

The BERNINA Blossom Sampler

Whenever you are starting to quilt, you have two options for starting and ending threads:

Option 1: The Modern Method

Bring your bobbin thread to the top of the quilt sandwich. To do this, take one stitch in place and bring your needle and presser foot up. Pull on the top thread to bring the bobbin thread up and hold both threads as you begin to quilt. **BRING THE PRESSER FOOT BACK DOWN AND THE NEEDLE DOWN BEFORE BRINGING OVER THE RULER.**

Start quilting by making really tiny stitches to lock the threads. Gradually increase your stitch length over the first 3/4" or so until you are quilting at a normal length.

When you are ready to end your threads, tighten your stitches gradually over the last 3/4", until they are very small. Remove the ruler and bring your needle and presser foot up. Hook the thread coming out of the needle over a finger on your left hand. Do one more stitch and bring the needle and presser foot up again. Pull the thread hooked over your finger on your left hand and pull the thread coming out of the needle with your right hand so that the two threads are being pulled in opposite directions to raise the bobbin thread to the top of the quilt sandwich. Move the entire piece an inch or so away from the needle and clip through all the threads right at the surface of the quilt top.

I use this method a lot in my personal quilting, but I would not recommend it for a quilt that is destined for a juried show.

Option 1: The Traditional Method

Bring your bobbin thread to the top of the quilt sandwich. To do this, take one stitch in place and bring your needle and presser foot up. Pull on the top thread to bring the bobbin thread up and hold both threads as you begin to quilt. **BRING THE PRESSER FOOT BACK DOWN AND THE NEEDLE DOWN BEFORE BRINGING OVER THE RULER.**

Start quilting at your normal stitch length, leaving the starting threads long.

When you are at your stopping point, remove the ruler and bring your needle and presser foot up. Hook the thread coming out of the needle over a finger on your left hand. Do one more stitch and bring the needle and presser foot up again. Pull the thread hooked over your finger on your left hand and pull the thread coming out of the needle with your right hand so that the two threads are being pulled in opposite directions to raise the bobbin thread to the top of the quilt sandwich. Pull the bobbin thread out to the top of the quilt sandwich and clip it, leaving both the bobbin and top threads **AT LEAST** a 4" length. Knot these threads very close to the surface of the quilt sandwich and thread them into a Chenille or self-threading needle. Run them through the quilt sandwich for about an inch until the knot pops into the sandwich. Clip the threads. Repeat the process for the starting threads.

I use this method for quilts where I want the starts and stops to truly be invisible, or for areas in which I elect to use contrasting threads where the smaller stitches might show.

Either of the two above methods work, but I would not recommend making several stitches in place to secure the threads because of the large knot this can create on the back of the quilt.

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Part 2: Quilting "along-the-ditch" and Blocks 1 & 2

Note: See the posts and videos on weallsew.com for more information on stitching these designs.

Pin or spray baste the backing, batting and quilt top to make a quilt sandwich.

Lower your feed dogs and turn the hover feature off if you are quilting on a domestic that has one.

1

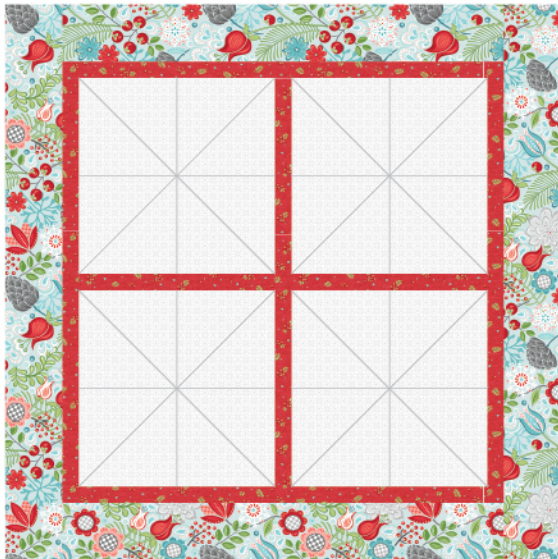


Using your straight line ruler, quilt all the way around the outer edges of your design, about 1/8" from the raw edges of the fabric. These stitches will later be caught in the binding. You can quilt with large basting stitches since they will be hidden, or you can use this opportunity to practice keeping a consistent stitch length for the rest of the quilt. Remember, your ruler edge should always be 1/4" from your stitching line!

Quilt along the seamline between the border and the sashing, using whatever thread matches best. Your stitches should look like they are about the length that a machine with a walking foot setting of 2.5 to 3.0 would make. Use BSR2 and a setting of 10 SPI if you have a Q20.

Quilt along the edge of the blocks, using a matching thread.

