

Creating Blocks with No Sew Zones for Applique

By: Linda Lawson
www.blueribbonquiltco.com

Note: This is the same introduction as in my Pattern No Sew Zone Mini-Manual, so if you've already read about the Jump Stitch Thresholds, you can skip this part. The next update you will have the ability to select your thresholds on the fly as you're setting up your pattern. Until then, use this information below.

Preplanning the Jump Stitch Thresholds

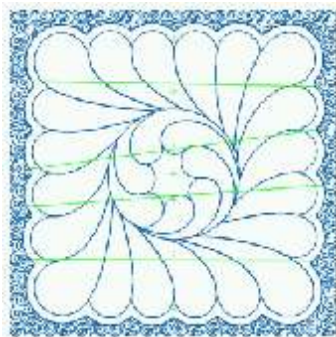
First of all, you need to go ahead and plan out what you intend to use for both your background and your applique shape. By doing this, you will be able to determine what you need to set your jump stitches at.

Jump stitch threshold settings are found in your Utilities menu. We have **Clipping** and a **No Sew Jump Stitch Thresholds** that we'll need to pay attention to.

The **Clipping Threshold** is to determine the jumps at the edges of the block. In other words, where we are clipping it to sew at. If we do not want jump stitches here we need to make sure it says "no jump stitch." This will cause the IQ to stitch a continuous line at every breaking point around the outline of the block. If we do not want it to do solid stitching at every break, we can set the clipping jump stitch to .15 or something very low. Then it will jump at every break that is larger than .15. So the rule here is to use a very small number if you want it to make sure it takes jump stitches at every break. If you don't want any jump stitches then set it to "no jump stitch." Normally in this area, it's a cut and dry situation, you either want jumps or you don't.

The **No Sew Jump Threshold** is where a little more planning needs to be made. We need to look at our design and decide what the shortest distance is that we want it to stitch continually. If you want it to stitch on the contour line in small sections as it's stitching the pattern, then you will maybe want to set this at about .5 - 1.00 or even as high as 1.5. If you set this to large, you might get a continuous line stitching on the corners of your applique or pattern. So this measurement takes a bit of tweaking to set right. If you can find the sweet spot in this measurement it will eliminate most of the unnecessary jump stitches. Below are some examples of a block set up right (with the right measurement for jump stitches inserted) and one set up wrong (with the jump stitches all wrong).

Since these jump stitch settings need to be made beforehand, you might find your self setting up your design a few times in the beginning until you get the hang of these settings.



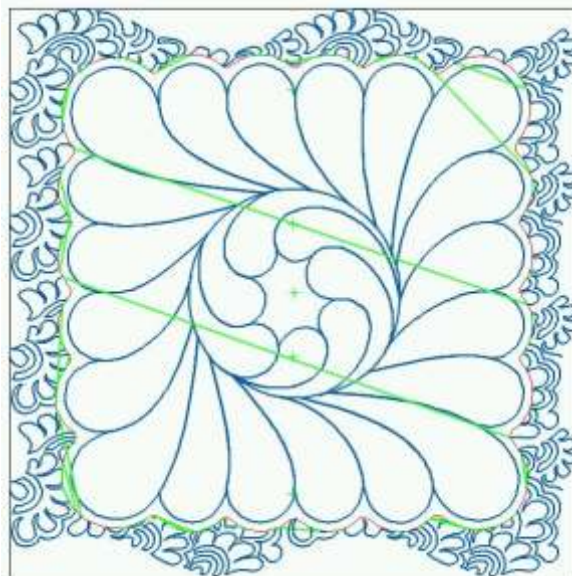
Notice this picture has nice clean edges around the wreath with no jump stitches. My **no sew threshold jump** was at 1.5



If you look close at this picture you will see lots of jump stitches all along the edges, creating a lot of stops and starts. My **no sew threshold jump** was at .01.

Picking out the best patterns to use for the fill.

Choosing the right patterns can make or break your designs using this feature. Please keep in mind we will not be micro stippling with our IQ's. Doing very intricate designs for backgrounds takes lots of time. They not only take time to set-up, but also to stitch out. Remember, the more detailed a pattern is, the slower you need to set your IQ speeds. Because of this, some backgrounds can take as long as 10 minutes to get done. Some patterns also can create a lot of pattern shifting. The rules still apply when it comes to fabric movement, thread tensions and other variables playing a part in a successful stitch-out. If the pattern has too much detail to it, and you need to use it for a huge block, you might be better off free handing the background.



