

Pillowcase Quilts

It seems nearly everyone has at least a few beautiful vintage pillowcases tucked away. Many ladies are afraid to use them as they don't want to damage or stain them. I've come up with a very easy way to turn these into beautiful wholecloth quilts that is respectful to the work of the original maker.

The special part of the pillowcase is often the embroidery and lace work at the bottom edge.

I recommend that you start by separating the front of the pillowcase from back by cutting along the folded edges.

Remember how I showed you how to find the center of your wholecloth quilt by folding and quartering it? You will do the same thing here.

Fold it in half lengthwise and width wise and press those folds into creases. Mark these lines with your quilt marking pen and mark the center cross.



Pillowcases, because they are long and narrow, usually require a rectangular or long design to showcase the length of the piece.

For this particular pillowcase I decided to use three of my oval Ultimate Medallion designs. I simply centered the corner cross on the stencil over the top of the center mark on the pillow case and marked my design. Now I can fill the open areas with a variety of background fills if I want.



This particular pillowcase had a wide double folded band above the lace and I decided to fill this area with a narrow border.

Once my design is marked it's time to layer for basting. On the video I showed the four layers, i.e., backing, batting, underlayment and top.

I wanted to show a close up photo of the beautiful pink Damask underlayment I chose for this example.

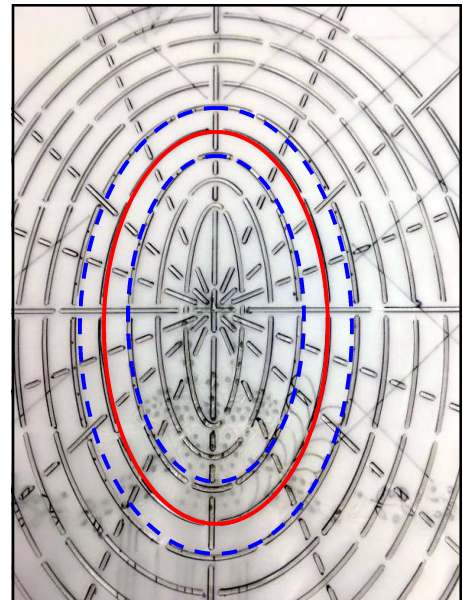


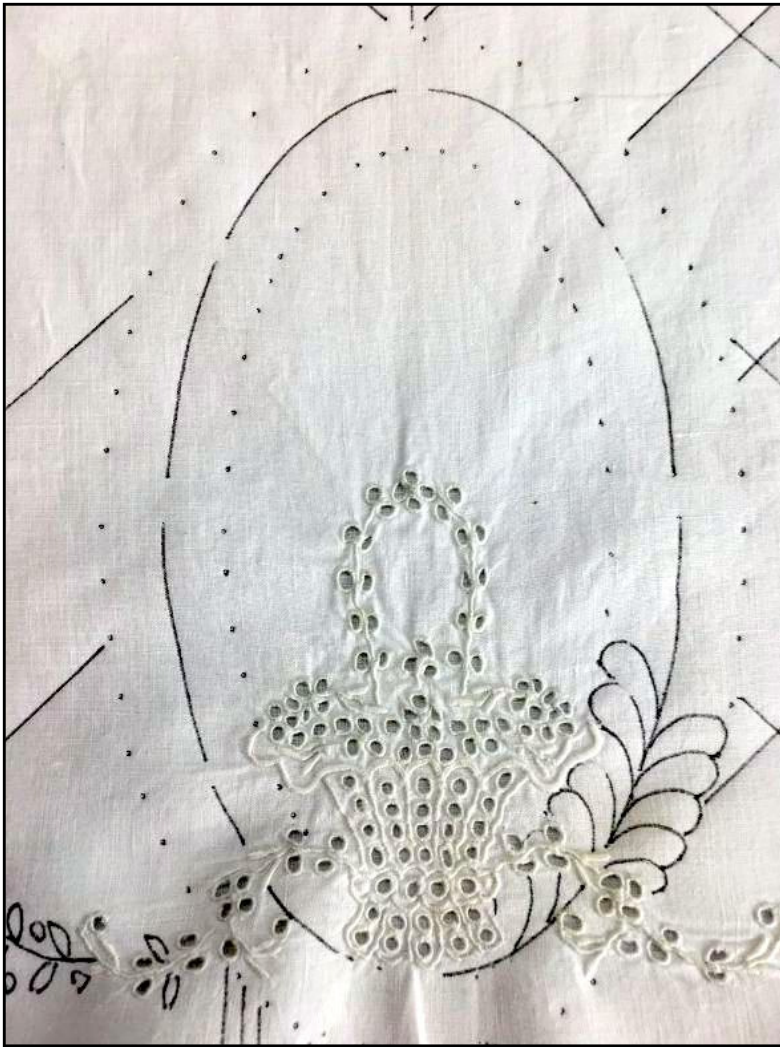


Showing once again how I separate the front from the back by trimming right along the edges.

I centered my Ultimate Oval over the top of the basket and traced my **feather spine**.

Then I traced an oval outside and inside to give me the parameters for my feathers.





You can see the outline of the feather spine and the sketched in feathers in the right corner.

I'm using the Baby Clams to fill in the center of the feather wreath.



