

## Decorative Stitch Pillow Power

Editor: Liz Johnson  
Friday, 02 January 2015 1:00



I still remember the first sewing machine I bought with a full compliment of decorative stitches. I was in seventh heaven. It felt like the same unbridled choice as when you open a fresh box of 64 crayons. Variety unleashed! But we often get so busy with the construction process, we forget about all those great stitches. Not today! Most machines have at least some decorative stitches, many of them, like our wonderful [Janome studio machines](#), have hundreds! This pillow project gives you three different decorative stitching options to try, and we've included three template downloads to re-create our exact designs. There are random intersecting lines, which allow you to mix and match a variety of stitches. Our starburst showcases the option to program stitches, creating what appears to be individual dots. And finally, we give you the steps to stitch a spiral, using a padded satin stitch in variegated thread. It's all to encourage you to take advantage of your patiently-waiting decorative stitches... or maybe it's time to look for a new model with even more selection.

When you're shopping for a new machine, test out the stitches so you can not only see the patterns but also how/if they can be adjusted. On some models, such as the [Janome Horizon Memory Craft QCP](#) we used for these samples, you can build your own unique stitch patterns, then memorize them to the machine's memory bank. The top-of-the-line [Janome Horizon Memory Craft 15000](#) even lets you design, build upon, and save your own custom individual stitches.



Depending on the level of machine you buy, decorative stitches are usually adjustable in width and/or length; they can sometimes even be flipped or mirror-imaged. Janome's newest models, the [Skyline S5](#), [MC8900 QCP](#), [MC9900](#) and [MC15000](#) are all adjustable up to a 9mm stitch width (for the majority of the decorative options), which makes a beautifully dramatic accent for all types of projects – it's what we used on our intersecting lines pillow.

## Sewing Tools You Need

- Any Sewing Machine with decorative stitches (we used the [Janome Horizon Memory Craft 8900 QCP](#))
- [Satin Stitch foot](#)
- [Zipper foot](#)
- [Appliqué foot](#)

## Fabric and Other Supplies



- Our pillow samples are made for a 12" x 12" pillow form.  
NOTE: *The construction itself is standard to other piped pillows we've done. At the end of the article are links to previous tutorials which are similar and you might find helpful. And, we've included links to tutorials on piping, bias binding and covered buttons.*
- We used an off-white cotton for all three pillow fronts: [Bella Solids by Moda in Porcelain](#). The pillow backs and binding are [Cotton Dots from Riley Blake Designs](#). We chose four coordinating dot colors: orange, lime and brown for the pillow backs and aqua for all the piping. A half yard of each fabric is appropriate.
- For each pillow you will also need a 12" x 12" pillow form, 1½ yards of ¼" cotton piping cord, two 1⅝" cover button kits, and tearaway stabilizer. Tearaway comes in sheets as well as rolls. You need a 15" x 15" square for each pillow.
- We used all-purpose thread for construction, 40wt embroidery thread for the decorative stitching on the starburst and intersecting lines, and 30wt variegated cotton thread for the spiral plus a pearl cotton for the padding. Appropriate bobbin thread was in the bobbin for all the decorative work.

