

It's all
about M.E.!
(Machine Embroidery)



Q: I want to do machine quilting using the embroidery and decorative stitch functions on my sewing machine, but I'm not sure how to begin. Are there methods that are easy enough for a beginner to learn successfully at home?

A: Today's machines, like the new-generation Berninas, make it easier than ever to do your own machine quilting. Jennifer Gigas shares her techniques for using machine embroidery designs and stitches to quilt this appealing throw.

Summer Romance

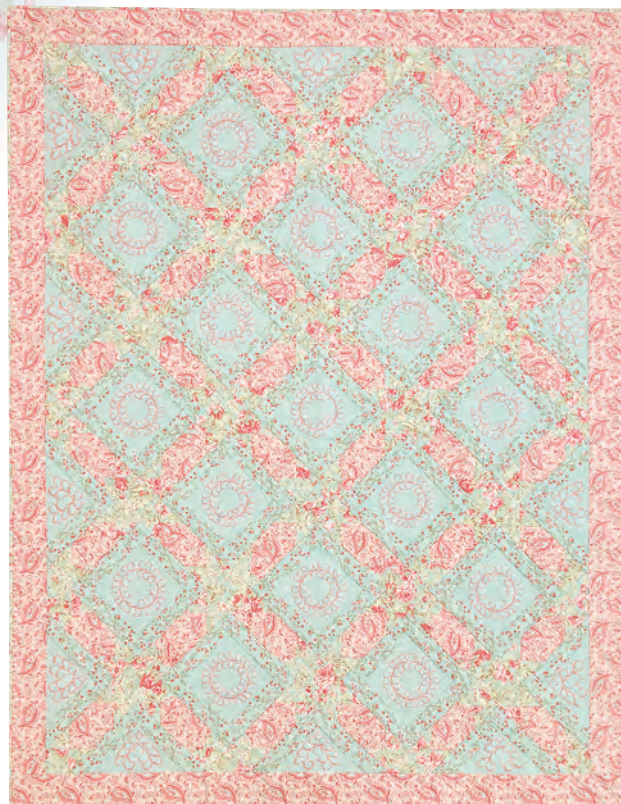


Designed by **JENNIFER GIGAS**

Finished Quilt Size
57½" x 74½"

Number of Blocks and Finished Size
17 Square in a Square Blocks 9" x 9"

SKILL LEVEL ◆◆◆



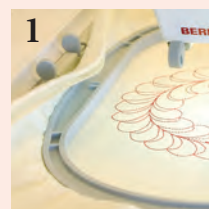


Quilting with Machine Embroidery

Jennifer's quilt shows that machine embroidery can be more than decoration on our quilts. She **uses machine embroidery as the quilting** and shares her techniques with us. She divides the quilting into two categories: **decorative quilting** and **basic quilting**. Decorative quilting refers to the outline designs (feathered wreath and corner motif) that can be stitched by your embroidery machine. Basic quilting refers to the filler stitches (stitching in the ditch, echo quilting, and stippling) that complement the quilt and the decorative quilting. With Jennifer's method, the batting acts as a stabilizer for the machine embroidery (decorative quilting).

The decorative quilting (photos 1 and 2) was stitched through the top of the quilt and batting only, helping eliminate thread tension problems. By leaving the tension tight on the bottom, the designs puff up more than if the tension is balanced, giving a stuffed effect. Quilting through only two layers also keeps thread knots from showing since they will be hidden when the backing fabric is added.

Once the decorative stitches are completed, Jennifer spray bastes the backing in place and adds the basic machine quilting stitches through all three layers (photo 3). This balances the decorative quilting and adds texture to the back of the quilt.



Location and photo courtesy of Bernina® and Shared Threads Quilt Shop, 10050 Ralston Rd., Suite G, Arvada, CO 80004; www.sharedthreads.com.

