

PAULINE'S
QUILTERS
WORLD

**Getting Started
with
Feathers:
Pauline's Way**



Code: FTQB

Getting Started With Feathers: Pauline's Way

Feathers can be one of the hardest quilting designs to teach yourself! If you've no idea how to draw a feather it's incredibly challenging knowing how to quilt them. Don't be afraid as it is much simpler starting to learn to quilt shapes if you take it slow and steady, and practice along the way. Your quilting journey can become extremely exciting if you give yourself time and patience.

Learning to quilt is like starting your education journey. Start as a pre-schooler then step up in grades as you hone the basic skills. Before you know it, you'll be Free Motion Quilting (FMQ). Always remember if you cannot or don't want to FMQ, you don't have to.

These are some of my tips on quilting with the feed dogs up and an open toe foot on the machine.

Tools and Notions

Following are the tools I use and recommend for my quilting. These are the things I use, but it doesn't mean they are the only products to use. Do your research and decide what is best for you.

Batting

I use the Hobbs Heirloom Double Sided Fusible Batting. It is 80% cotton and 20% polyester. Using this batting eliminates the need to pin and in turn saves on time. The Batting washes very well with little to no shrinkage, and does not pill through the fibres of the fabric.

To use this Batting simply lay the three layers out on top of each other on a flat ironing surface. Use a hot dry iron and press very slowly in a circular motion. If the pressing is done too fast there will not be enough heat to make the layers adhere together. Once the top is pressed and has stuck, turn the piece over and repeat the process on the back. You are ready to quilt.

Marking Pencil

I use the Bohin Fabric Marking Pencil. Different coloured leads can be used in this pencil. I only use the black and white leads as I can see either of those colours on different coloured fabrics. It is genuinely a nice marker to use.

Needles

I use the Titanium Topstitch Needles. These needles are fantastic as they stay much sharper for a lot longer than a regular needle. I also like the fact that they have a large eye to thread easy and for the difficult threads to run through nicely. I mainly use the size 80/12.

Sew Slip Mat

I love this Mat. It goes over the arm of the sewing machine and creates a nice slippery surface that eliminates the resistance you usually get when quilting. The quilt slides around so easy with the Mat. No need to push, just glide the fabric.

Threads

I am one for using good quality threads. I love multi coloured or plain coloured threads, and I use the MonoPoly Clear Thread a lot when quilting. MonoPoly can be used in both the top and bobbin of the machine.

What Foot to use for Quilting

Quilting with Feed Dogs Up

If you're a novice quilter that hasn't attempted quilting, or that has tried and not had luck with it, I'd suggest that you start by using an **open toe foot** on your machine with the feed dogs up. Using this foot is like normal sewing. The feed dogs will be up, you'll be stitching on the line and turning the fabric as you quilt.

I choose to use this foot a lot when I quilt as I find it very easy to see where I need to stitch. In saying this I find that if I were to pin my layers together, the open toe foot would not be good as there is too much movement between the layers.

Note - This is the very reason I use the Hobbs Heirloom Double Sided Fusible Batting. I get no movement between the three layers with this batting - no pins in the way, and no walking foot is needed.

Quilting with a Walking Foot

A walking foot is usually necessary when the quilt has been sandwiched together with safety pins, as there will be movement between the layers as you quilt. The

walking foot is designed to feed the three layers through together. The teeth on a walking foot slot into the Feed Dogs on the machine so they move together, this stops the layers from moving away from each other.

Quilting with Feed Dogs Down

Quilting with feed dogs down is known as Free Motion Quilting (FMQ). You will use a free motion foot on the machine (refer to your machine manual or contact your dealer if you do not have this foot, or do not know what it looks like). When you free motion quilt you don't need to turn the fabric under the needle as you can stitch in any direction. Simply glide fabric in the direction you want to go.

Note - If you want to know more on how to teach yourself free motion quilting, I suggest you look at my Booklet - Getting Started With Free Motion Quilting: Pauline's Way - available on our website www.pqw.com.au.

A Bit About Feathers

These templates are designed to enable quilters to do any style and size feathers. Feathers can be in a string with a vane running through the middle and the feather shape coming out one side, or both sides. They can be stitched in a heart or circle shape, and used on sashings and borders. The possibilities are endless.

