



## SEW-lutions Guidelines

Your Guide  
to  
Successful  
Sewing

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You've pieced the perfect quilt, layered it with batting and backing, and now's the time to make it shine with beautiful quilting. But, what's the best design to choose? Check below for stitching options to complement your work, whether you choose to hand- or machine-quilt.

### Echo Quilting

If you've appliquéd a flower or intricately pieced a shape, highlight it with two or more rows of parallel stitching lines mimicking the shape. It's easy to do by using the width of your presser foot to space the rows equi-distant, though they can also be spaced differently, depending on the desired look. This type of quilting needs no marking as the highlighted shape determines the stitching pattern.

### Outline Quilting

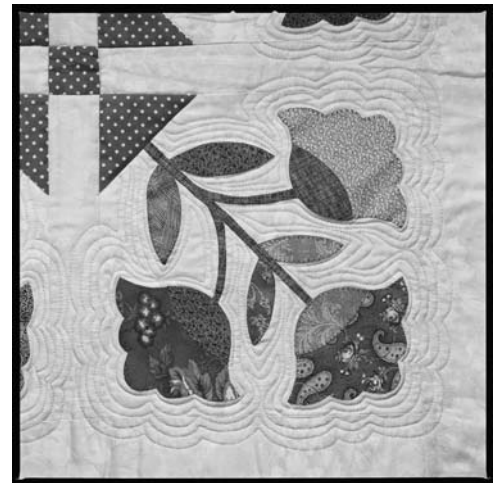
Similar to echo quilting, outline quilting highlights a shape using only a single line of stitching 1/4" from the shape edge—either inside or outside. The width of the presser foot can be used as a guide to avoid marking.

### Stipple Quilting

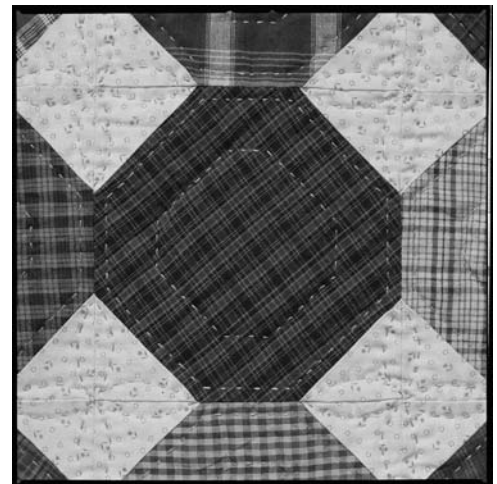
Stippling is an all-over random pattern of quilting that provides surface interest. Often used in combination with other types of quilting, stippling is frequently used to highlight background sections of a quilt. Stippling is done free-motion by lowering the machine feed dogs, installing a darning foot and moving the quilt randomly to create the patterning. Well executed stippling lines don't cross or touch each other, but appear totally random.

### Meandering Quilting

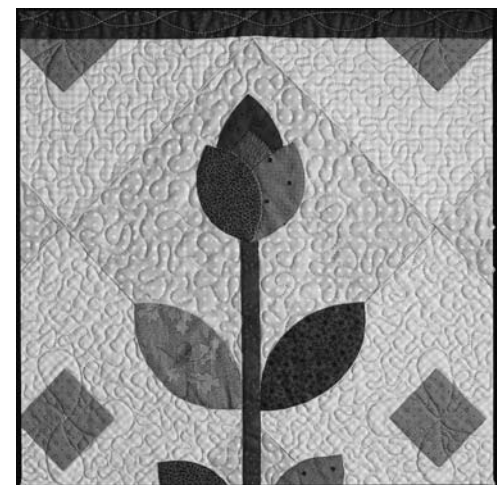
Much like stippling, only more widely spaced, meandering forms a pattern of curved lines and swirls. There's no need to mark this type of stitching, and it's accomplished with free-motion work like stippling.



*Echo Quilting*



*Outline Quilting*



*Stipple Quilting*



*Meandering Quilting*

## Decorative-stitch Quilting

Waves, scallops, ducks, flowers and other built-in stitches can be used to hold quilt layers together. They can be stitched in grid patterns, as parallel lines or in patterns like circles. Choose a decorative stitch that is open (not dense) for best results.

## Motif Quilting

Stitching designs like feathers, circles, flowers or other patterns over the quilt surface is called motif quilting. Designs need to be marked on the surface for consistency and even placement, or they can be freehanded randomly over the quilt for a more eclectic look. Quilting templates and stencils can be used for marking stitching lines, though the size may need to be adjusted to fit your particular quilt spacing needs.

## Channel Quilting

Evenly stitched parallel lines form channels over the quilt surface to hold the layers together, and this patterning can be done using a quilting guide attached to the presser foot for even spacing, or lines can be marked with chalk or tape. Lines can be at an angle or straight.

## Grid Quilting

If parallel lines are stitched in two directions forming a crosshatching pattern, the quilt is said to be quilted with gridwork. The lines can be at right angles to each other forming squares, or at another angle forming diamond shapes. Grids can be marked on the quilt surface or sewn using a presser foot with an attached quilting guide for spacing.

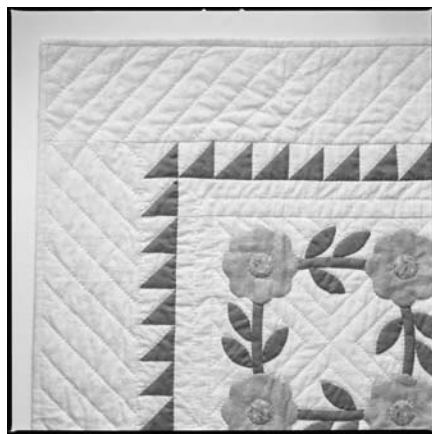
## Stitch-in-the-ditch Quilting

Now you see it, now you don't! Stitch-in-the-ditch quilting disappears into the piecing seamlines and should not be visible on the pieces if it's done properly. Often sewn with invisible thread, this type of quilting is common on strip and block pieced designs to keep layers from shifting. If seams are pressed in one direction, stitch-in-the-ditch quilting should be done on the opposite side of the seam (the low side). 🖱

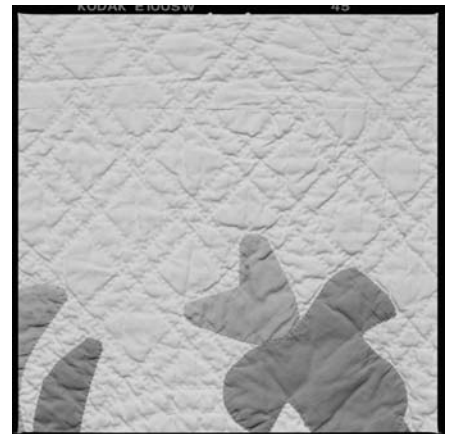
*All photos courtesy of American Patchwork & Quilting from Complete Guide to Quilting.*



*Motif Quilting*



*Channel Quilting*



*Gridwork Quilting*