



Quilter's Playground

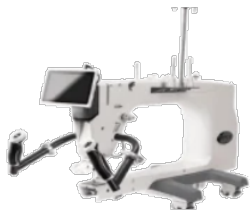
Back to Quilting Basics!

Learn, Play, & Grow with Grace Company

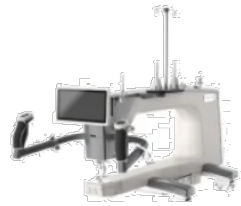


Understanding your Quilting Space-Set Up

Let's get ready to QUILT!



Grace 21X Elite



Grace 19X Elite



Grace 16X Elite



Grace 16X



Little Rebel



Mini Quilter



Q-Zone Hoop



Q-Zone Queen



Cutie Frame



Quilter's Evolution
Hoop Frame



Quilter's Evolution Elite Frame



Quilter's Creative
Touch 6

[SHOP PRODUCT](#)

Quilter's Creative
Touch 6 PLUS

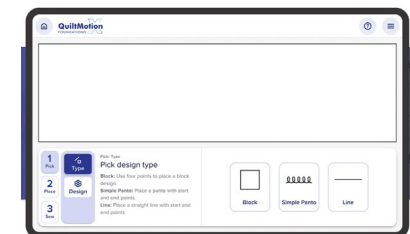
[SHOP PRODUCT](#)

Quilter's Creative
Touch 6 PRO

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Quilter's Creative
Touch GOLD

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Ask yourself some Questions

1. Define your Space Allowance- how much space do you have to work with. Or find out what you want then you will find the space. If we really want something we will find a way.
2. Define your Budget Allowance- when it comes to Budget there are a few ways to look at it this is an investment.
What can I spend on my Buy in.
Do I buy all in or invest over time with upgrades.
3. Define your Direction- is this just a hobby or do I want to make it a business.

These are the same Questions when it comes to Quilting each project.

Define your Frame space. Is the space you have side to side and front and back.

Define your quilt top measurement to cover the space this is imputing using the Measurements of your Quilt Top.

Define what your allowance is to help you set your design height. This is determined by your machine stroke (Arm) or (Throat).

Define your stitching path or how you want to quilt it out.

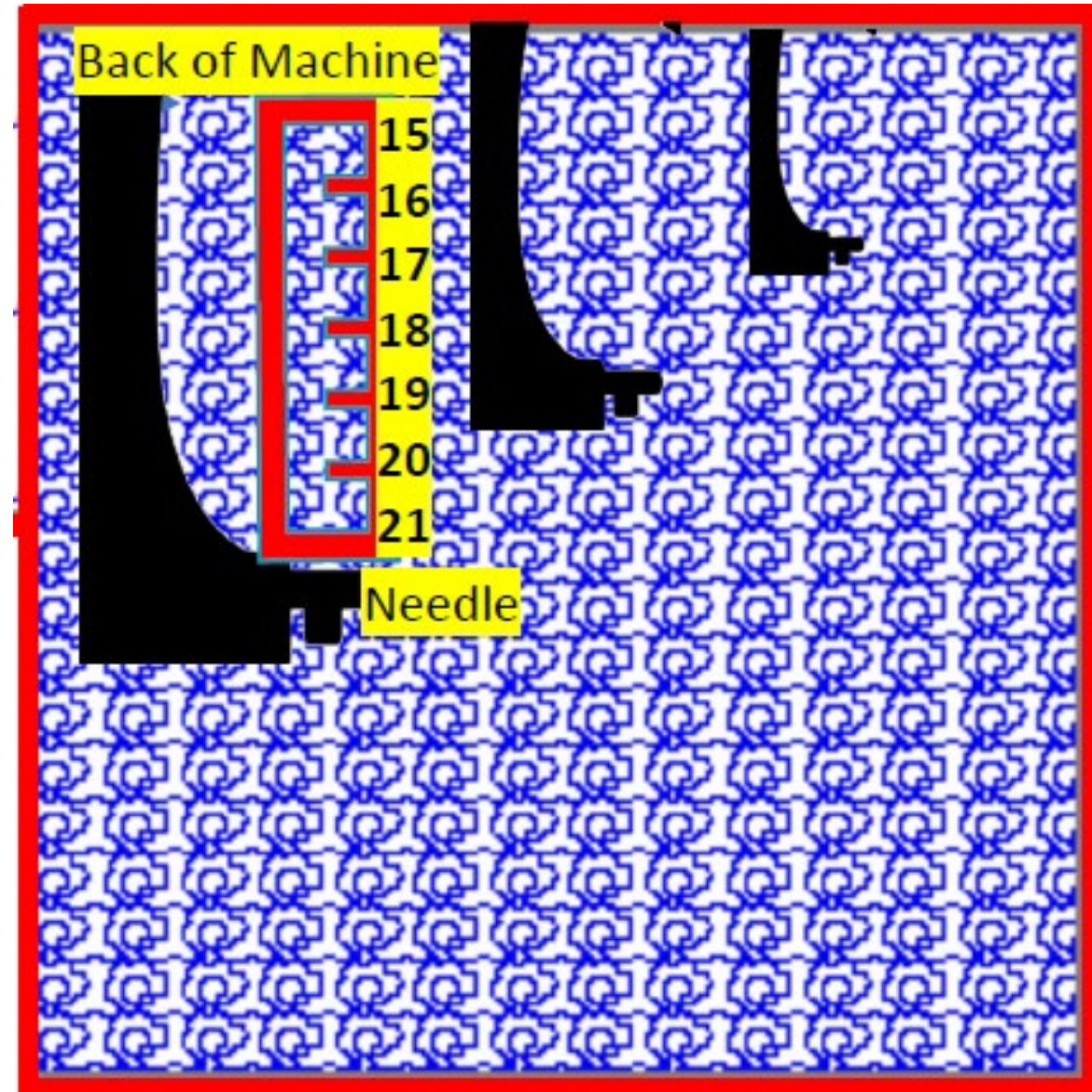
1. What style of Quilting:
 1. Automation Block - Select & Sew or Pantograph or both
 2. Off the edges or more Custom using blocks and borders
 3. Free Motion – Rulers and templates, Laser following pantograph, or Free Motion design
2. Design
3. Size
4. Spacing between the rows
5. Quilting Settings – SPI-
6. Zone Manager
7. Marking How to mark and why should I mark. Pen marking, Stickers or tape or thread
8. Moving or rolling the quilt for the next zone

Sizing and Software Considerations

Row height is determined by your quilting software (such as), calculated by taking the overall **pattern height** minus any overlapping **gap** between rows.

When setting up your design, keep these factors in mind:

- Throat Space Limitations:** On larger quilts, as the quilt rolls onto the take-up bar, your usable throat space decreases. To avoid bunching, you may need to drop down to a 10" prime or smaller pattern for the final rows.
- Extended-Width Designs:** Some patterns are imported to span a large default width 120" prime and should be clipped or trimmed on the sides to fit your frame. Adjusting the pattern's scale proportionally adjusts the height.



How large of a quilt space will I have? This is determined by throat of your machine. Make sure that your design height will work from top to bottom with your machine. You will lose a bit of space on the hoops but not as much as you will on the rolling frames.

Pantograph sizing for your machine

Throat Space Pantograph size

9–12-inch 1 row of 3.5-inch design

13-Inch 1 row 6-inch design or 2 rows of 3-inch designs

14–16-inch 1 row 7-inch design or 3 rows of 3-inch designs

19-inch 1 row 7.5-inch design or 3 rows of 3.5-inch designs

21-inch 2 row 7.5-inch design or 4 rows of 3.5-inch designs



Start with a simple design and does not cross the stitching lines or your stitching lines are close together.

The denser your quilting design is it will be harder to keep from crossing into the designs already quilted.

Common Digital Quilting Pattern Heights

- **Small/Dense Designs 2" to 3"** Great for baby quilts or adding dense, intricate texture without overwhelming the piecing. Use a smaller stitch or higher 13-15 SPI.
- **Medium/Standard Designs 4" to 6"**: The most common size for edge-to-edge quilting on throw, twin, and full-sized quilts. Medium SPI 11-13 SPI.
- **Large Designs 8" to 12"** Ideal for king-sized beds or quilts with large amounts of negative space. 9-10 SPI.

Computerized quilting pattern heights typically range from 2" for dense, intricate fills to over 12 for large edge-to-edge pantographs. The ideal size depends on your machine's throat space and personal preference, with common scaling benchmarks detailed below.



What stitch length do you use when quilting?

Stitch Regulation: if you know the design you will move the machine faster so raise the SPI.

If you are learning a design or using templates, pantographs lower the SPI because you will be moving the machine slower.

You can max out the machine keeping up with you if you move it to fast that is where the overspeed can come in handy.

You will generally lose about **3% to 5% of your quilt's overall dimensions** (or about 1 to 2 inches per foot) during the quilting process. This loss happens because the thread, batting, and stitching pull the fabric inward, causing a shrinkage often referred to as **drawing up** or **take-up**.

Key Causes of Shrinkage

Stitch Density: The closer your quilting lines are together, the more the fabric will draw up, resulting in greater size loss.

Quilting Pattern: Dense meandering, free-motion designs, or heavy straight-line quilting pulls the layers in tightly, shrinking the surface more than a light, open stitch design.

Batting Type: Thicker battings or those made with 100% cotton fibers will shrink and puff up.

Washing: When the finished quilt is washed, the cotton fabric and batting typically shrink up to 3%, resulting in the desired cozy, "crinkly" antique look.

Tips for Managing Quilt Spacing: Understanding how to manage spacing helps you achieve the correct density to keep the batting secure without stiffening the quilt.

1. Follow Batting Guidelines: Every brand of batting has specific recommendations for maximum spacing. Leaving large unquilted areas can cause the batting to shift or bunch up over time.

Cotton Batting: Usually requires quilting every 2 to 4 inches.

Polyester Batting: More forgiving; can often handle spacing up to 6 to 10 inches apart.

Wool Batting: Benefits from closer, 3 to 4-inch spacing.

I'm Shrinking!!



Quilting CHANGES the quilt.

Not *only* in an "it's not a quilt until it's quilted" way, not *just* for beautification,

but in a **real-deal** the top was 50" x 50" and now it's.... *smaller* kind of way. 🙄

We call it shrinkage, fabric draw, draw-up, and probably other names, too. It all refers to the way that quilting will cause the top to shrink inward.

I like to offer this comparison: like drawing on a piece of paper. As we draw the paper does not shrink in size. The ink doesn't change the wood's density or size.

As digital quilters, we aren't just overlaying a design, we are embedding it into the top and through the layers of batting and backing with thread. Each thread, although tiny, takes up space and changes how the elements are configured.

