

Addendum 28

Quilting a Wholecloth Quilt

combining Art and Stitch and Q-Matic

by

Aggy Burczyk





About the Author, Aggy Burczyk



Aggy, born in Germany, had fallen in love with patchwork and quilting at a very early age when living with her parents in Canada.

In 2007 she started her second career as a teacher and professional quilter after leaving her main profession as a nutritionist.

Living in Italy with her husband, son and family dog “El Cid”, she closely worked together with several shops in the Lombardy area in order to pass on her love and passion for the in Italy mostly still unknown art of patchwork and quilting. Importing from the US one of the first longarms for professional use she soon started working as a freelance for several international companies in order to consult in longarm quilting.

Today Aggy combines work and her loved hobby, working for BERNINA International in Switzerland, where her dream became true when she joined the developing group for BERNINA’s new Q series – the Q20 and Q24 Longarm Quilting Machines and the Automated Longarm Quilting System Q-matic. With all tools at hand, she developed and explored her passion for digitizing quilting designs.



Introduction

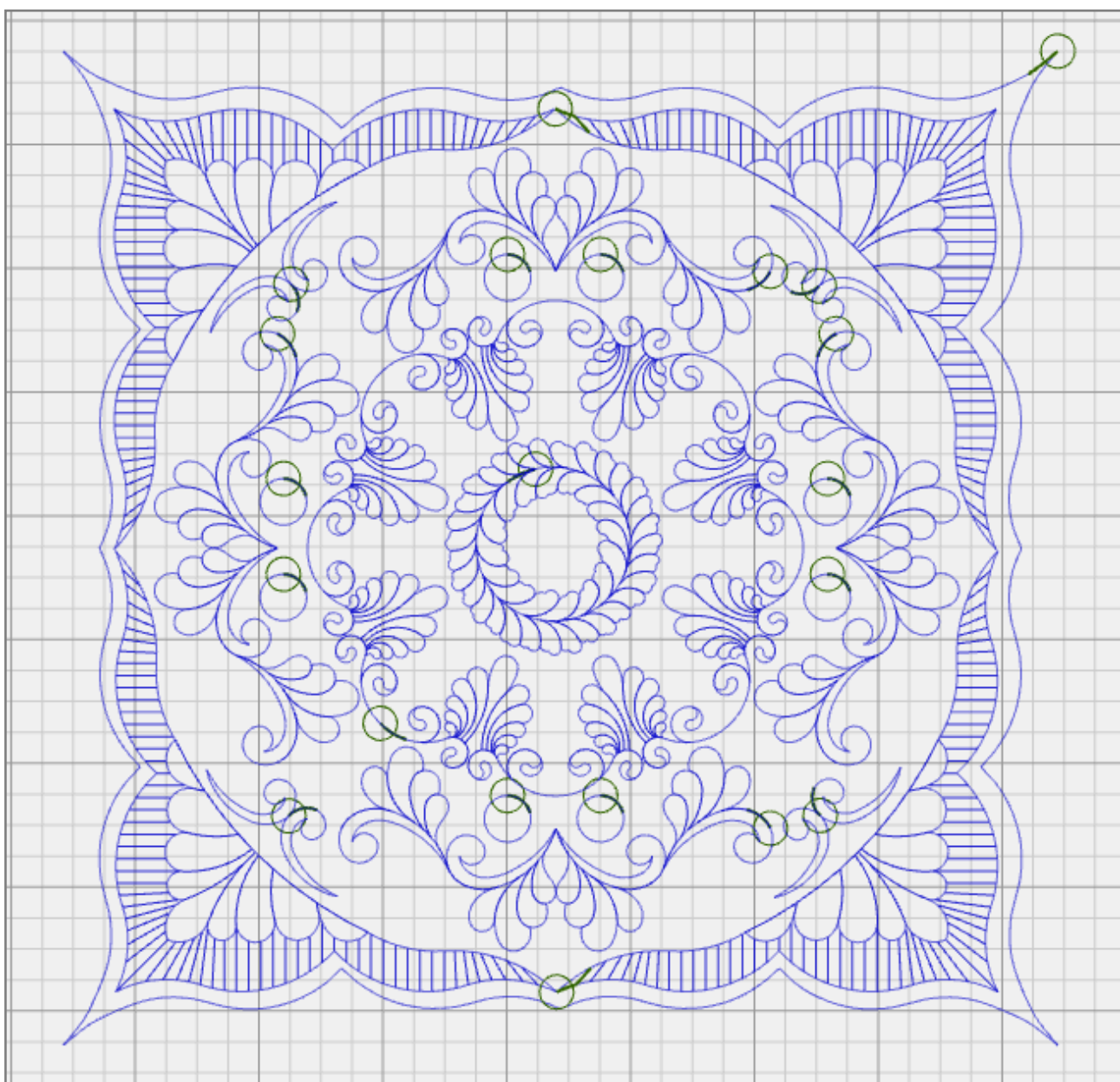
In this Addendum I will describe the steps to take in Art and Stitch and in Q-matic to create and quilt a combination of designs, resulting in this wholecloth quilt.

The following designs are used:

Q-matic: LCPANTO26_Swan's Journey Small, LCPANTO27_Swan's Journey Sash, Circle

Art and Stitch: Mark Sherman Feather Wreath

One Song Needle Art: Megan's Feathers Mariner's Star Set, design 7687 and 7690

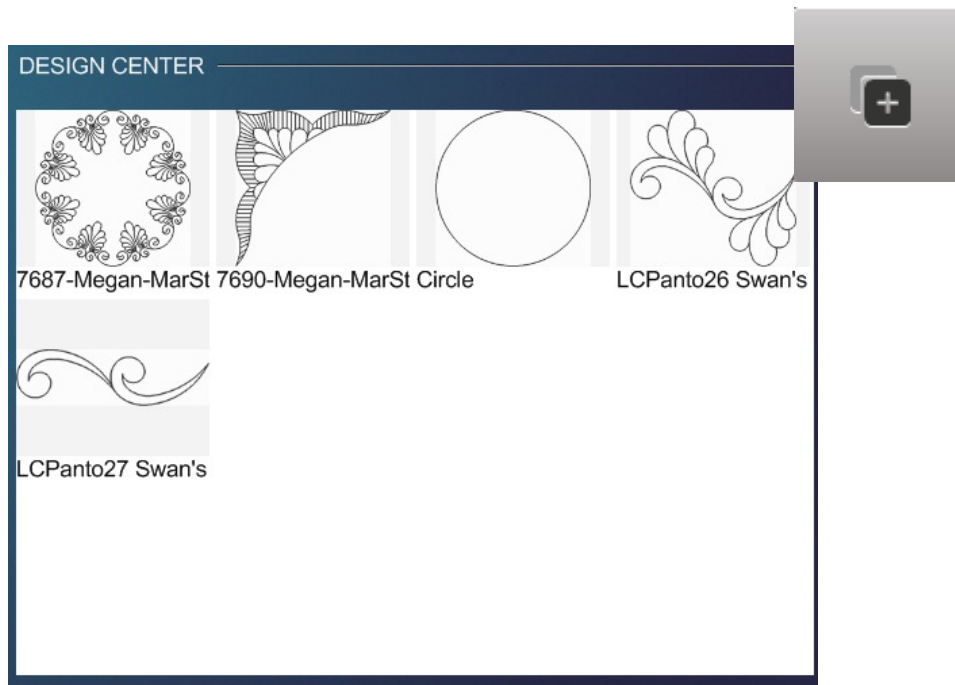




Step 1 - Assemble the design elements

Open Q-matic and Art and Stitch.

Place the Q-matic and One Song Needle Art designs into the Design Center using the Customize Design Center feature.



Go to Art and Stitch by clicking on the Art and Stitch Shortcut (lower Tool Bar).



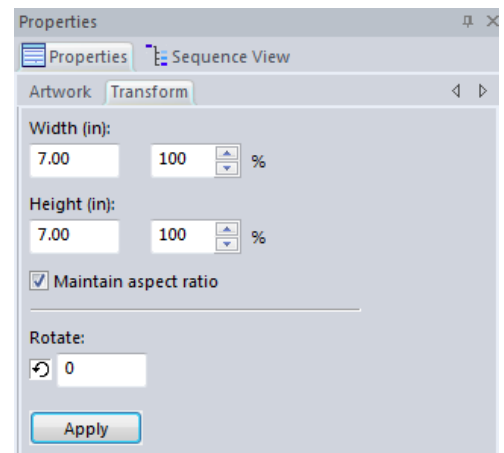
In Art and Stitch click on the Library button and open "Mark Sherman Feather Wreath" from the Designer's Collection.

With the design selected, go to Properties Panel, tab Transform and resize to 7.00 x 7.00. Don't forget to hit Apply

TIP: When you have the choice, it is always better to change a design in the original vector artwork (e.g. "ans"), which means before you have assigned stitches and saved in the stitched based file format (e.g. "bqm").

Resizing a design in the vector based artwork format can be done without limits. Resizing a stitch-based design may cause edgy line.

A quilt system does not "know" curves and will therefore not make the curves larger or smaller, but will resize the straight "stitch" polylines.





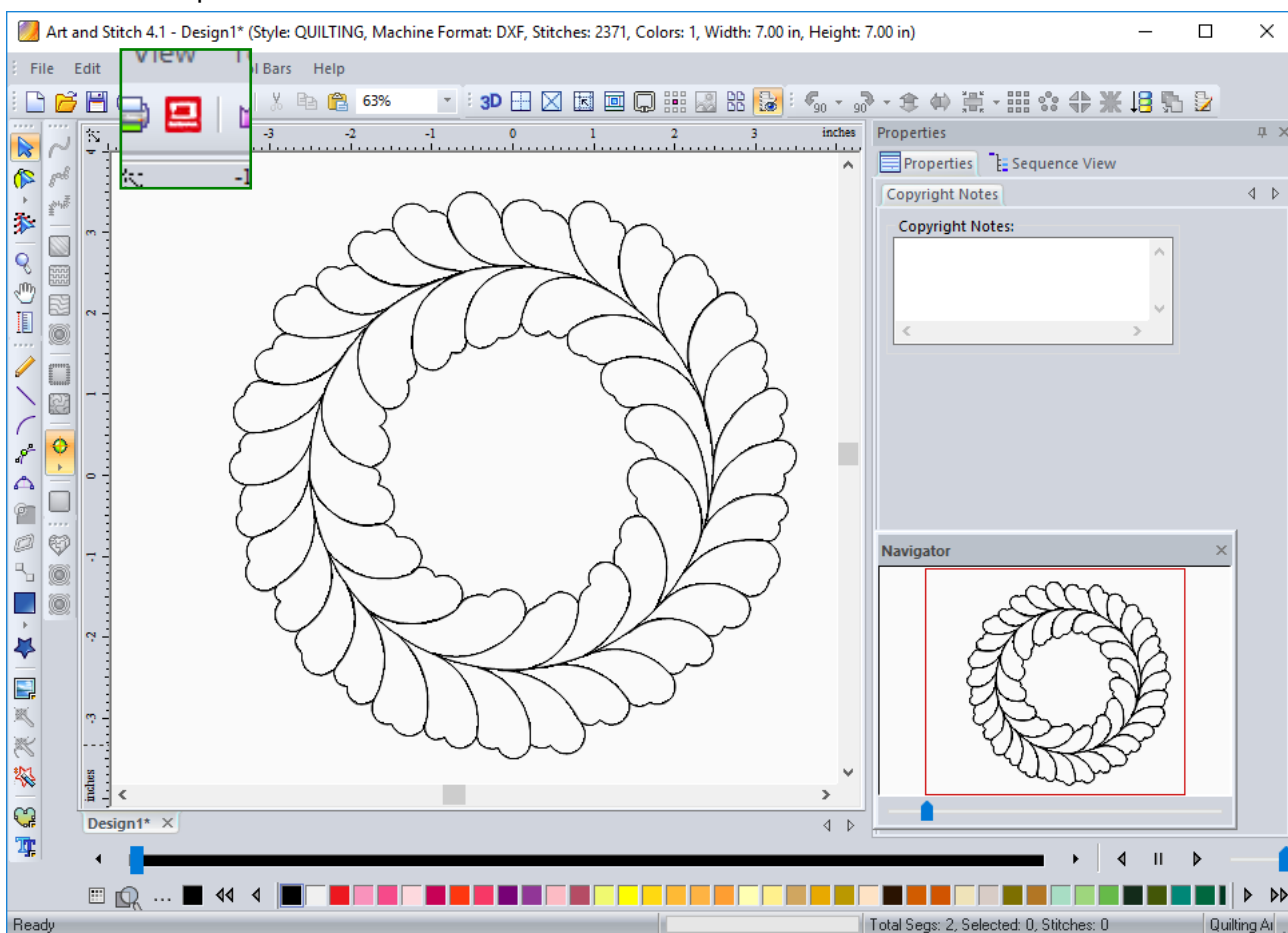
Step 1 - Assemble the design elements - cont'd



