

Kim traveled to Virginia to teach at the Birds of a Feather Conference . While she was gone we got hit with another one of those polar vortex freezes. She got out of Virginia just ahead of the snow that dumped on them! What good luck she has!

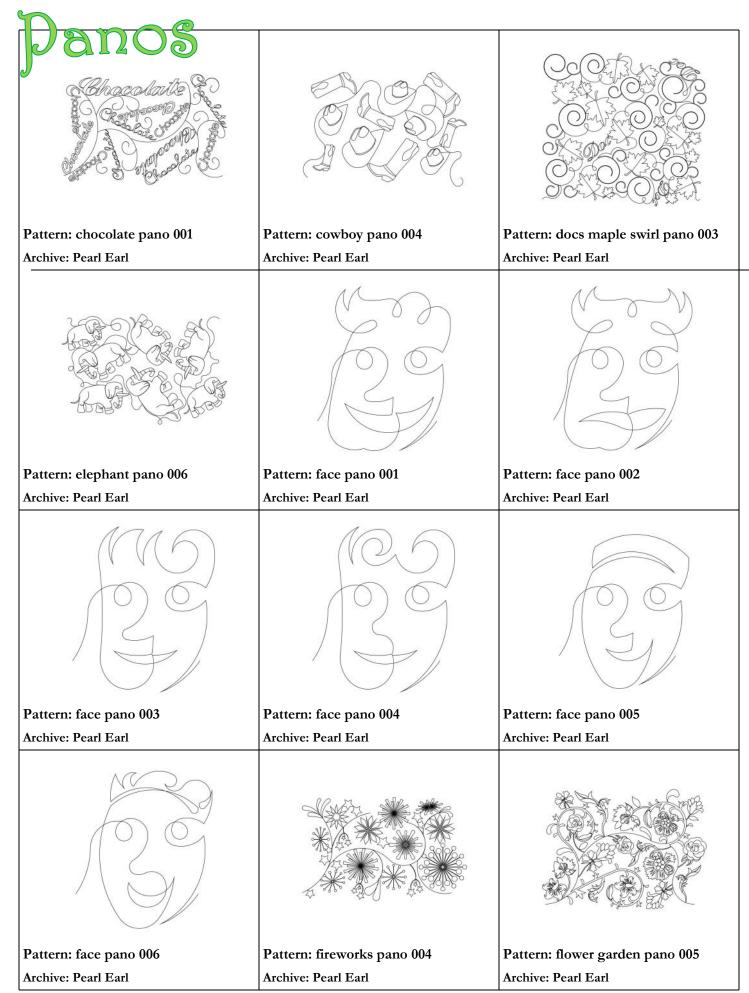
We will be vending at MQS in Wichita, KS in April and then home for two days and back on the road (or though the clouds) to New Hampshire for MQX East. So, if you're planning to attend either of those shows, stop by and see us!

In our effort to "Have More Fun in 2014" we have been meeting weekly with a group of our guilty friends. Some times only a few can make it, while other times Kim's living room is packed. I think that it is very possible to get so caught up in making a living that a person can forget that we work to live. We don't live to work.

So I encourage each of you to make time in your life for your friends. It is already making a difference in our lives!