The more stitches we quilt, the more drastically we can shrink the overall size of the top. The loftier the batting or the more layers used (double-batting), has a greater impact on fabric-draw than if using a thinner batt. The density of the pantograph, the sizing or scale of that design, the thickness or fiber content of the fabric, the weight of the thread, the tightness of the thread tension... all of these different elements come together to influence the final quilted result.

Yet, we as digital quilters often have an expectation that the repeated digital design *should* fit exactly the same way from the first pass to the last pass. It's frustrating when it doesn't happen because it causes the spacing between the motifs to be inconsistent or heaven-forbid, the stitching lines could overlap. We're using a computer; it should be exact! My perspective—and I admit that being a digital pantograph designer influences this—is that the digital design *is* exact, however, it's the quilt that changes *as we quilt it*.

We want to deliver *perfection*, I get it.

Actual perfection is impossible, though, so let's instead frame our end-goal this way:
How can we best mitigate inconsistencies?

Here's a list of things to consider for designs that require precise alignment:

- **Consider a different design.**

This is kind of a joke, but also kind of not. If you are still learning your equipment and aren't confident in your ability to get the rows aligned properly, try a different design with some room for error. The pressure will be off, especially if you are quilting for a customer. Remember, YOU are the boss of the designs you offer. Don't list the tricky ones on your website until you are ready for the challenge or until you've had the opportunity to test it out on a practice quilt to gain confidence.

- **Increase the scale of the digital design.**

If you can bump up the scale of the design without making it look weird, go for it. The larger the design, the less dense it'll be and the less shrinkage you'll have.

Pre-quilting checklist remember to:

- ☐ 1. Gather all your accessories and tools you will need for quilting (needles, bobbins, threads, etc. . .)
- ☐ 2. Clean your tracks and wheels on your carriage and frame (wipe down to remove lint, threads and dust with water)
- ☐ 3. Check your machine cords (are plugged in and plugged into correct ports plus giving you free movement of the carriage)
- ☐ 4. Check your machine Mobility (make sure you can move your carriage side to side front to back)
- ☐ 5. Oil your machine (oil the hook assembly every other bobbin change and remember to stitch off excess oil before quilting on your quilt)
- ☐ 6. Clean & thread your machine thread guides and disc (clean the guides and check for lint and burrs in the guides and disc as you are threading)
- ☐ 7. Change needle (use correct size needle for the thread weight)
- ☐ 8. Replace and check bobbin (check bobbin tension)
- ☐ 9. Check hopping foot height (use hopping foot height gauge to adjust)
- ☐ 10. Check machine tension (sew off and check stitches both top and the bottom of quilt sandwich)
- ☐ 11. Check automation belts (check top belt on machine and bottom belt on frame tighten if loose or disengaged)
- ☐ 12. Measure quilt top (measure the width and the height/length plus the border measurements as well if any)
- ☐ 13. Attach quilt layers or quilt sandwich to frame (backing, batting, then top)
- ☐ 14. Adjust take up rail and front fabric rail height (space a finger width distance from bottom plate of machine and check both ends of frame)

Quilting using Automation does not mean you don't have to do anything. It is there to assist and help you achieve the desired look you want on your quilt. Even Tesla's automated driving system is primarily divided into two tiers: **Autopilot** (for highway driving and basic cruise control) and **Full Self-Driving (Supervised)** (for more complex navigation on city streets and residential roads). Both require the driver to remain attentive and keep their hands on the wheel!

You oversee helping the automation know where the quilt is located inside your frame space. Setting the Safe Area!

Settings for the Automation – speed, SPI, how it will quilt.

Picking designs – design height and spacing.

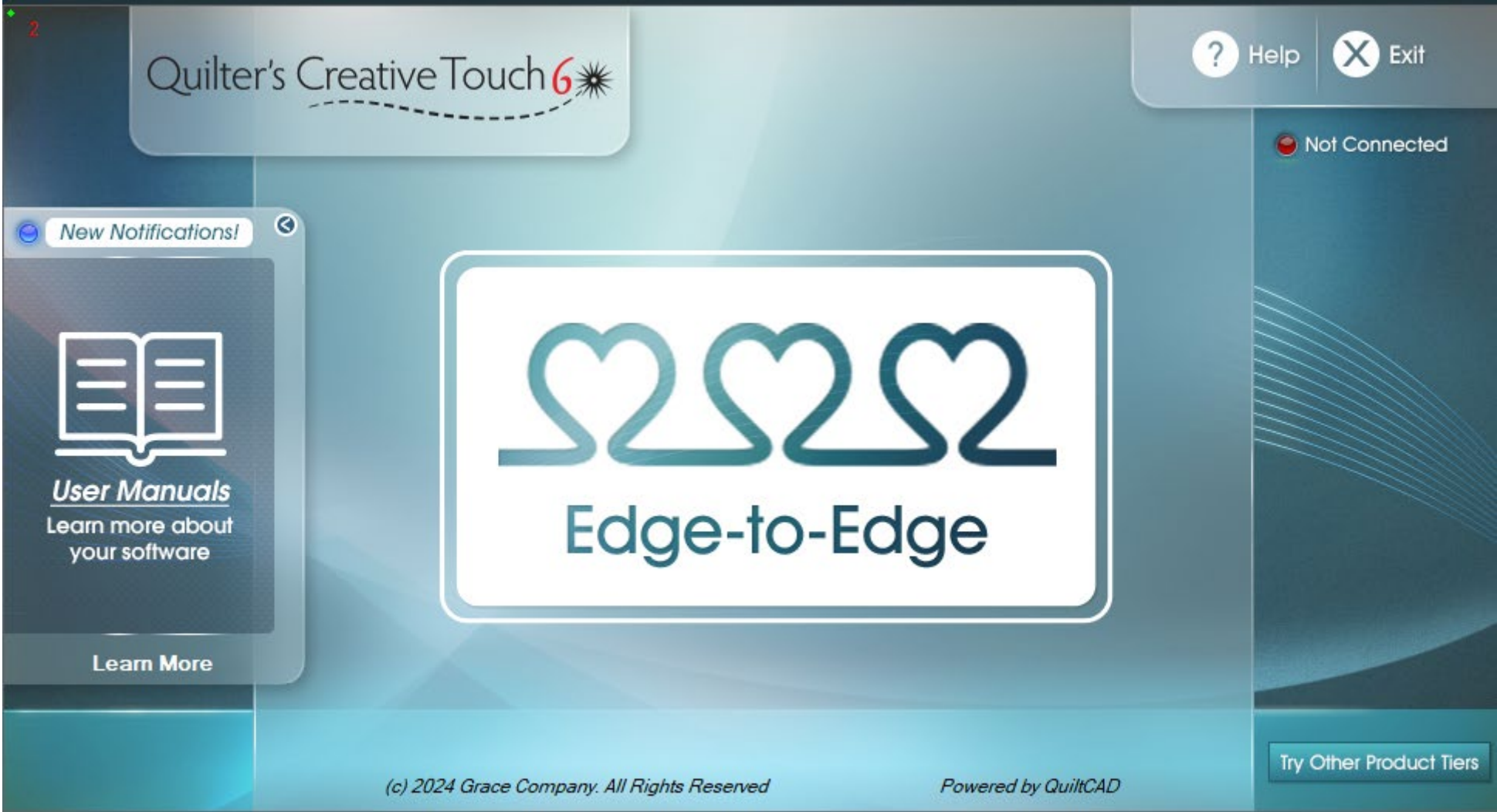
Placing designs – where you want the design to quilt out on your quilt.

Marking for next section.

Rolling or shifting to the next section.

Replacing the designs for that next section.

Tacking down the edges of your quilt!



Quilter's Creative Touch 6

Help Exit

Not Connected

New Notifications!



User Manuals
Learn more about
your software

Learn More



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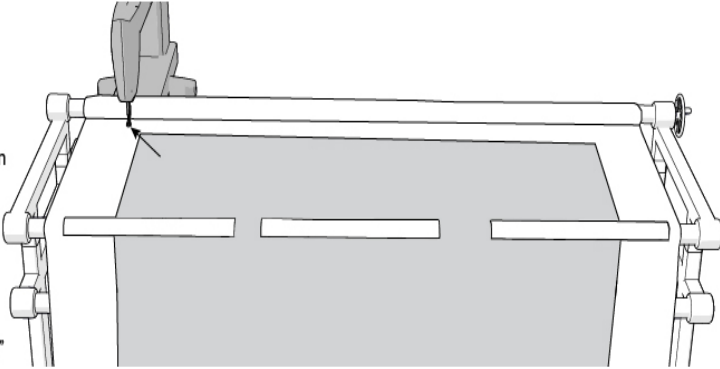
Powered by QuiltCAD

Try Other Product Tiers

Move the needle so it is **8 inches** from the left side of the frame and **2.5 inches** from the take-up rail. If the needle is over **backing** or **batting**, press "Top Left."

If the needle is over the **quilt top**, reposition your **quilt** so the needle will be over backing or batting. Then press "Top Left."

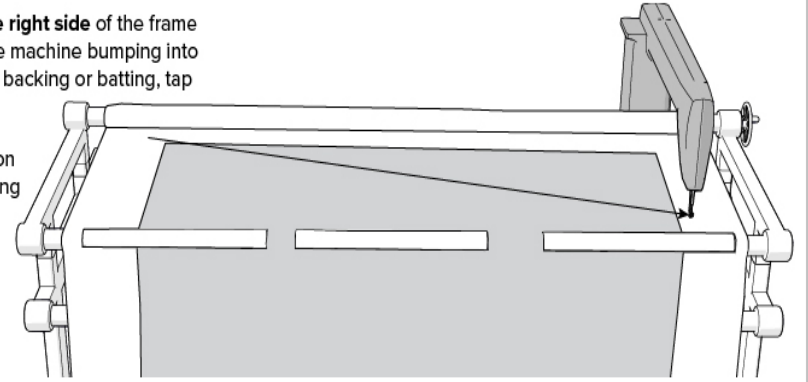
If the needle is over air, keep moving the needle further from the left until it is over backing or batting (but is still 2.5 inches from the take-up rail). Then press "Top Left."



Move the needle so it is **8 inches** from the right side of the frame and **as far forward as it will go** without the machine bumping into any of the frame rails. If the needle is over backing or batting, tap "Bottom Right."

If the needle is over the **quilt top**, reposition your **quilt** so the needle will be over backing or batting. Then **restart QCT6**.

If the needle is over air, move the needle further from the right until it is over the backing or batting (but still far forward). Then press "Bottom Right."



