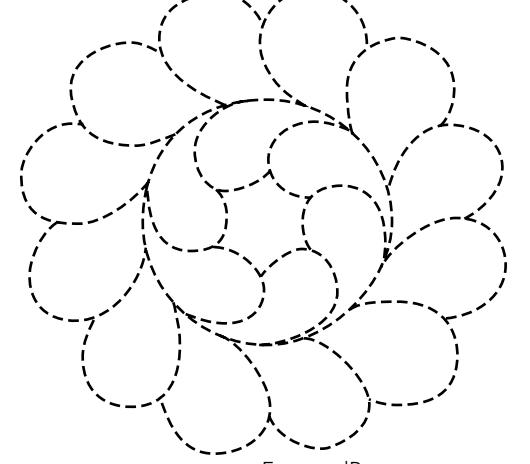
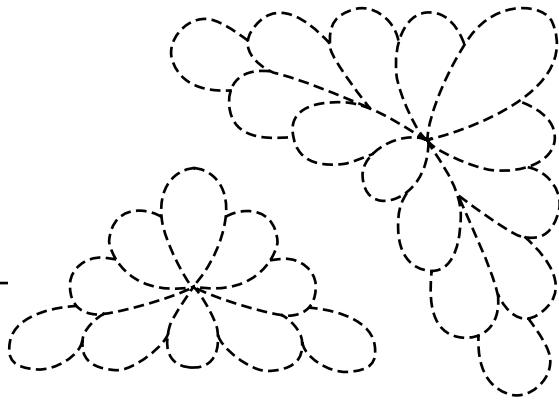
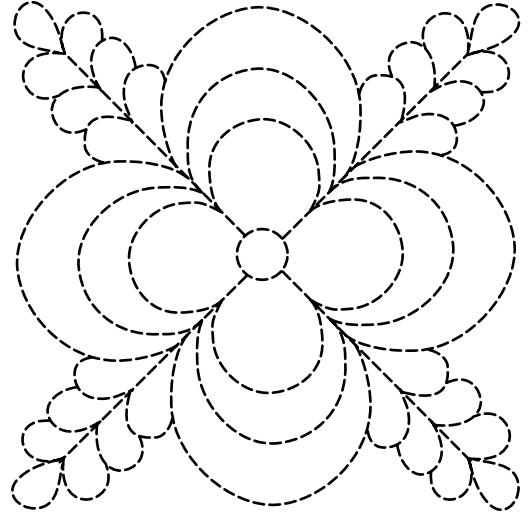
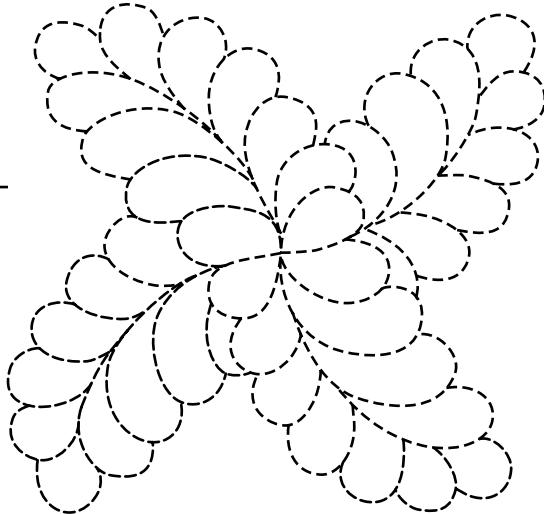