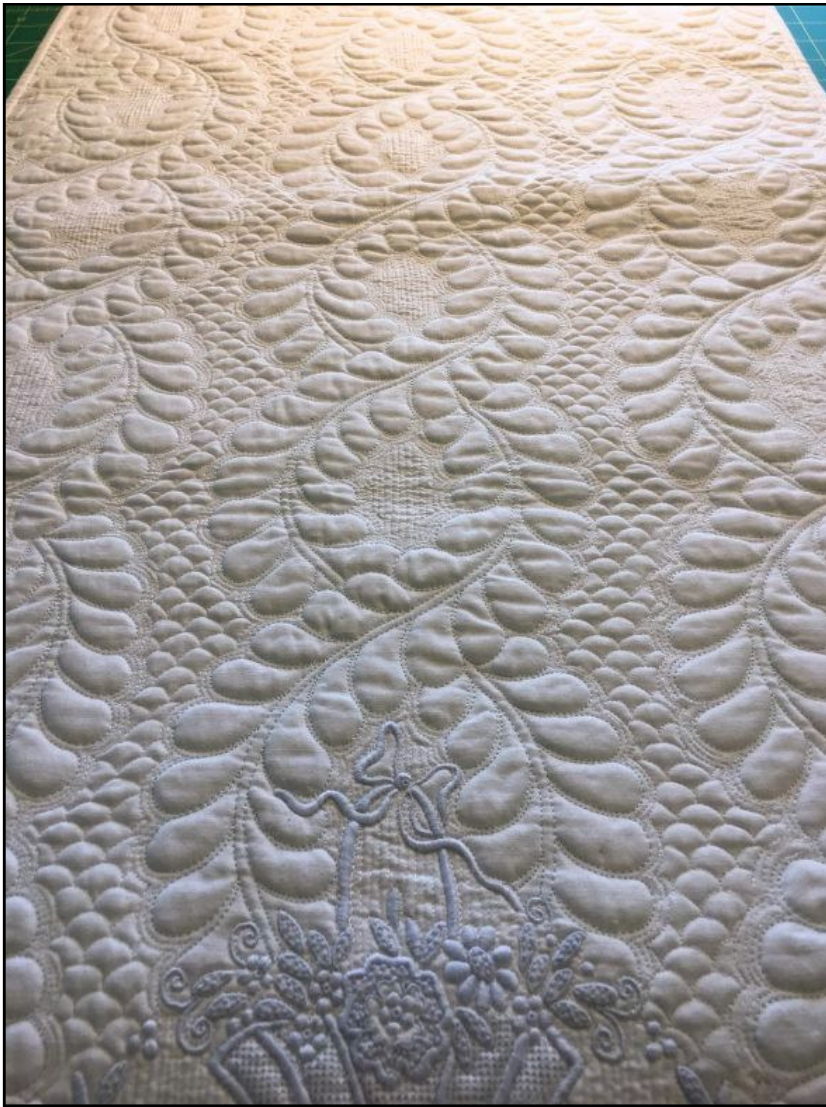
I wanted an overall design on point for the background. I centered my 2" Ultimate Shape in the very top center of the feather wreath making sure it lined up with my pre-drawn vertical center line. I drew the outside lines of the shape.

I took my ruler and lined it up to that drawn square and extended the lines to fill in the entire pillow case. Now I can go in and fill in the arches/feathers.



Notice how I continued the embroidered design to form a complete border. This helps to divide the top of the pillowcase from the bottom.

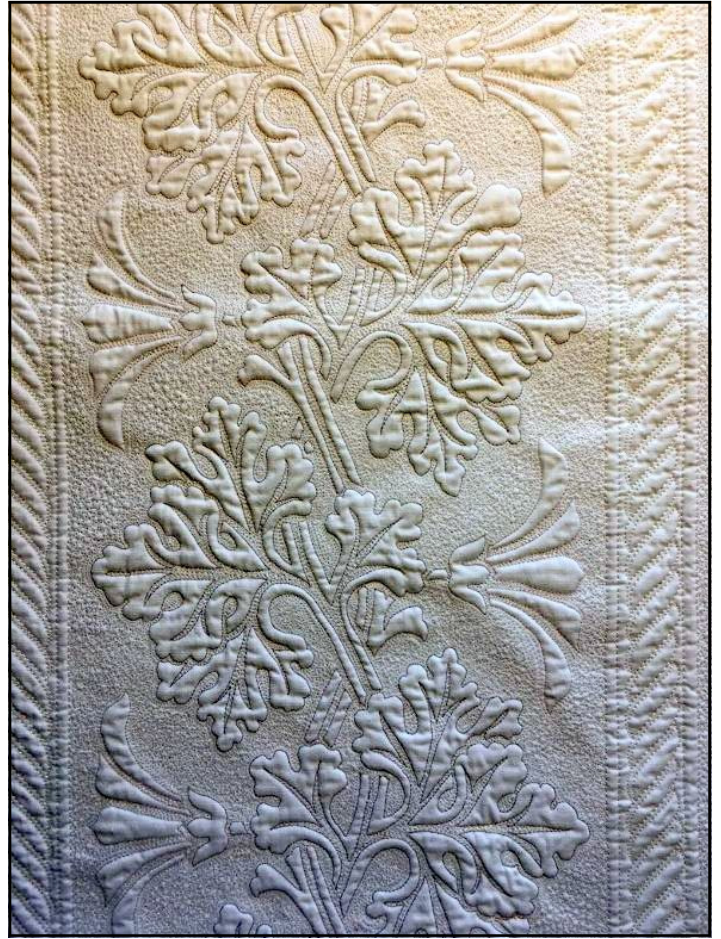
I used the baby Triple Lines to fill in this bottom edge. I was careful to center each one right off of each point.



This pillowcase used three lengths of an intertwining feather border. I was careful to center with the basket FIRST and then mark the two sides.

Baby clams were used to fill in-between. Clams are a great filler for awkward spaces.





This was a very complicated border design. Full size runs down the middle and is centered with the crocheted lace at the bottom.

Partial runs were quilted on either side. This entire piece was quilted with Kimono silk thread.

I will never, ever do this design again!!!!