## Getting Started

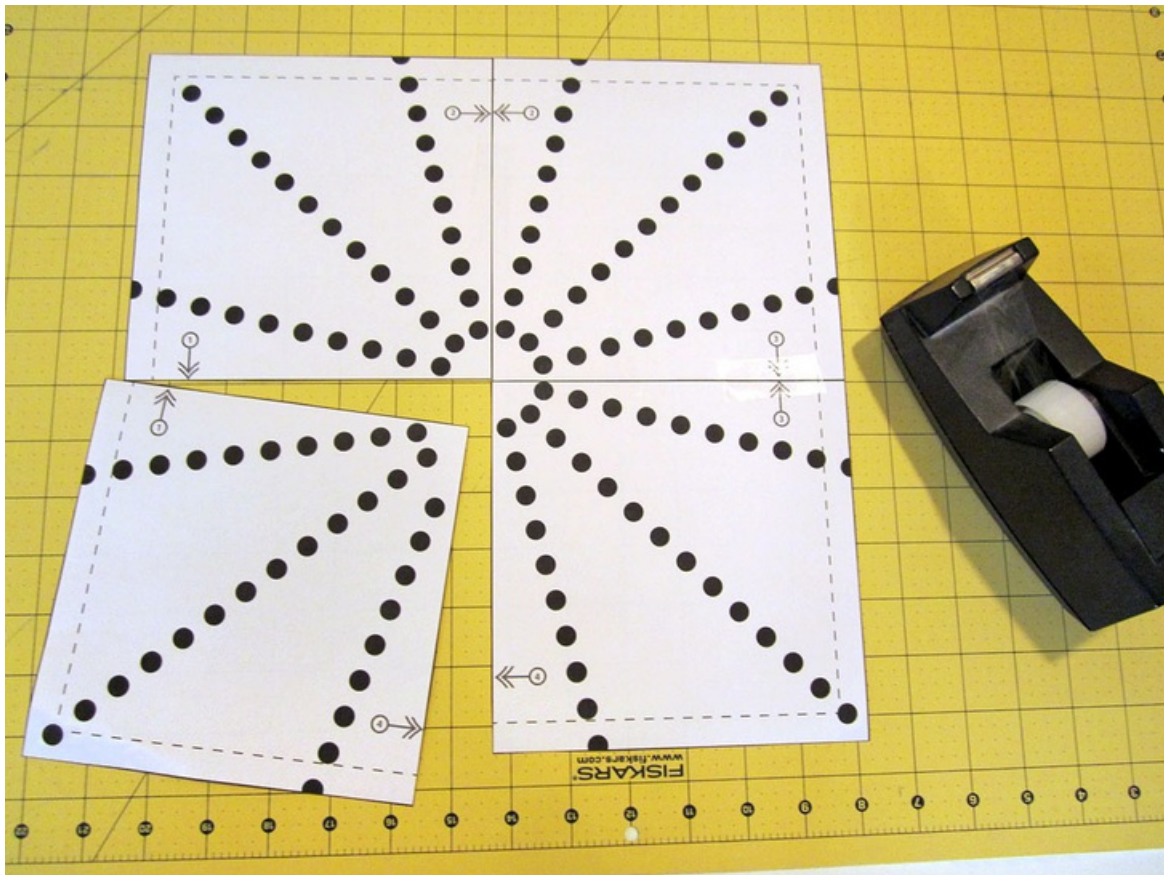
1. From the fabric for the pillow back, cut one 13" x 13" square for each pillow.
2. From the fabric for the pillow front, cut one 14" x 14" square for each pillow.
3. From the tearaway stabilizer, cut one 15" x 15" square for each pillow.
4. Print out the template of your choice. Each template consists of FOUR 8½" x 11" sheets. *You must print the PDF files at 100%. DO NOT SCALE to fit the page. There is a guide rule on each page so you can confirm your final printout is to scale.*

**Starburst Pillow:** [Starburst Template 1](#), [Starburst Template 2](#), [Starburst Template 3](#), [Starburst Template 4](#)

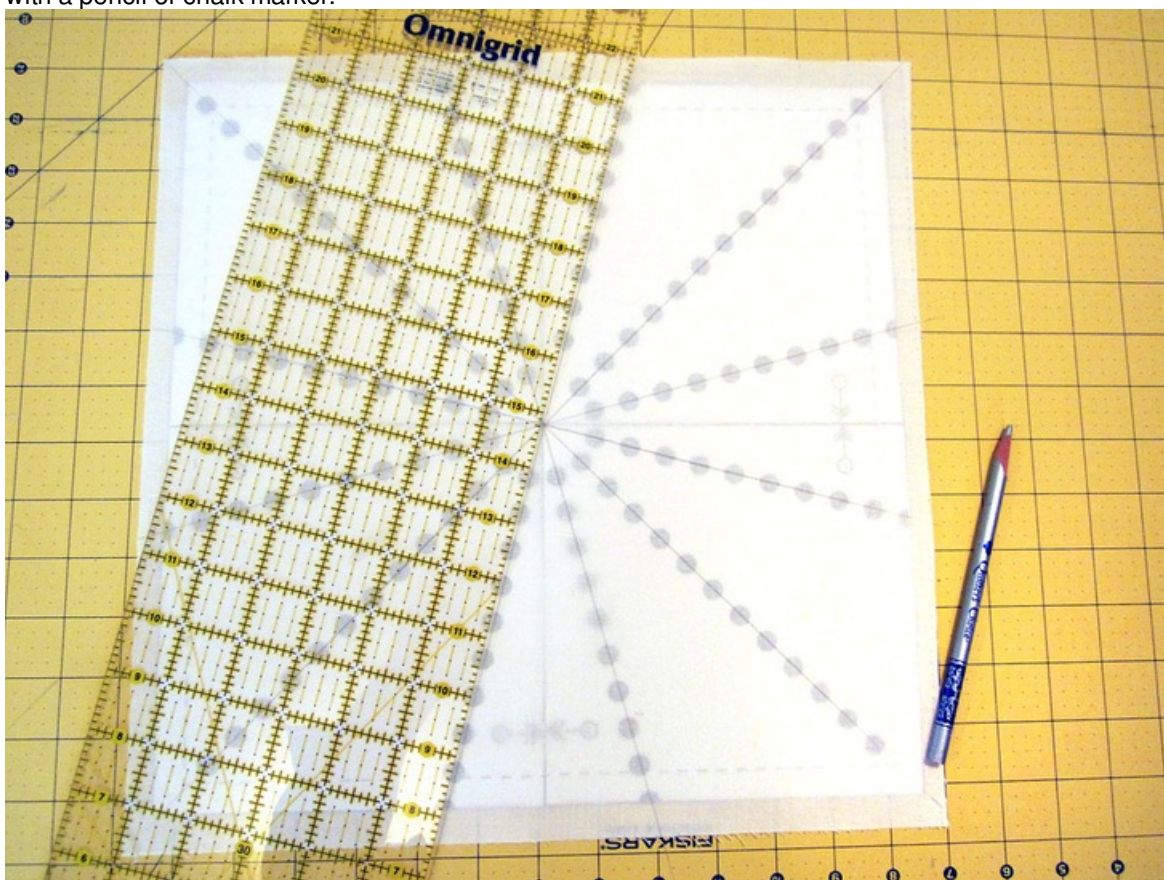
**Intersecting Lines Pillow:** [Lines Template 1](#), [Lines Template 2](#), [Lines Template 3](#), [Lines Template 4](#)

