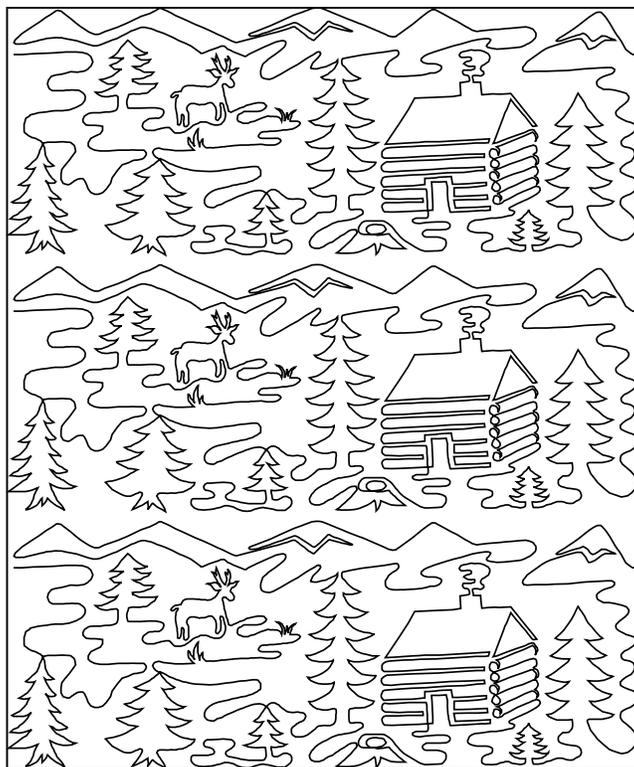


## Why Offset a Pantograph Pattern?

Sometimes a pantograph pattern is large or has distinctive patterns or motifs. If this pattern is stitched in the usual way these patterns and / or motifs may become "stacked" on top of one another. This may not be the look you want on your quilt.

The illustration at the right shows a pantograph pattern with a distinctive pattern (the log cabin) "stacked" on top of pattern below.



The illustration at the left shows a pantograph pattern that has been "offset". Notice how the log cabins are now "staggered". This type of pattern arrangement adds more texture to the quilt and makes the quilting more distinctive.

To offset the pattern there are several extra steps that need to be taken when setting up the pattern and a few extra tips and tricks you should know when quilting this type of design. In the following instructions I will show you step-by-step how to do this.

**It is assumed that you have read and understand the Basic Pantograph Instructions posted on the Longarm University website. The instructions that follow are based on those instructions.**

Materials you will need to for these instructions:

Pantograph Pattern—I am using the pattern Solitude from the Kim Darwin Collection available at [www.LongarmUniversity.com](http://www.LongarmUniversity.com)

Permanent marker

Vis-à-vis or other water soluble marker for transparencies

Pantograph Placement Guides from Longarm University OR

Write On Transparency plastic (available at most office supply stores)

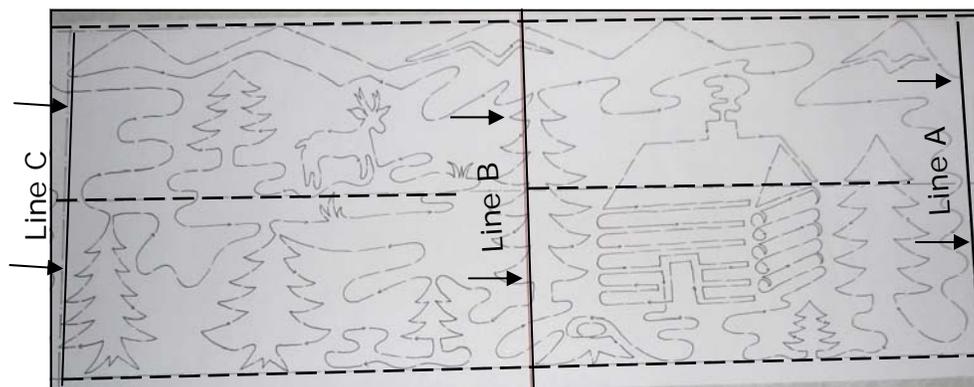
### Preparing the Pantograph Pattern

Before we even begin to think about quilting, the pattern must be prepared. Place your pattern on a flat surface (the table of the quilting machine works well). Line up a long ruler or other straight edge across the top of the pattern with the ruler just touching the “highest point” of the pattern. Draw a straight line across the length of the pattern connecting the high points of the pattern.

Repeat this process and draw a line connecting the “lowest points” of the pattern.