How to use These Feathers Templates

Practice drawing on scraps of paper or fabric first, so you get ideas on the design you like. To start, choose any one of the templates (refer to the designs at the back of this booklet for ideas). Lay your chosen template out on the fabric and decide where you want to have the design.

Use a fabric marking pencil to draw a spine (which is a gentle curve that the feathers will connect to). Use any size shapes from the template chosen. Lay the pointy end of the shape against the spine that's been drawn. Continue to draw the same size shape right up against the first shape, so they nest in together, or you can change sizes.

Start Quilting with Feed Dogs Up

If you are going to start with your feed dogs up, set the stitch length to about 3. This may need adjusting depending on your brand of machine; also if you are

using a walking foot or an open toe foot. Do a test and adjust the stitch length until you are happy with the result.

Now it's time to practice stitching on the line. Take it nice and slow at the start. As you get to the curve, gently turn the fabric as you stitch around the curves. Do not be concerned if you run off the lines a bit. Once finished and the marks have been removed the feathers will look wonderful.

You cannot expect to be perfect with this if it is your first go. It will take time to get to know the road map you have drawn. Keep practicing - the more you stitch a shape, the quicker you embed the image in your brain.

Learning to quilt is just like learning to write. By repeatedly stitching over a shape, the quicker you will know how that shape works. You will then be able to move onto free motioning feathers without even drawing the lines to stitch on.

Remember that there is no shame in quilting on a line. It is for this reason these feathers have been designed. They enable a beginner the creativity of extending their skills, as well as being able to quilt many different feathered designs.

Once you get more confident stitching on a line you may wish to expand into doing other lovely quilting shapes.

Quilt As You Go

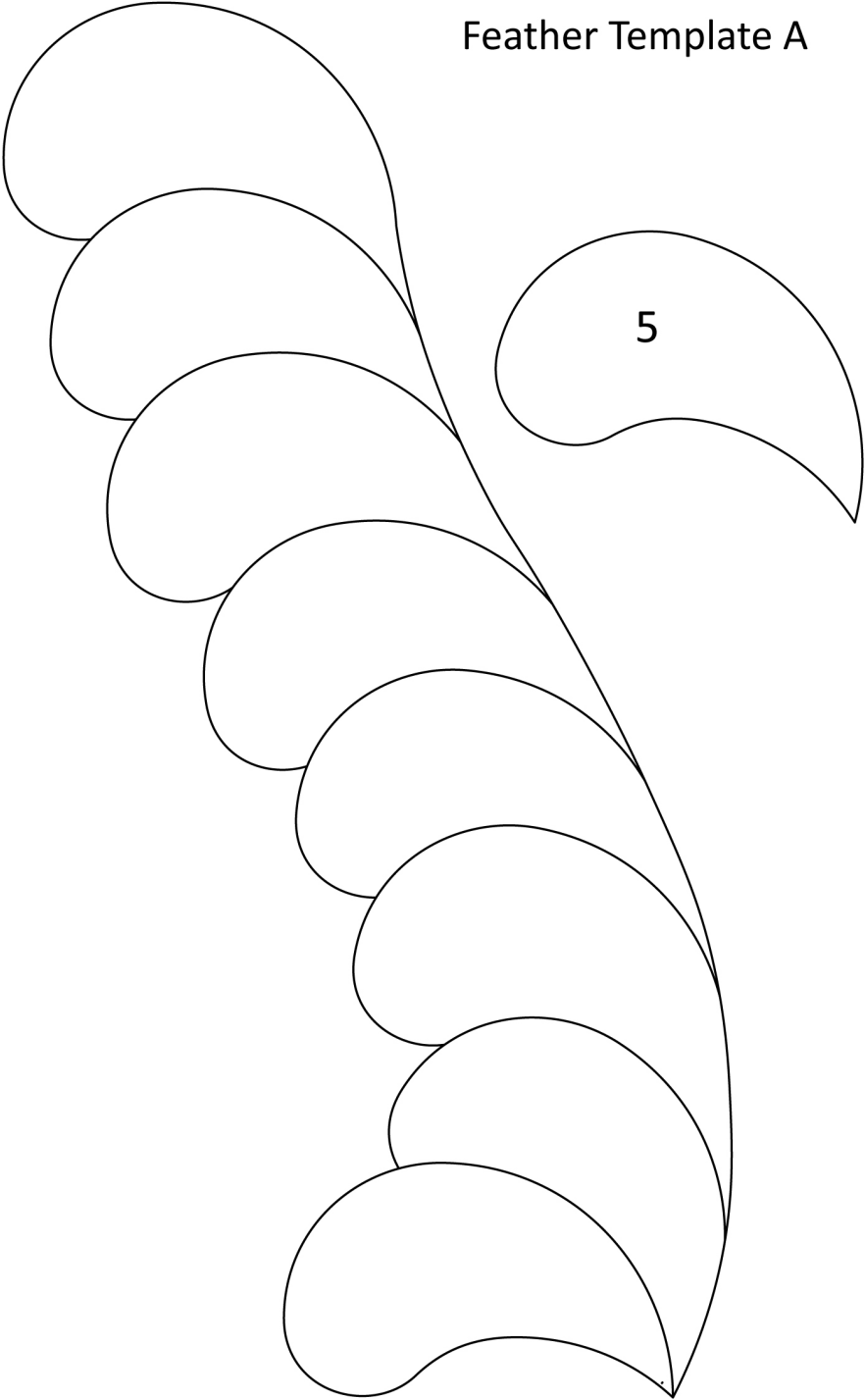
If you struggle quilting a large quilt through a small domestic sewing machine, give Quilt As You Go (QAYG) a try. You'll find it a breeze to quilt small blocks compared to dragging the bulk of a large quilt around the machine. I find it less stressful and more relaxing.