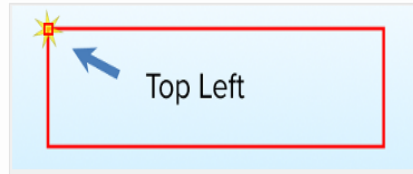
Set the Safe Area (top left corner)



Help ?

Set Safe Area Top-left Corner

See instructions in the image above.



← Back

Set the Safe Area (bottom right corner)



Help ?

Set Safe Area Bottom-right Corner

See instructions in the image above.



← Back

Select a Design

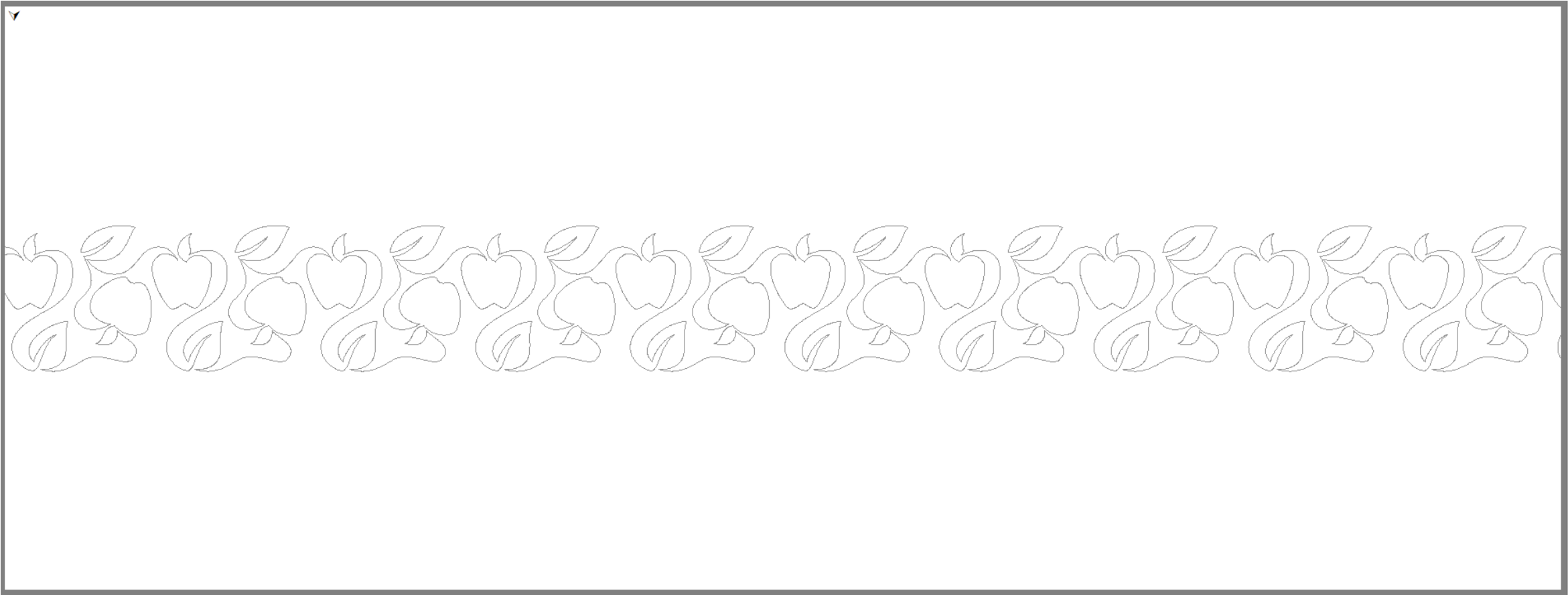


Choose a Design



← Back

Next →



Edge-to-Edge Design Height



Help ?

Set Design Height

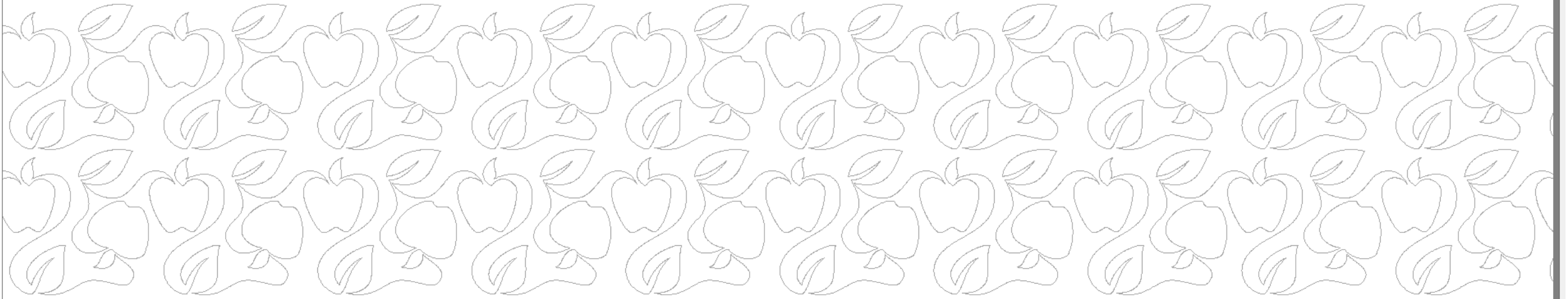
RESET

Set the height of the edge-to-edge design
in inches.

← Back

− 7 1/2 +

Next →



Set the Row Spacing



Help ?

Adjust Row Spacing

Set the spacing between the rows in inches.

← Back

Next →



Set the Row Spacing

Help ?

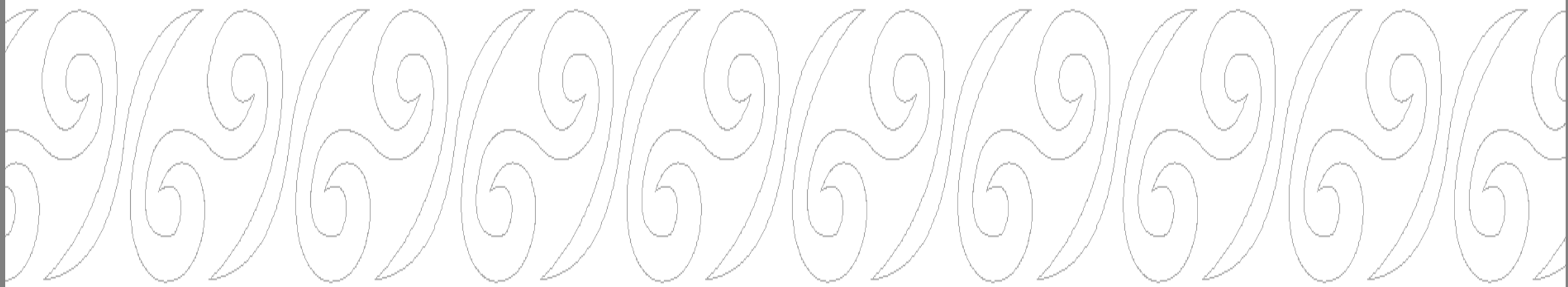
← Back

Adjust Row Spacing

Set the spacing between the rows
in inches.

− 0 +

Next →



Make sure you
have

Quilt Top Edge Selection



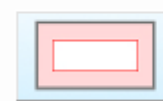
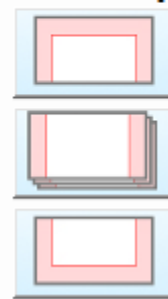
Help ?

Warning

Tack down your quilt top edges
before making your selection.

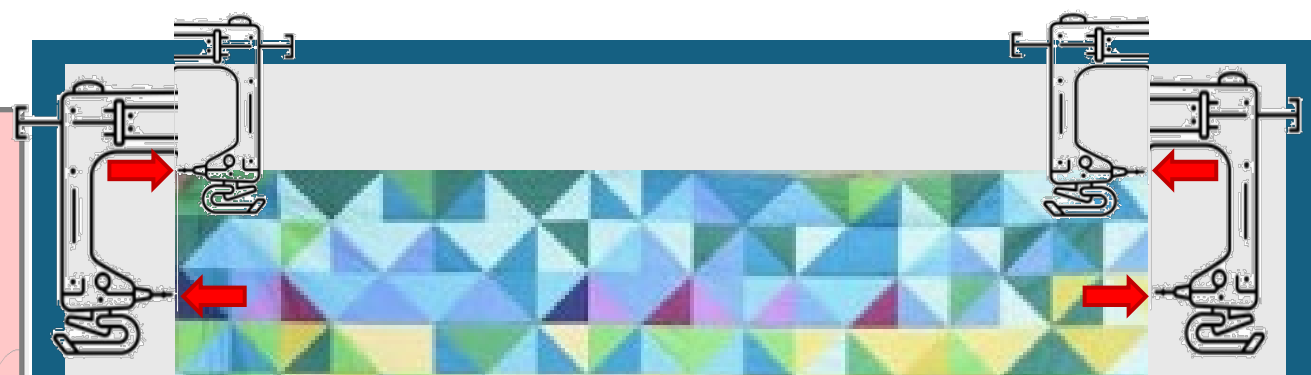
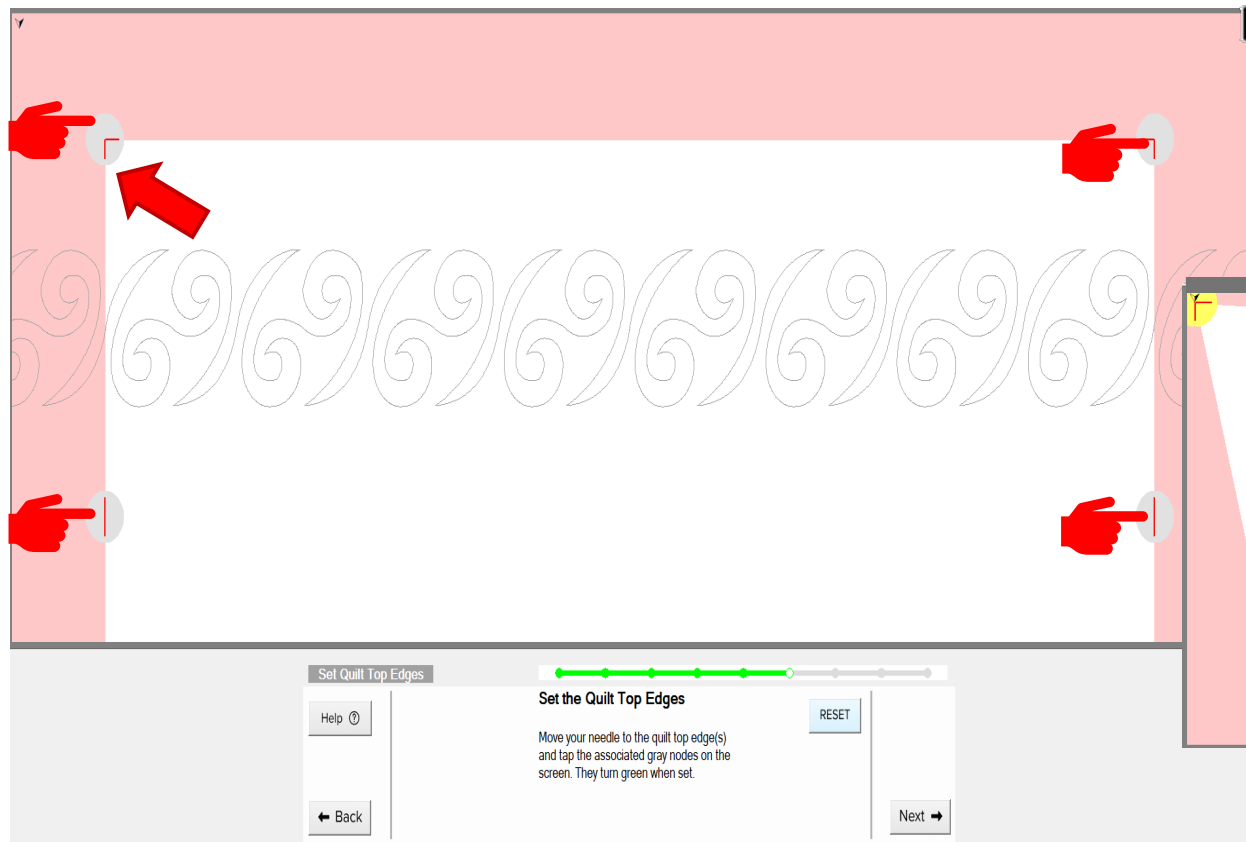
Tap the image that matches
the section of your quilt top
inside your frame.