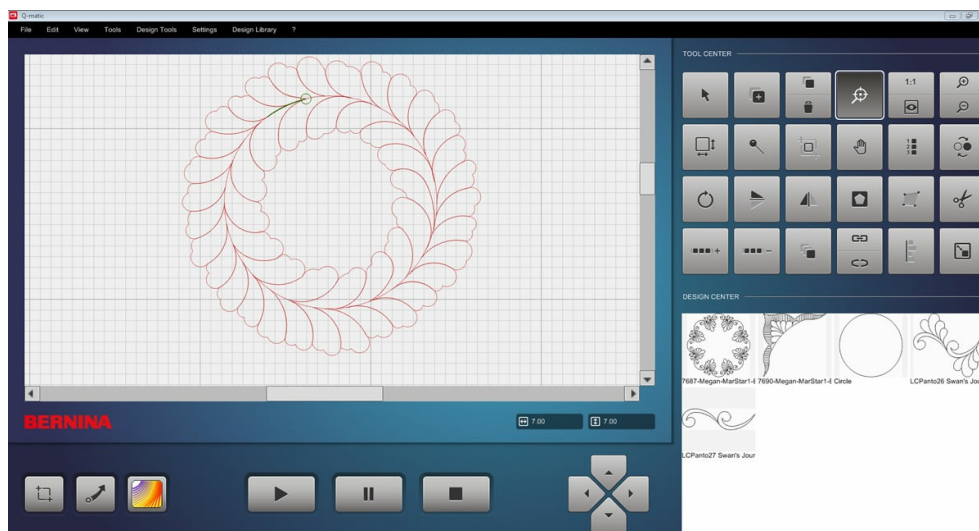
Assign stitches and click on the Q-matic shortcut in the General Toolbar of Art and Stitch



You will be asked to save the design under your preferred name. The design will be automatically saved in "ans" and "bqm" format.



Having Q-matic already open, the icon will blink on the task bar. Click on the task bar icon and go to Q-matic. You will find the design attached to the needle.





Step 2 - Import and resize the second design

In Q-matic's Design Center, select "Megan's Feathers Mariner's Star Set, design 7687". Q-matic will read and import the dxf format.

Select "Resize".



Resize directly in Q-matic to 16.00" x 16.00" with "Maintain Ratio" selected. This is the maximum quiltable space on a Bernina Q24 longarm and this part of the design can be stitched out without having to advance the quilt. Confirm with the green check mark.

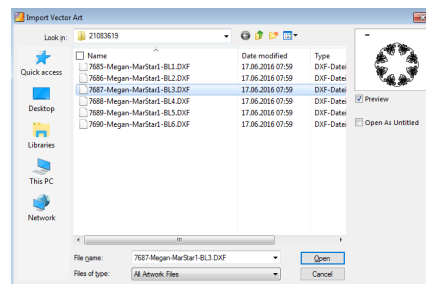
TIP: Downsizing this design directly in Q-matic works fine, as it is only a small change. Alternatively you can import the design as a dxf artwork file in Art and Stitch, resize the artwork and save in bqm format to bring back into Q-matic. Remember - working with the original artwork will give best results!

Here are the steps to import and resize artwork in Art and Stitch:



In Art and Stitch, click on the heart-shaped button "Import vector artwork" in the Artwork toolbar on the left.

Navigate to the folder where you have saved the design, choose the design and open.



Still in Art and Stitch, select the design and go to Properties > Tab Transform. Resize to 16 x 16 inch. Don't forget to hit Apply.

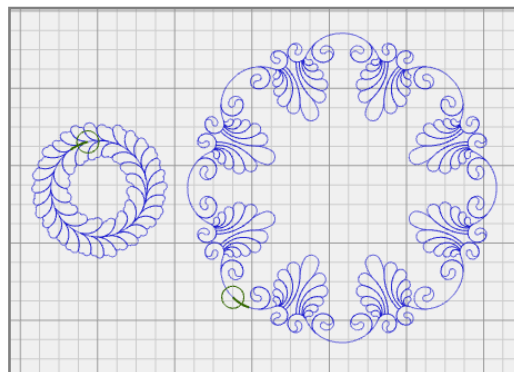


Assign stitches and click on the Q-matic shortcut in the General Toolbar.



You will be asked to save the design under your preferred name. The design will be automatically saved in "ans" and "bqm" format.

Having Q-matic already open, the icon will blink on the task bar. Click on the task bar icon and go to Q-matic. You will find the design attached to the needle, next to the wreath.



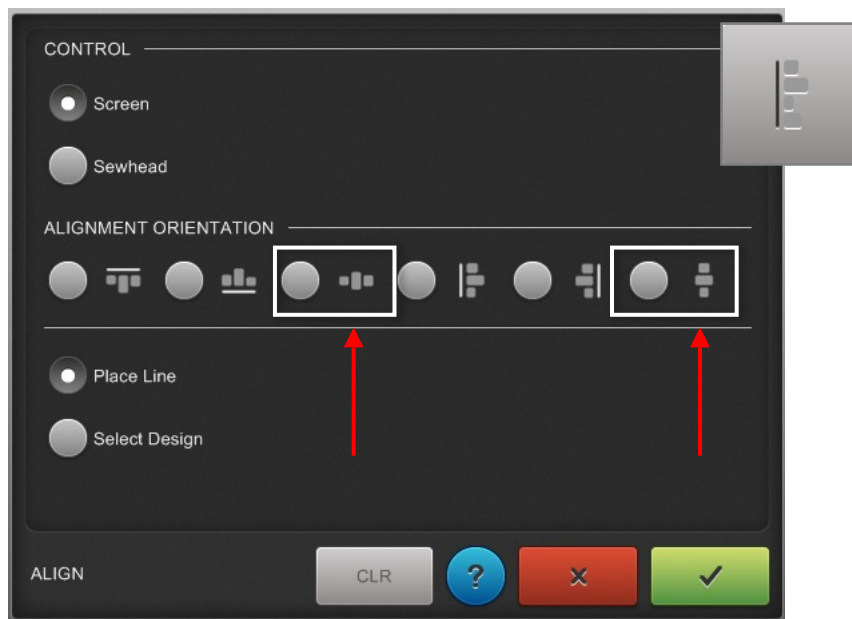
Whether you choose to resize "Megan's Feathers Mariner's Star Set, design 7687" directly in Q-matic or as an artwork file in Art and Stitch, the next step is to arrange the two designs in the Quilt Design Area.



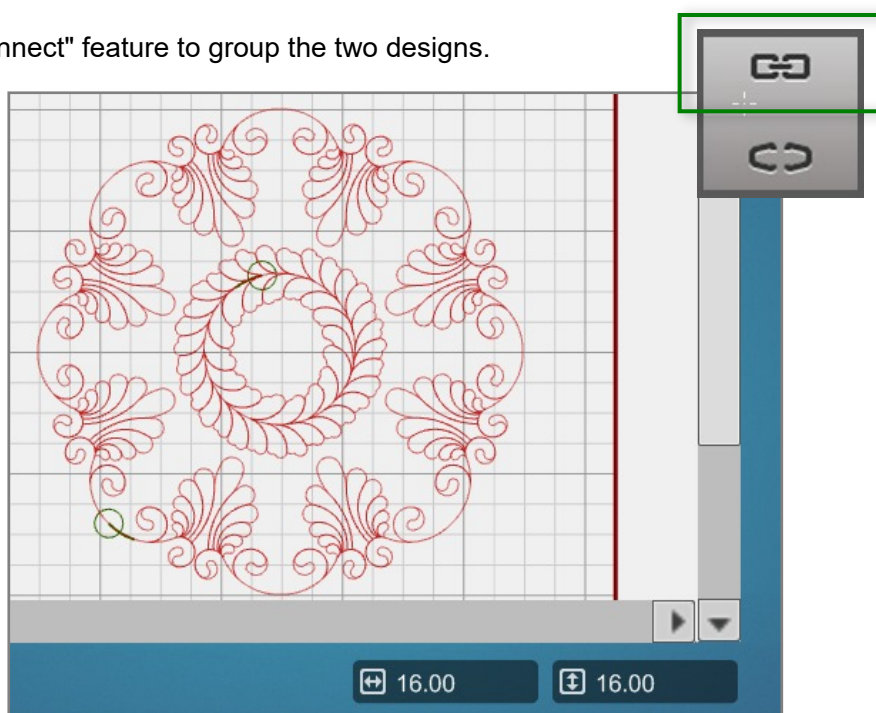
Step 3 - Arrange the first two designs in Q-Matic

Arrange the two designs in Q-matic by centering both.

TIP: for improved accuracy of placement use the "Align" feature. First align each of the two designs "centered horizontally" and then "centered vertically".



Use the "Connect" feature to group the two designs.





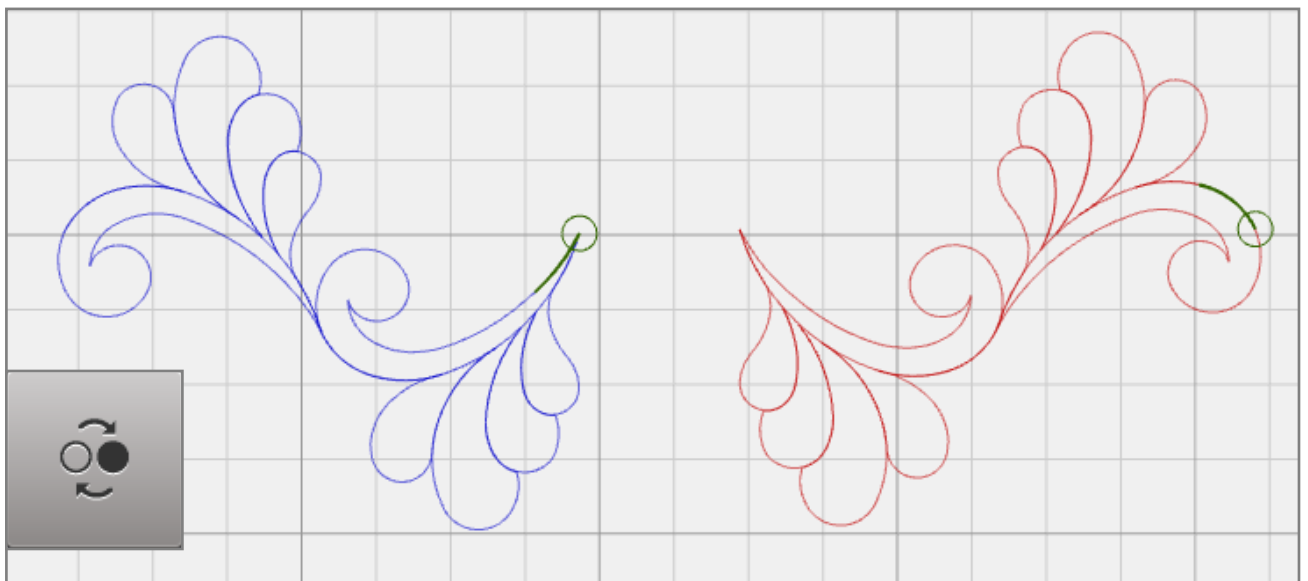
Step 4 - Connect and Attach the "Swan's Journey" element in Q-Matic

Still in Q-matic: From the Design Center select "LCPANTO26_Swan's Journey Small" .