Another factor in picking our patterns out is whether or not they are interlocking, and if we want or do not want stitching on the edges of the blocks. Most of the time we will not want any stitching at the edges of our block. I don't think we could ever get it to come out to land in the right place, so it's probably best to try and pick a pattern that will look good without it. Not very many patterns look good with jump stitches on the edges either. What I found to work best are patterns that work best for pantos with borders. I talked about these in a video I did a while ago and the same principle works for these blocks. If you pick a pattern that is not interlocking, sort of square and you can turn the clip off easily when setting up, I think you'll be pleased with the results. The edges of the block will now have completed repeats sitting there and no need for any jump stitches. The only time there will be a jump stitch is when it goes from row to row inside the background.



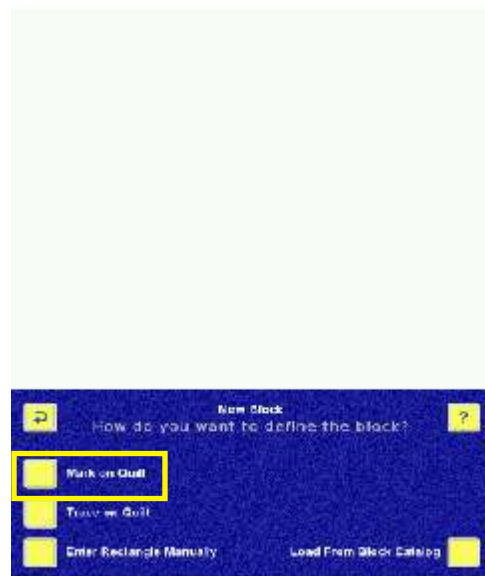
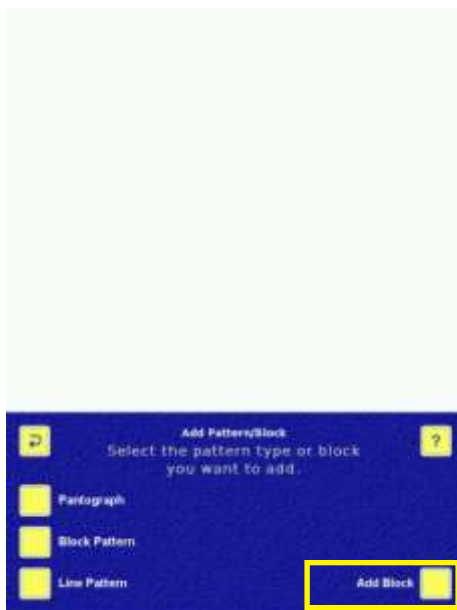
Take a look at these examples. The one on the top is an interlocking pattern and the one on the bottom is not. Both of them non-clipped when setting up, but notice the interlocking one being left with gaps of non-stitched areas. The pattern that is not interlocking has nice smooth edges on the sides. Also notice how the edges of the block does not have any jump stitches on the non-interlocking pattern.

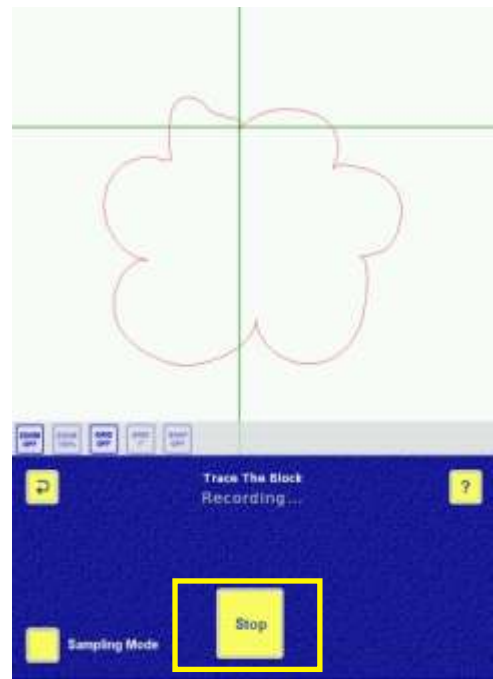
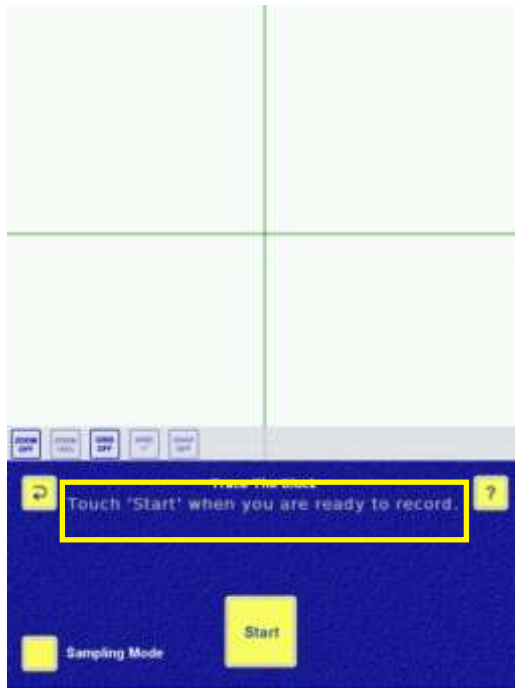
The Stitch-Out