Select Quilt Top Edges



(This is for projects that fit entirely
within the safe area)

← Back

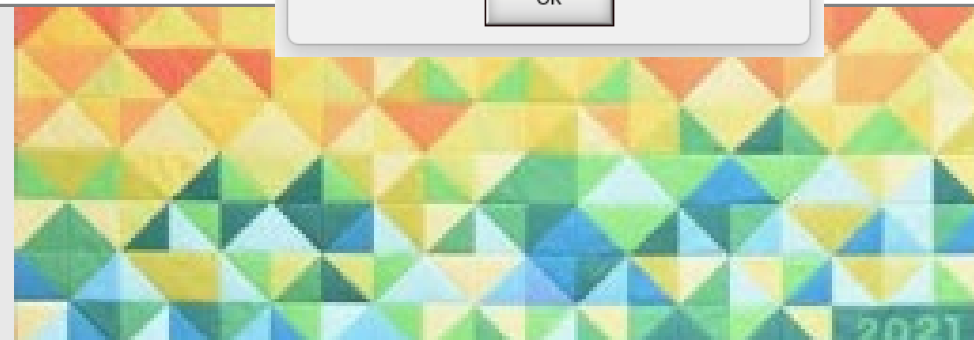


The Gray border is the Safe Area boundaries you set. This warning and it is just that a warning that you are not 2" away so when it auto places the design you will need to replace it lower on the next screen after you set your edges and tap on next.

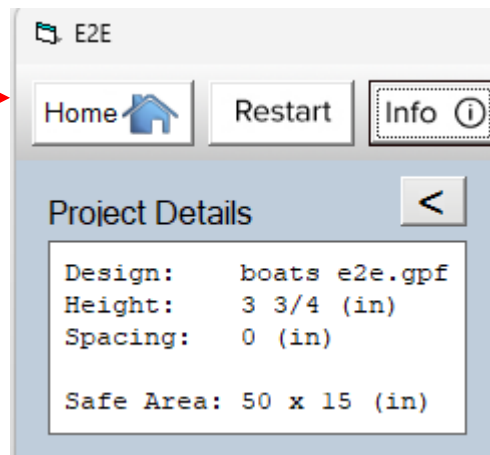
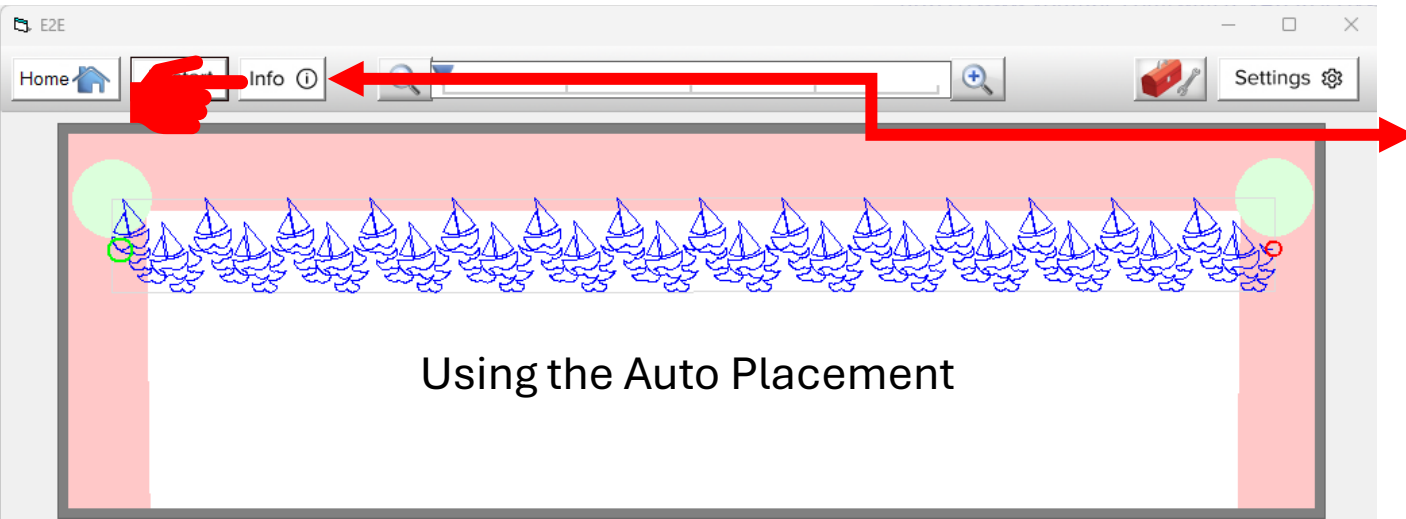
Warning

The top edge of the quilt top must be at least 2 inches below the safe area top edge.

OK



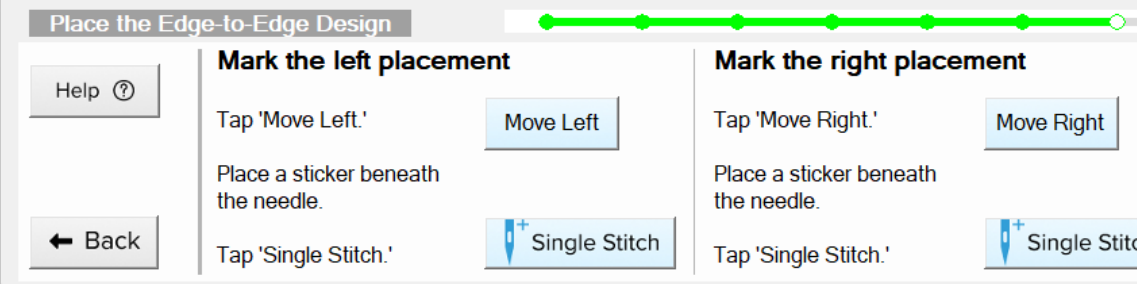
Move the machine and tap on the corresponding node. When you set the edges of your quilt top the automation will then Auto place the design for you off the edges for you as you will see on the next screen. You can replace the design if you want lower or if you don't get this message then use the auto placement.



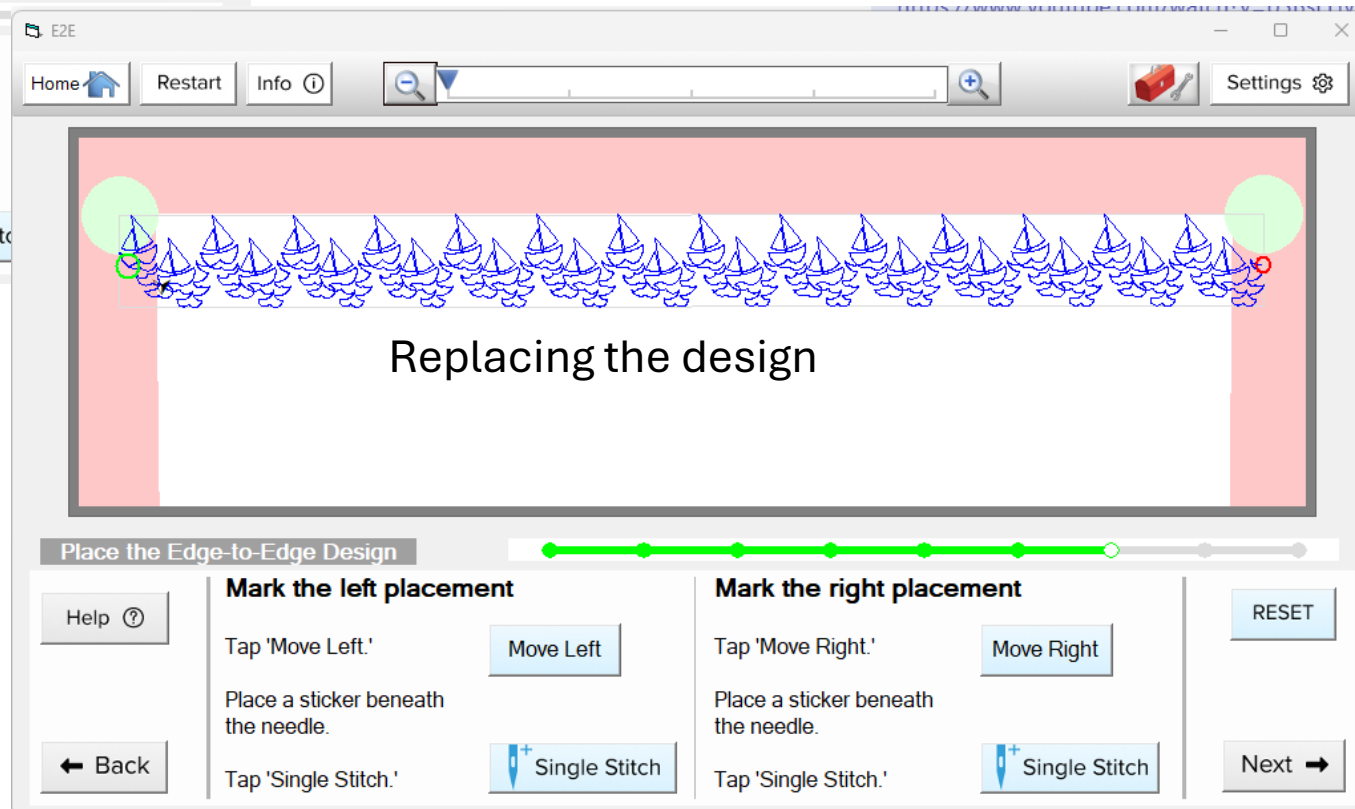
Tap on the Info button at the top of your screen to access the:

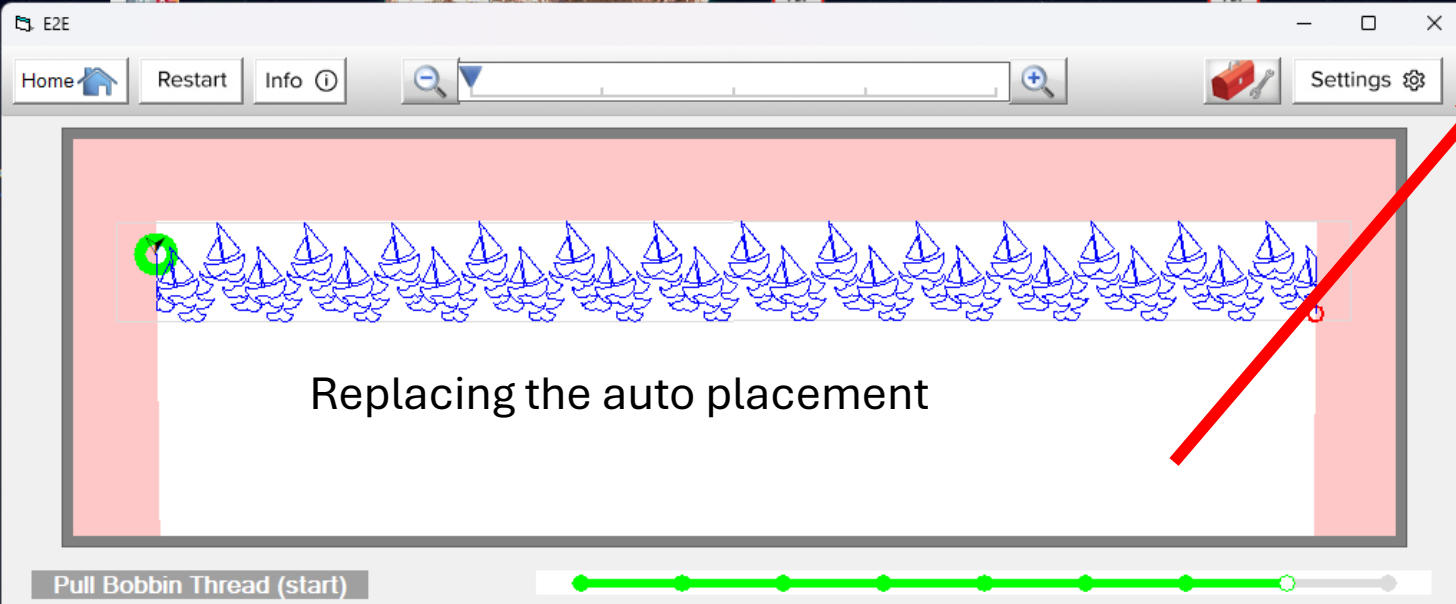
Design
Height
Spacing

used and either write it down or take a picture of the information before shutting down for the day.

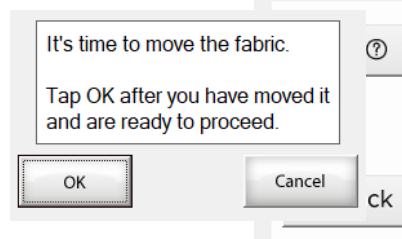
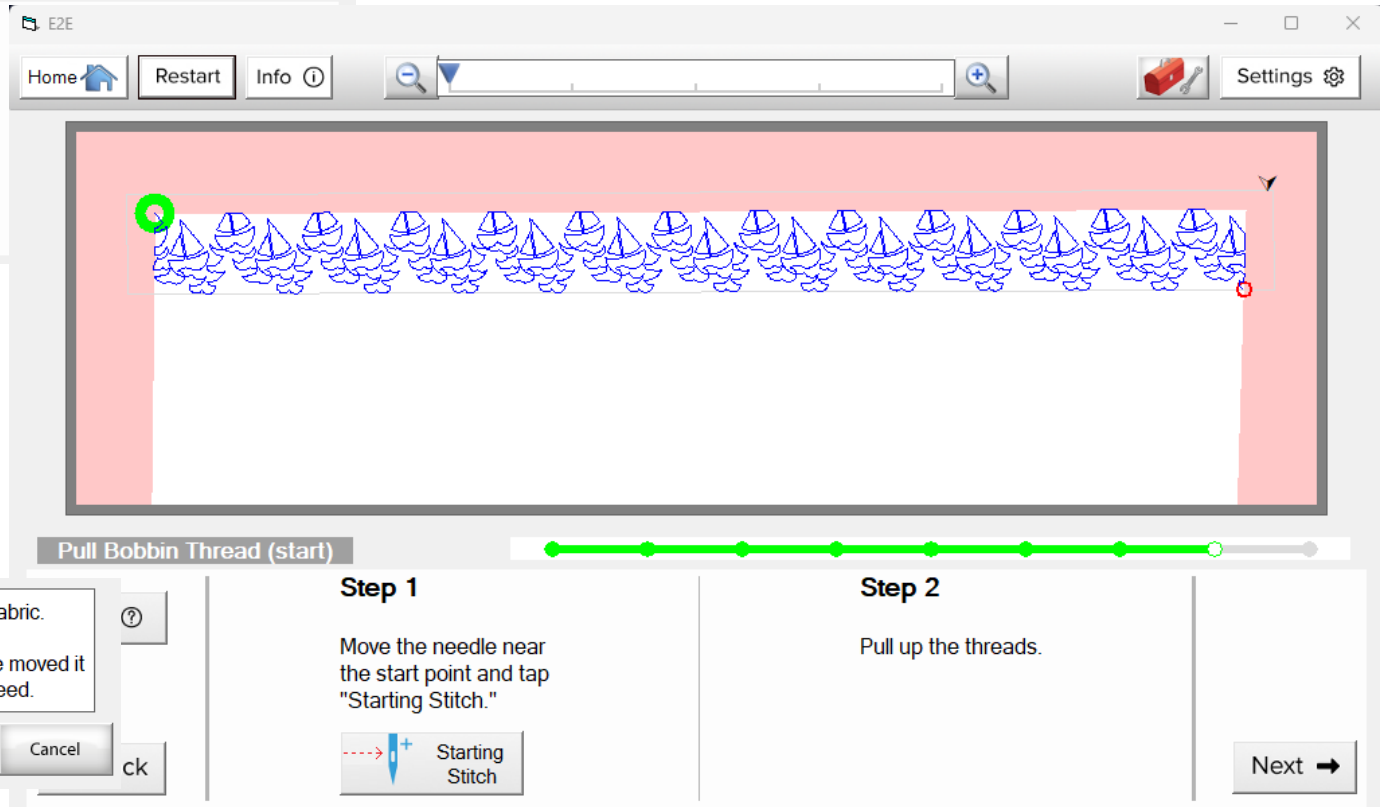
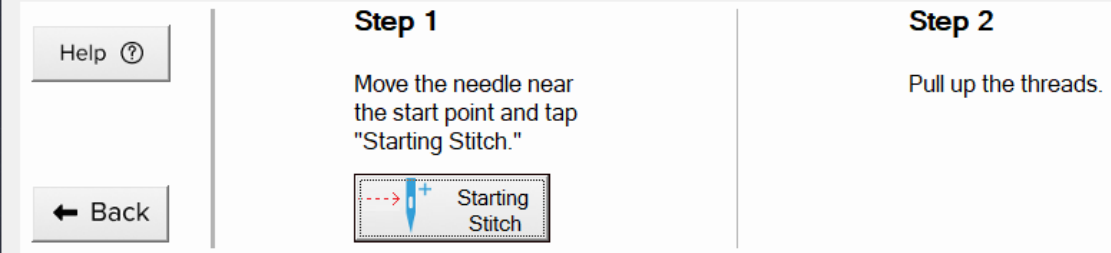


Make sure that you mark your placement markings as you go across and down your quilt. These markings are to help you set up the next section and will also save you if your automation shuts down for any reason.



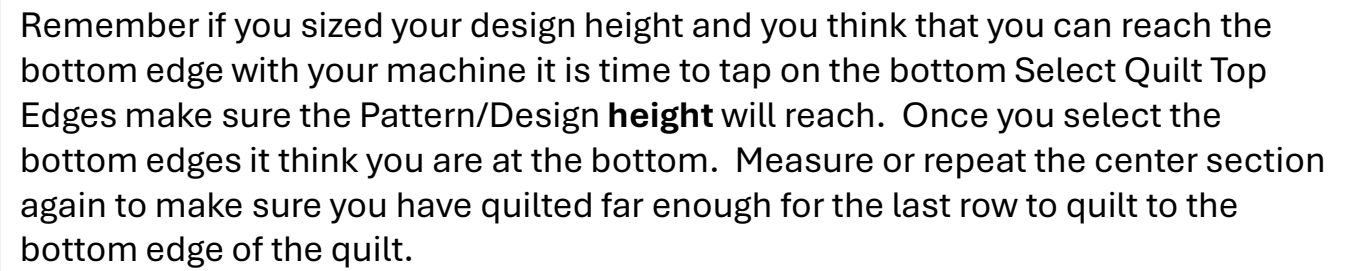


Pull up your threads and quilt out your design. Once you have completed quilting the first section pull up the threads once again. Before you Roll, Shift, Take off you Quilt Clips that hold the quilt, Remove Bungees or anything to you quilt Mark for the next section the Automation will show you where those placement marks should be located. You are in charge of the first Placement marks if you don't use the auto placement after that the automation knows where they should be located.