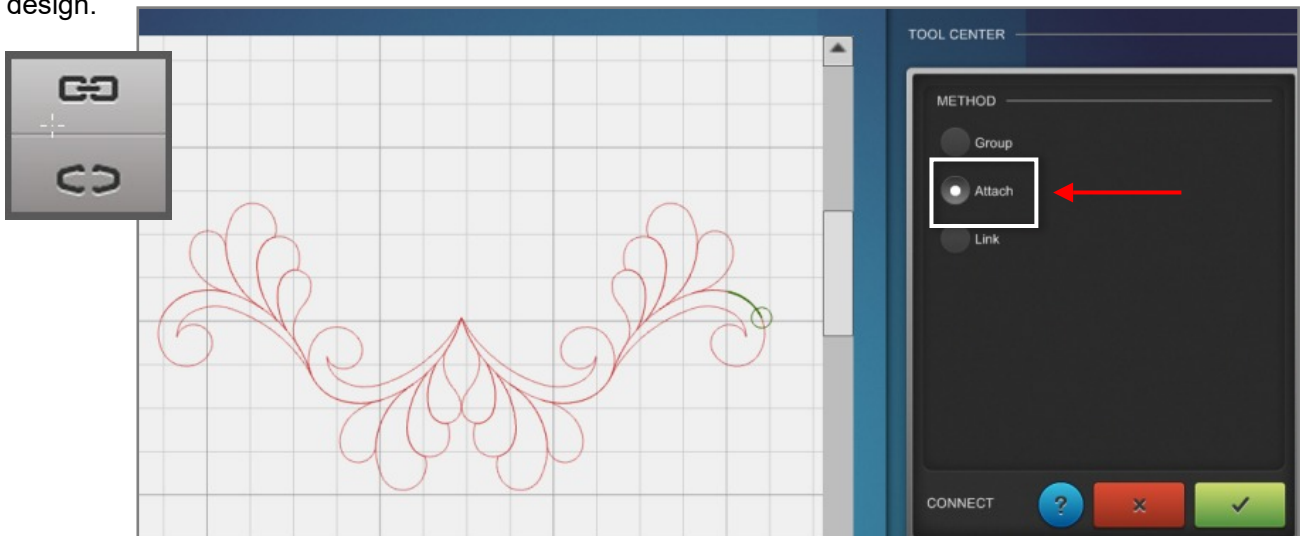
Duplicate and Mirror the design.



Switch Start and Endpoint on the left design.



With the right design selected, click on the "Connect" feature, select "Attach" to get a continuous line design.





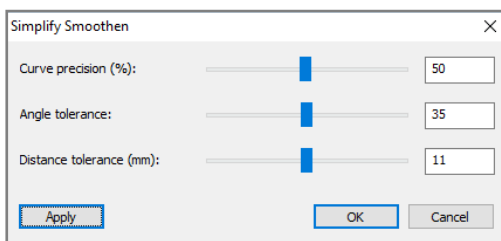
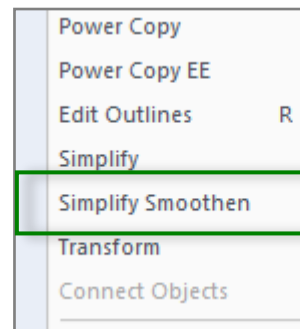
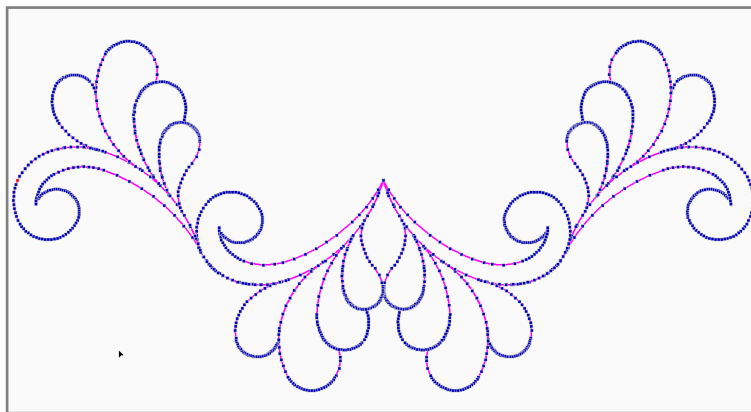
Step 5 - Editing “Swan’s Journey” in Art and Stitch



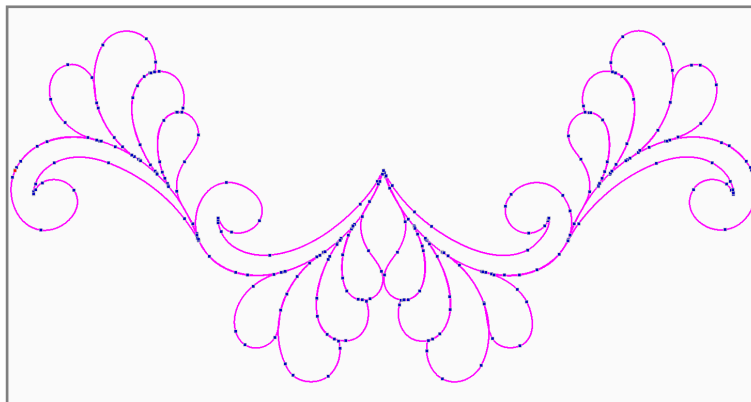
Bring the new design to Art and Stitch via the shortcut button, as the vector based artwork file is not available.
See also important tip at the end of the next page.

“Simplify Smoothen”: Reduce number of points first

When using the button to send a design directly from Q-matic to Art and Stitch, you are sending a *stitch-based* design. As a result it will have many points, making it difficult to edit / reshape the design. To reduce the number of points, Art and Stitch will automatically open the “Simplify Smoothen” function for you as soon as a design comes in from Q-Matic (version 4.1 and later - if you have an earlier version of Art and Stitch, you can select the design, right-click and choose Simplify Smoothen).



Keep the slider bars of the Simplify Smoothen dialog box in the middle and do not click on OK yet: first click on Apply and see if the design on the Design Page still looks the same. If so, then click on OK to confirm. The number of points will have been reduced. The design itself should not change.
If the design seems to change too much, then move the slider bars and click on Apply to preview the result.
For more details about Simplify Smoothen see Art and Stitch User Guide, chapter 2.5.16.





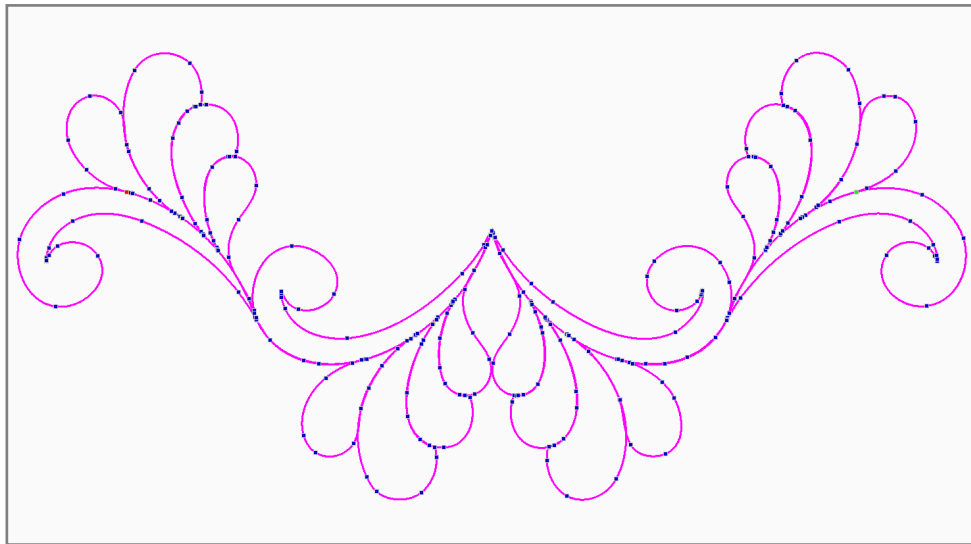
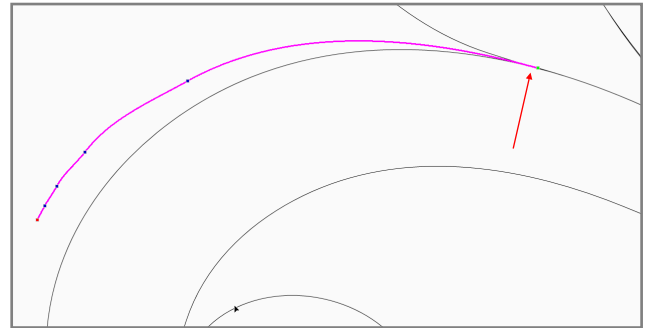
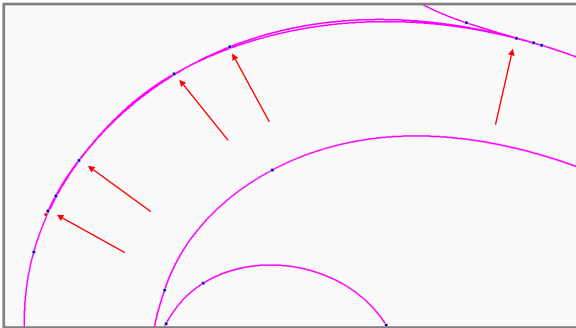
Step 5 - Editing “Swan’s Journey” in Art and Stitch

Remove backtracking lines

The pattern was originally digitized to be a continuous line design. In order to avoid unnecessary back-tracking, lines originally needed to connect the designs can be eliminated on the left and right side.



Take the Reshape tool and lift the nodes of the back-tracking line off, split line (right click in reshape mode and choose Split line). Delete (in select mode). Repeat on the right side:



Important tip when using the button to send designs from Q-matic into Art and Stitch

It's not the case in this example, but important to know for other designs:

When a design consists of multiple separate objects and is sent with the button from Q-matic to Art and Stitch the design will show in Art and Stitch as one object: it has been “merged”.

It is very important that you break the design apart into its original separate artwork objects before editing and before assigning stitches, to prevent over stitching.

To break a merged design apart in Art and Stitch, right-click on the object and choose Break Apart. In Sequence View you can expand the tree of objects to see the original objects.

If there's no line “Break Apart” when right-clicking on artwork, then the design was not merged and you can safely assign stitches.