2



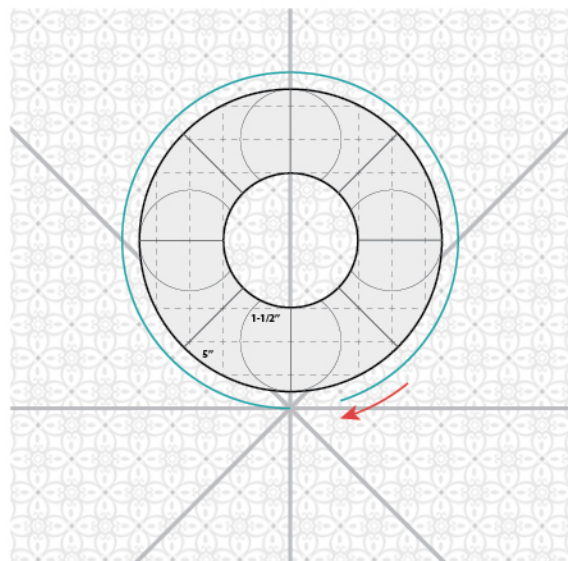
With your marking tool of choice, draw diagonals from corner to corner in each block. Then draw a vertical and horizontal centerline through each of the intersections.

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3

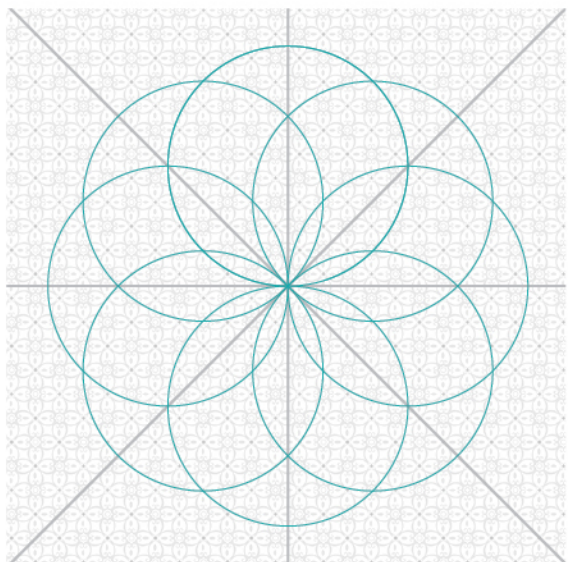


Block 1

Bring up your bobbin thread in the center of the design. Bring your foot and needle down and snug the 5" Every Circle ruler up against the edge of the foot, lining up the midline on the ruler over one of "spokes" as shown.

Quilt all the way around the ruler, repositioning your hands several times so that you keep control and the ruler doesn't slip. Return to the center of the design.

4



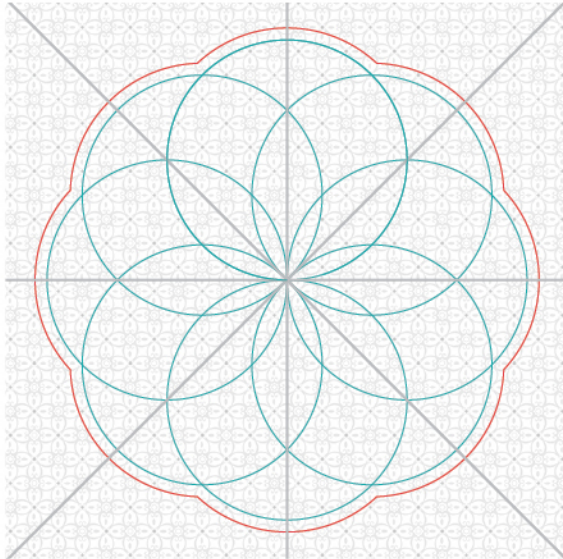
Quilt on each of the "spokes" to complete the design, returning to the center each time. End your thread.

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5

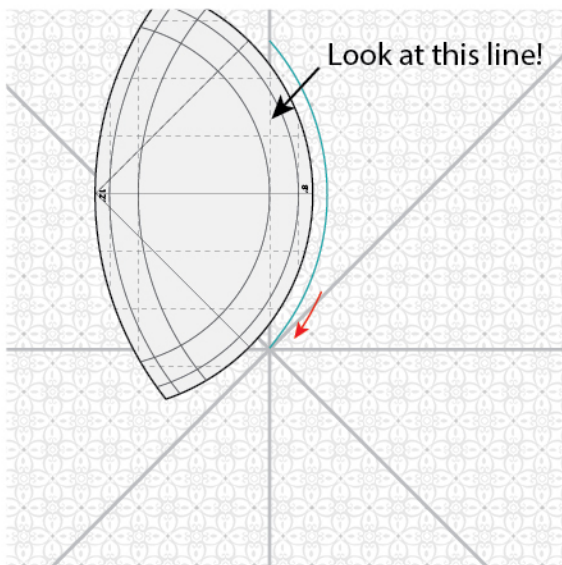


Change thread colors if desired.