And the last thing we need to discuss before going onto the actual instructions for the No Sew Blocks is the stitch out. Just like with any other stitch-out, there are a number of things to consider. We now have a dense background fill that we need to place in the right spot. What I have found works best is to stitch the contour (will discuss how to do these later on) out first to stabilize the fabric. Make sure you have your fabric nice and tight and try and eliminate as much fabric movement as possible. If this were paper, it would be easy and we wouldn't even have to have this discussion, but this is fabric. Fabric moves period. Thread tension can draw fabric in various ways and so there will never be a "perfect" stitch-out. One of the ways I have found successful is to make a contour pattern around the actual pattern, about .25 or .30 away from it. This gives us some fudge room and makes the design appear to fit in better.

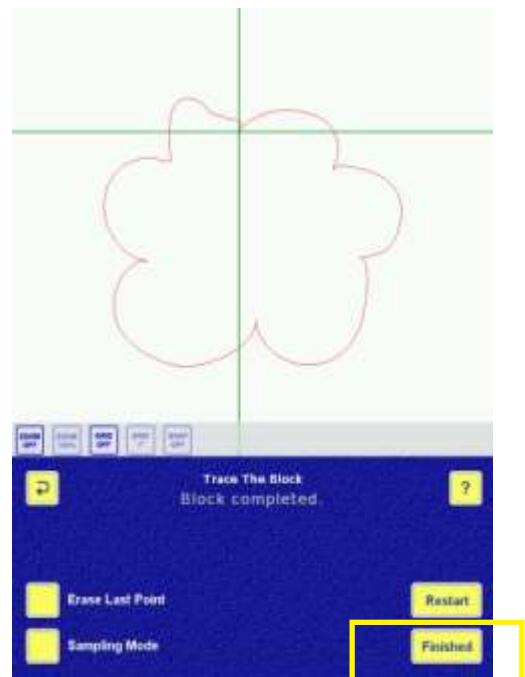
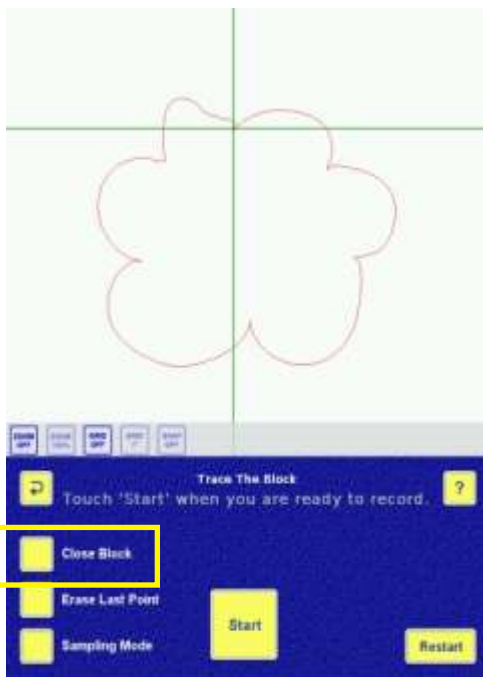
Steps for Making a No Sew block for an Applique Shapes.