Step 5 - Editing "Swan's Journey" in Art and Stitch



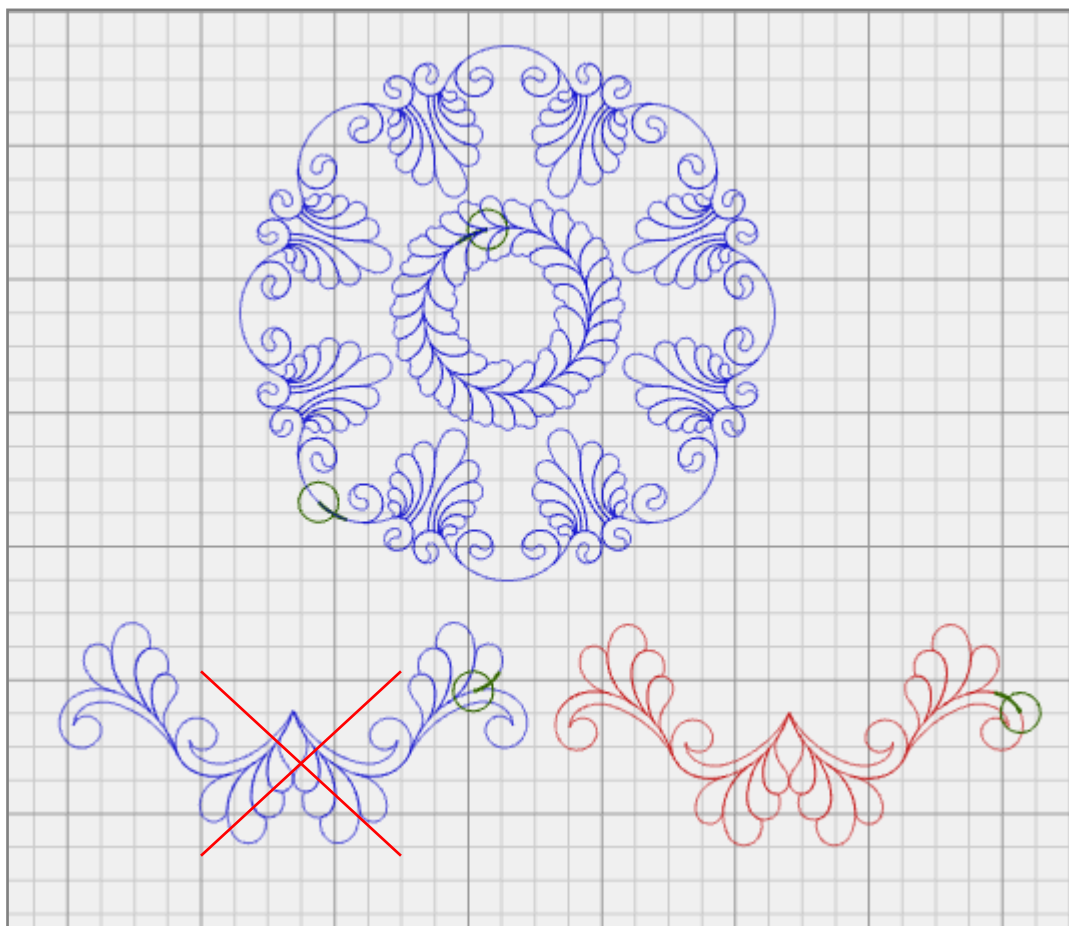
Assign Stitches and click on the Q-matic shortcut.



You will be asked to save the design under your preferred name. The design will be automatically saved in "ans" and "bqm" format.

Having Q-matic already open, the icon will blink on the task bar. Click on the task bar icon and go to Q-matic. You will find the design attached to the needle, next to the original.

Delete the original.

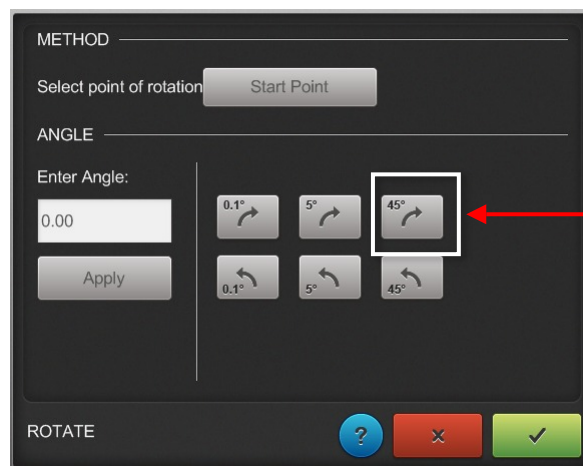


The design should be 14.00" x 6.60" without having to make any changes.

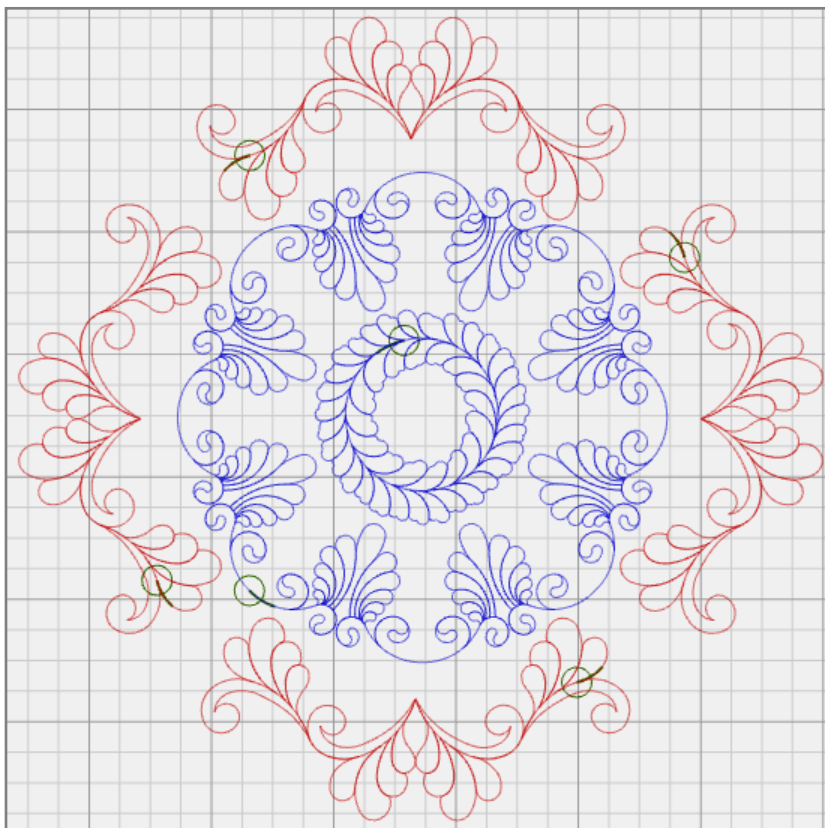


Step 6 - Copy, Rotate, Align “Swan’s Journey” in Q-matic

In Q-Matic copy and rotate the new design 90° (2 x 45°).



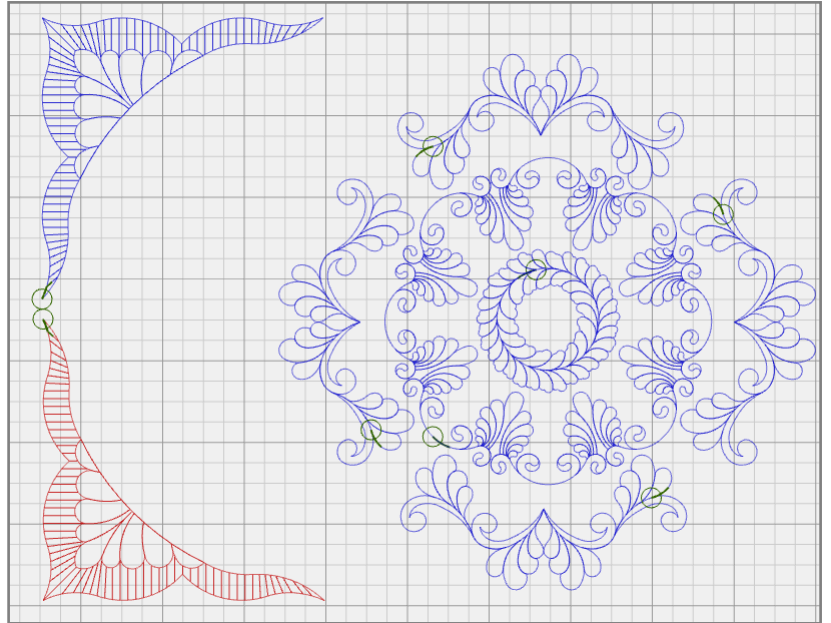
Repeat twice in order to have four copies of the design and arrange around the previous designs. As described in STEP 3, the "align" feature will help to arrange all designs symmetrically.



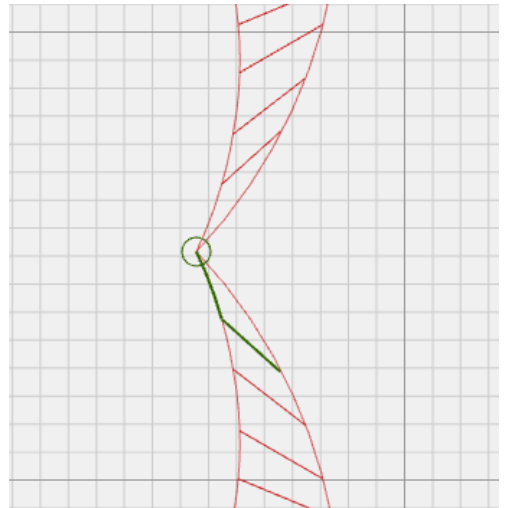
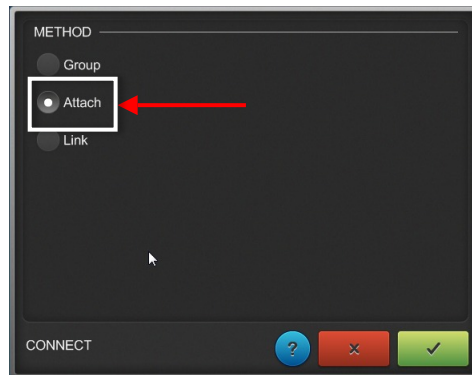


Step 7 - Work on the outer design in Q-matic

Still in Q-matic open Design Center and select "Megan's Feathers Mariner's Star Set, design 7690". Duplicate the design and flip, start points facing each other.



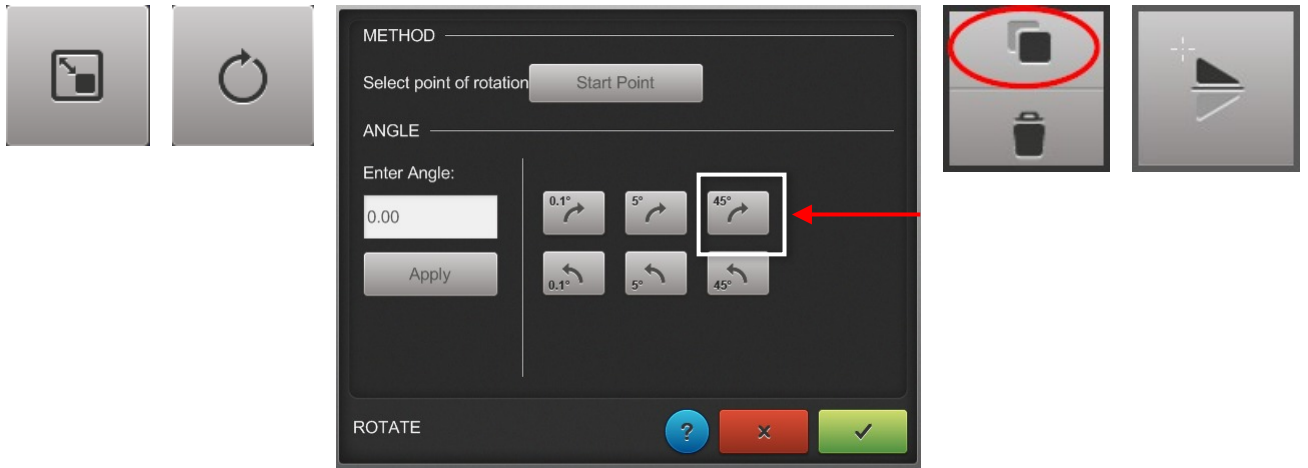
Select the "Connect" feature and "Attach" the two designs.