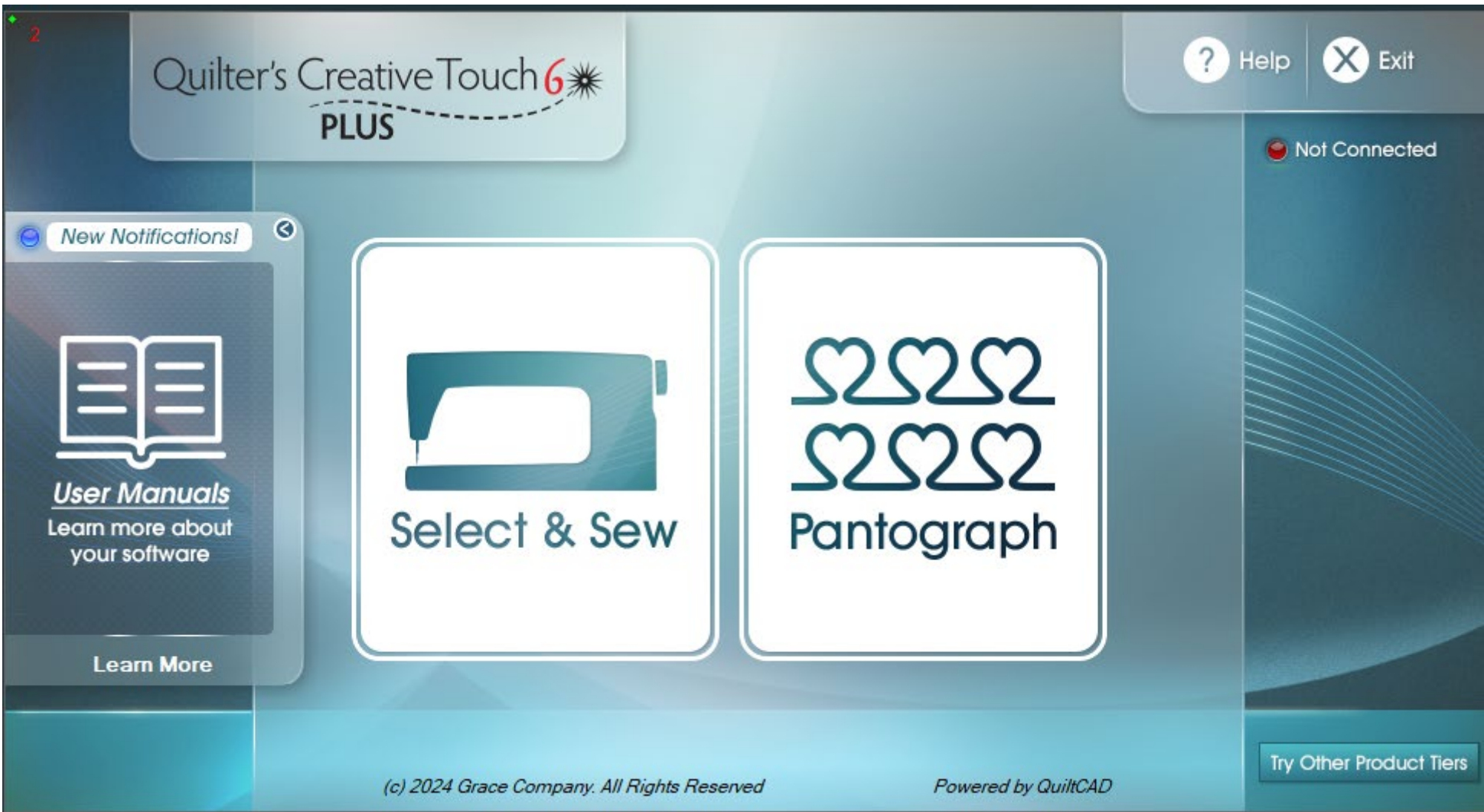


Auto placement places the design off the quilt top edges. You can replace inside or on the top left corner but make sure you like the looks of the design and the empty gaps at the top because it will not look the same at the bottom.

Remember: you will be able to quilt as many rows as possible that will fit inside your safe area on your quilt top. A message will appear after you have marked for the next row explaining that it is time to move your quilt to the next section. Now you can remove the Quilt Clips and remove the Bungees.



Once you choose the bottom edge if the design does not reach it will think it is the bottom edge. The automation thinks you are done and completed the quilt, so you won't get more rows.



Quilter's Creative Touch 6
PLUS



Help



Exit



Not Connected



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Select & Sew



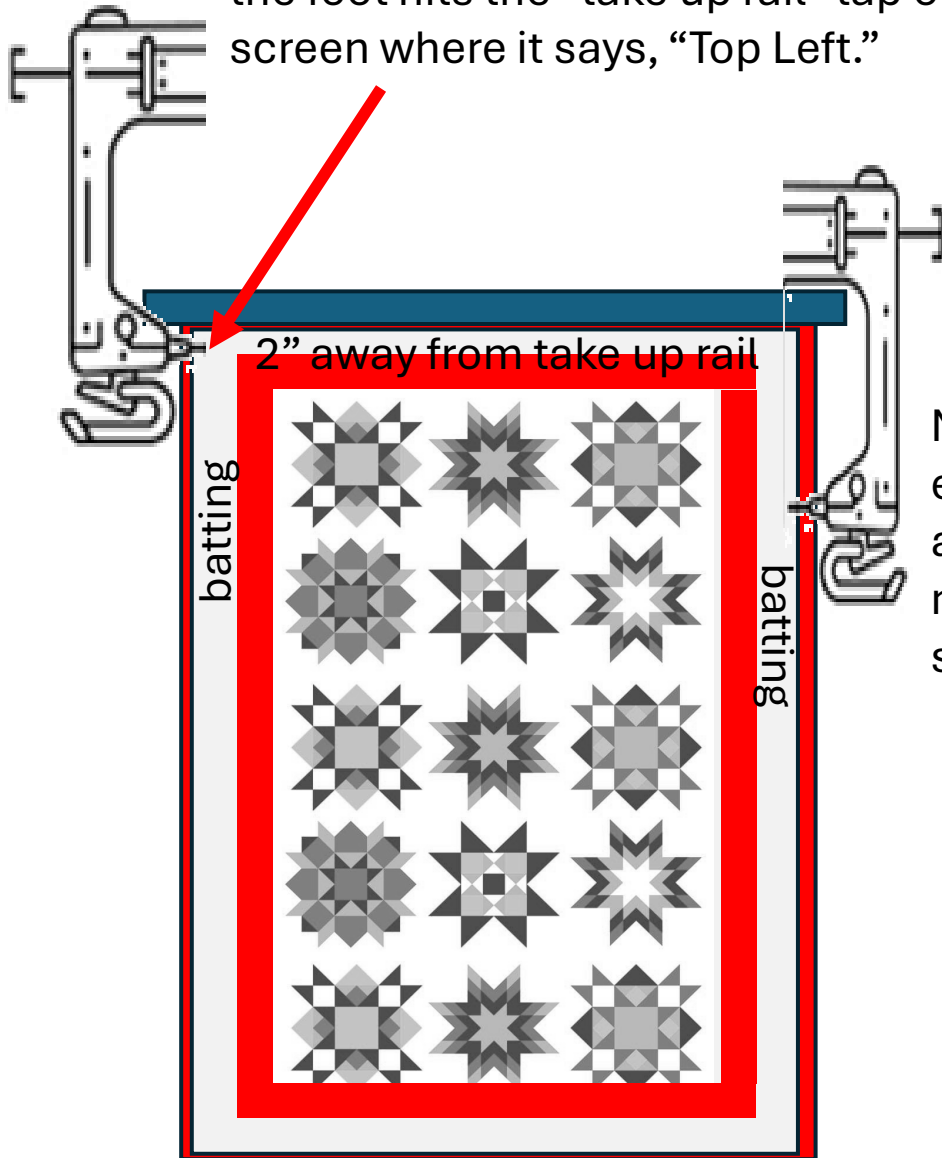
Pantograph

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Try Other Product Tiers

Move the machine off the quilt top edge onto the batting 2-3" away from the quilt top left corner until the foot hits the "take up rail" tap on the tablet screen where it says, "Top Left."



Move the machine to the right and off the quilt top edge onto the batting again 2-3" onto the batting and pull the machine forward until the back of the machine hits the "take up rail" tap on the tablet screen where it says, "Bottom Right."



Use the measuring tool Ruler to help you create the perfect pattern height.

Select Pattern

Patterns

1

+

Rows

1

+

Row Height	
28.5	
Pattern Width	Pattern Height
0	0
Total Width	Total Height
80	28.5

1 2 3

4 5 6

7 8 9

Select Row

↑

↓

All/None

Alternate

Fit

Size

Move

Reset

Stagger

Flip

Rotate

Step

Medium

Place as a Single Pattern

Sew in Zones

☐ Sew Thru Clipped

Row: 1

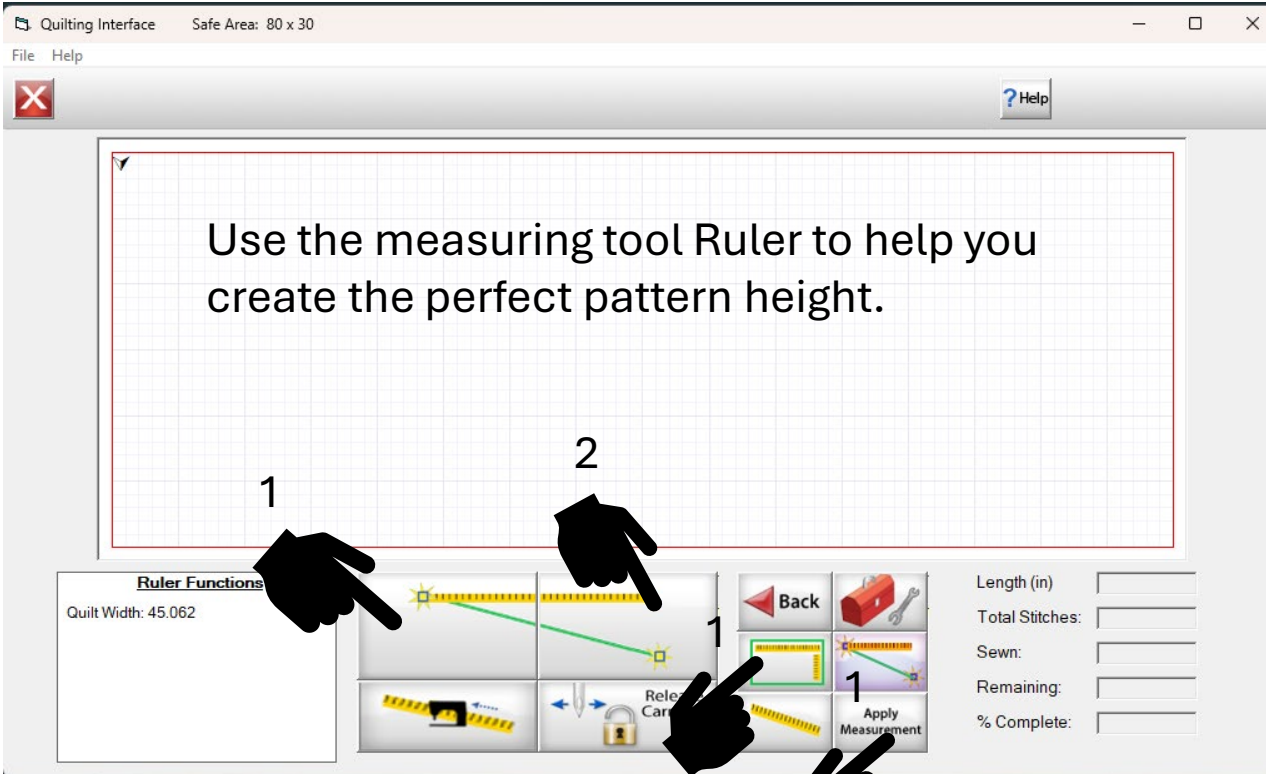
''

