Feathered Wreath

Fractured Whole Cloth Quilt #2

This beautiful quilt has been designed specifically for the 6 inch Feathered Wreath stencil and the 12 inch Feathered Wreath stencil, both by Longarm University®

Feathered Wreath

Fractured Whole Cloth Quilt

	Small Size	Wall Size
Approximate Finished Size	27 x 27 inches	40 x 40 inches
Fabric		
Body of Quilt	1 yard	1½ yards
Optional Flange Fabric	n/a	1/4 yard 40 inches wide

Tone on tone textured, "mottled," marbled, hand dyed or hand painted fabric works best. For best results avoid large-scale prints or busy fabrics

	Small Size	Wall Size
Binding	1/2 yard	1/2 yard
Batting— Low to mid loft recommended	1 yard (at least 45 inches wide)	1½ yards (at least 90 inches wide)
Backing Fabric	1 yard 40 inches wide	3 yards 40 inches wide OR 1½ yards 90 inches wide

Quilting Supplies

6 inch Feathered Wreath stencil AND
12 inch Feathered Wreath stencil
From Longarm University®
www.LongarmUniversity.com

Optional – contrasting thread for feather stitching
Other quilting supplies needed - Water soluble marking pen or fabric marker of choice, temporary basting spray

The Feathered Stencil Story

I have been a professional longarm quilter since 1995 and quilting feathers has been a mainstay of my business. I love the traditional look of feathers and the way feathers "dress up" a plain quilt and, most importantly, my customers love them! As I developed my own "style" of quilting and feathers I began designing templates and supplies for other longarm quilters to be able to make my feathered designs.

When other quilters (both hand and machine quilters) saw my work they wanted to make these feather designs too, but their machines couldn't use templates in the same way as longarm machines do. So I created a new line of quilting stencils based on the designs that I make using template feather guides, and now any quilter can create these feather designs.

Fractured Whole Cloth Quilts

As I was working with my template feather guides and feathered stencils, I began to design whole cloth quilts using these designs, but I had a problem—no matter how well I measured and marked my quilt top, it was hard to keep patterns/designs "straight" on a whole piece of fabric. I solved this problem by taking a whole piece of fabric, cutting it into blocks and sewing the blocks together. By doing this, the seams become a "grid" on which to place the designs. If your seams are straight, your quilting designs will be placed properly on the whole quilt! Since the "whole cloth" quilt now had seams, I called it a Fractured Whole Cloth quilt.

When I experimented with this "fractured" concept, I found that by using hand dyed fabric or commercial fabric that is "mottled" or marbled, you create an extra layer of texture to the quilt top. I also found that by using a contrasting thread in the quilted feathers, you will see your quilting, and your quilting becomes the focal point of the quilt.

I encourage you to take the time to make yourself one of these wonderful Fractured Whole Cloth quilts. And please, send photos. I love seeing work of other quilters.

Why are these stencils different?

As a professional quilter I learned about registration lines the hard way! I couldn't understand why my quilting designs were not "straight" and wouldn't fit into spaces correctly. I soon realized that if I drew registration lines on my quilt top the patterns would fit properly and would remain "straight" no matter what!

When I had these stencils produced, I insisted on having horizontal, vertical and diagonal registration lines included on the stencils. For this whole cloth design you will be placing the stencil's registration lines on the seams of the quilt. By doing this, you will keep your quilting designs "straight" and properly placed even if the stencil is placed on the diagonal!

Cutting Instructions

From the **Body of Quilt** Fabric, cut the following;

Strip size	Small Size 27 x 27 inches	Wall Size 40 x 40 inches
7½ inches X WOF (width of fabric)	**3 strips**	**4 strips**
Cut a 7 ½ inch strip into	4 — 7½ x 7½ inch squares Label as **A** (Corners)	4 — 7½ x 7½ inch squares Label as **A** (Corners)
Cut the remaining 7 ½ inch strips into	8 — 7 x 7½ inch rectangles Label as **B** (Borders)	16 — 7 x 7½ inch rectangles Label as **B** (Borders)
7 inches X WOF	**1 strip**	**3 strips**
Cut the 7 inch strips into	4 — 7 x 7 inch squares Label as **C** (Body)	16 — 7 x 7 inch squares Label as **C** (Body)
Flange — Optional		Cut 4 — 1 inch x **WOF** strips

Construction

All seams are ¼ inch.