**Spiral Pillow:** [Spiral Template 1](#), [Spiral Template 2](#), [Spiral Template 3](#), [Spiral Template 4](#)

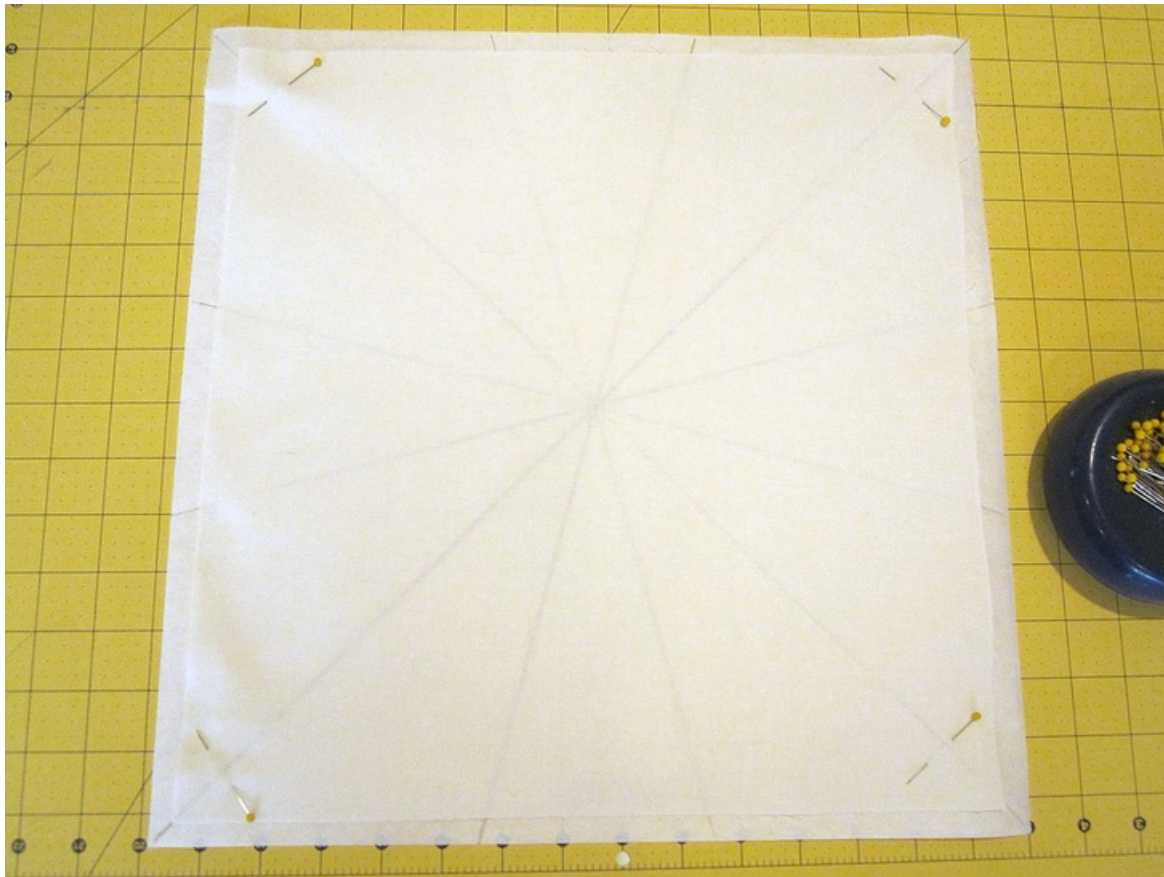
5. Cut out each piece along the solid line.
6. Line up the numbered arrows and tape the four pieces together to make one complete pattern piece. Butt the pieces together; do not overlap.