There are many ways to join a quilt together QAYG. If you want to make an applique quilt, I suggest quilting the blocks first then the applique – once each block is completed, join in one of my QAYG techniques. Refer to my QAYG Handbook and my YouTube Channel for viewing.

Happy Quilting, Pauline!

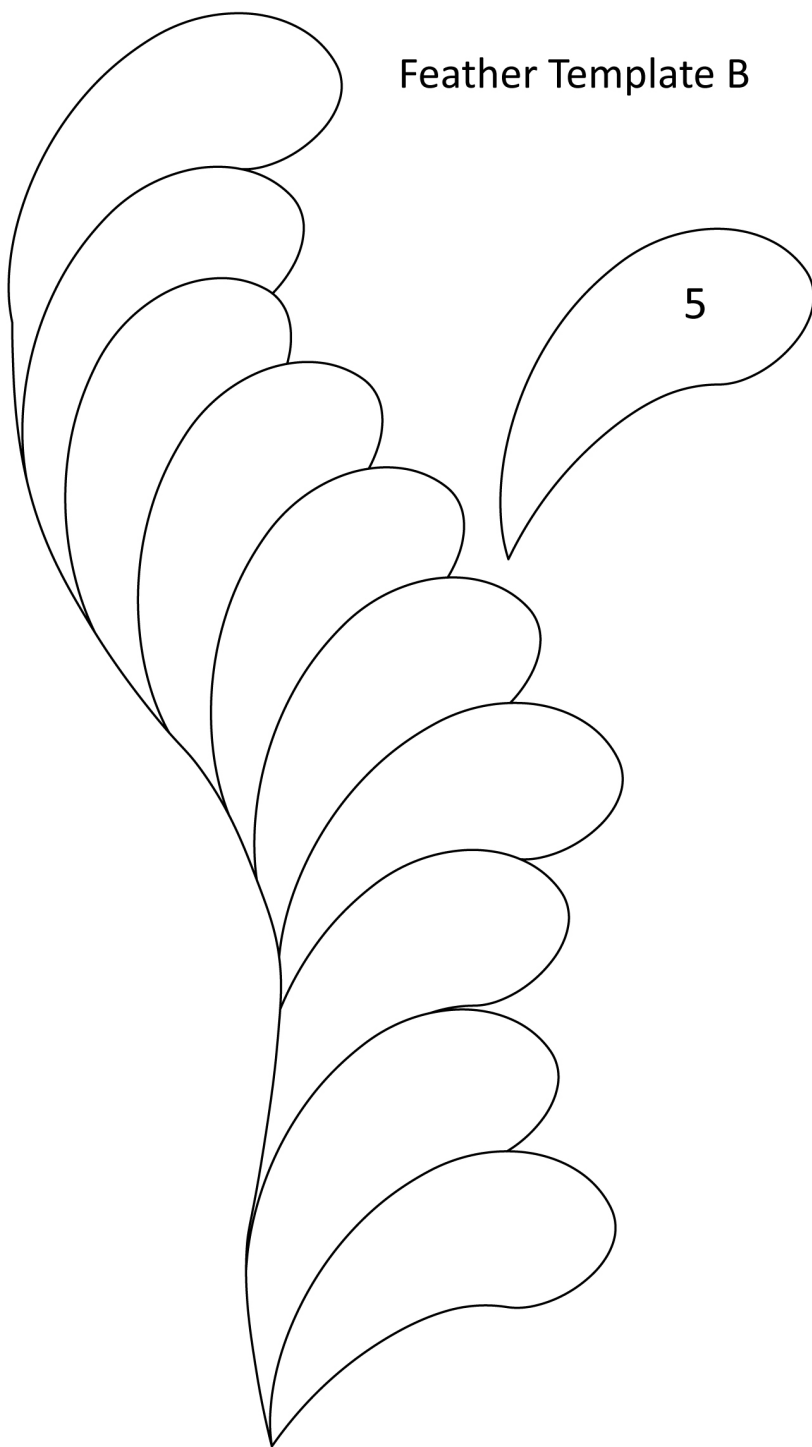


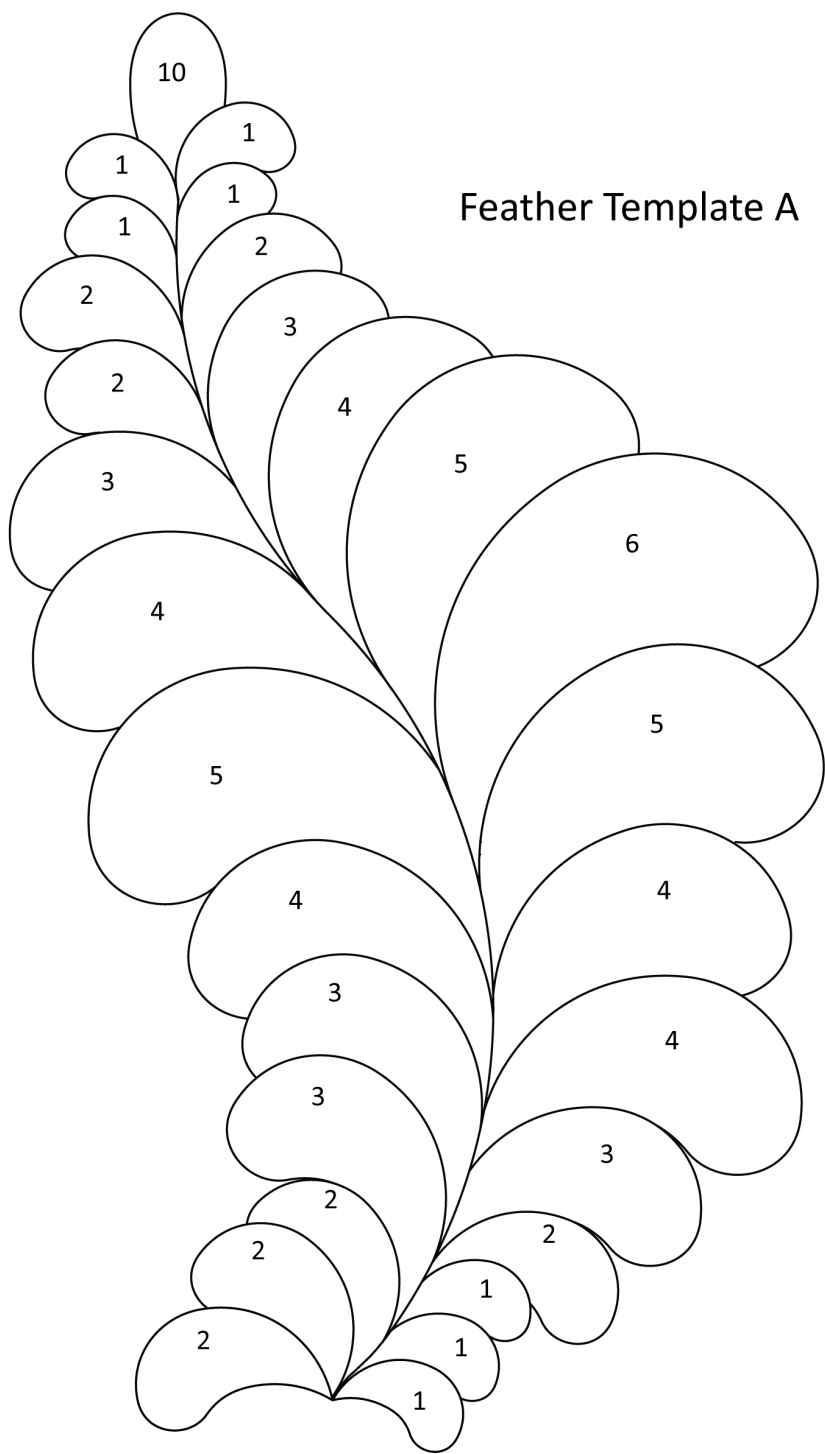
Feather Template A

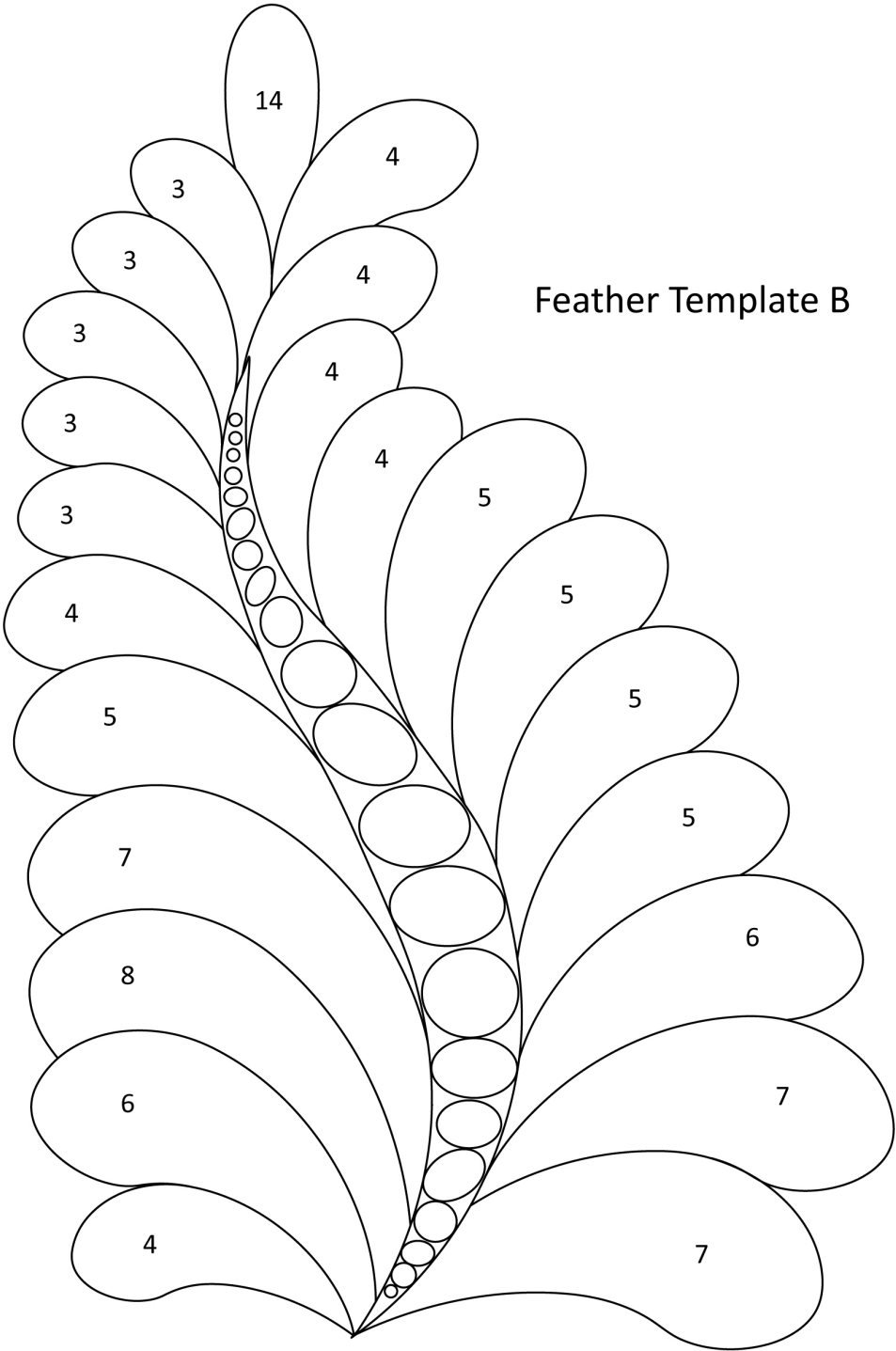


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Feather Template B