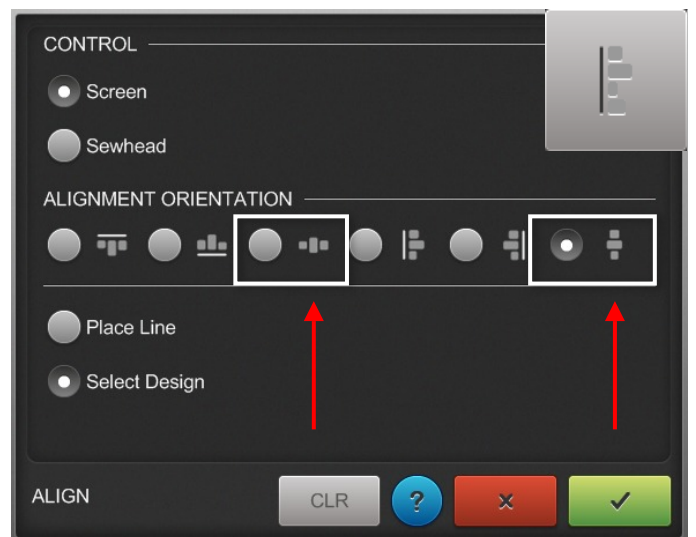
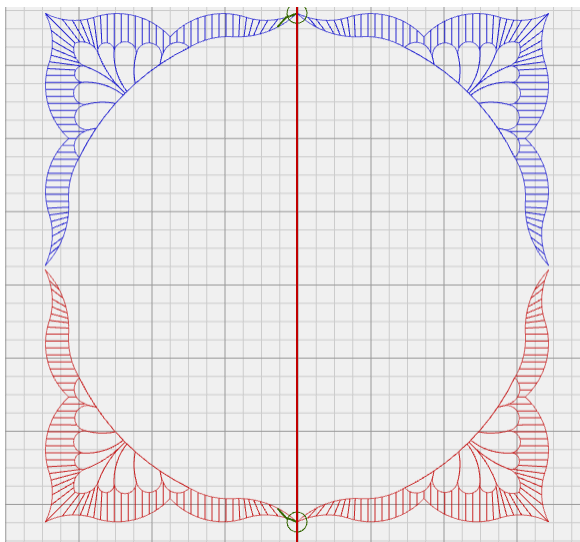
Step 7 - Work on the outer design in Q-matic - Cont'd

We're still in Q-matic. Resize to 28.50" x 14.25", rotate 90° (2 x 45°), duplicate and flip the duplicate.



Please note: The resizing is minimal and can be done without problems directly in Q-matic. Alternatively, as described in STEP 2, you can import the design as a dxf artwork file in Art and Stitch, resize the artwork and save in bqm format to bring back into Q-matic. Remember - working with the original artwork will give best results.

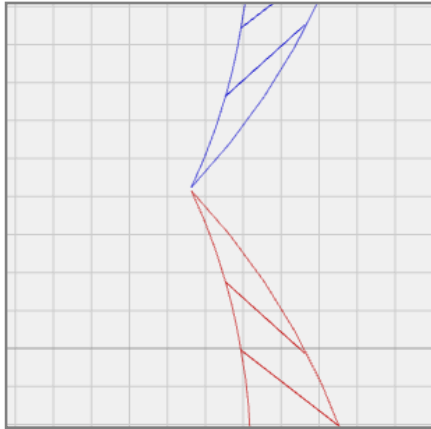
Use the Align feature to form a perfect square:





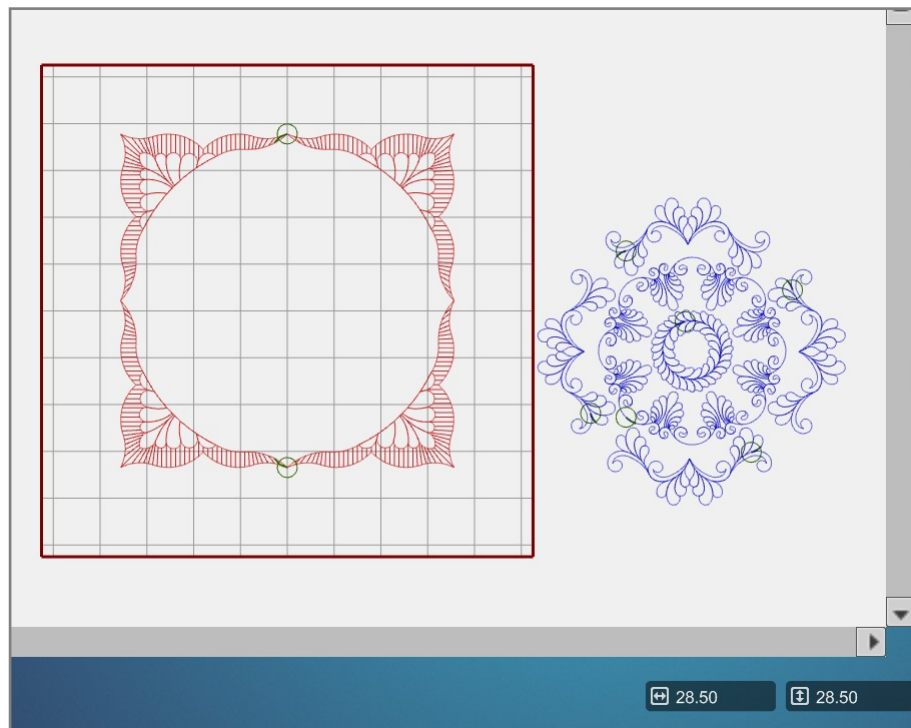
Step 7 - Work on the outer design in Q-matic - Cont'd

Use Q-matic's nudge feature to bring the two design parts close together (but not touching).



Please note: the maximum quitable height of the Bernina Q24 longarm is 16". You will have to stitch the upper part of the frame first, advance your quilt and then stitch the lower part. Since the quilt sandwich will shift while advancing, it is better to leave a small space between the upper and lower part:
Best case > the two parts will touch and everybody is going to admire your work.
Worst case > the two parts will be a little apart and nobody will notice it wasn't meant like this.

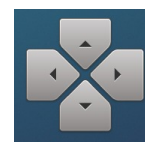
Group the two design parts, the new design should measure about 28.50" x 28.50".



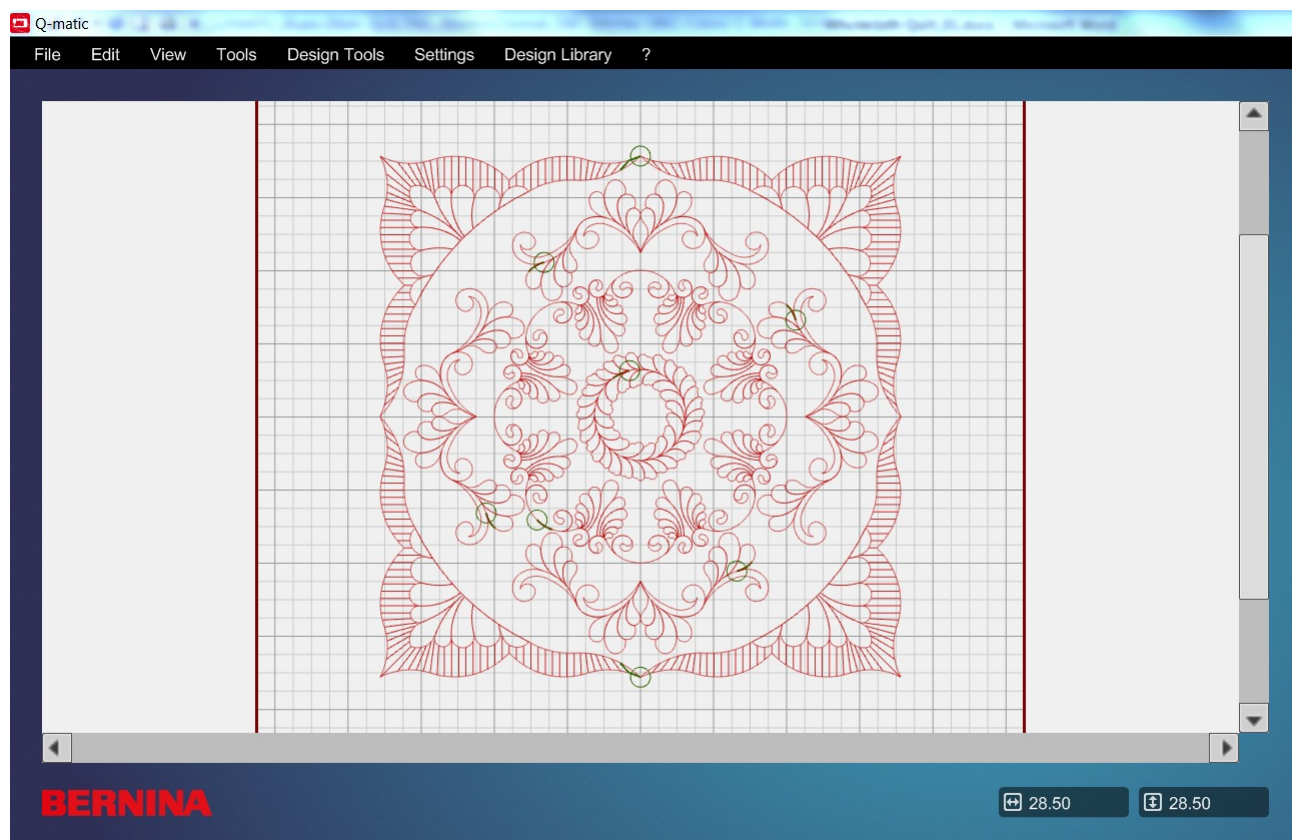


Step 7 - Work on the outer design in Q-matic - Cont'd

Use the Align and Nudge feature to distribute all design parts equally.



Use the "Connect" feature and "Group" all design parts for now.





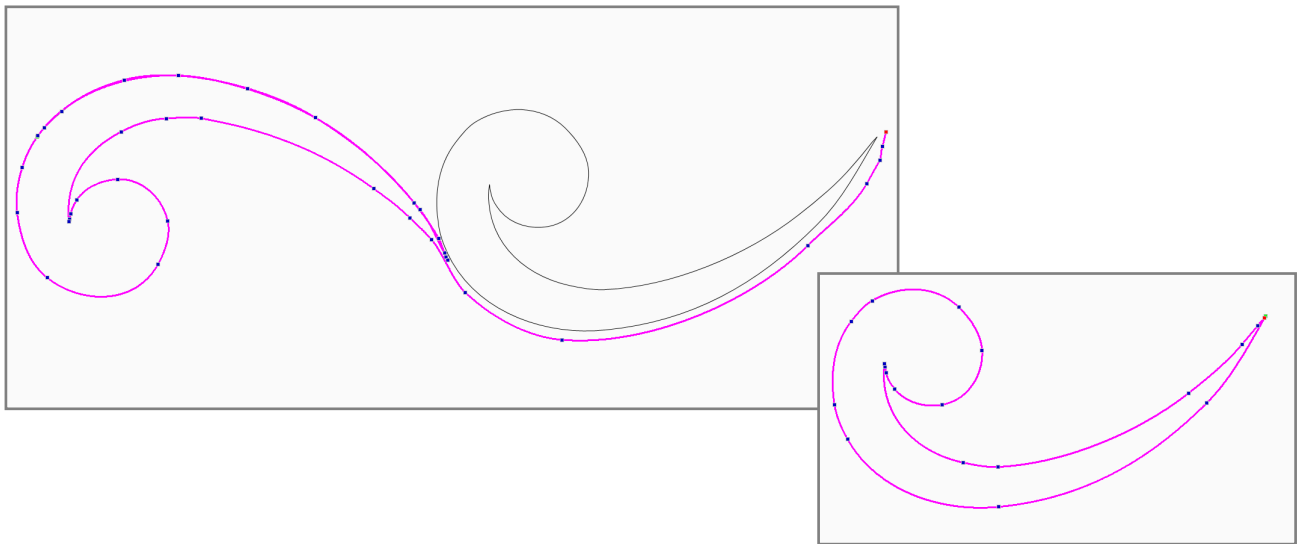
Step 8 - Prepare "Swan's Journey Sash" in Art and Stitch



