Club Notes: Empress

January 2010

The Amethyst Empress contains 89 patterns, including 24 panos, a retail value of $1002.00!!!

Can you believe that Thanksgiving and Christmas are past? I'm still procrastinating over the task of putting away all the Christmas decorations, and I haven't had the nerve to ask my DH (darling husband) to take down the outside Christmas lights. He hasn't recovered from putting them up in the first place!

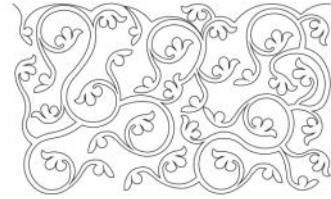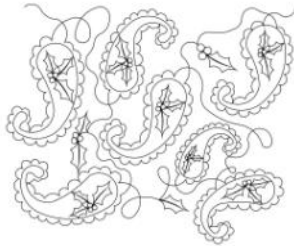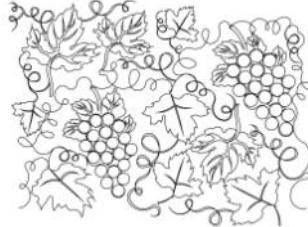This was the first Christmas for Kim as Grandma, and she sure had a houseful this year! Harvey (my Schnauzer) developed a taste for the ornaments on Kim's tree (he never bothers the ornaments on our tree). You should see us trying to work, take care of three dogs, babysit Lucee (she smiles now), and keep kids home for winter break entertained!

Well, the kids go back to school this week, so you should take this opportunity to look through the Amethyst Empress batch of patterns. This is the largest batch so far! We know there are a bunch of Christmas patterns still in this batch, but they were drawn in December, right before Christmas, so you'll just keep them in mind for Christmas 2010.

The patterns this month also include a number of block specific patterns (Log Cabin Block, Pineapple Log Cabin Block, Buzz Saw Block, Double Irish Chain, more Triple Irish Chain, Dresden Plate, Fan Block. These patterns were all Crown Jewel Club Member requests. Keep the requests coming!

We wish a Happy New Year to you and those you love! May all your quilts be square, the borders straight, and your backings big enough!

