

# Quiltmagine – Quilt A Panto

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Quiltmagine is designed with many options to produce outstanding precision results. This tutorial will allow you to quilt a panto easily using a few of the EZ features.

If this is the first time you are using Quiltmagine (QM) I recommend trying this technique on a practice quilt sandwich.

## Load the quilt

1. Load the backing onto the quilt frame
2. Baste the batting to the backing with the vertical (machine) channel lock down to get a basting line that is perfectly parallel to the rollers.
3. Position the top of the quilt top along the basting line and baste the top to the batting less than ¼” from the edge of the top. Baste the sides of the quilt top down both sides as far as you can stitch without advancing the quilt.
4. Attach the clamps and you are ready to get started with QM.

## Getting Started with QM

1. Before turning on the tablet, make sure the machine is turned on and the USB cable is attached to the tablet.
2. Tap on the Quiltmagine icon to open the program. Follow the on screen prompts to move the carriage to the center of the sewing area and click OK.
3. On the home screen under the middle column, “Select and Sew”, tap on “Pantograph.”
4. By default the continuous line file folder opens. You will notice other file folders labeled Patterns, Blocks, Quads, and Triangles.
5. There are several “pages” of continuous line patterns to choose from. Tap on the up and down arrows at the right side of the screen to see the options.
6. Tap on a simple pattern to select, then, tap open at the bottom right.
7. Before the pattern opens, you will be asked to set the “safe area.” The safe area is the entire quilt sandwich, including about 2-3 inches on both the left and right side of the batting and backing where you can safely allow the machine to sew. Move the carriage to the top left of your safe area and tap the spot on the screen, then, move the carriage to the bottom right of the safe area and tap on the spot on the screen. After defining your safe area, the pantograph portion of the program will open with the pattern you already selected.

## Setting up your pantograph

1. At the bottom of the screen on the left side are several boxes that allow you to define the parameters of the quilt you are working on.
  - a. Tap on total height and enter the length of the quilt plus 3 inches. If your quilt is 60 inches long, enter 63 and tap on OK
  - b. Tap on total width and enter the width of the quilt plus 2 inches.
  - c. Note: this little extra length and width is the fudge factor to make sure the pattern covers the entire quilt top and there are no gaps in the pattern due to irregularities in the quilt top.
2. You will notice that the program has populated several rows of the pattern and placed two or more repeating patterns across the row. You can change these numbers to suit your taste and how dense you want the pattern to quilt. Many of the patterns are designed for 10 inches or larger. If you want to change the number of rows and patterns per row, now is the time to make that change.
  - a. Tap on pattern height and change the height of your pantograph to a height that you feel will look good

- on your quilt and click OK. Remember that the smaller you make the pattern, the denser it will quilt out.
- b. As you see the number of rows change by changing the pattern height, you will also notice the pattern make look more skewed. To change this, tap on pattern width and change that number. If your pattern height is less than the original, then the pattern width should be less, too. If you changed the pattern height to taller, then change the pattern width to something larger. You want to keep it in perspective. When I choose a pattern I try to see what the height to width ratio is and keep it the same as I make changes. Example, if the width is twice the height, then I would make the width twice the height after changing.

**SAVE** – although we have a few more things to do before sewing out the pattern, it is a good time to save your quilt panto now.

1. Tap on the save icon (computer floppy disc) on the tool bar at the top left of the page.
2. Select the “Patterns” file by tapping two times.
3. On the right side of the tool bar, select “new folder” to create a folder to save your patterns. Give your new folder a name such as “My Quilts,” and click OK.
4. Open the new folder “My Quilts” and tap on the space at the bottom of the screen where it is red and says “File Name.” In the box that opens, write a name for the quilt you are working on and tap on “Save.” (If the keyboard does not open, tap on the keyboard symbol at the bottom of the tablet)

**Back on the panto design screen** we have a few more things to edit before our design is ready to quilt.

1. You may notice that the pattern does not extend to the sides and/or top and bottom of the quilt and there may be a little white space before the black border. When you see white space, no quilting will take place there which could be a problem! Let’s fix that so we know the whole quilt top will be quilted.
  - a. On the left side of the blue box at the bottom of the screen there are several boxes with hearts in them. Tap the top box until you notice the patterns nesting to join any loose ends between the pattern segments.
  - b. Tap the center heart box until it says “stretch” over the box. This will stretch the pattern to the edge of the quilt top you defined in “total width.”
  - c. In the bottom row there are two boxes, one will center the pattern vertically, and the other will stretch the pattern to the boundary of the quilt top length. Select “stretch.”

**Save your pattern again.** Select the save icon, select the pattern file if it does not automatically come up and save.

## **We are now ready to quilt our panto!**

1. On the right side of the bottom of the screen are two options for quilting. (1) Quilt As Single Pattern and (2) Quilt As Rows. Since we are quilting this as a panto, select “Quilt As Rows.” A screen will come up telling you it is transferring the pattern to Quilt Motion.
2. On the quilting screen you will see one row of your pattern. On the left there should be a green dot indicating the starting point for sewing. On the right should be a red dot indicating the ending point of the stitching. You may also see one or more turquoise dots. These turquoise dots are “tie off” points, similar to jump stitches in embroidery. We will need to tell QM what to do at those points as well as a few other commands before we can quilt our panto.