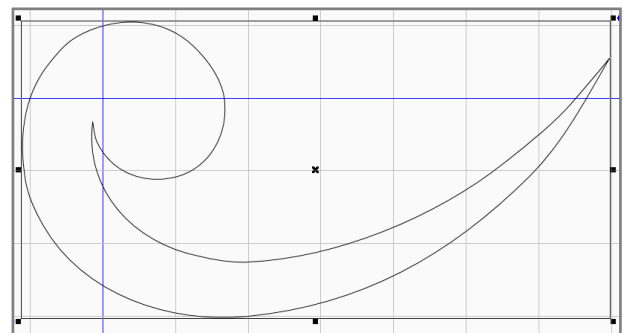
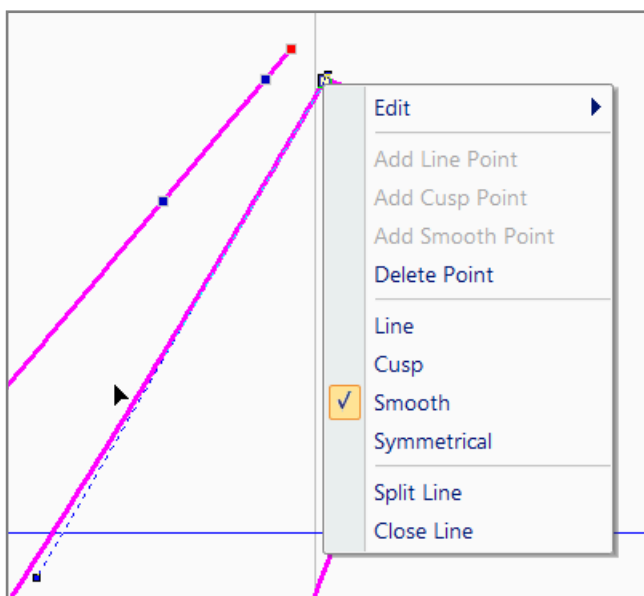
From Q-matic's Design Center select "LCPANTO27_Swan's Journey Sash", bring to Art and Stitch via shortcut button and apply the "Simplify Smoothen" feature. Alternatively open the design directly as an "ans" artwork file in Art and Stitch.



In Art and Stitch take the Reshape tool and separate the left and right part of the design: right-click in the middle and choose Split line. Then select and delete the left part.



With the Reshape tool adjust the end points into a nice pointy shape. Then Close the shape.





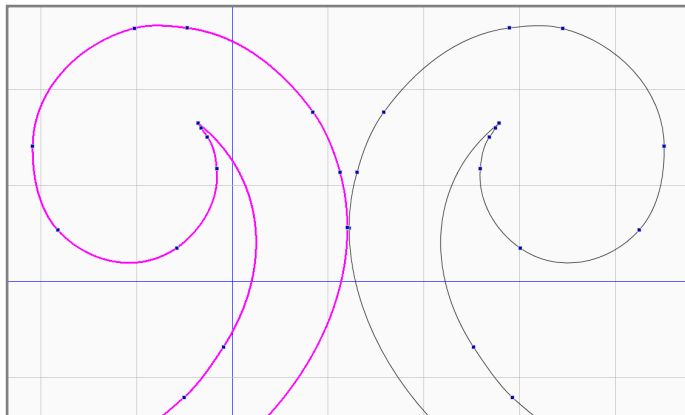
Step 8 - Prepare "Swan's Journey Sash" in Art and Stitch - Cont'd



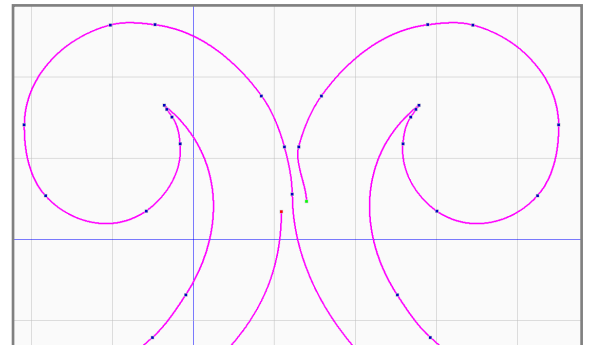
Still in Art and Stitch, select the curl shape, Rotate 45 degrees right, copy and paste it and mirror it.



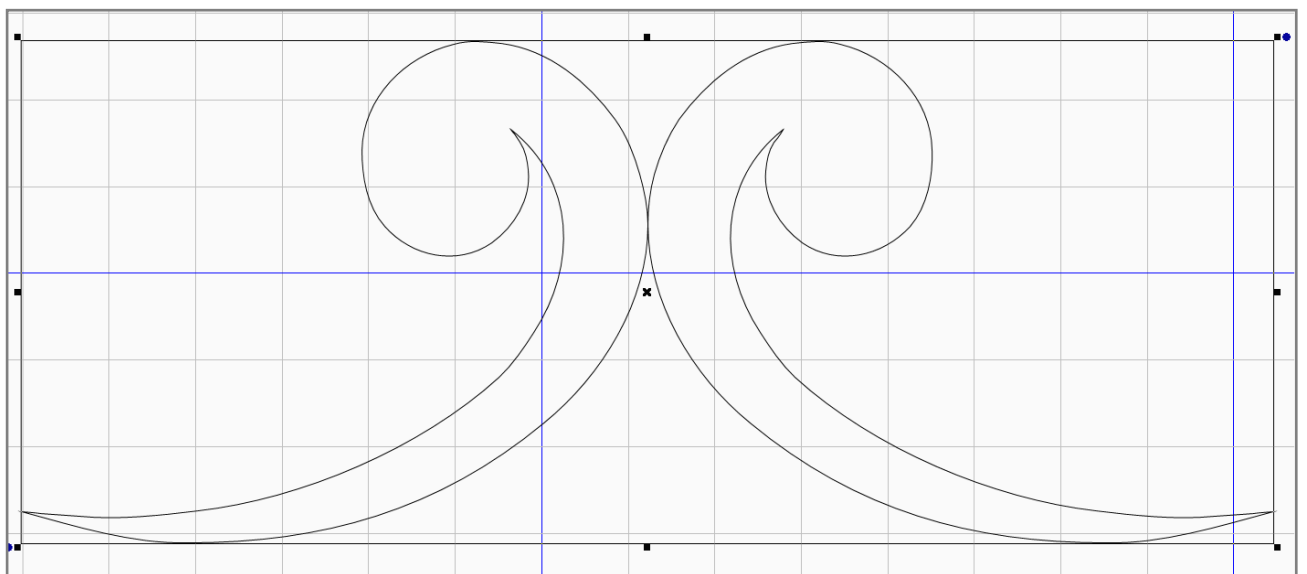
Select the two designs together. Click on the little triangle next to the Center button to open the alignment options. Align the tops of the two selected designs.



Split lines at the touching point and re-connect crossing lines over (best using the T key).



You have created a new design.
Resize to 6.00" x 2.50".





Step 8 - Prepare "Swan's Journey Sash" in Art and Stitch - Cont'd



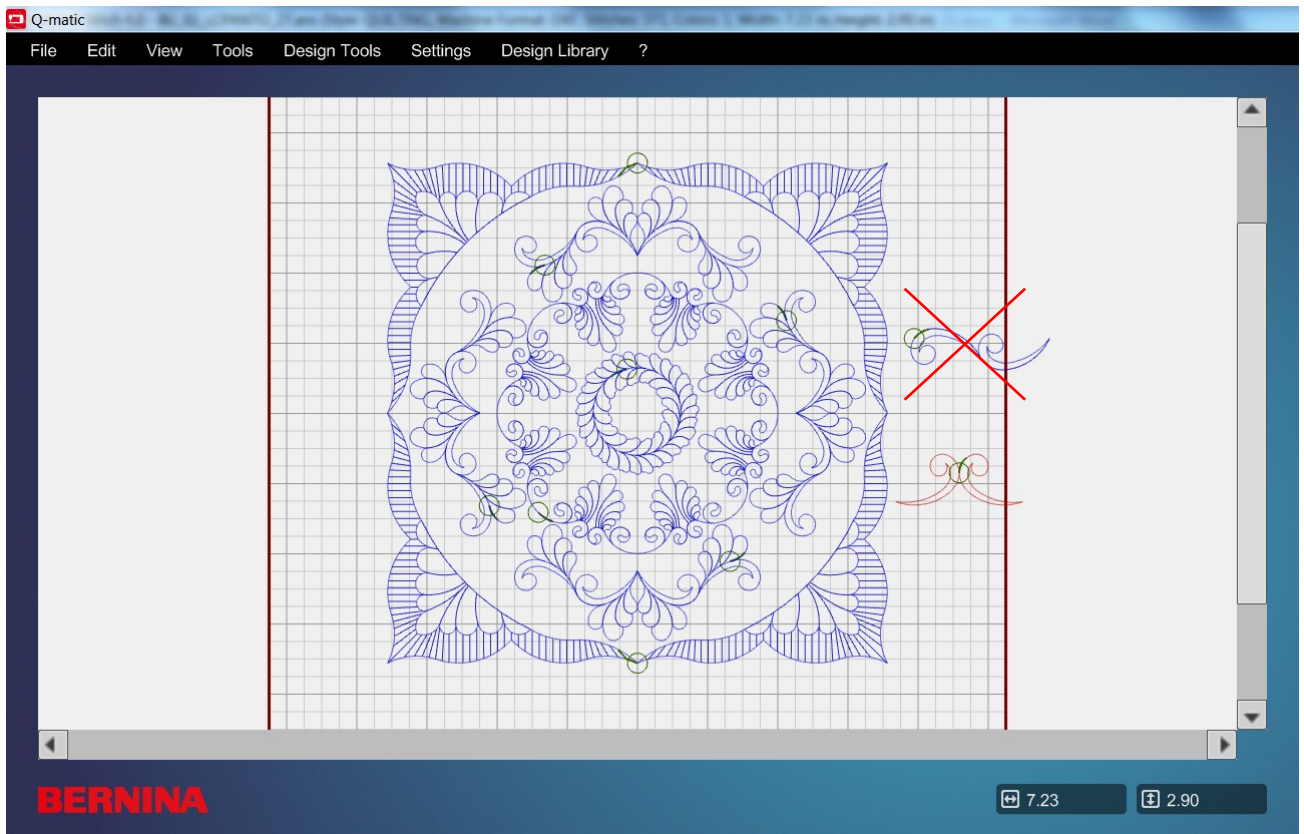
Assign Stitches and click on the Q-matic shortcut.



You will be asked to save the design under your preferred name. The design will be automatically saved in "ans" and "bqm" format.

Having Q-matic already open, the icon will blink on the task bar. Click on the task bar icon and go to Q-matic. You will find the design attached to the needle, next to the original.

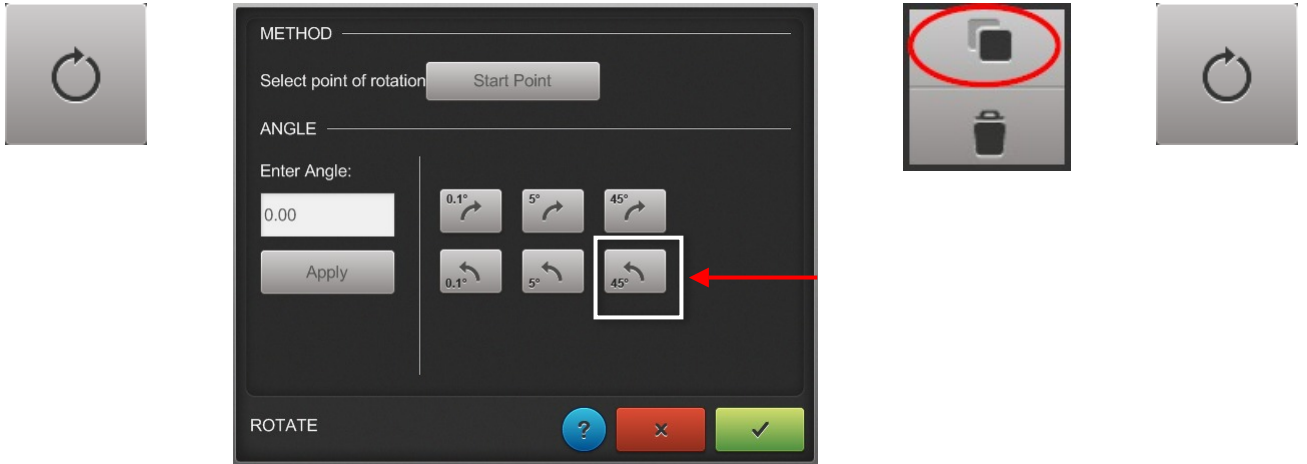
Delete the original.