Happy Quilting!
Kim and Janet

panographs

Aramis pano oo1 sq

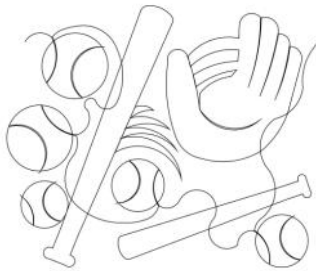Ribbon happy bday hrts

Ribbon happy bday star
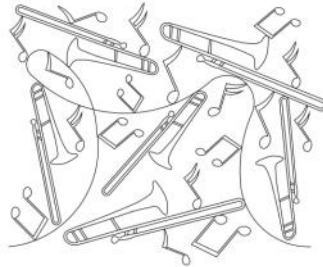

Paisley simple xmas

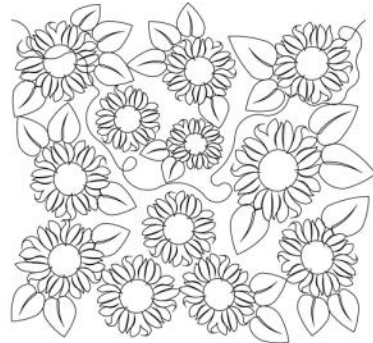

Yellowtail pano 004

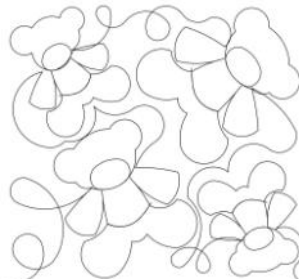Ribbon Scarlett

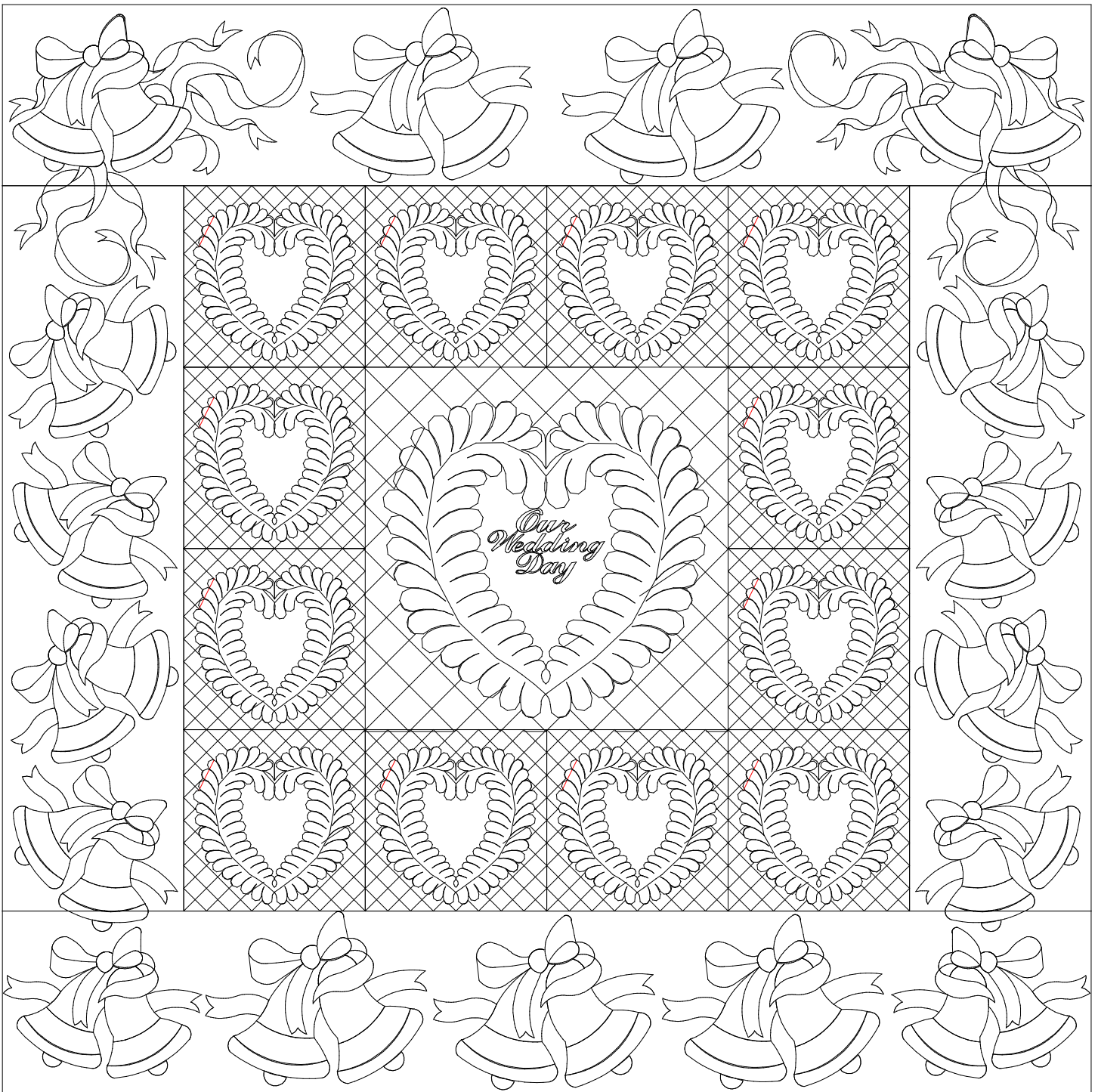Baseball fun 004

Trombone pano 001

Sunflowers complex 001

Bballs and fballs

Bear bear pano sq

News pano 002 (corrected)