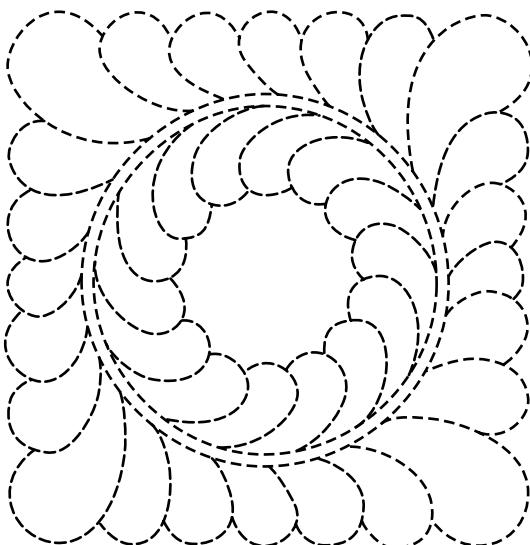
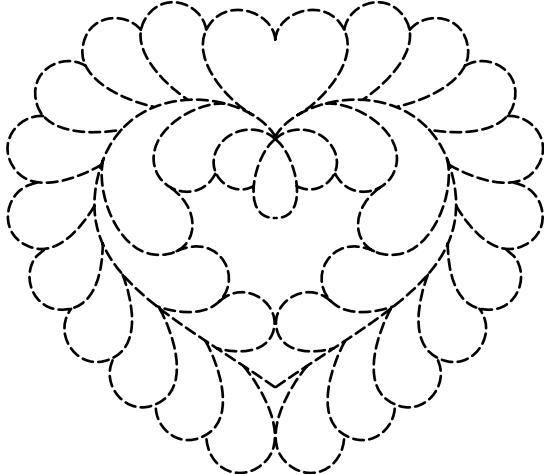
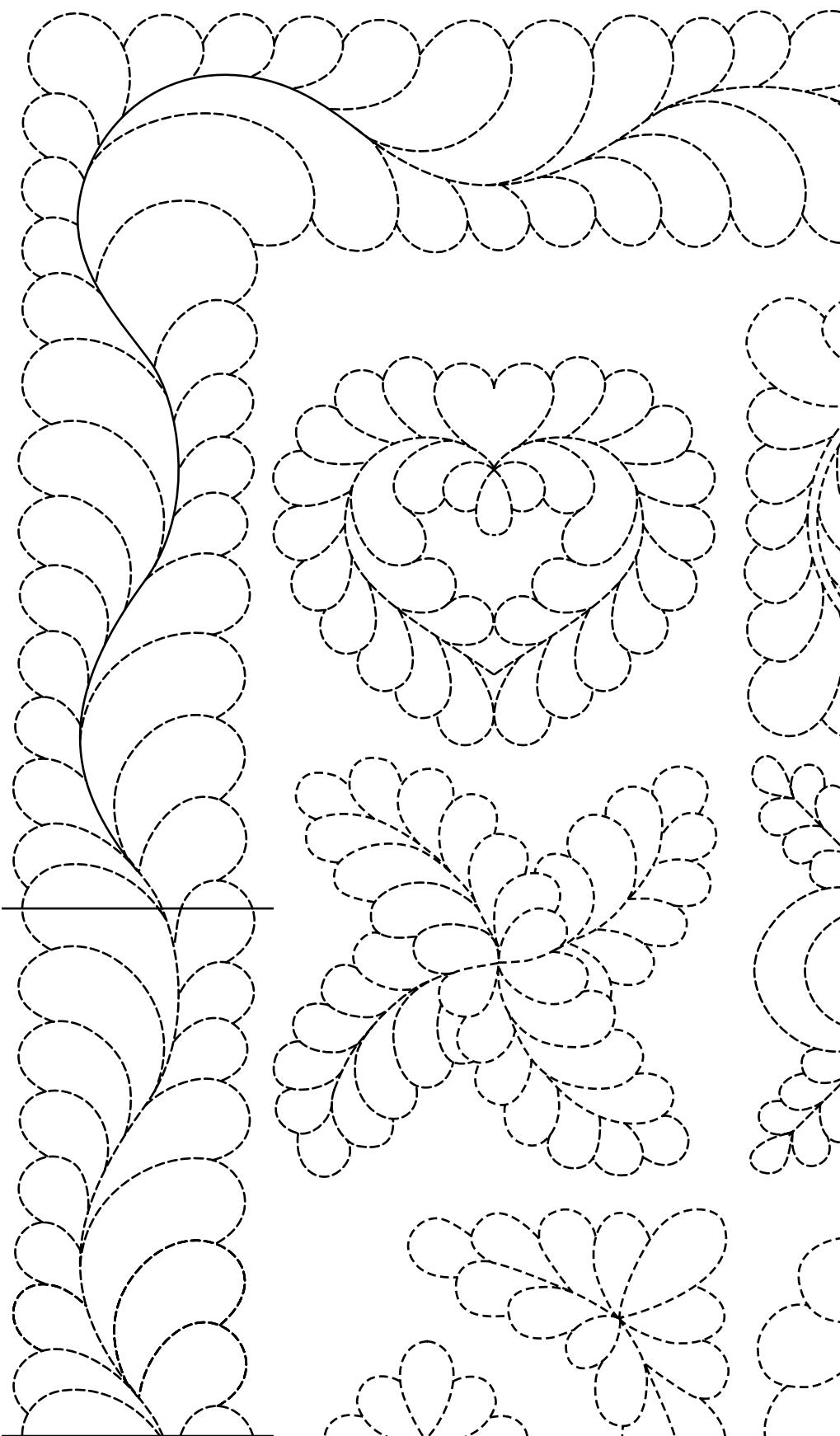
## Princess Feather