7. On a flat surface, place the tearaway stabilizer over the pattern. Trace the lines for decorative stitching onto the stabilizer with a pencil or chalk marker.



8. Remove the paper pattern. Place the square of front fabric (*the Bella Solids Porcelain in our sample*) over the stabilizer with its drawn lines, centering the fabric. Pin in each corner. The lines on the stabilizer should be visible through the fabric.



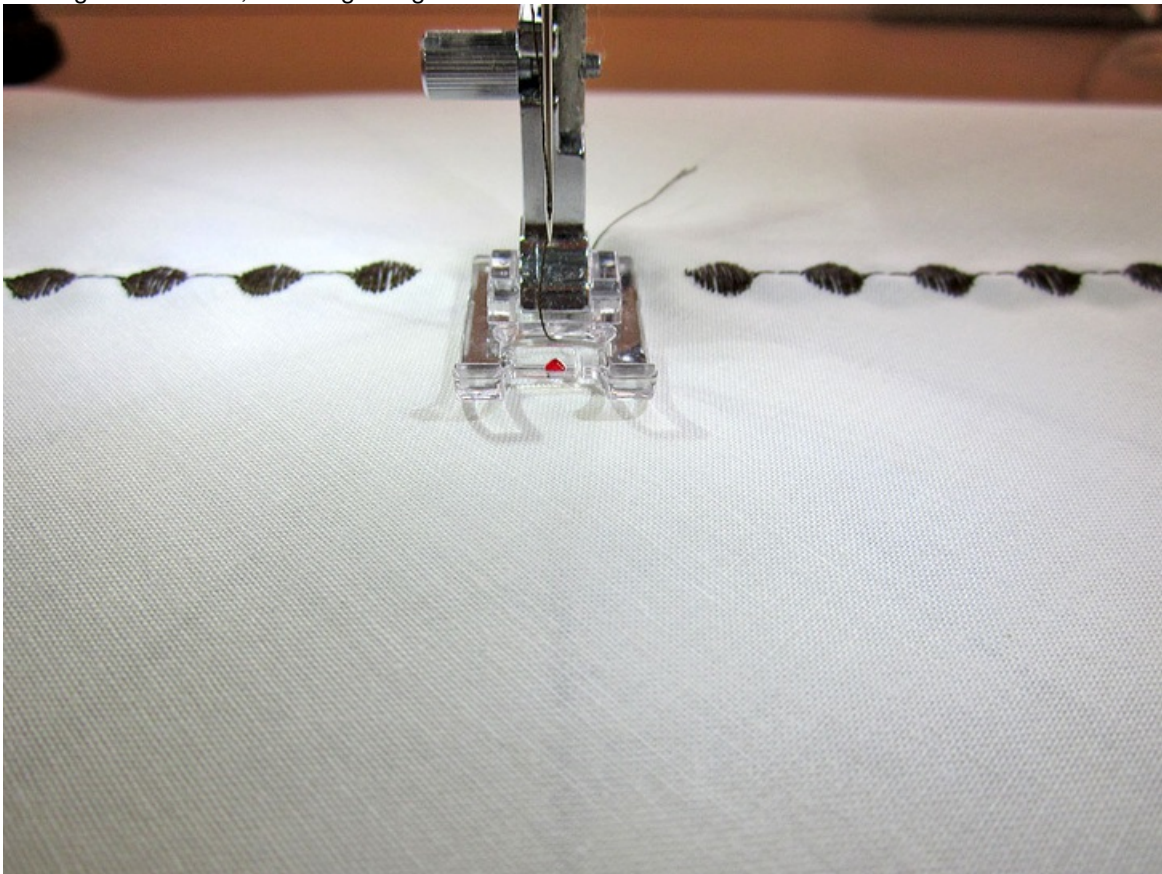
## At Your Sewing Machine & Ironing Board

1. At the machine, select the desired decorative stitch. Sew along the marked lines, using a foot that is easy to see through so you can follow along your drawn lines. We used [Janome Satin Stitch foot F](#).
2. When the stitching is complete, place the paper pattern over the stitched front square and trim the fabric to match the back square (13" x 13").
3. Assemble the pillow, adding the piping and the covered buttons. See the link suggestions below if you are new to these techniques.