Soccer pano 002

Moonbeam pano stars

Land turtle pano

Marathon pano 003

Counting sheep e2e

Casino pano oo1

Gardenia pano 001
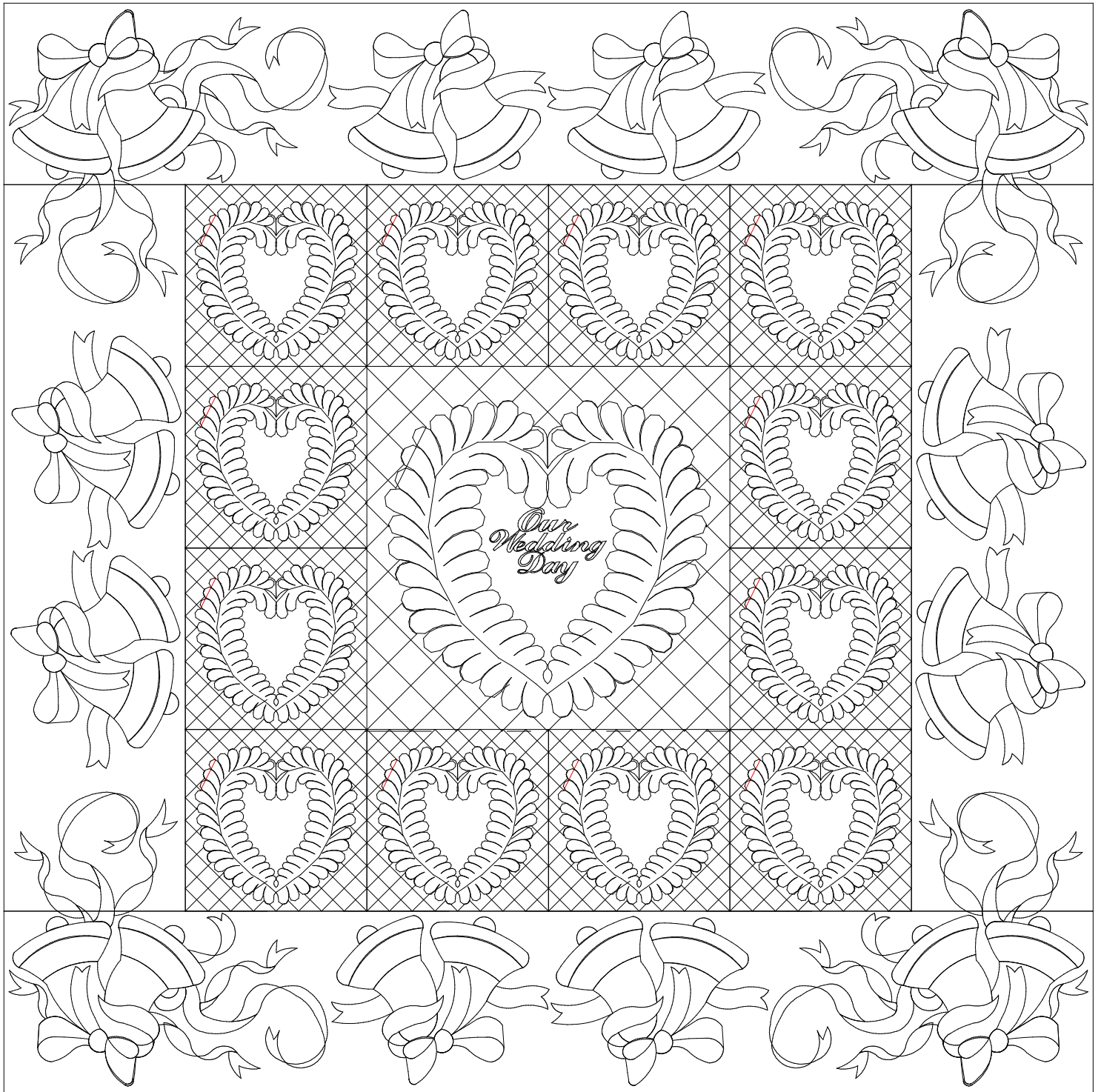

French horn pano

Daddy pano 001

Canadian winter pano

Bugs pano 002

Bellas pano 001

This whole cloth wedding quilt layout uses the wedding heart and wedding heart 001 for the center portions, and the wedding bells border, and the wedding bells border corner only in the top left and right border corners.