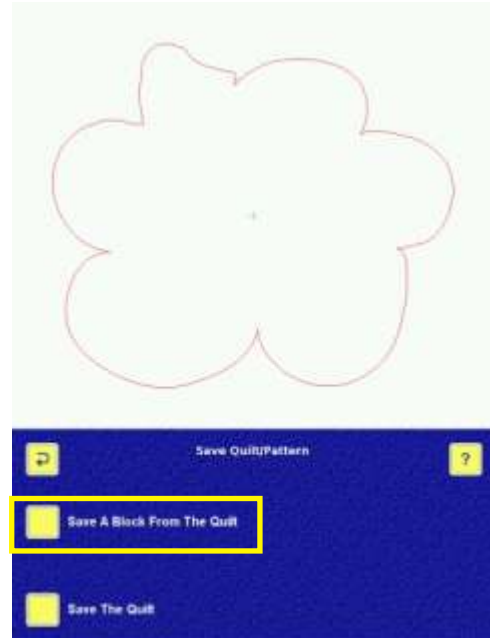
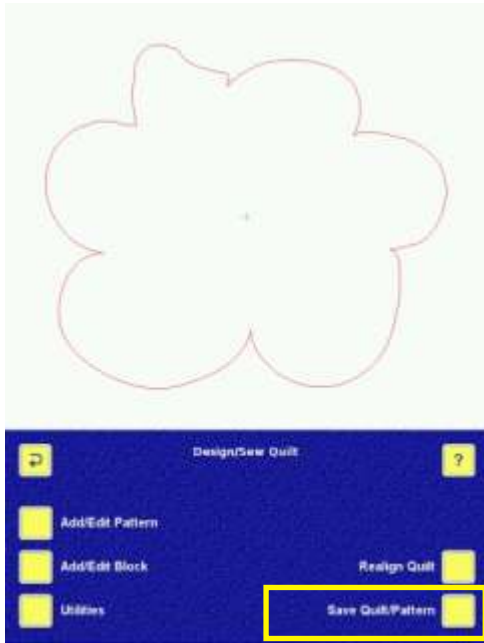
Here I will go through the screens for you to follow along with your own tablets.



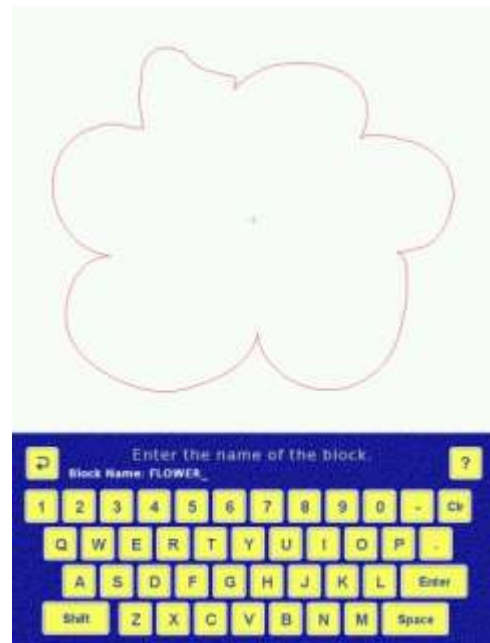
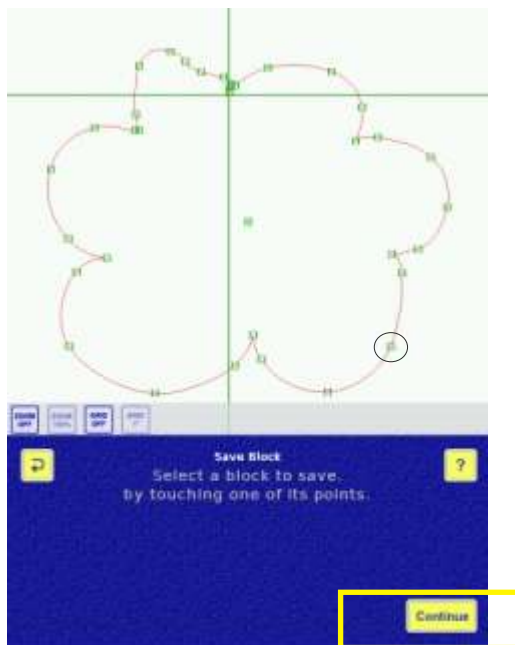


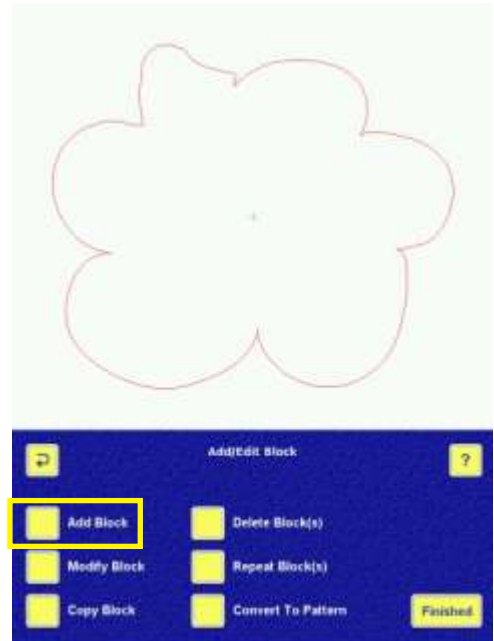
Go ahead and record in the method preferred, Sampling mode or recording your movement. Try both so you'll understand the differences.