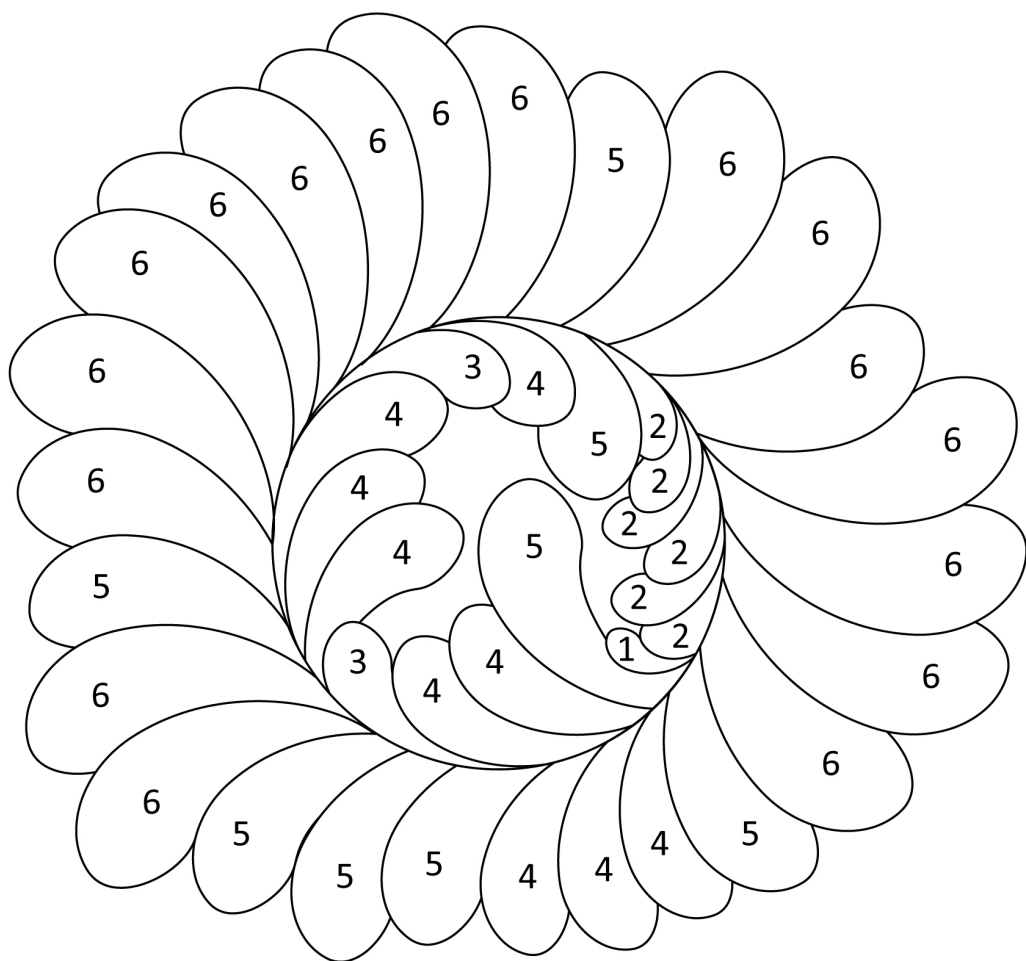




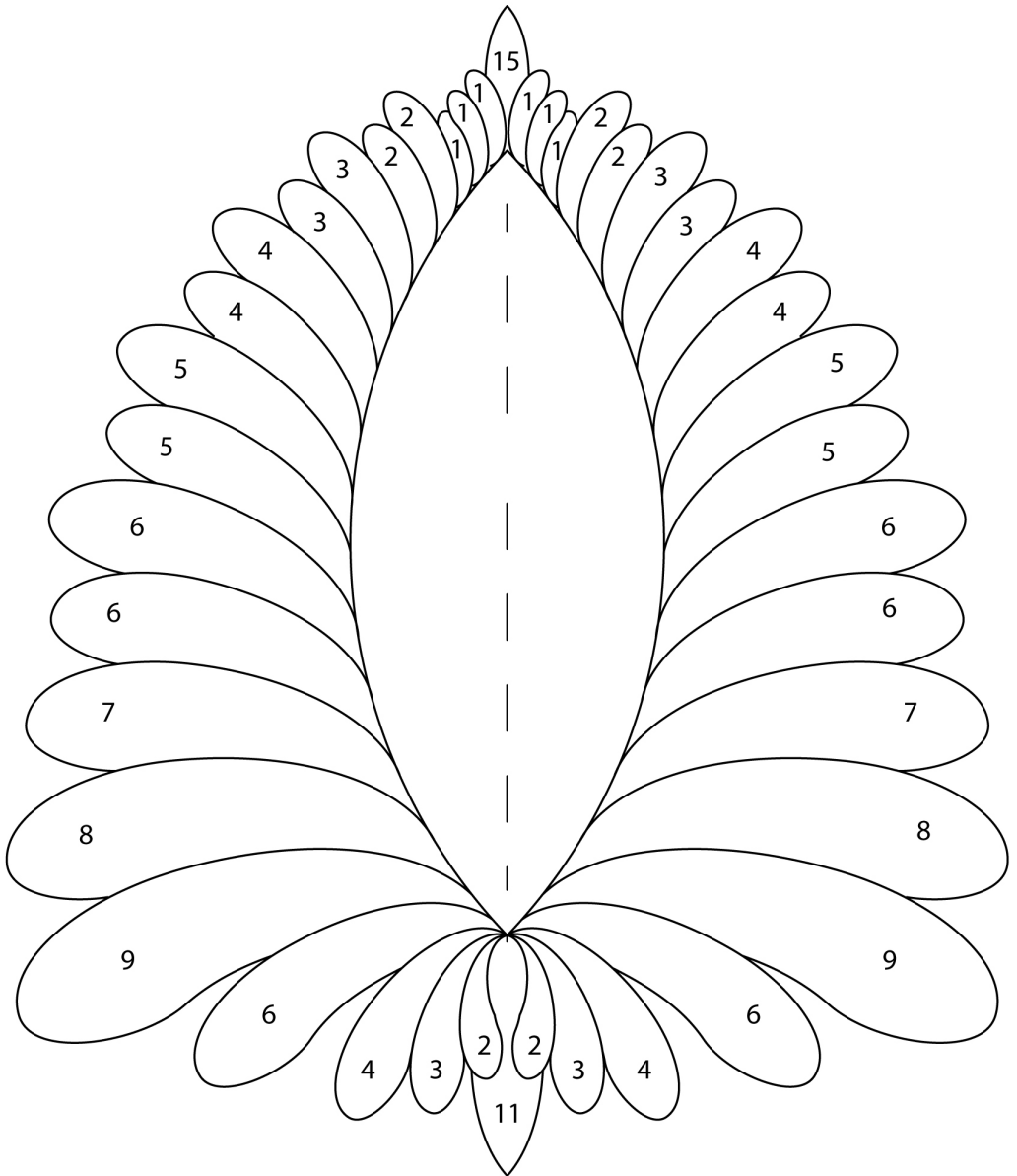


Feather Template B

Feather Template B



Feather Template C



Getting Started with Feathers: Pauline's Way

This little booklet contains all the tips and hints to help you become proficient at quilting feather shapes on your blocks/quilts.

Pauline shares the knowledge and expertise she has compiled in her 35+ years of developing new techniques. She will help you grow the confidence to get you started or take your quilting to the next level.

You too can enjoy every part of quilting. Start to relax, get better with quilting, and have fun doing it Pauline's way.

Designed for the beginner quilter - there's no hard and fast rules.



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