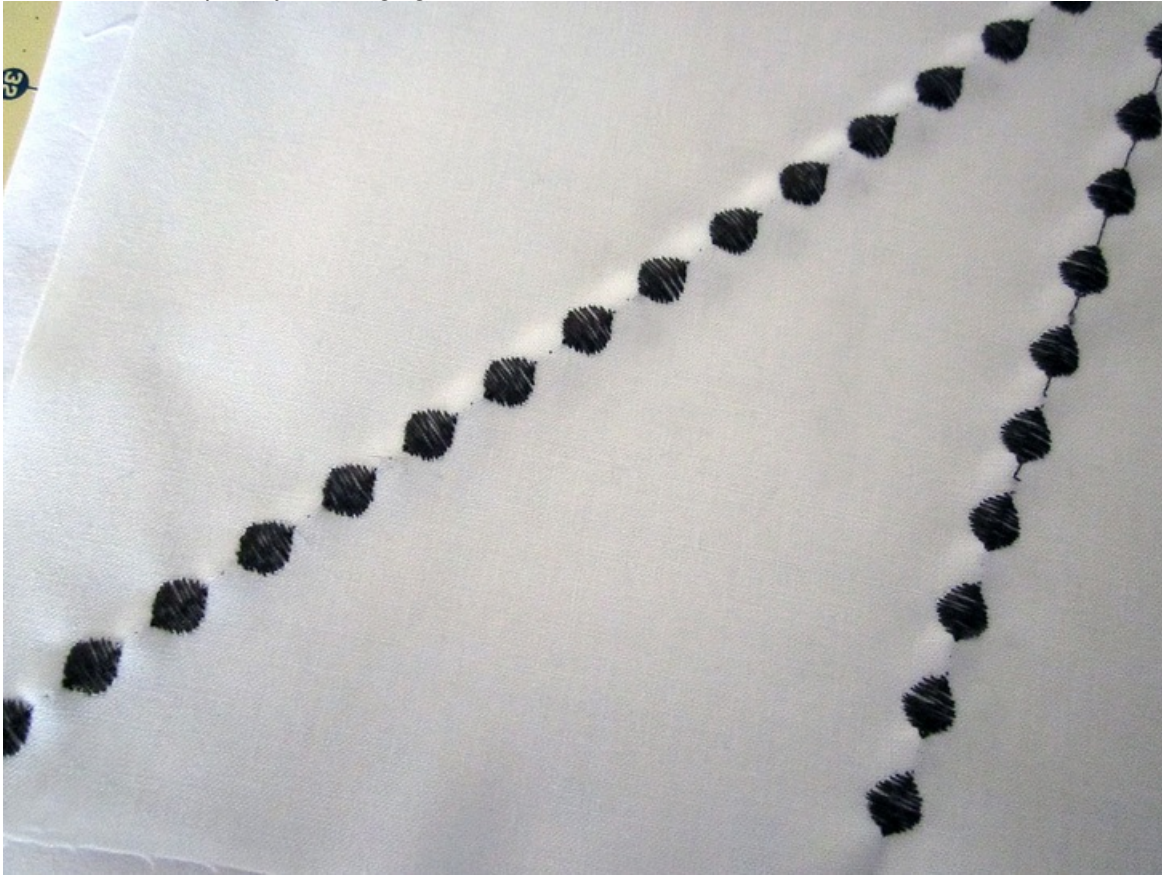
## Starburst



1. The dotted decorative stitch is created using Stitch 147 on the Janome Memory Craft 8900 QCP. We adjusted the stitch to 0.25 in length and 9.0 in width. We added this adjusted stitch to the machine's memory by pressing the "M" key. Next, we selected bridging stitch #165, adjusting its length to 3.0. We added this adjusted stitch to the memory by again pressing M. You've created your own stitch pattern! Starting  $\frac{1}{2}$ " from the center, sew this unique stitch pattern out towards the edge of the fabric, following along each drawn line.