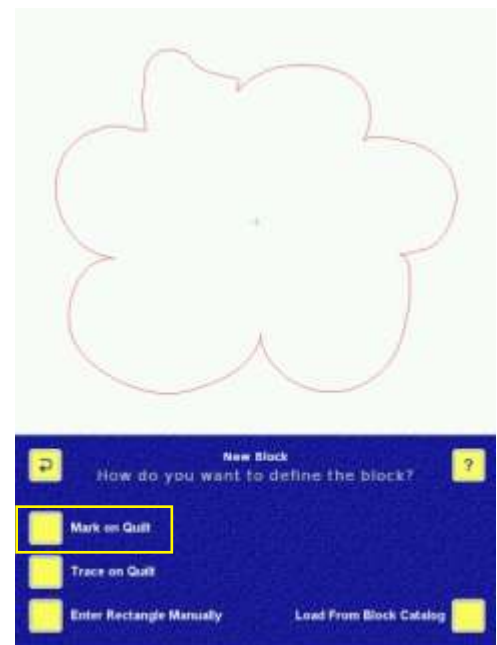
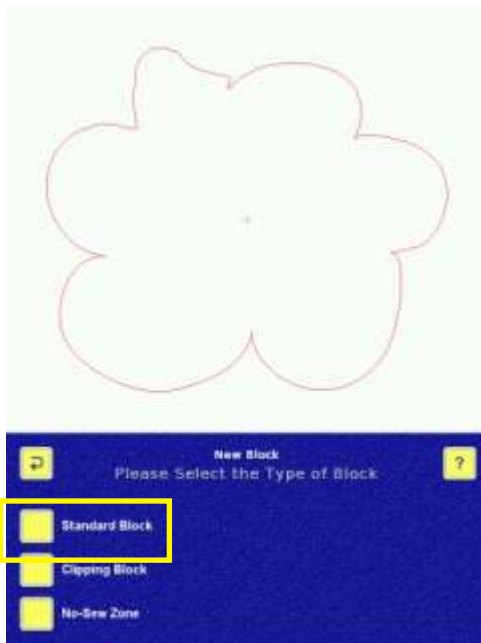


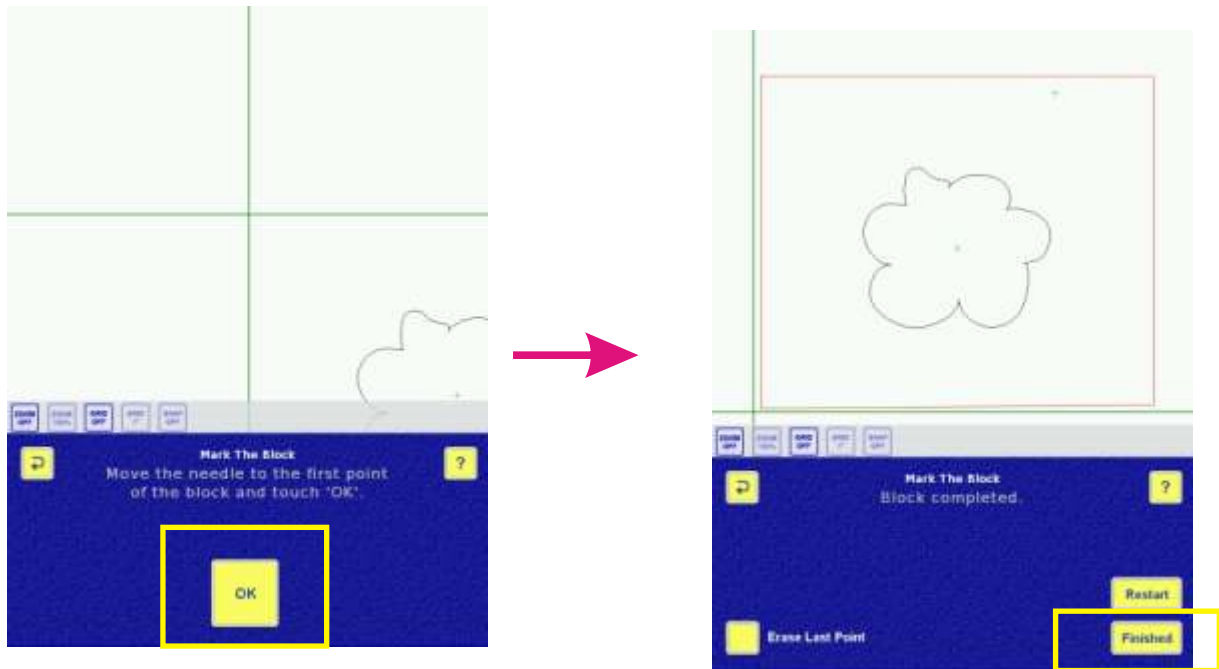
Always remember that this is a block and not a pattern. Even though it looks like a pattern, and later on we can convert it, we need to keep remembering that it is a block at this stage.