Measure between the lines, divide this number in half and draw a line across the length of the pattern, dividing it in half lengthwise. These lines are shown in the photo below as dashed lines. Note: Some patterns may already have these lines marked on them.

Look at the pattern and find where the pattern “repeats” itself. At the beginning of the “repeat” (near the right edge of the pattern) draw a vertical line and label this “**Line A**”. Find the end of the pattern repeat and draw a vertical line and label as “**Line C**”. Measure between these two lines and divide this number in half. Measure between the two vertical lines and at the halfway point draw another vertical line and label it as “**Line B**”. See the illustration below.



### Preparing the Quilt

I prefer to “float” my quilt top when I put it on the quilting machine. Please refer to “Putting a Quilt on the Quilting Machine” posted on the Longarm University website at [www.LongarmUniversity.com](http://www.LongarmUniversity.com) for directions on how to do this.

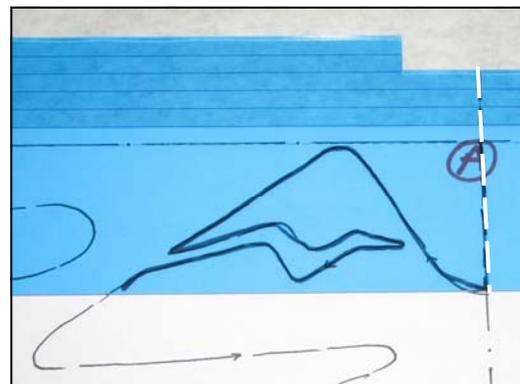
### Prepare the Laser

Prepare the laser light as in the Basic Pantograph Pattern instructions. When adjusting the position of the laser prior to quilting have the laser pointing in a nearly “straight” downward line. This will be important later on when we move the laser to offset the pattern.

### Position the Pattern to the Top of the Quilt

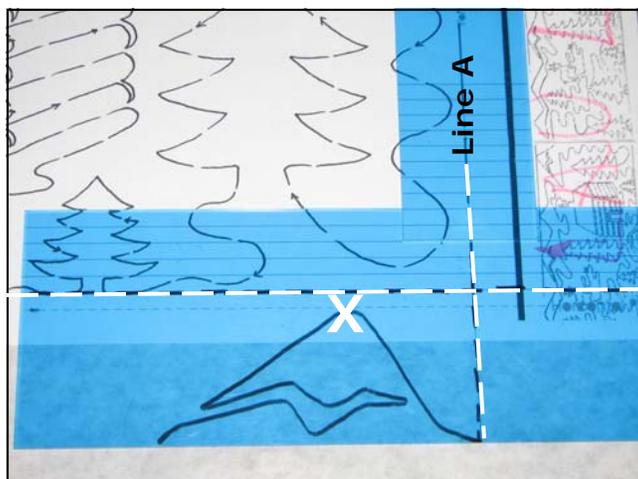
Standing at the back of the machine lay the pantograph pattern on the table. Have the right edge of the pattern at the right raw edge of the quilt. Line up the lower horizontal line of the (paper) pattern to the top raw edge of the quilt. See Basic Pantograph Quilting instructions for the details on how to do this.

**Spacing the Pattern Rows**—Place the Longarm University Pantograph Placement Guide on Line A, lining up the horizontal and vertical placement lines of the guide to the upper horizontal registration line and **Line A** on the paper pattern. You can also use a piece of write on transparency plastic (available at most office supply stores). With a Vis-à-Vis transparency marker, draw the top few inches of the pantograph pattern. The photo at the right shows the pattern drawn on a Longarm U Pantograph Placement Guide. The vertical placement line of the Pantograph Placement Guide is indicated as a white dashed line.



If you make a mistake when drawing the pattern simply use a damp paper towel to remove the marker.

Move the drawn (plastic) pattern down to the lower vertical line on the paper pattern. Space the pattern as desired and **draw a horizontal line on the plastic**. You also need to determine a “Positioning Point” for your pattern. On this pattern I like to use the top of the mountain on (drawn) pattern A. It is shown on the photo at the right as a white X.

