

Q. With my computer guided system, how do I position the design so it sews out correctly?

A. For those of you that do not have a computer guided system, let me give a brief aside on computer guided. A number of years ago before I had a computer guided system I thought how unfair to compare computer guided with hand guided, after all, the computer was doing “all” the work. I now know that there is a lot of skill involved in using any computer guided system. Yes, the machine will stitch out a very nice pattern or design, but the operator has to place or position the design correctly for the machine to do the rest. There is a learning curve using this technology, but I have found it a lot of fun and I enjoy challenging myself to quilt beyond and out of the box.

Whether you are using Quiltmachine, IntelliQuilter, or some other computer guided system, you must become familiar with the placement options available for accurate placement. Most systems have placement options for square or four sided blocks, blocks in any position, triangles, or even multi-sided blocks. Each system uses a slightly different method for placement, however with most systems you must indicate the sides of the block. When the corner points are indexed in, the program now knows the size and placement on the quilt top for the design you want to place. Beyond that, most programs have an option for changing the size of the pattern within that space, stretching, or modifying in some way so that you get the pattern to look just like you want it to. The same is true with pantograph placement. Each system has a method for moving from one stitched row to the next keeping the space between rows consistent with how you designed the E2E for the quilt.

There are videos and pdf resources available to help. Quiltmachine resources are available at http://www.delightful-qs.com/qm_resources.htm and there is a Facebook page for Quiltmachine users where a short tutorial is posted nearly every week, <https://www.facebook.com/Quiltmachine-665464126896099/> IntelliQuilter resources are available at <http://www.intelliquilter.com/iQpedia/> and <http://www.iqdemons.com/>

Take time to view the videos and print out any resources that may be helpful. As with anything new, there is a learning curve, but I have found that by tapping into the expertise and experience of those who have taken the time to share their knowledge through videos and in print, I have saved myself a lot of trial and error time.

If you are interested in learning more about computer guided quilting with either Quiltmachine or IntelliQuilter, give me a call, 585-226-2577. I have both systems available for demonstration and am happy to answer your questions.