2. When finished, clip away the bridging stitch to isolate the "dots."

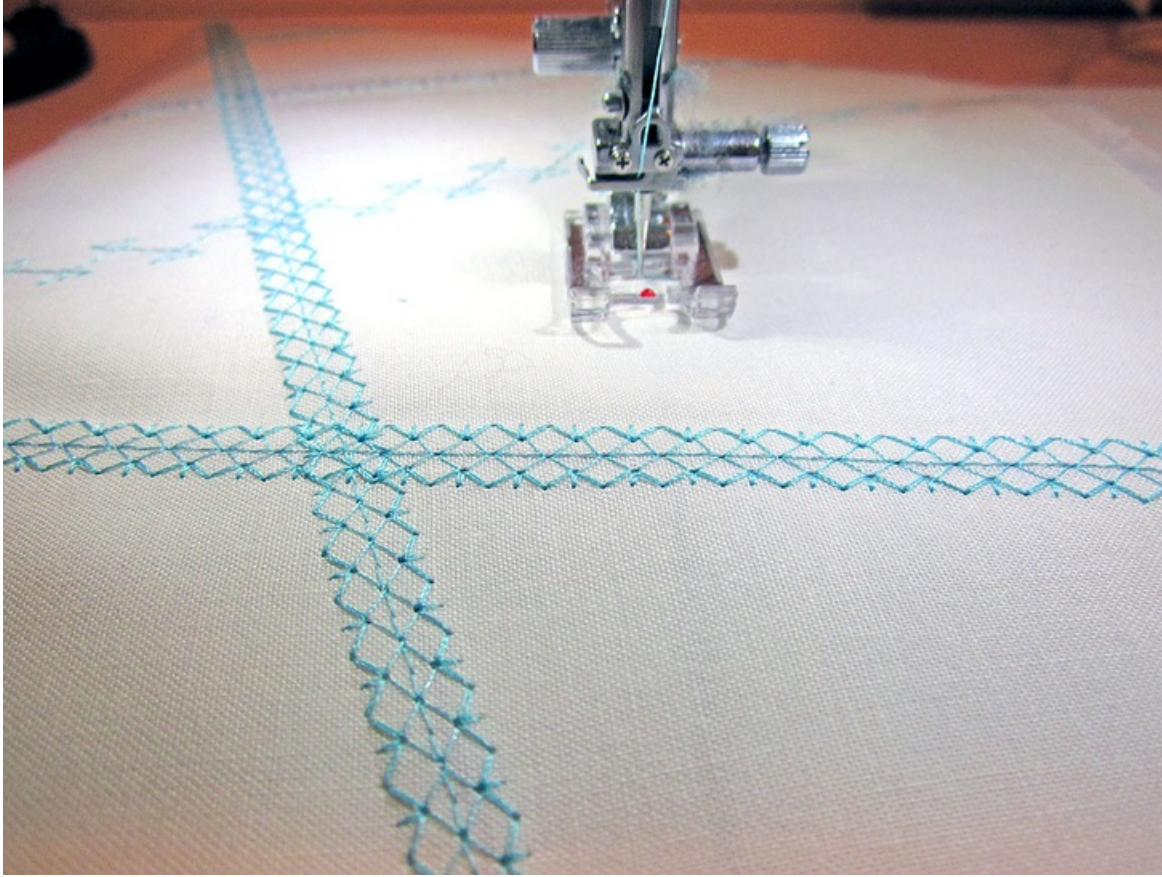


## Intersecting Lines



1. The following stitches from the Heirloom collection on the MC8900 QCP were used: 60, 63, 71, 80 and 86.

2. Simply follow along each drawn line. We worked from bottom to top.



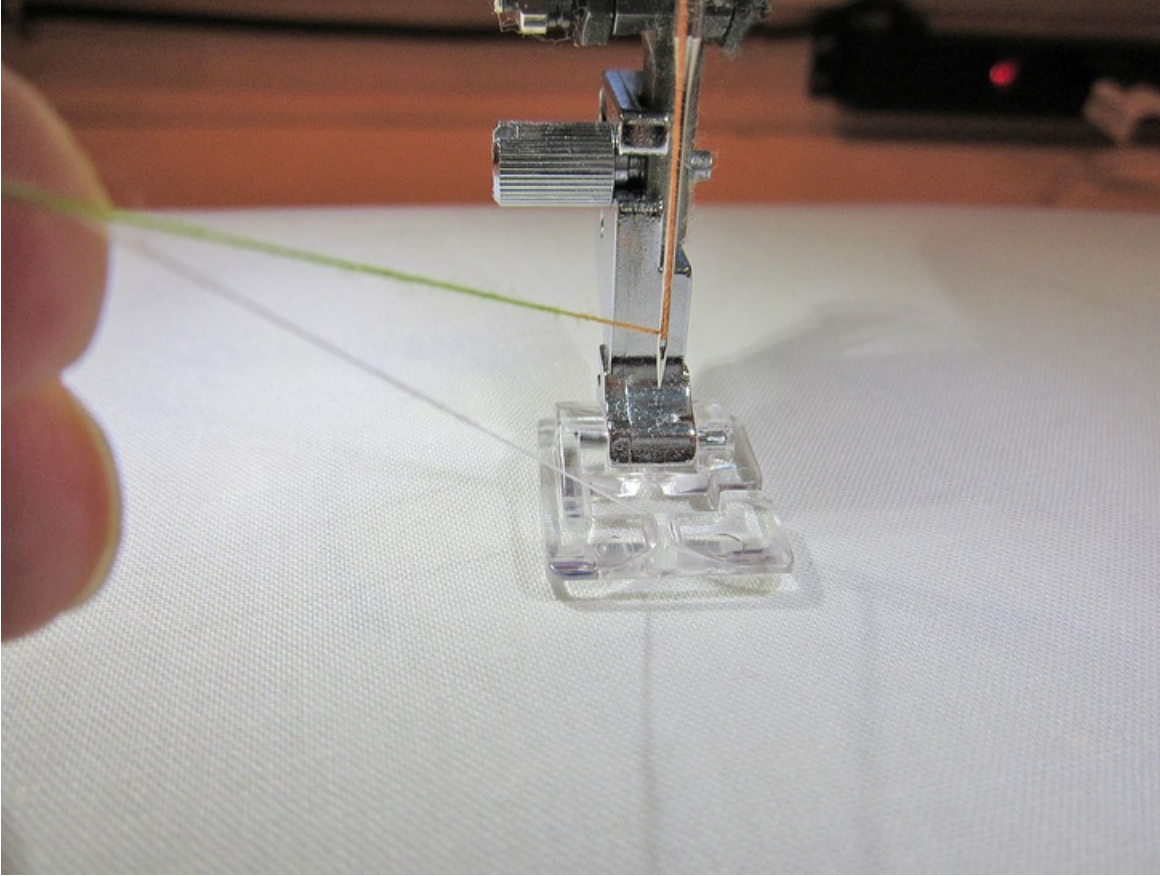
## Spiral



1. To give the spiral design a slightly raised texture and dimension, it was sewn as a padded satin stitch, using the Janome