Put on the 1/4" BERNINA Echo Clip and quilt around the entire design, using the same ruler.

End your thread and remove the Echo Clip.

6



Block 2

Bring up your bobbin thread in the center of the design. Bring your foot and needle down and snug the 8" Every Curve ruler up against the edge of the foot, lining up the line on the ruler over the marked line as shown.

Quilt all the way around the curve, until you get to the marked line.

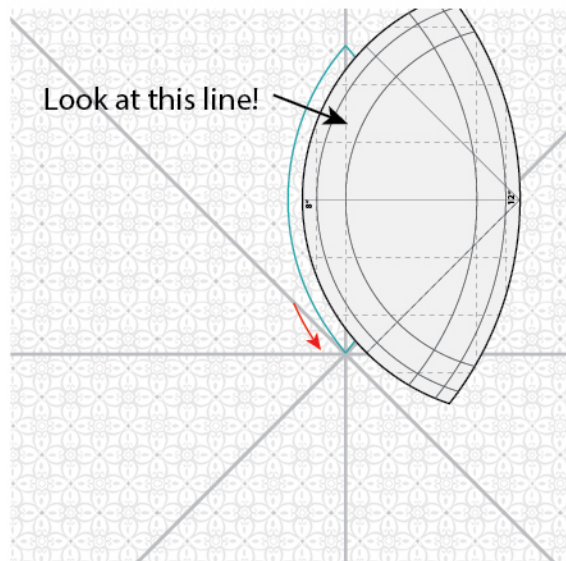
If you don't have my Every Curve set, you can achieve a similar look but marking a crosshatch mark 5" from the center of the block on each of the "spokes". Then use a curved ruler to connect the center to these marks. If you don't have a big enough ruler to span 5", adjust your marks accordingly.

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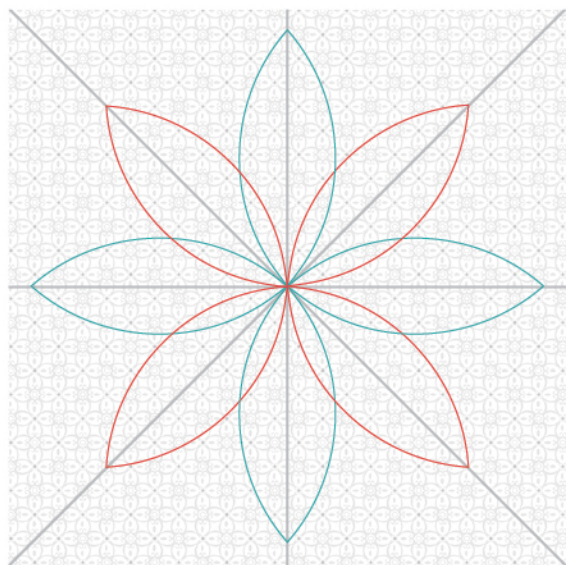
Part 2: Quilting "along-the-ditch" and Blocks 1 & 2

7



Rotate the ruler 180 degrees and quilt back down to the center of the block.

8



Quilt this design on all the spokes, changing the thread color for the diagonal motifs if desired.

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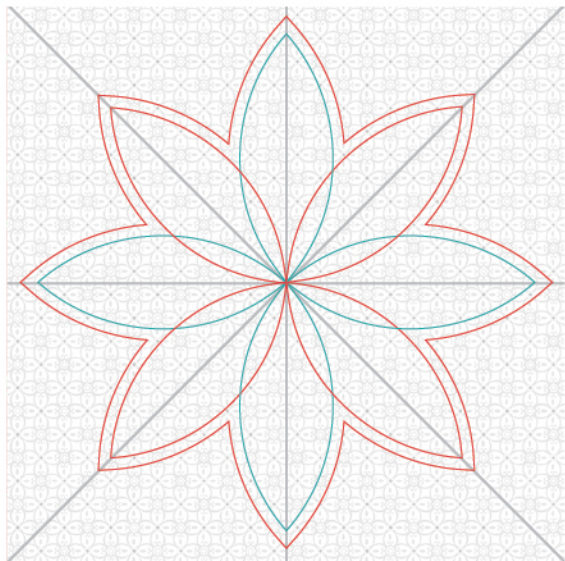
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Part 2: Quilting "along-the-ditch" and Blocks 1 & 2

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Change thread colors if desired.

Put on the 1/4" BERNINA Echo Clip and quilt around the entire design, using the same ruler.

End your thread and remove the Echo Clip.

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