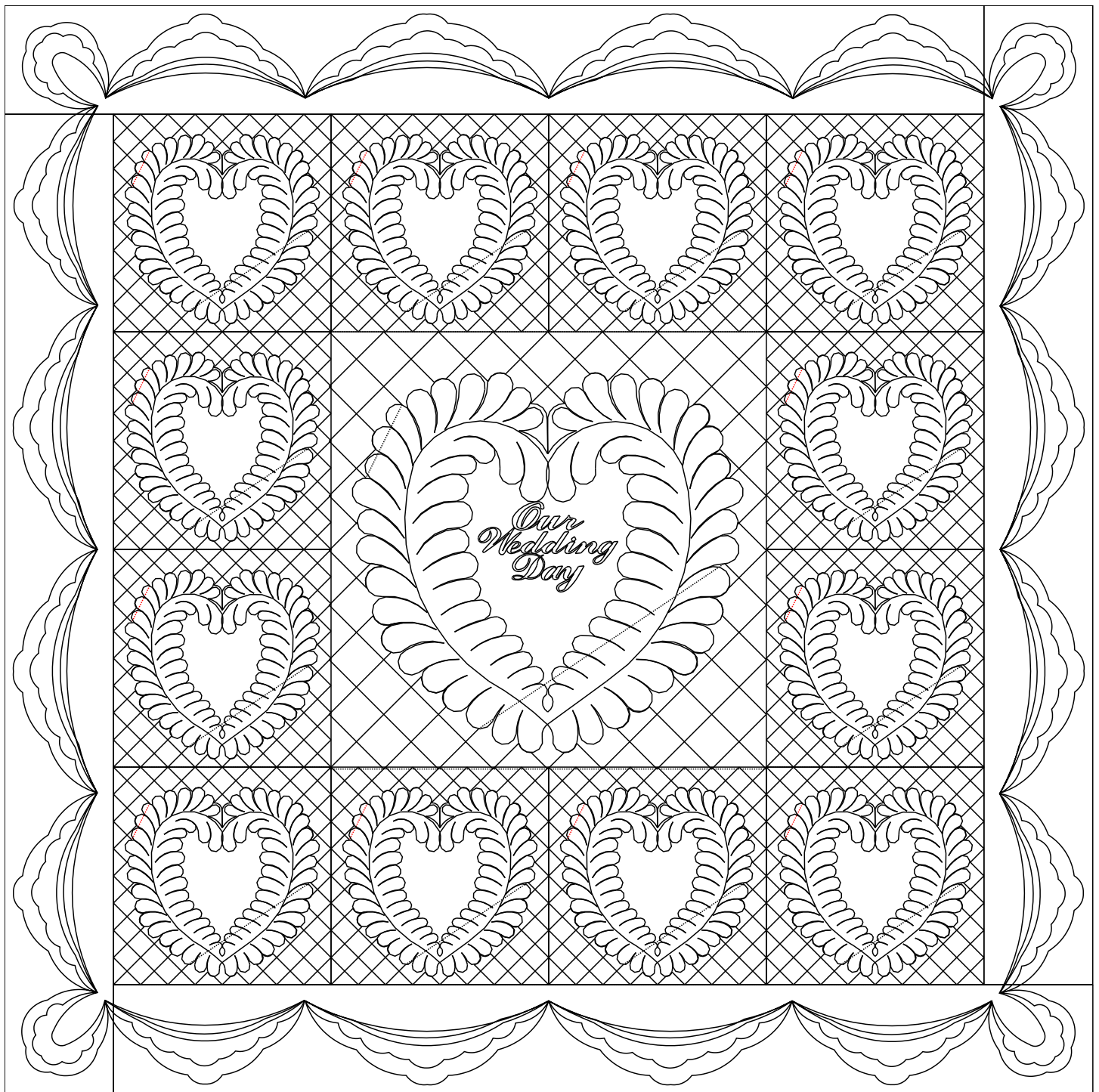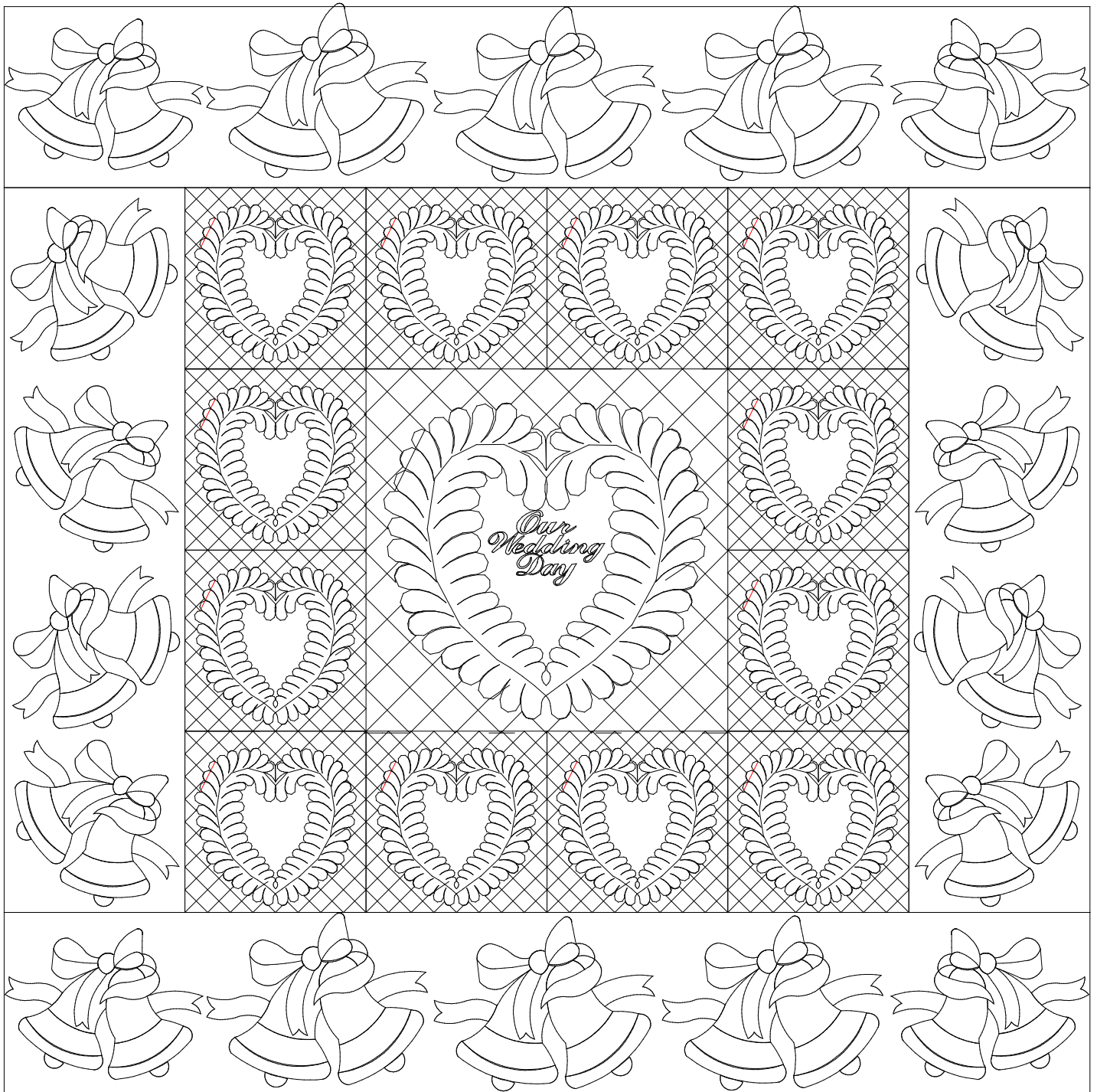**This whole cloth wedding quilt layout uses the wedding heart and wedding heart 001 for the center portions, and the wedding bells border, and the wedding bells border corner pattern in all four border corners.**
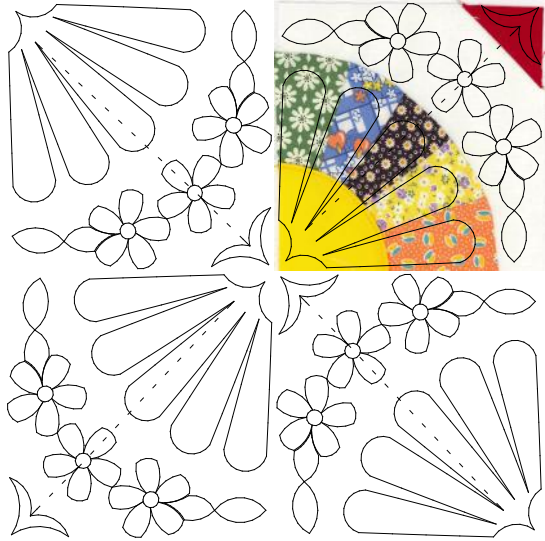