Fold a 10" piece of tracing paper in half both ways to make center guidelines. Open out and trace the design above on one quadrant. Rotate paper to trace design in all four quadrants. This design will fit a 12" block nicely.

### Sew Smart™

For many designs, all you need to create is one quadrant. Fold paper in fourths to form center guidelines. Create the design by tracing it in each quadrant. —Marianne

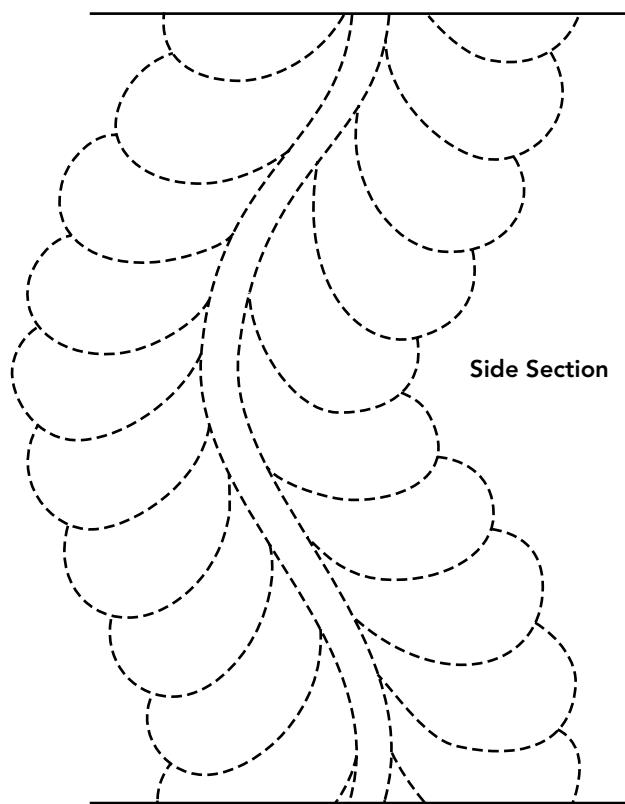
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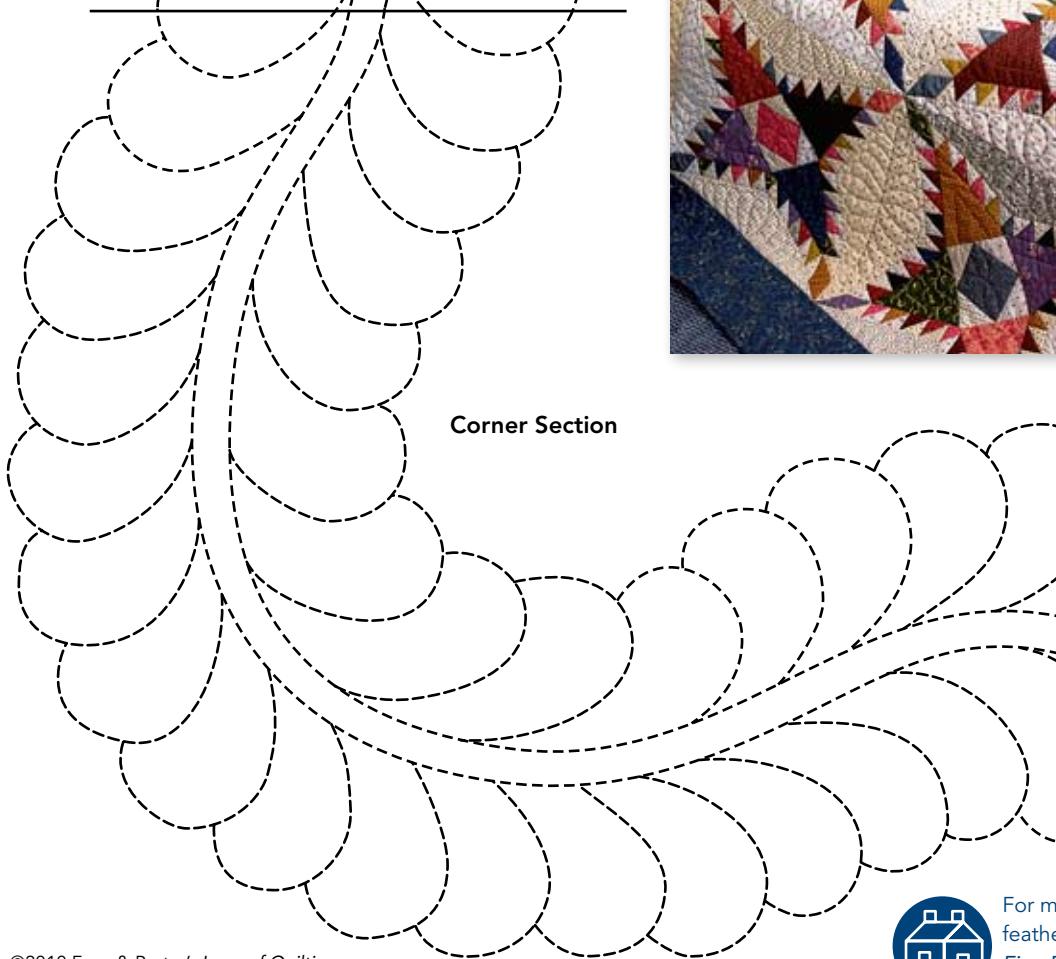
## Sew Smart™

When drawing feathers, use a mechanical pencil with a good eraser. This kind of pencil keeps a nice point. Erase often and keep sketching to develop your skills.

When you draw a feather, “sketch” it by extending the pencil line little by little instead of drawing it in a single motion. —Marianne



Side Section



Corner Section

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For more instructions on drawing feather designs, order a copy of *Fine Feathers* by Marianne Fons at [www.ShopFonsandPorter.com](http://www.ShopFonsandPorter.com).