Fabric Requirements

Aqua small floral (blocks, pieced setting triangles)	1½ yds.
Aqua/white dot (blocks, pieced setting triangles)	1 yd.
Aqua large floral (sashing, sashing posts, small setting triangles, binding)	2 yds.
White/rose paisley (sashing, border)	2½ yds.
Backing (piece lengthwise)	4¾ yds.
Batting	Twin size

Other Materials*

- Superior Highlights Thread for piecing (size 80 machine needle)
 - Superior Rainbow Thread for wreath/motif quilting (size 80 machine needle)
 - YLI Silk Thread #100 for ditch/stipple quilting (size 70 machine needle)
 - Superior So Fine Thread (bobbin)
 - Feathered Wreath-Holice Turnbow Stencil Design from Bernina Embroidery Software
 - Setting Triangle design from Quilting Inspirations by Keryn Emmerson Design Collection from Oklahoma Supply and Design
 - Helmar's Quilt Basting Spray
- *These are products Jennifer used to complete her quilt. Read Quilting with Machine Embroidery (right).

Cutting Instructions

Aqua small floral

- 34 strips 2" x 6½"
- 34 strips 2" x 9½"
- 14 strips 2" x 8½"
- 14 strips 2" x 10"

Aqua/white dot

- *4 squares 9¾" x 9¾", cut in half twice diagonally to make 16 quarter-square triangles (2 left over)
- 17 squares 6½" x 6½"

Aqua large floral

- 72 squares 4¼" x 4¼", cut in half twice diagonally to make 288 quarter-square triangles
- 3 squares 5½" x 5½", cut in half twice diagonally to make 12 quarter-square triangles (2 left over)
- 18 squares 3½" x 3½"
- 2 squares 3" x 3", cut in half diagonally to make 4 half-square triangles

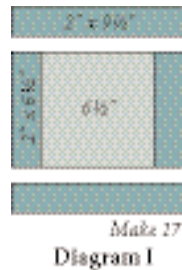
White/rose paisley

- *2 strips 3½" x 72", cut on lengthwise grain
- *2 strips 3½" x 62", cut on lengthwise grain
- 24 squares 4¼" x 4¼", cut in half twice diagonally to make 96 quarter-square triangles
- 48 squares 3½" x 3½"

*Cut first.

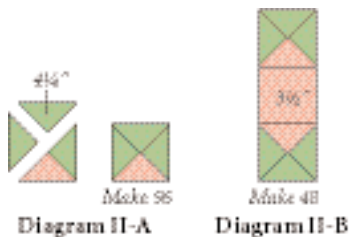
Piecing the Blocks

1 Sew aqua small floral 6½" and 9½" strips to sides of aqua/white dot square to make Square in a Square Block (Diagram I). Make 17.



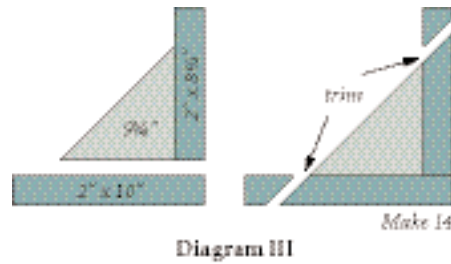
Piecing the Sashing Strips

2 Referring to Diagram II-A, sew aqua large floral and white/rose paisley 4¼" quarter-square triangles together to make pieced square. Make 96. Sew 2 pieced squares to white/rose square (Diagram II-B) to make sashing strip. Make 48.



Piecing the Setting Triangles

3 Sew aqua small floral 8½" and 10" strips to sides of aqua/white dot 9¾" quarter-square triangle (Diagram III). **Trim** strip edges even with edge of triangle to make setting triangle. Make 14.



Quilt Top Assembly

4 Referring to Assembly Diagram, arrange and sew 13 diagonal rows using setting triangles, sashing strips, large floral 5½" quarter-square triangles, large floral 3½" squares, and blocks. Sew rows together. Stitch large floral 3" half-square triangles to corners.

Quilting and Finishing

5 Read *Quilting with Machine Embroidery* if using your embroidery machine for quilting. Layer, baste, and quilt. Jennifer chose Warm & Natural® 80/20 batting. Feathered wreaths were centered on the blocks and feather motifs were added to the pieced setting triangles. The sashing strips were ditch quilted with diagonal lines extending into the border. A small stipple fills the background of the feather wreaths and motifs. Bind with aqua large floral.