Follow the chart below for the size quilt you are making.

NOTE: Take the time to **LABEL ALL PIECES**. Because the size of the blocks are similar, it is **very, very** easy to get the blocks mixed up. Ask me how I know!

Small Quilt

Follow the piecing chart at the right to construct the Small Quilt top. Press seams as desired.

A	B	B	A
B	C	C	B
B	C	C	B
A	B	B	A

Wall Quilt

Follow the piecing chart at the right and stitch all the C (Body) blocks together to construct the Center of the Wall Quilt top. Press seams as desired.

Flange (Optional)

Press 1 inch fabric strips in half lengthwise, wrong sides together. Measure width of the quilt center and cut the flange strip to that length. Place the flange on the right side of the quilt, raw edges together. The fold of the flange should be facing the middle of the quilt. Pin, then stitch the flange to the quilt top with a **SCANT** ¼ inch seam. Repeat on remaining edges of the quilt.

Note: The flange will be overlapping at the corners.

C	C	C	C
C	C	C	C
C	C	C	C
C	C	C	C

After the flange is applied, follow the piecing chart at the right and stitch the A (Corner) and B (Border) blocks together to construct the borders of the quilt. Press seams as desired.

If desired, top stitch the seams of the flange to the border.

Note: The solid dark line indicates the position of the flange.

A	B	B	B	B	A
B	C	C	C	C	B
B	C	C	C	C	B
B	C	C	C	C	B
B	C	C	C	C	B
A	B	B	B	B	A

NOTE: When I designed this quilt, I included a larger border area for several reasons.

- If you are a home machine quilter, the extra fabric gives you a little more to work with in the border area.

- If you are a hand quilter, you have the space to bring the backing fabric over the edge of the quilt top and enclose the batting.

- The quilting designs are quilted "to the edge" of the fabric. If you have a longarm machine you may need extra fabric to pin your quilt top to the canvas leaders or to "float" your quilt top.

- After you are finished with all the quilting, you can trim the border area to whatever size you desire.

Tips for Quilting your Feathered Designs

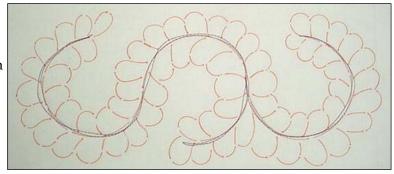I have three basic rules for quilting:

Rule # 1—There are NO rules! Rule # 2—There are NO quilt police! Rule # 3—Refer to Rules # 1 and 2!

Remember, this is YOUR quilt and it will reflect your "style" of quilting. It won't be perfect, but remember there are NO perfect quilters!

The spine of the feather is the curved line that divides the feathers in half and I prefer to stitch this line first. This gives you the foundation for your feathers. If you have trouble making a smooth curved spine line with your sewing machine—don't worry about it! When your feathered design gets completely finished, there will be so much "activity" along the spine line, no one will notice if it is not "perfectly" smooth. If you have a really hard time stitching this line, disguise it by stitching a second spine line over the first line and "wiggle" the second stitching line. This will make your spine line look like "ribbons" and give your quilting more "texture". See photo below right.

Note: The photo is of the Feathered Swag Stencil in the Longarm University® Feather Stencil Collection. This stencil is for illustration only. It is not used in this pattern.
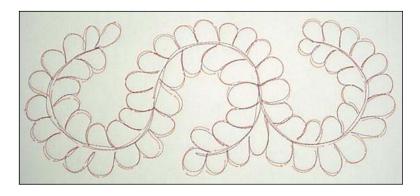

The "feather" part of the design can also cause some stitching problems. Don't worry if you can't get your stitching line on top of each other where the feathers are next to each other. Just move your stitching lines apart no more than 1/4 inch and you will be fine. In fact, I like the more "open" look this gives feathered designs.

Remember to relax, quilting is supposed to be enjoyable! Being a "perfect" quilter will NOT bring about world peace, nor will it make you loose a ton of weight or anything else.