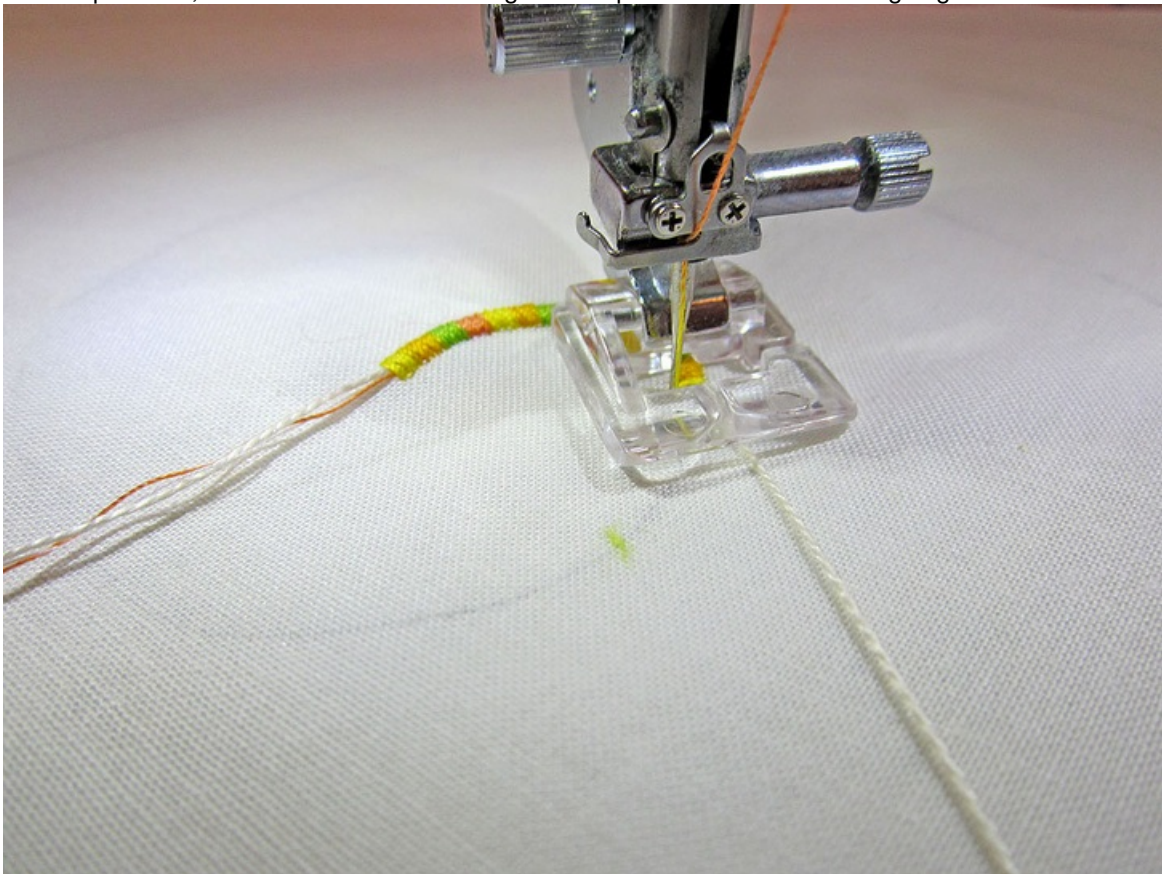
- clear Appliqué foot, variegated cotton thread, and pearl cotton for the padding.
2. Select a zig zag stitch. Adjust it to 3.0 in width and 0.30 in length.
  3. As with the other designs, you should have already traced the spiral onto the stabilizer and layered it with the front fabric square.
  4. Place the stabilized fabric under the needle and use the Needle Up/Down button to bring the bobbin thread up to the top of the fabric.