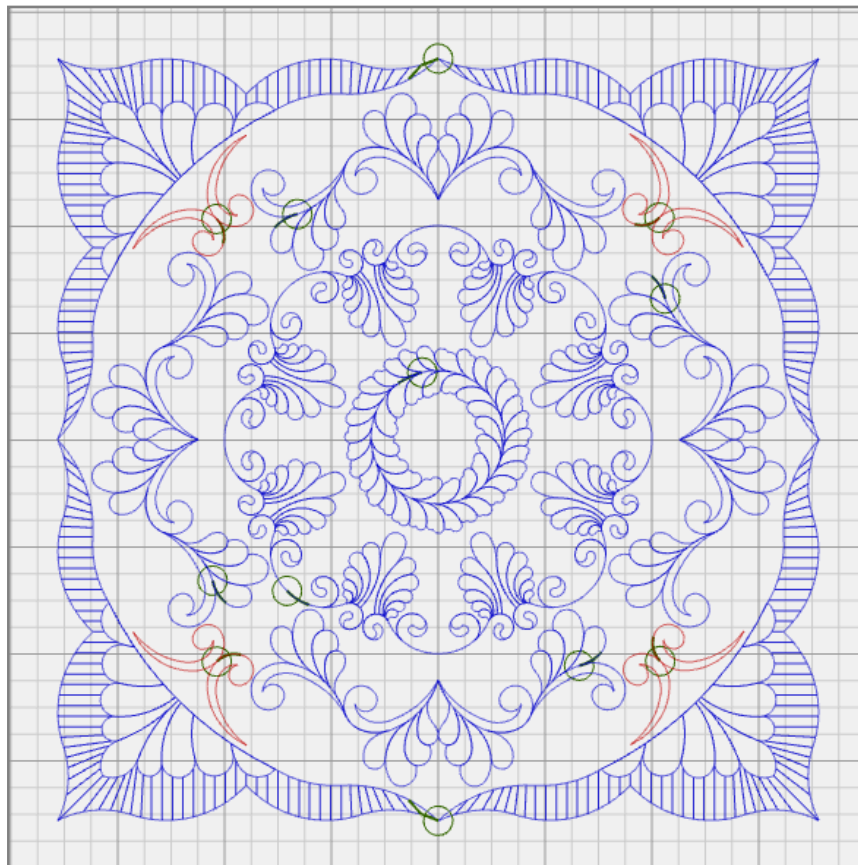


Step 9 - Copy, rotate and place the new swirl shape in Q-matic

In Q-matic select the new swirl shape and rotate left by 45 degrees. Duplicate and rotate this copy left by 90 degrees (2x 45).



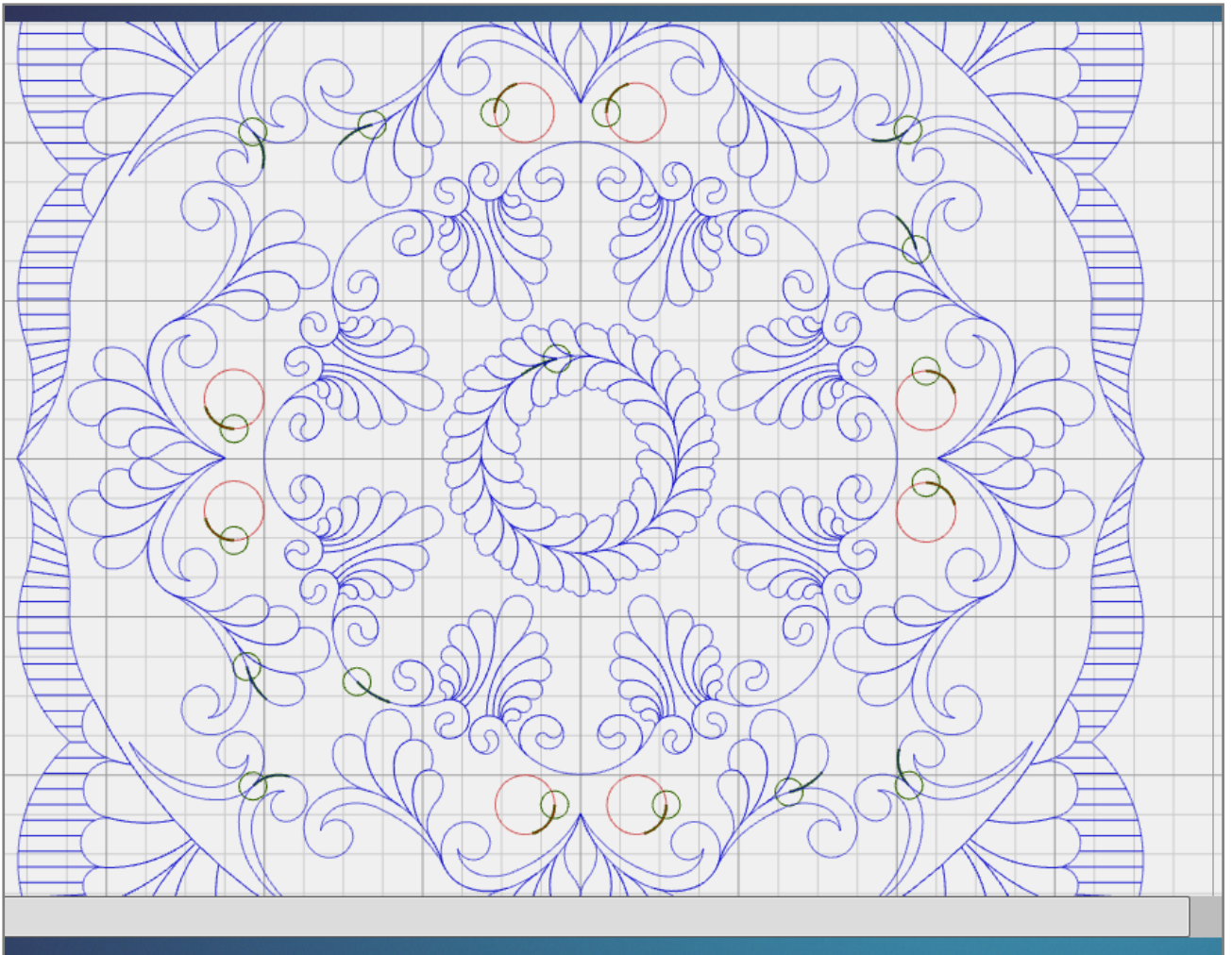
Repeat twice and arrange with the other designs.





Step 10 - Add circles in Q-matic

From Q-matic's Design Center select "Circle" and resize to 1.5 x 1.5 inch. Duplicate 7 times (for a total of 8 circles) and arrange with the other designs. Tip: improved accuracy of placement use the "Align" and "Nudge" feature.





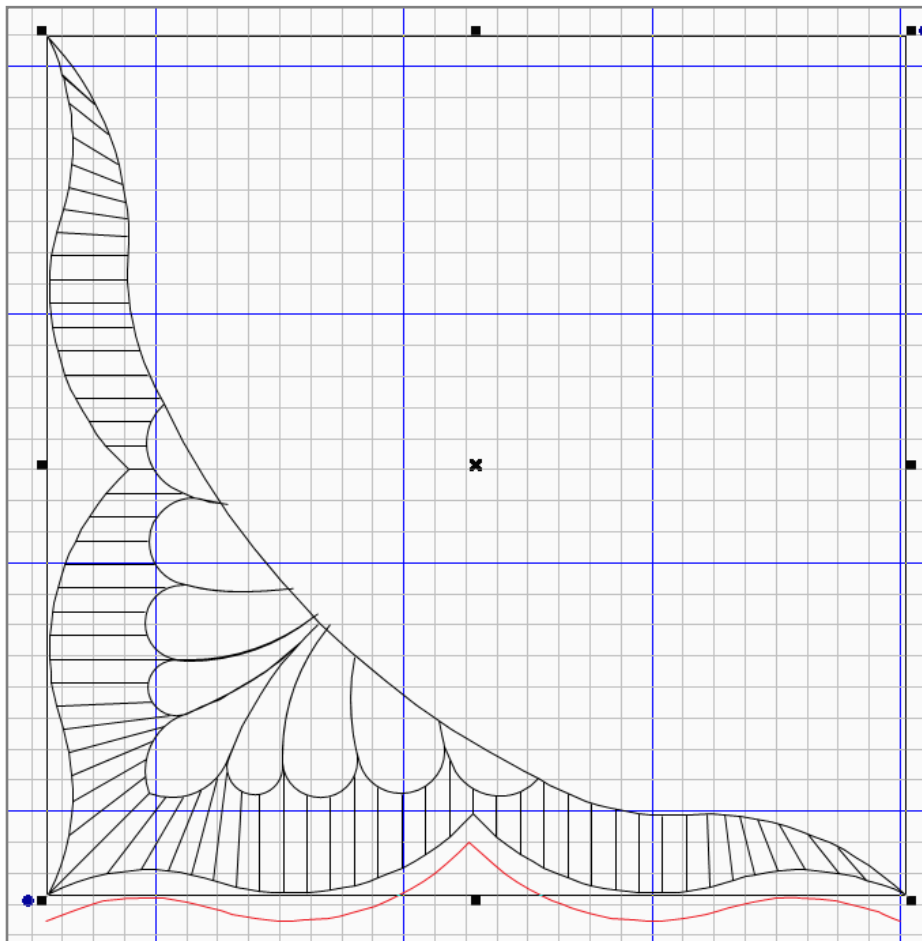
Step 11 - Create Frame in Art and Stitch



From Q-matic's Design Center Design Center select "Megan's Feathers Mariner's Star Set, design 7690" again, rotate 45° (counterclockwise), resize to 14,50" x 14,50" and bring to Art and Stitch via shortcut button. Click on Cancel to skip the Simplify Smoothen" feature: this design serves only as a template.



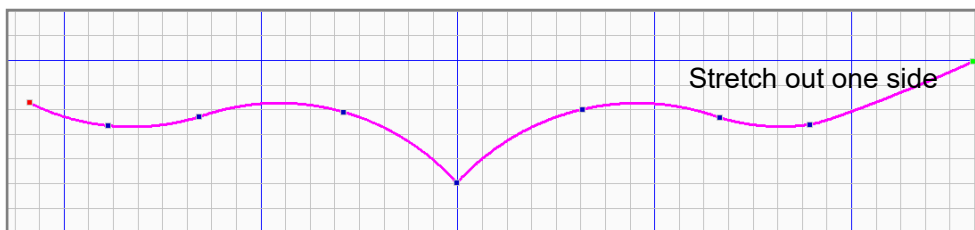
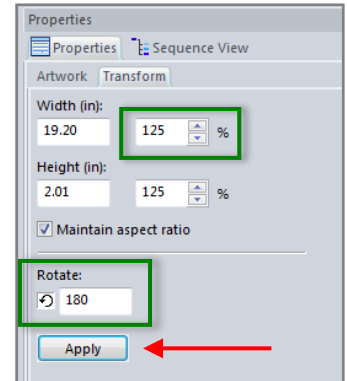
In Art and Stitch take the 3pt Arc tool and redraw the bottom line of the template.