One more thing to remember—FINSHED IS **ALWAYS** BETTER THAN PERFECT!

The photo at the left shows the stitching of the Feathered Swag. (See the note about this design on the previous page.) The quilting design was drawn in orange ink and then stitched over using dark thread. I didn't follow the marked line exactly, but when the marking is washed away, you will never know if my lines are not "perfect".

Hand Quilters, Home Sewing Machine Quilters & Table Top Quilting System Quilters

Refer to the Placement Chart on pages 6 and 7 and place the stencils as directed. Using your favorite fabric marking tool, draw the quilting lines on your quilt top. Use the seam lines as "grids" and trace your stitching lines through the slits in the plastic. If your stencil slips, spray a small amount of temporary quilt basting spray on the back of the stencil. I prefer to trace the small feathered wreath stencil first, then the larger feathered wreath.

After your quilt top is completely marked, if necessary, piece your backing fabric in your usual manner. Layer the backing fabric, batting and quilt top and either (safety) pin baste or hand baste the layers together.

Begin quilting the feathered wreaths by hand or machine in your usual manner.

If the edges of the drawn feather lines overlap slightly, just quilt the feathers of one wreath (it doesn't make any difference which one) a little "shorter".

When you are finished stitching the feathers, you need to decided if you are going to do "fill in" stitching on your quilt. Please refer to fill in stitching on page 8.
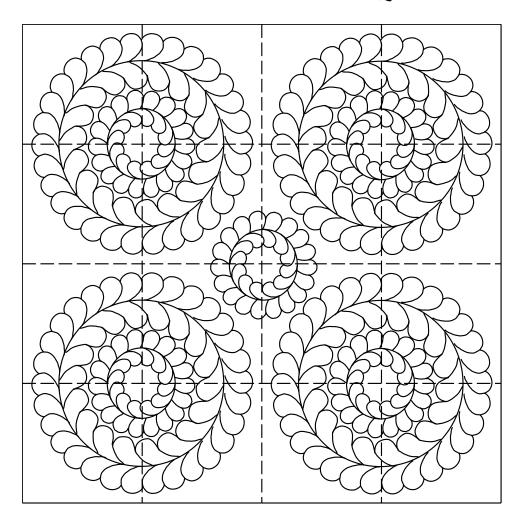
Longarm / Shortarm Machine Quilters

If necessary, piece your backing fabric in your usual manner. Place the backing, batting, and quilt top on your machine as you usually do. Refer to the Placement Chart **on pages 6 and 7** and place the stencils as directed on the exposed workspace of your machine. Use the seam lines as "grids" and trace your stitching lines through the slits in the plastic using your favorite fabric marking tool. I like to use spray chalk or pounce chalk to quickly trace the quilting lines. If your stencil slips, spray a small amount of temporary quilt basting spray on the back of the stencil.
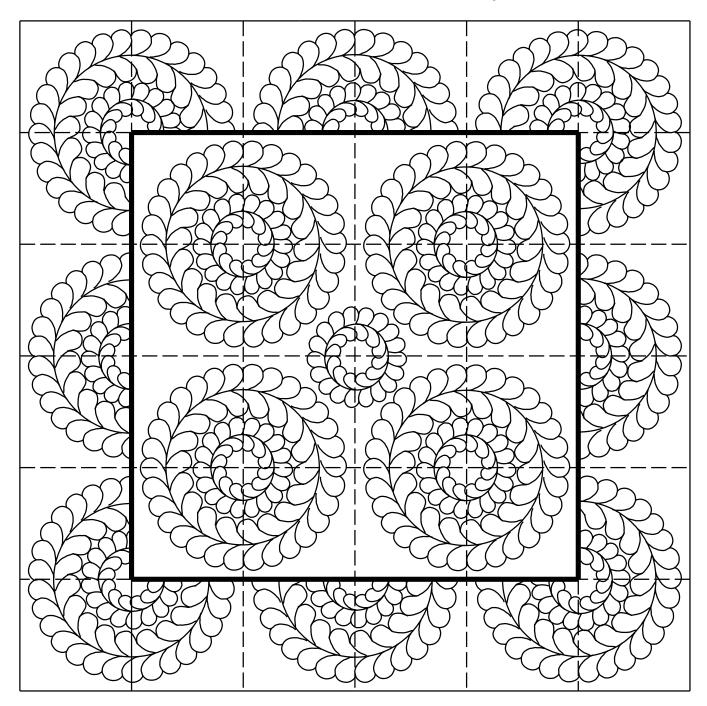
Begin quilting your feathered design working across your workspace. If the edges of the drawn feather lines overlap slightly, just quilt the feathers of one wreath (it doesn't make any difference which one) a little "shorter".