nest-fit

Wrap:H

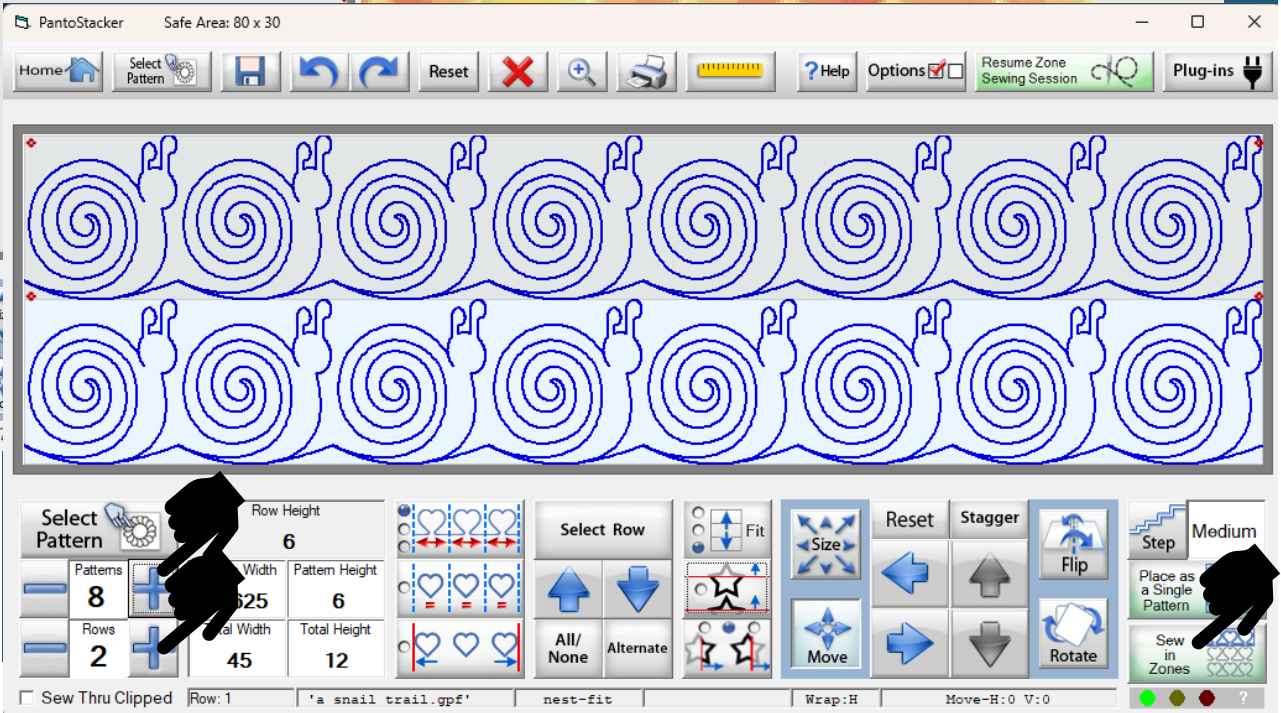
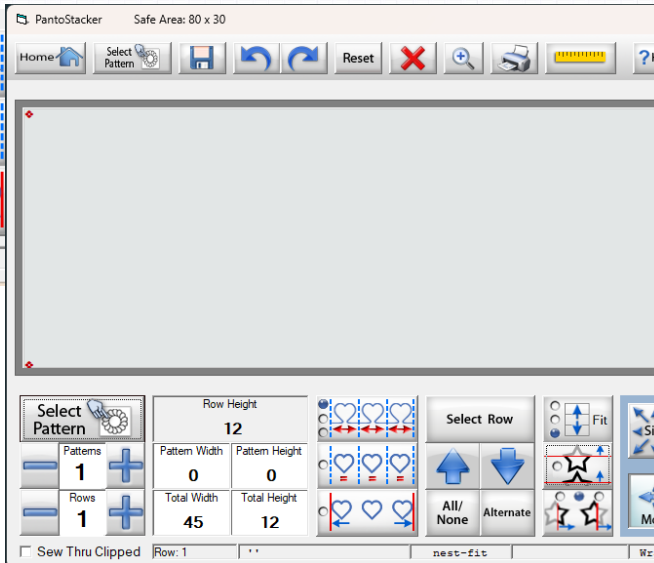
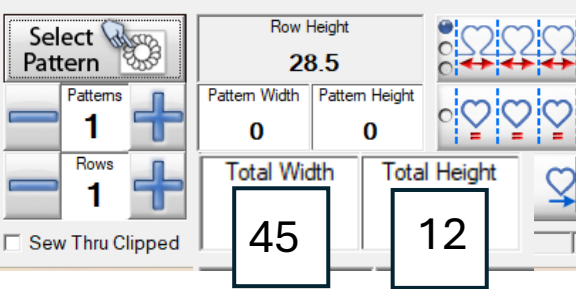
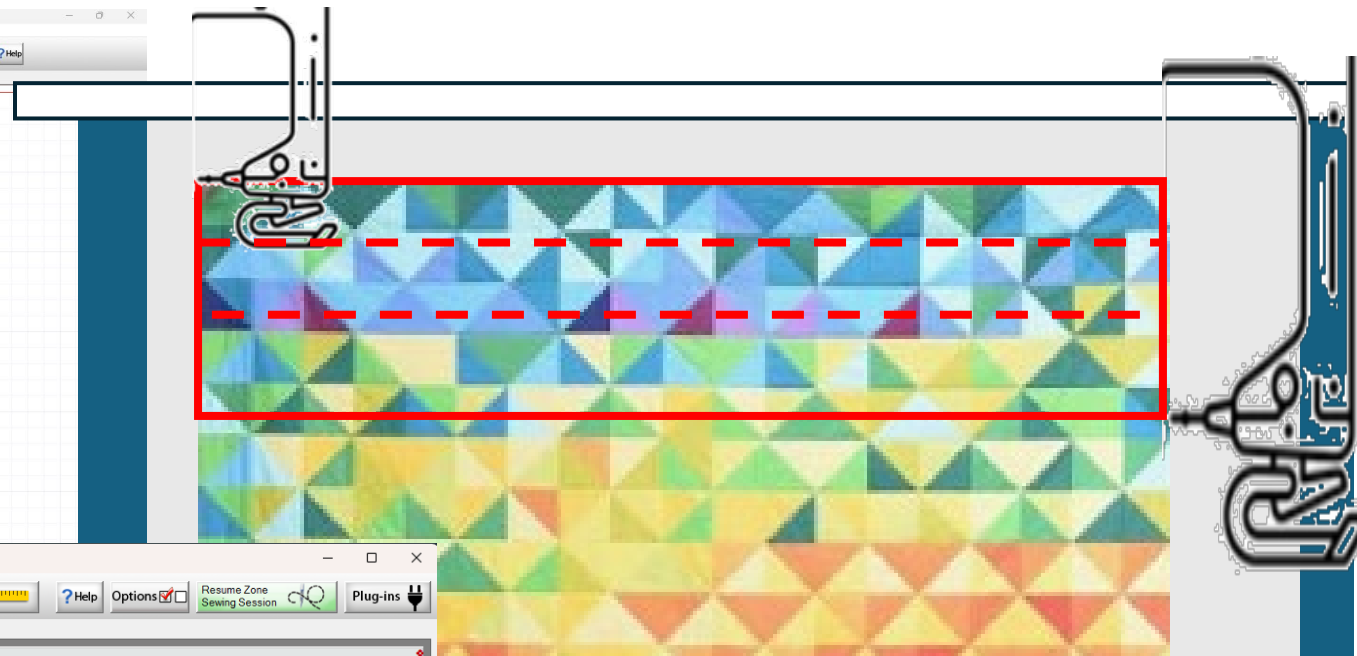
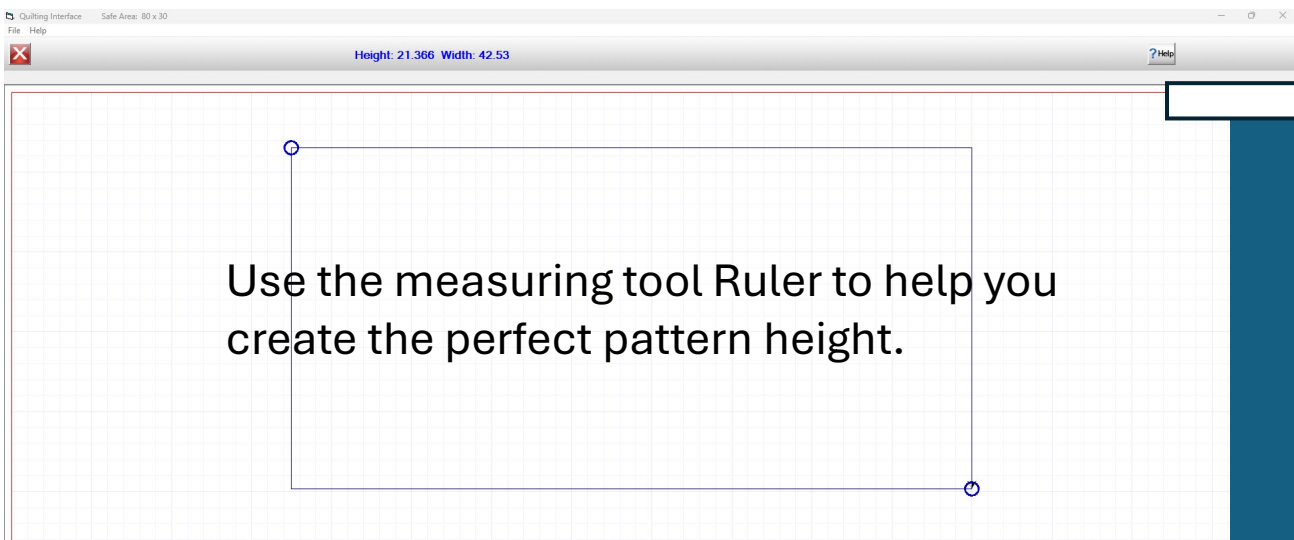
Move-H:0 V:0

?