This whole cloth wedding quilt layout uses the wedding heart and wedding heart 001 for the center portions, and the swag 002 and swag corner 002 patterns.
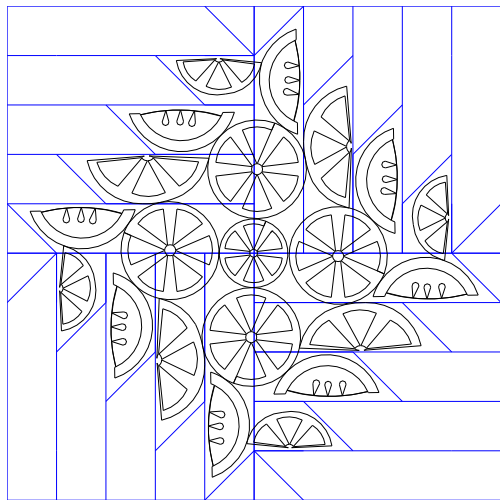
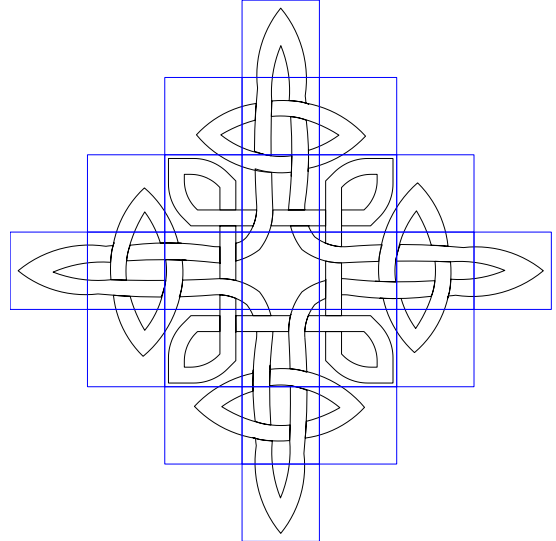**This whole cloth wedding quilt layout uses the wedding heart and