When the work space is full, advance your quilt and continue to trace and stitch the feathered wreaths. I prefer to quilt all the feathered designs first then do the fill in stitching. Please refer to fill in stitching on page 8.

Stencil Placement Chart — Small Quilt

Stencil Placement Chart — Wall Quilt

The solid dark line indicates the flange.

Draw only ¾ of the feathered wreath stencils in the corners.

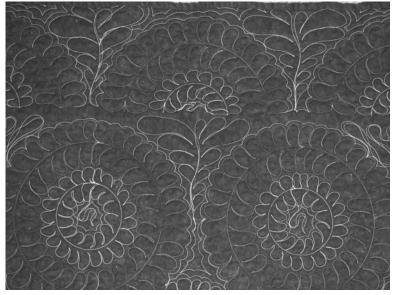Draw only ½ of the feathered wreath stencils in the center of the borders.

Fill in Stitching

I like to do my fill in stitching after all the feathered wreaths have been stitched. Actually, there is enough quilting that you may not want to put any more stitching on your quilt. But, if you are like me and your motto is "If there's an open space, fill it with stitching!", then you will want to put fill in stitching on the quilt.
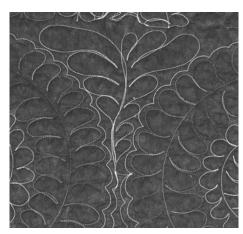
Because the spaces to fill in are relatively small, I prefer to do echo quilting. If you would prefer, you can stipple or use other fill in stitching designs around the feathers. If I have used contrasting thread in the feathers, I will change to a thread that matches the background. The matching thread will blend into the background fabric and "disappear" and all you will see is texture.

To echo quilt, begin someplace on the quilt, preferably in a "V" of a feather. Stitch about 1/4 inch away from the upper edges of a feather and continue making rows of stitching about 1/4 inch away from each other. Your presser / hopping foot is about 1/4 inch from the needle to the outside edges. Use your presser / hopping foot as a measuring guide. Fill each section of the quilt with fill in stitching until the quilt is finished.

When I quilted the quilt on the front of this pattern I used a combination of echo quilting around the feathers, ribbon quilting in the corners of both the border and body of the quilt. I also stitched free hand feathers to fill in the larger spaces between the feathered wreaths. See the photos below.

Detail of a free hand feather
between the feathered wreaths

The photo above shows many types of fill in stitching
including echo quilting, ribbons, and free hand feathers.

Detail of the upper right corner
of the Wall Quilt

Finishing Your Quilt

After the quilt is totally quilted, trim the batting and backing even with the raw edges of the quilt. Because the outer row of blocks were larger, you can trim into the quilted area if needed. Bind your quilt, and then throw it in the washer and dryer. If you have used a water soluble marker to mark your quilt top I would suggest soaking the quilt in cold water (no soap) for about twenty minutes to make sure all the marker is out of the quilt before washing. After soaking, wash the quilt with warm water. Dry your quilt as desired.

Pour yourself a cup of coffee, tea or your beverage of choice and stand back and admire your Fractured Whole Cloth Quilt. Pat yourself on the back and show off your quilt to all your friends and family. Graciously accept all their compliments.

I hope you have enjoyed making the Feathered Wreath Fractured Whole Cloth quilt
using my Feather Stencils.
I hope that this has been a FUN and CREATIVE experience for you.

I enjoyed designing this quilt and I know that there are many more designs
waiting to be created.

I would love to see any photos of quilts you have made using this pattern.