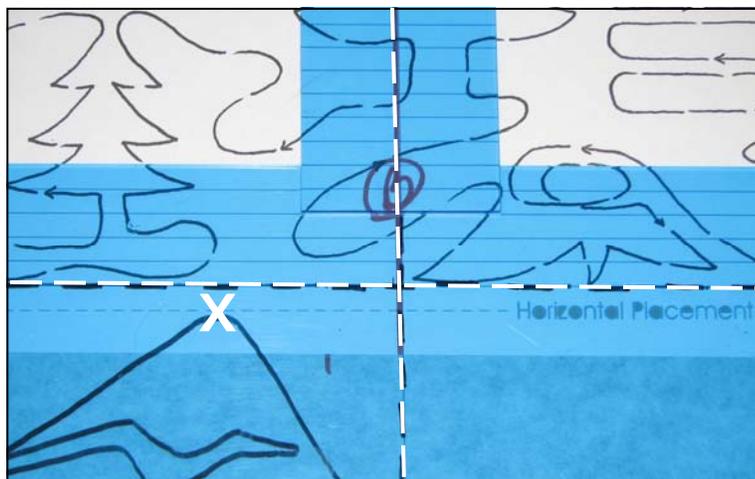


I prefer to line up and space my pattern with the Pantograph Placement Guide before I begin quilting. This way, I don't have to stop and draw after I have started the quilting process.

At this point, the pattern and the quilt are lined up and ready to stitch. Begin stitching the first row of the pattern in your usual way and advance the quilt to begin stitching the second row of the pattern.

### Second Row of the Pattern

This is where things get interesting! Take the drawn plastic pattern and move it to Line B. Line up the vertical registration line on Line B and line up the drawn horizontal registration line with the lower horizontal registration line on the paper pattern. See the photo at the right. The registration lines are indicated by the white dashed lines.



We now need to remember the following:

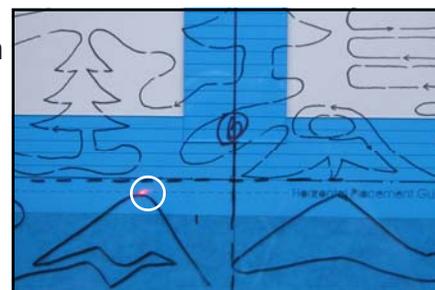
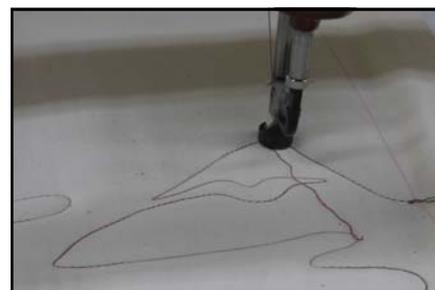
### Number 1 Rule of Pantographs

As far as I am concerned there are not many "rules" in longarm quilting except one. The one rule you **MUST** remember, especially when working with pantographs or from the back of the machine with the laser is:

WHERE THE NEEDLE IS—THE LASER IS. WHERE THE LASER IS—THE NEEDLE IS. THEY **BOTH MUST** TO BE IN THE SAME PLACE TO HAVE THE PATTERN STITCH CORRECTLY.

Place your needle in the quilt at your stitched Positioning Point. See the photo at the right.

Look at your (paper) pattern. Is your laser at the same point? No, and it shouldn't be. Now you must carefully **MOVE THE LASER** until it is at the same Positioning Point on the pattern. Don't be alarmed—the angle of the laser will be very extended and the laser dot will be "stretched". That's the way it is supposed to be. See the photo at the right. The laser light is in the white circle.



Look at both your pattern and the quilt. Since the laser has been "stretched", Line B is now at the right raw edge of your quilt. Move the hopping foot to the left raw edge of the quilt. Since the pattern has been "shifted" you may need to roll out a bit more of your pattern.

At this point you are ready to begin stitching the second row of your pattern. Take your time and stitch carefully. It may take a few minutes to get used to the stretched laser.

After you have stitched the second row look at your quilt. You have just offset the pattern. See the photo at the right.



Since the pattern was stretched, the right raw edge will look different too. In the photo at the right the right raw edge of the quilt is indicated by the dashed line.



Stitching Row 3 of the pattern— Move the drawn plastic pattern back to Line A and line up the horizontal and vertical registration lines of both the paper pattern and the drawn pattern. When everything is in position, begin stitching Row 3.

Stitching Row 4 of the pattern—Move the drawn plastic pattern over to Line B and line up the horizontal and vertical registration lines of both the paper pattern and the drawn pattern. When everything is in position, begin stitching Row 4.

Continue stitching the quilt by moving the drawn plastic patterns as in Rows 3 and 4 until the quilting is completed. Refer to the Stitching a Basic Pantograph Pattern instruction on the Longarm University website [www.LongarmUniversity.com](http://www.LongarmUniversity.com) if a partial row of pattern remains when you get to the bottom of the quilt.