wedding heart 001 for the center portions, and the wedding bells border set as individual patterns in the borders. It does not use the corresponding border corner patterns for a directional application.**
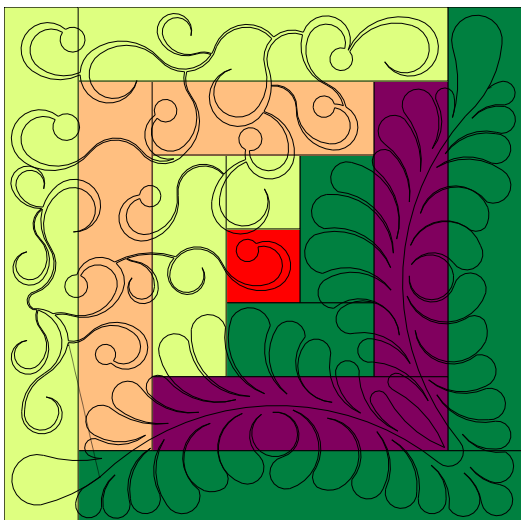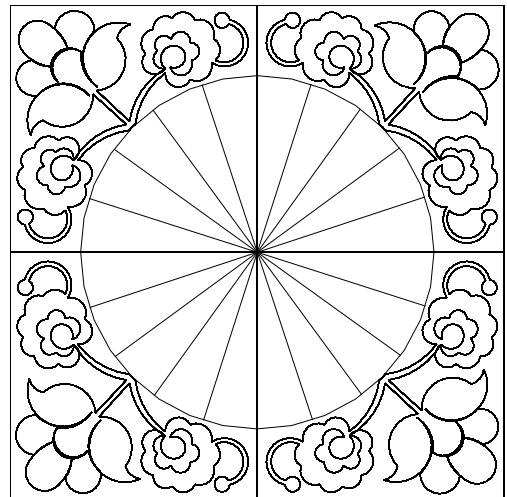
Six new block specific patterns!