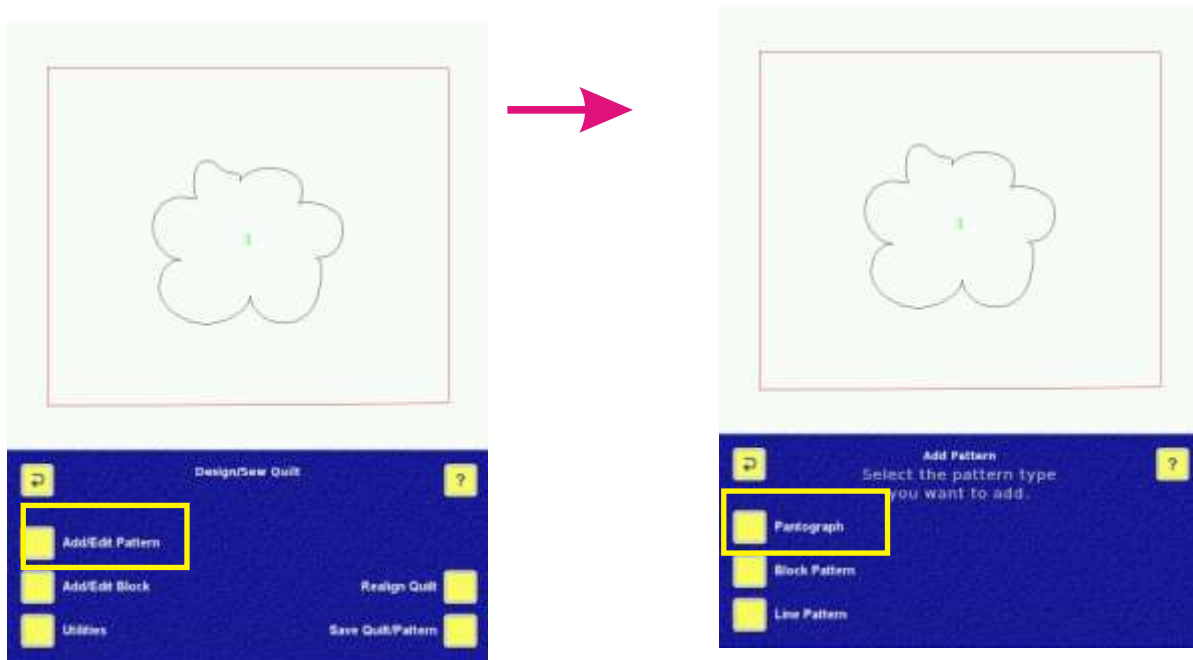


Now it's time to add our outside block.



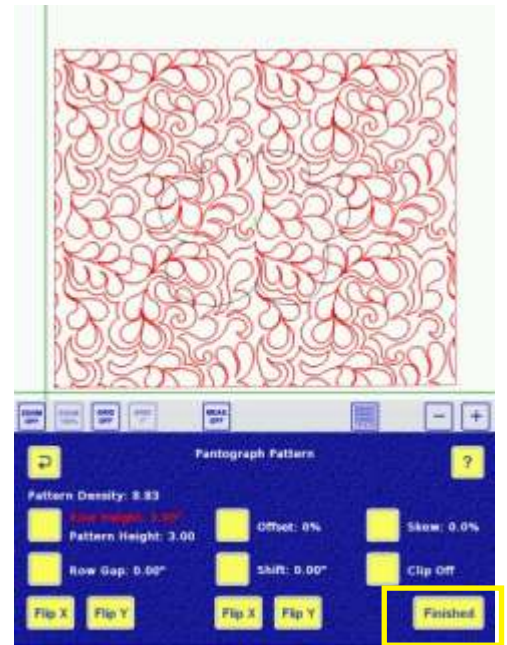
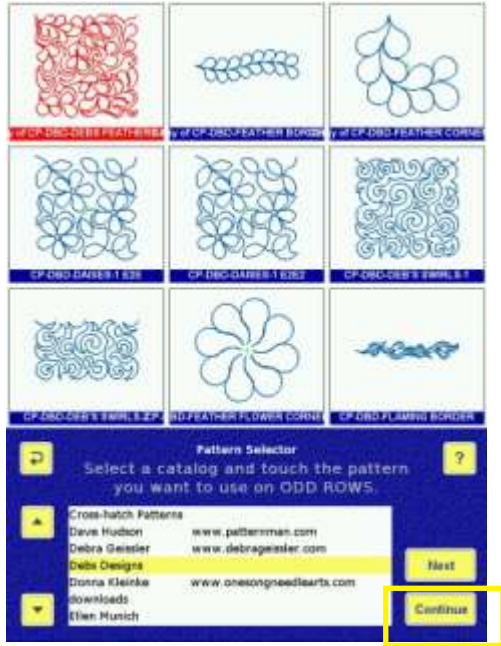