5. Place the end of the pearl cotton under the channel at the front of the Appliqué foot.



6. Pull the pearl cotton, bobbin thread and variegated cotton to the back. Hold onto these three tails as the stitches are starting. You can let go as soon as the pearl cotton is secured with the first  $\frac{1}{4}$ " or so of stitching. Follow along the drawn spiral line; the channel in the foot will guide the pearl cotton under the zig zag stitches.



7. When the stitching is complete, trim the thread tails and the pearl cotton.
8. At the pillow's center, use a hand sewing needle with a large eye to take the threads through to the wrong side of the fabric.



9. Knot at the back.



## Hints & Tips

Below are links to similar piped pillow projects (saw that three times fast!):

[Alchemy Piped Pillow](#)

[Appliqué Animal Piped Pillow](#)

[Outdoor Piped Pillows](#)

[Octagonal Piped Pillow](#)

**These tutorials may also be helpful:**

[Bias Binding](#)

[Making & Attaching Piping](#)

[Covered Buttons](#)

## Contributors

Project Concept: Alicia Thommas

Sample Creation and Technique Notes: Michele Mishler

## Tags:

- [Janome](#)

[Pillows & Cushions](#)

[In-The-Hoop Embroidered Coasters: Janome Memory Craft 500E](#)

[Decorative Stitch Hot Pads: Janome Skyline S7](#)

[Mug Rug with Embroidery, Patchwork, and a Pocket: Janome Memory Craft 500E](#)

[Embroidered Floral Poppy Placemats & Napkins: Janome Memory Craft 500E](#)

[Soft Cross Body Bag with Decorative Stitch Strap: Janome Skyline S7](#)

[Modern Two-Tone, Fold-Over Clutch in Faux Leather: Janome Skyline S7](#)

[Hanging Sewing Caddy with Clear-View Vinyl Pockets: Janome Skyline S7](#)

[Accessories We Love: Janome Flower Stitch Attachment](#)

[How to Turn a Corner with a Decorative Stitch](#)

[Mountain Sunrise Embroidered Pillow: Janome America](#)

[Accessories We Love: Janome Free Motion Couching Foot Set](#)

[Accessories We Love: Janome Ultimate Ruffler](#)

[Decorative Stitch Piping Frames Appliqué Pillow: Janome America](#)

[Zippered Clutch with Cross Stitch Embroidery: Janome America](#)

[Embroidered Patchwork Pillow: Janome America](#)

[Patchwork Bed Runner with Free Motion Quilting](#)

[Fabulous 5-Minute Gift Card Holders: Janome Decorative Stitching](#)

[A Review of the New Janome Limited Edition DC2015](#)

[Decorative Stitched Striped Table Runner: Janome America](#)

[Artistic Edge Digital Cutter: Cuts Fabric, Vinyl, Paper & More With Industrial Precision – Enter to Win One!](#)

[Fold-over, Zippered Clutch with Circular Decorative Stitching: Skyline S5](#)

[Introducing the Janome Skyline S5 Sewing Machine](#)

[How to Make a Buttonhole on Your Sewing Machine](#)

[Janome Monday: Embellished T-Shirts](#)

[Janome Monday: Appliquéd Kite Tote](#)

[Janome Monday: Sparkly Baby Quilt](#)

[Janome Monday: Scrappy Moroccan Style Deco Stitch Tea Towels](#)

[Janome Monday: Belted Cross-Body Bag with Decorative Stitching](#)

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