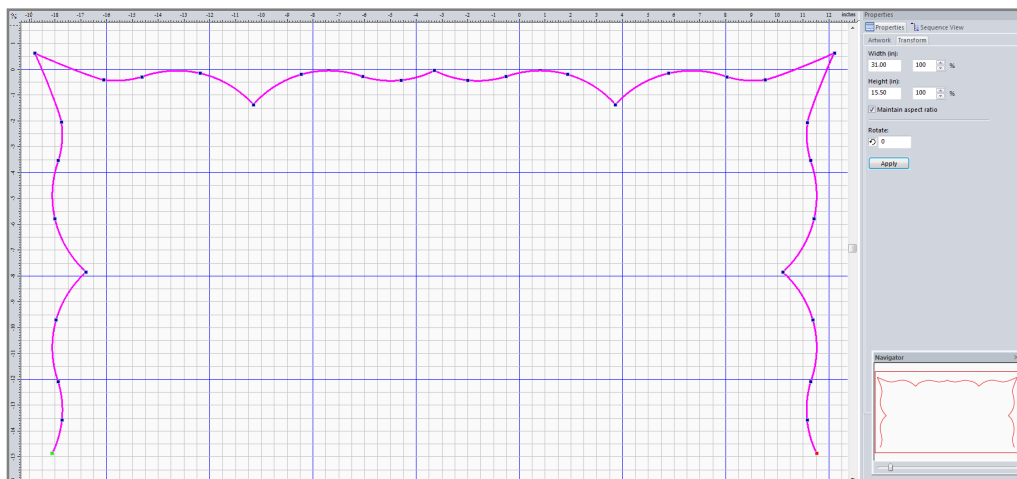


Step 11 - Create Frame in Art and Stitch - Cont'd

Still in Art and Stitch delete the template design.
Stretch the left end point out, maintaining the angle.
Select the line and in Properties Panel resize by 125%.
Rotate 180 degrees.
Click on Apply. The stretched out end point will now be on the right.



Make three copies of this line (totaling four identical designs).
Align two on the top (one will need to be mirrored) and attach.
Align one on the right (turn counterclockwise) and one on the left (turn counterclockwise and flip) and attach.
Resize to 31 x 15. inch



Assign Stitches and click on the Q-matic shortcut.



You will be asked to save the design under your preferred name. The design will be automatically saved in “ans” and “bqm” format.

Having Q-matic already open, the icon will blink on the task bar. Click on the task bar icon and go to Q-matic. You will find the design attached to the needle.



Step 12 - The Finishing Touch in Q-Matic

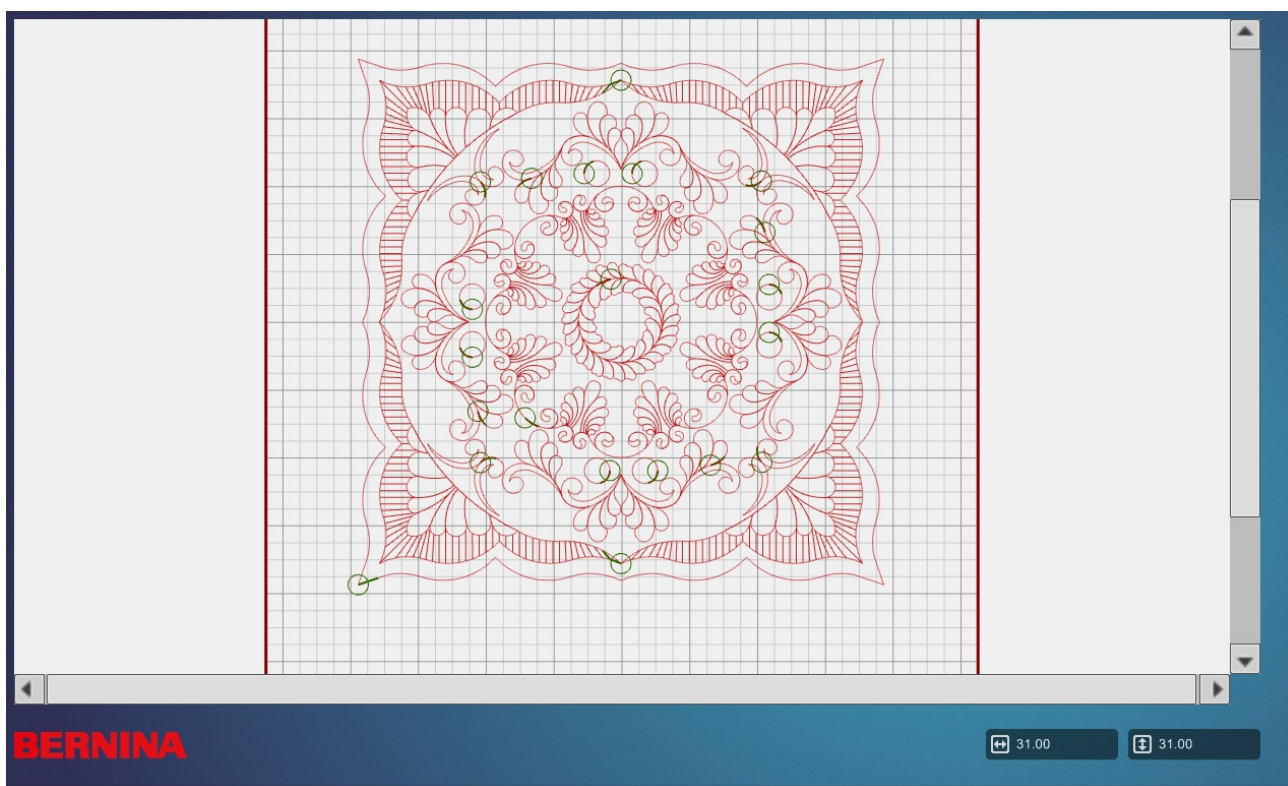
In Q-matic delete the original design that was used as a template. Copy and flip the new frame design to create an outside frame.



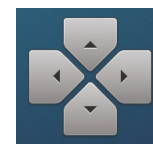
Please note: the maximum quiltable height of the Bernina Q24 longarm is about 16". Just as described in Step 7 you will have to stitch the upper part of this frame first, advance your quilt and then stitch the lower part. Since the quilt sandwich will shift while advancing, it is better to leave a small space between the upper and lower part.

Best case > the two parts will touch and everybody is going to admire your work.

Worst case > the two parts will be a little apart and nobody will notice.



TIP: for improved accuracy of placement use the "Align" and "Nudge" feature.

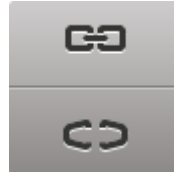




Step 13 - Stitching the Quilt

Tips how to stitch out the whole cloth

IMPORTANT: Unconnect ALL DESIGN PARTS!



- The complete design has a size of 31.00" x 31.00".
- Have at least 10" extra of backing, batting and top fabric in order to stabilize the sandwich.
- Before putting the top on the frame, mark the exact center.
- Stabilize the sandwich with horizontal and vertical basting stitch lines (about 5" apart). The BSR3 basting feature on the Q24 longarm will make this easy.
- Start sewing out the inner two wreaths, around the center mark. Both wreaths will stitch out on a Q24 without having to advance the quilt.
- Roll the quilt back and stitch out the top feather design, advance to the middle, stitch out the right and left middle feather designs, advance further and stitch out the bottom feather design.
- Attention: With every advancing or rolling back of the quilt you will need to set a new safe area. Alternatively you can Realign the Safe Area.
- Roll the quilt back and stitch out the top inner frame, advance the quilt and stitch out the bottom inner frame.
- Roll the quilt to stitch out the rest of the smaller designs.

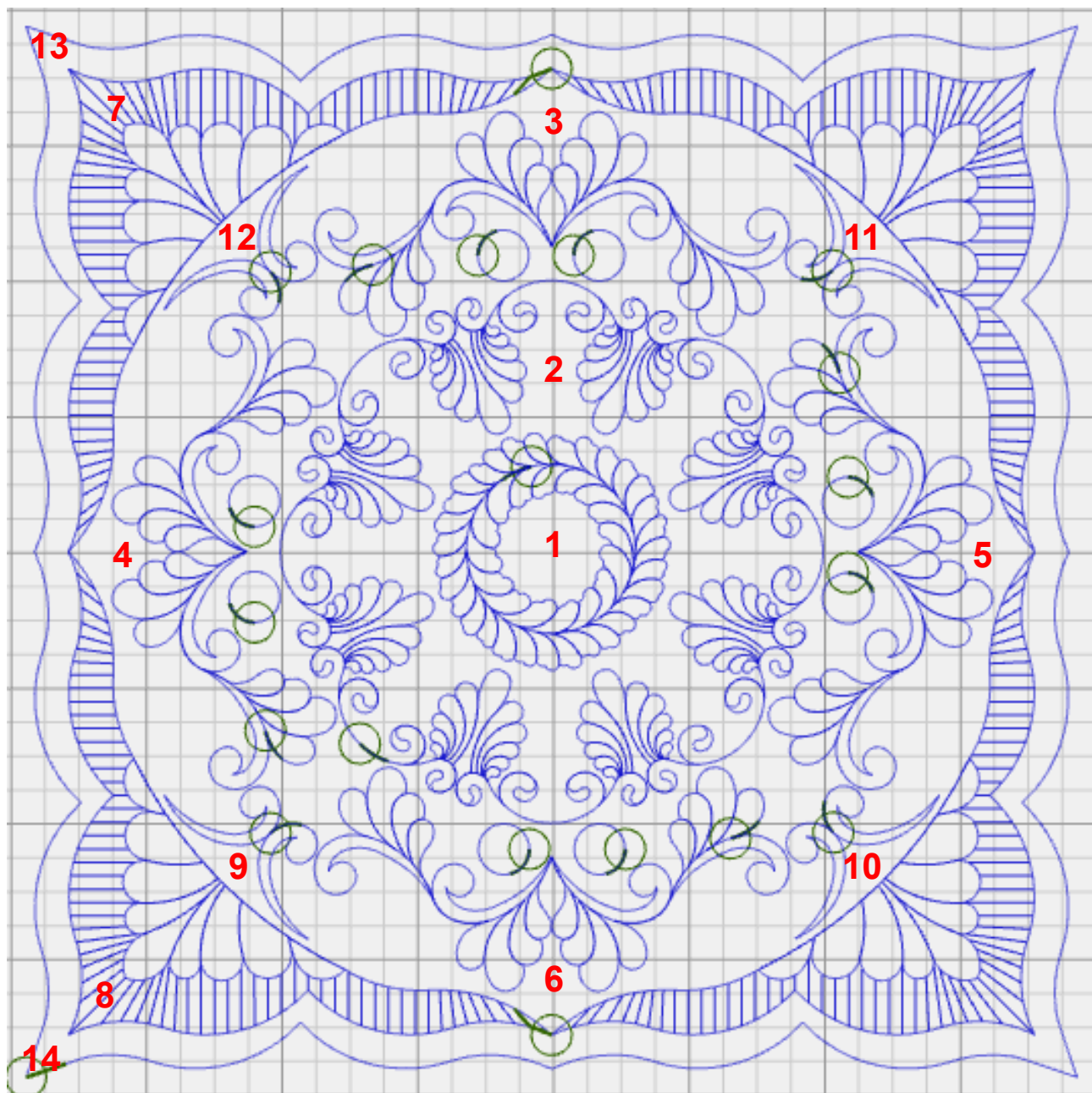
TIP: Instead of quilting the circles with Q-matic, you can use ruler work (1,5" finished circle) and micro-stipple the background at the same time.

- Roll the quilt to stitch out the top outer frame, advance the frame and stitch out the lower outer frame.



Step 13 - Stitching the Quilt - Cont'd

Your choice to add freehand and/or ruler work features – here is where the fun starts!



Happy Quilting!

Aggy