Mark around your outside block as you normally would. By marking instead of entering the measurements manually, you will be keeping the applique where it needs to stay in relation to the block you are now working on..

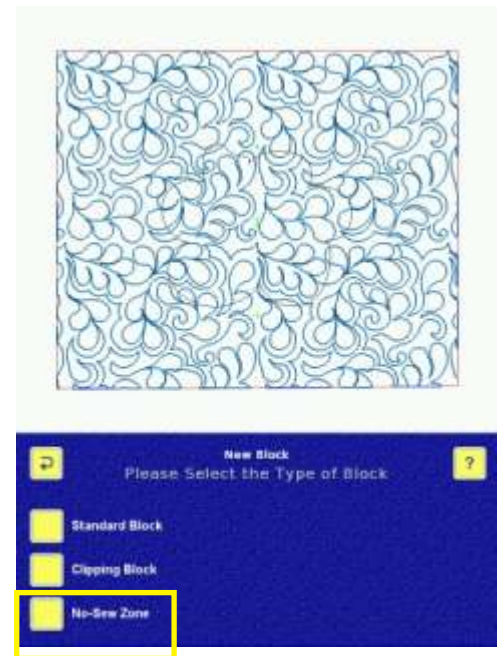
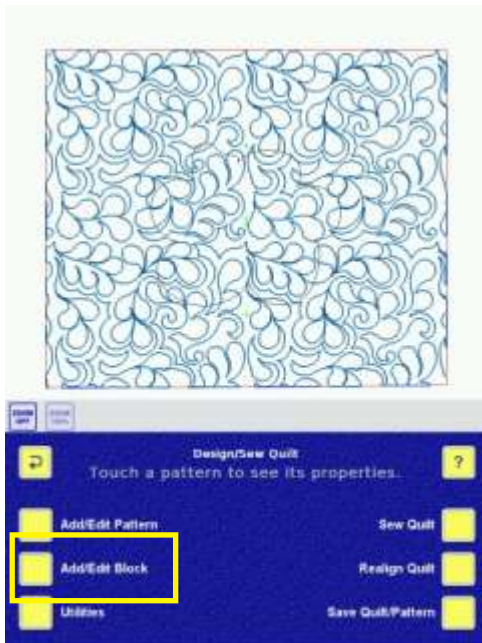


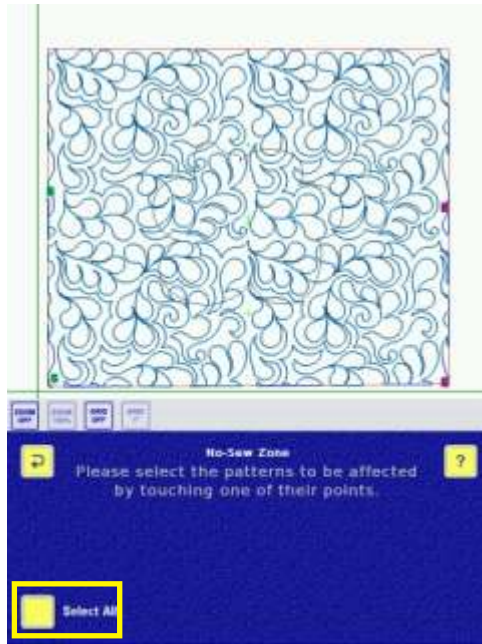
Creating Blocks with No Sew Zones for Applique