Fan

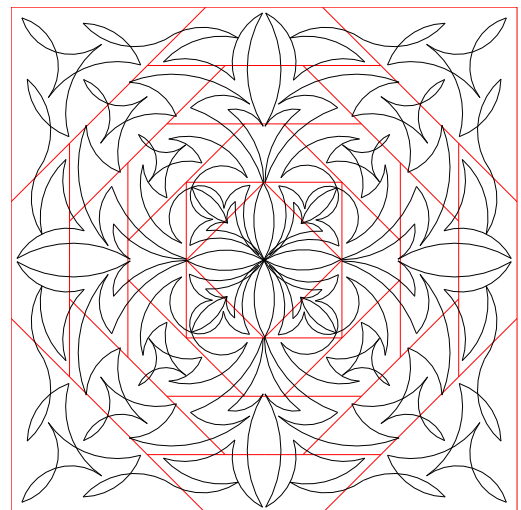Triple Irish Chain

Buzz Saw Block

Dresden Plate

Log Cabin

Pineapple Log Cabin Block

(For Carmen)

Organize Those Patterns!

We believe that the Sweet Dreams Quilt Studio Crown Jewels Club is one of the most valuable tools you can have as a professional longarm quilter. We also understand that your patterns can be overwhelming to sort through. Here are a couple of ways I've used to control my patterns, without learning a whole separate pattern management software:

1) I put all my pattern together, regardless of the designer name.
2) I copy the edge to edge (e2e)/pano patterns into another folder.
3) I copy frequently used e2e patterns into another folder.
4) I copy handy custom quilting patterns (frequently used triangles, p2p patterns, favorite border & border corner sets) into another folder.

Back in the days of Precision Stitch software on the Statler, I made folders for specific quilt types (Tennessee Waltz, Triple Irish Chain, Log Cabin Feminine, Log Cabin Masculine, Drunkards Path, Nine-Patch, Sawtooth Star, Ohio Star, etc.) Into each of these folders I would copy patterns which were either block specific or just played nicely together for those quilts. I have a special folder for whole cloth quilts, and it contains the frame set from the Baby Alphabet Quilt.

Now Statler's Creative Studio allows the user to make projects with these patterns so this folder structure is no longer necessary.   I still use those special folders to build new quilt projects, simply because they have become a comfortable place to go for well used and loved patterns.

Also, I used to try to keep all the pattern images on my web site for my quilt customers to view. At the current rate of pattern design creation, I decided that I can either spend two hours every day updating my web site, or I can quilt! I choose to quilt and let Sweet Dreams Quilt Studio's webmaster handle that part of the patterns. There's a search field located in the upper left section of the Sweet Dreams Quilt Studio web site. Use it to find patterns you're thinking about, capture the actual name of the pattern and then scroll through your patterns, sorted in alphabetical order to use the pattern. Let your clients use this as a planning tool and it will help reduce the amount of time you have to spend with the customer in the pattern selection decision.

If you have other great ideas for organizing your patterns, drop us a line….we'll share your ideas!   Janet