## **Other QM command decisions to make:**

1. Settings – tap on the settings button in the tool bar at the top of the screen.
  - a. Set the sewing speed on medium by tapping on the medium button.
  - b. Change the tie-off count to zero by tapping on “Tie-off Stitch Count” until it cycles to zero.
  - c. Make sure “Automatic Bobbin Pull” is selected (green check mark)
  - d. De-select “Pause at Trim Lines” (no green check)

- e. Tap on OK to return to the panto screen.
2. Optimize – tap on the Optimize button in the tool bar at the top of the screen.
  - a. Make sure there are only one green and one red dot on the screen. If not, you will need to place a check in the “Check for Breaks,” tap on “Animate Stitching” and follow the on screen prompt to remove the break.
  - b. If there are turquoise dots indicating trim lines along the edge of the pattern, tap on “Remove All”. When asked if you want to connect the last to the first, check “No.”
  - c. One last check now is to tap on “Animate Stitching” to see if it will stitch out correctly. The stitch line is blue, make sure it looks good, then tap on OK to return to the panto screen.

## Ready to Quilt!!

1. For this tutorial we will be using the center placement method which will place the panto in the center of the quilt top with a little stitching just off of each side of the quilt. Your pattern will be evenly placed left to right.
2. In the bottom center of the screen you will notice an area that has five boxes on the top row and four skewed boxes on the bottom row. The middle box on the top row has a yellow flag in the center of the top of the box. You will use this button to indicate the top center of your quilt.
  - a. With a measuring tape, find the center of the top of the quilt and place a mark in the quilt center about ½” off the top of the quilt. The top edge of the pattern will be stitching in this ½” area above the top of the quilt edge, so make sure there is room and the machine will not run into pins, leader grip or zipper.
  - b. Move the machine to the spot you just marked, place the needle over that center point and tap on the center placement box (center box in the top row of boxes). QM now knows just where the center of the row will be, where to start and how far to quilt across the quilt top.
3. Move the carriage to the left side of the quilt, tap on “Pull Bobbin.” The machine will move itself to the start point, pull the bobbin thread to the top and move to the right. Hold onto the top and bottom thread and tap the “Sew” button. The machine will move back to the starting point and start sewing the pattern because you selected zero tie-off stitches. As the pattern both starts and stops just off the edge of the quilt, there is no need for tie off stitches in this case.
4. Before you sit back and relax while QM does its magic, take a peek at the stitching. If you notice the bobbin thread pulled to the top, back the top tension off a little. With any pattern you sew, always check the tension when starting just in case you need to make any adjustments to the tension setting. It is not necessary to stop the sewing, simply adjust the top tension dial carefully as it sews.

**CONGRATULATIONS!!** You have just quilted the first row of the panto. When the row is finished, there will be a message on the screen “Row Finished – Proceed to Next Row.” Tap on this button.

\*\*\*The next message you see will depend on whether there is room in the safe area to sew another row or whether you will need to advance (scroll) the quilt to provide enough space for the next row.

1. **If the screen is white** (pink indicates out of the safe area), then you only need to move the machine to the left side of the quilt, tap “pull bobbin,” the machine will move to the start point and pull the bobbin thread to the top, then, tap “sew.” The next row will sew out.
2. **If the screen is pink there will be a message, “Pattern is not within the Safe Area! The fabric will need to be scrolled.”** Tap OK
  - a. Before advancing the quilt, QM will tell you where to place the next row. On the screen, tap on the center box at the bottom of the screen, “Move To Top Center.” The carriage will move to the top center point of the next row. Do not question this placement as it is the top of the row, not necessarily a spot where there will be stitching. In fact, it might even be on top of stitching. Don’t worry, QM knows just where it is.
  - b. After the carriage has moved to the top center of the next row, you must mark that spot so that you can tell QM where it is after the quilt is advanced. I recommend using a piece of painters tape. Place a short

- 2" strip of painters tape under the foot, rotate the needle down to put a hole in the tape, then rotate the needle back up. Make sure the tape stays in that spot as you advance the quilt.
3. Advance the quilt, baste the sides, attach the clamps and you are ready to tell QM where the next row is located.
    - a. On the screen tap "Continue With Placement."
    - b. You are back to the panto screen. Move the machine to the spot where the tape is, place the needle over top of the hole in the tape and tap on the *top center placement button* (middle button on the top row). QM now knows just where the row is and where to start stitching.
    - c. Move the carriage to the left side of the quilt, tap on pull bobbin, then tap on sew. The next row will stitch out.

Follow the above directions placing each row until the quilt is completely quilted.

## TIPS

- At any point, if you cannot move the carriage, you can release the carriage by tapping on the "release carriage" button. If you do not see a "release carriage" button on your screen, tap on the red tool box. On the menu that pops up, tap on the "release carriage" button. QM will make a sound and you will be able to move the carriage.
- If something happens, thread breaks, bobbin runs out, you can always stop the machine by tapping on the red "stop" sign on the screen. Do not try to turn the machine off with the black stop-start button, it is disabled while QM is operating.
- If you run out of bobbin or a thread breaks, stop QM, the tap on the bandage to "repair" the problem. After fixing the issue, use the buttons to reposition the carriage. QM will know exactly from your repositioned position where it is in the pattern and will stitch it perfectly from that point to the end of the pattern.

## More Fun With Quiltmagine

After trying this method of sewing a panto a few times, you will be ready to experiment with other features found in the pantograph portions of QM. By default the program opens in EZ mode. You do have options of flipping and stagger available. Give those a try. They work best if the pattern repeat is an odd number, 1 rather than two patterns.

By tapping on the EZ button, you can choose Basic or Advanced panto design. Each of these options offers more design possibilities. It is fun to play with these options and see the creative possibilities available – flipping, moving, staggering, flipping vertically, and so much more.

Have fun with Quiltmagine pantographs and go crazy creating something truly unique!