By: Linda Lawson
Page 8

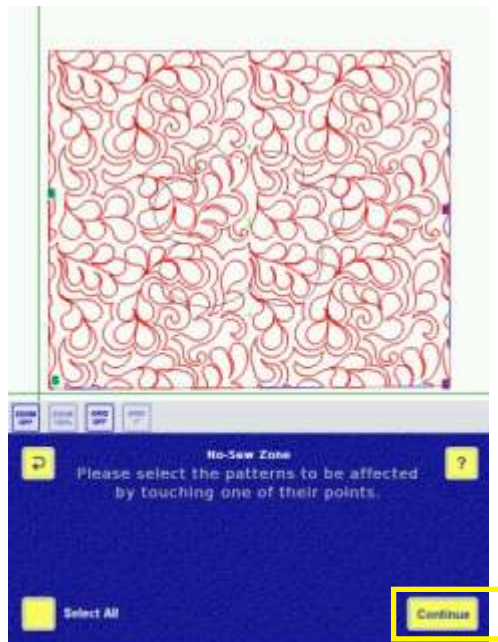


Modify your panto to make it look like a fill. I have set the height to 3" on this sample.

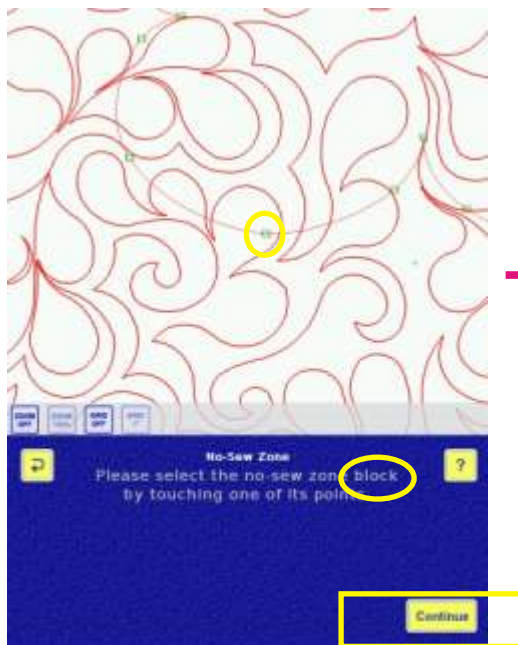




Select all and it will all turn red.



Remember we are working with patterns now and not blocks. Even though the flower looks like a pattern, it is still a block at this stage.

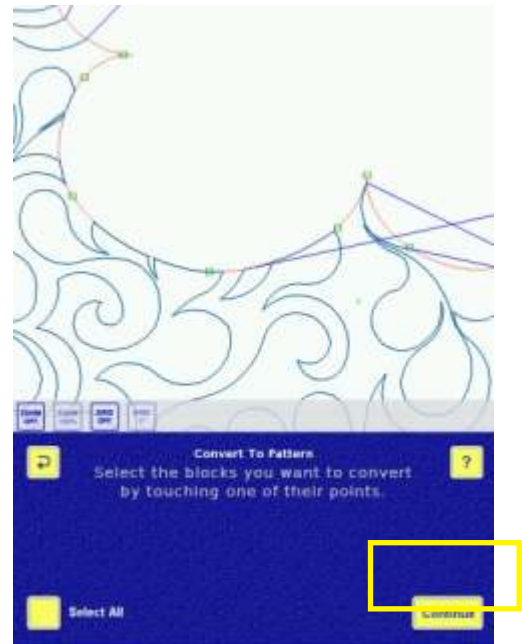
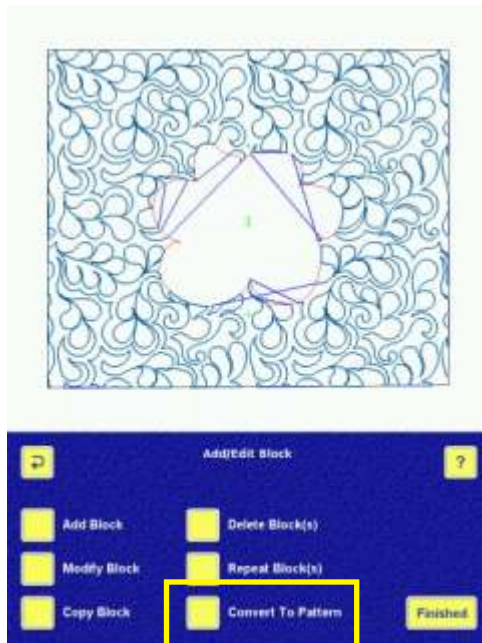


You really need to be at full zoom at this point.



You have the options here to modify this no sew zone.

Please keep in mind I did not pay attention to my jump stitch thresholds. This manual will be revised when the next update is released showing how the settings are now changed.



If you want the machine to stitch around your applique, you'll need to convert it to a pattern. If you're doing the stitching manually, you can just click finish and start sewing .