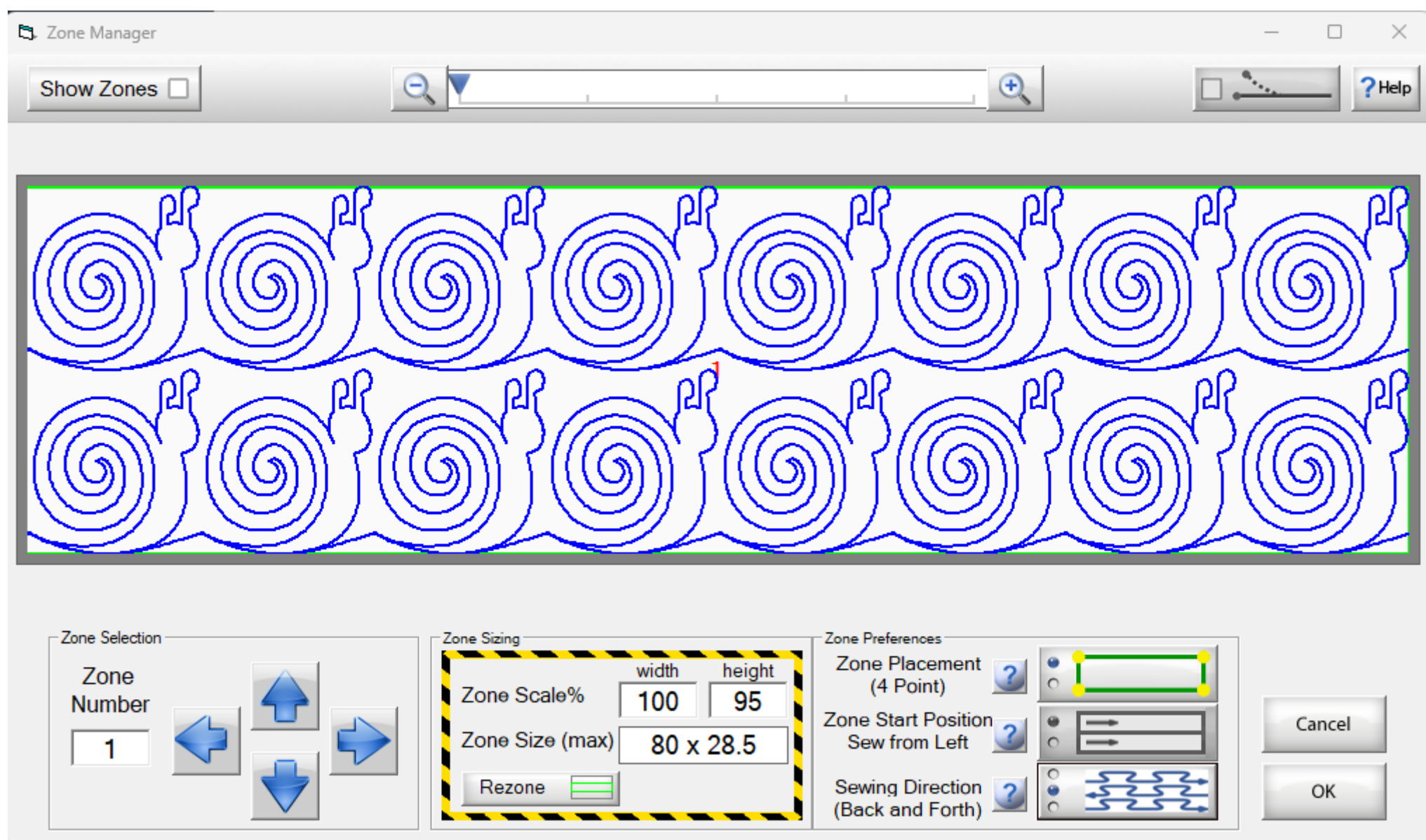


1. Move your machine to the top left corner of the quilt top and tap on the left side of the ruler button.
2. Move your machine to the right edge and pull towards you until your machine hits the Take Up Rail.
3. Tap on the Area Ruler.
4. Tap on Apply Measurements.

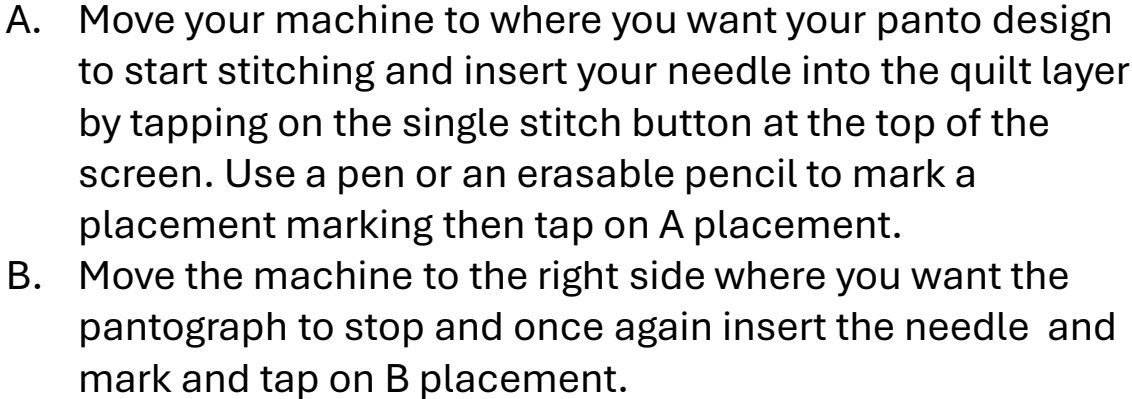


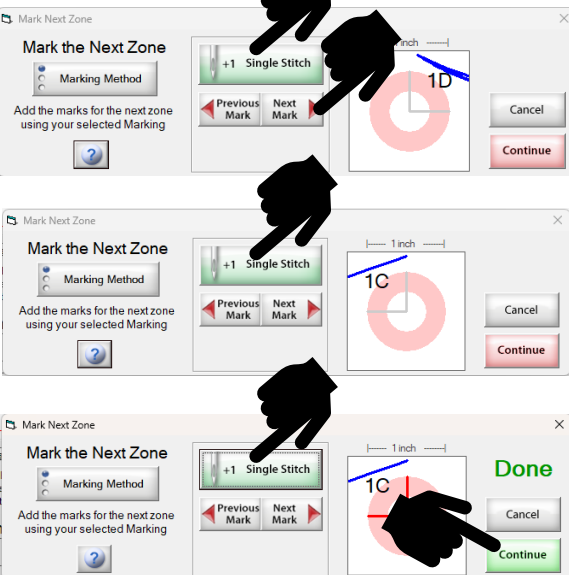
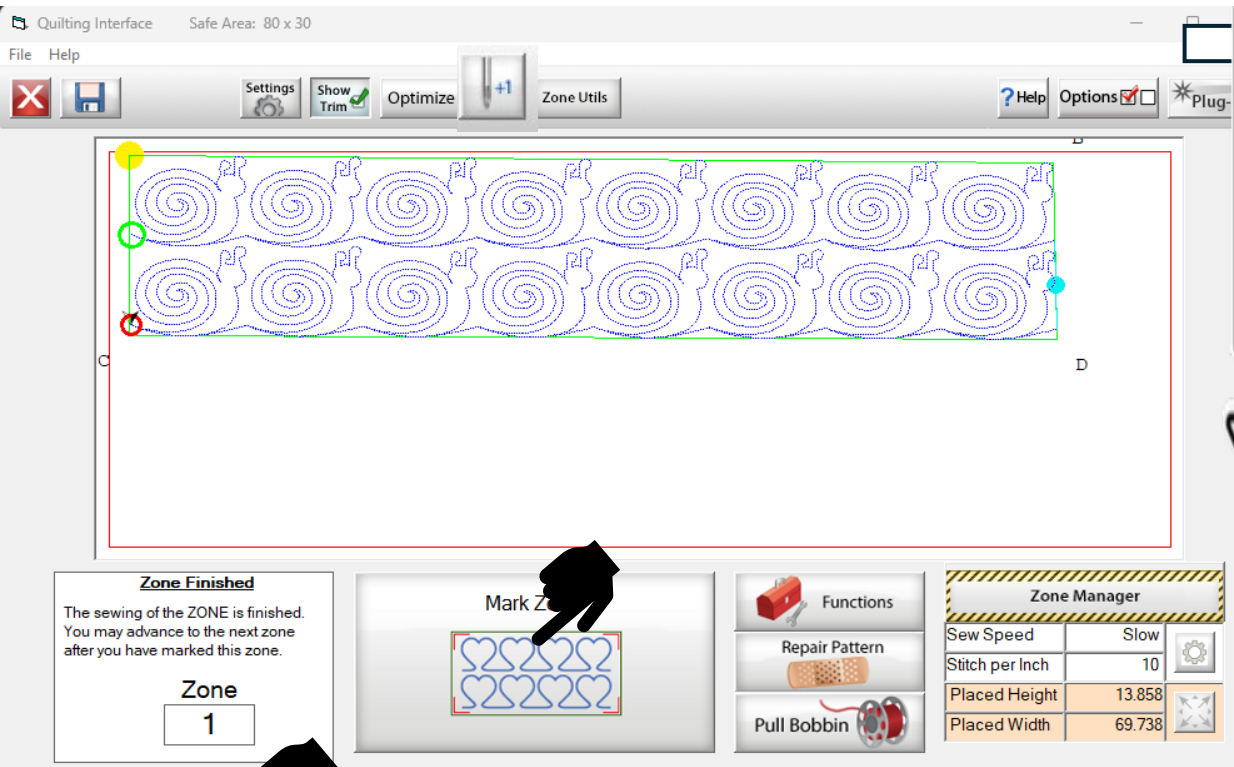


After you have your rows and height chosen, then tap on Sew in Zones. Save your Design in case you don't finish quilting.



Zone Manager is how you want it to quilt. Use 4-point placement and choose the appropriate sewing direction for the design.





Tap on the button that says Mark Zone. The machine will move to where you can mark by tapping on the Single Stitch button and then with your pen or erasable pen mark for A placement. Once you have marked then tap on next mark and the machine will once again move to where you will use the single stitch and mark the B placement. If you have more placements then continue to mark once you see a green continue button, you have completed marking all of the placements you can shut down for the day or roll and continue quilting the next zone.