Happy St. Patrick's Day! Kim and Janet

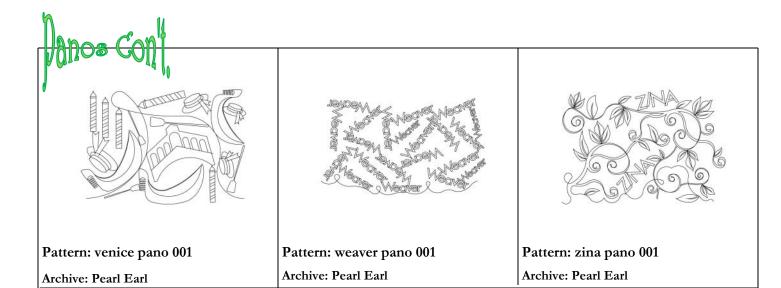




Sweet Dreams Quilt Studio Archives

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Pattern: go bluejays pano 001	Pattern: hayden pano 001 Pattern: lonestar fill pano 001			
Archive: Pearl Earl	Archive: Pearl Earl	Archive: Pearl Earl		
	Pattern: maze pano 004 Pattern: maze pano 005			
Pattern: lonestar fill pano 002	Pattern: maze pano 004	Pattern: maze pano 005		
Pattern: lonestar fill pano 002 Archive: Pearl Earl	Pattern: maze pano 004 Archive: Pearl Earl	Pattern: maze pano 005 Archive: Pearl Earl		
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Pattern: pleasant ridge rams pano	Pattern: purim pano 001	Pattern: rosh hashana pano 001	
Archive: Pearl Earl	Archive: Pearl Earl	Archive: Pearl Earl	
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Pattern: round valley elks pano 001	Pattern: school bus pano 001	Pattern: school bus pano 002 sq	
Archive: Pearl Earl	Archive: Pearl Earl	Archive: Pearl Earl	
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Pattern: shavuot pano 001	Pattern: shocker pano 001	Pattern: silver fern pano 001	
Pattern: shavuot pano 001 Archive: Pearl Earl	Pattern: shocker pano 001 Archive: Pearl Earl	Pattern: silver fern pano 001 Archive: Pearl Earl	



### Longarm Tip of the Month

We all know that we shouldn't run our longarm machines during a thunderstorm, right? Why? Because a nearby lightening strike can come in through the power lines and or telephone lines and fry anything you have plugged in, even if you're using a surge protector.

Another electrical danger to your longarm is Static Electricity.

The colder the outside temperatures, the drier the indoor air gets during the winter. This winter, the temperatures have been much more extreme than usual. And, at least in Missouri, it feels like it's been a much longer winter than normal! Static electricity can give you quite a shock when you touch something metal. It can also completely fry your computer and your longarm's controller circuits.

One way to combat static electricity is to have a whole house humidifier. Those come with their own issues....mostly smell. When my girls were small, we kept a cool mist humidifier in each of their rooms to help with congestion during the winter. Now I use one of those little humidifiers in my quilt studio. I'm careful that it isn't pointed toward any equipment, and it is set on the floor on top of a plastic table placemat. It's easy to fill and has pretty much eliminated the static electricity in my studio.

I started doing this after another local quilter had to spend \$600.00 to replace a fried part in her longarm controller. Static just zapped it when she turned on the switch.



Meet Your New

### **Best Friend!**

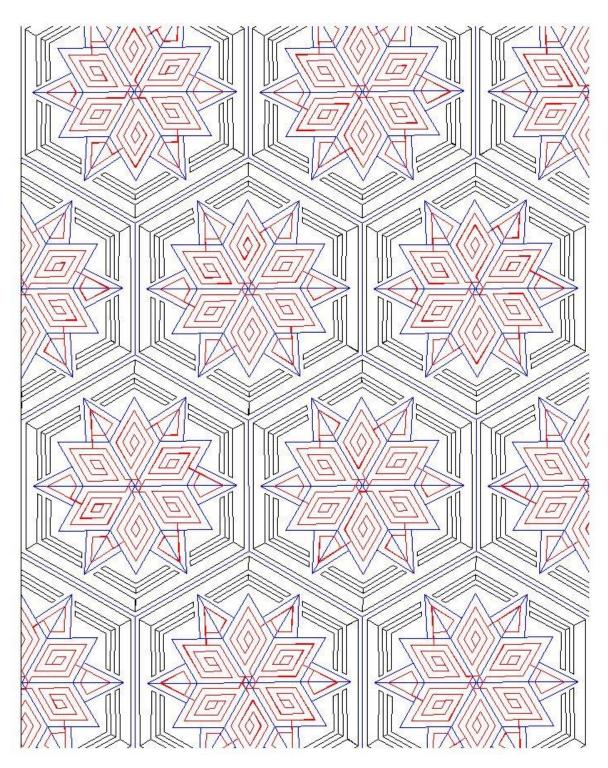
#### **Created by Sweet Dreams Quilt Studio, Quilter's LightBox**<sub>®</sub> **software was designed to easily:**

- Import photos of your quilt and/or quilt blocks.
- Import photos of quilt block pattern pictures.
- Preview quilting patterns superimposed over the quilt photos.
- Enlarge, reduce, copy, rotate, increase or decrease line widths, and adjust thread colors.
- Print pictures of the quilt/block with the patterns, and a list of the quilting pattern pictures used.
- Create a .zip file with all of the pictures for ease in emailing to quilt customers.
- AND NOW has a freehand feature, for those times when you want to doodle on your own!

The software includes over 9000 quilting pattern pictures and free monthly updates for quilting pattern pictures. The software is available for purchase online with immediate download, and also comes with a backup version on the DVD, along with the library of pattern pictures, delivered via USPS Priority Mail. DVD is shipped within 1 business day of order date. **Don't forget to download your free pattern pictures updates!!** 

#### http://www.quilterslightbox.com

#### Night Sky Patterns



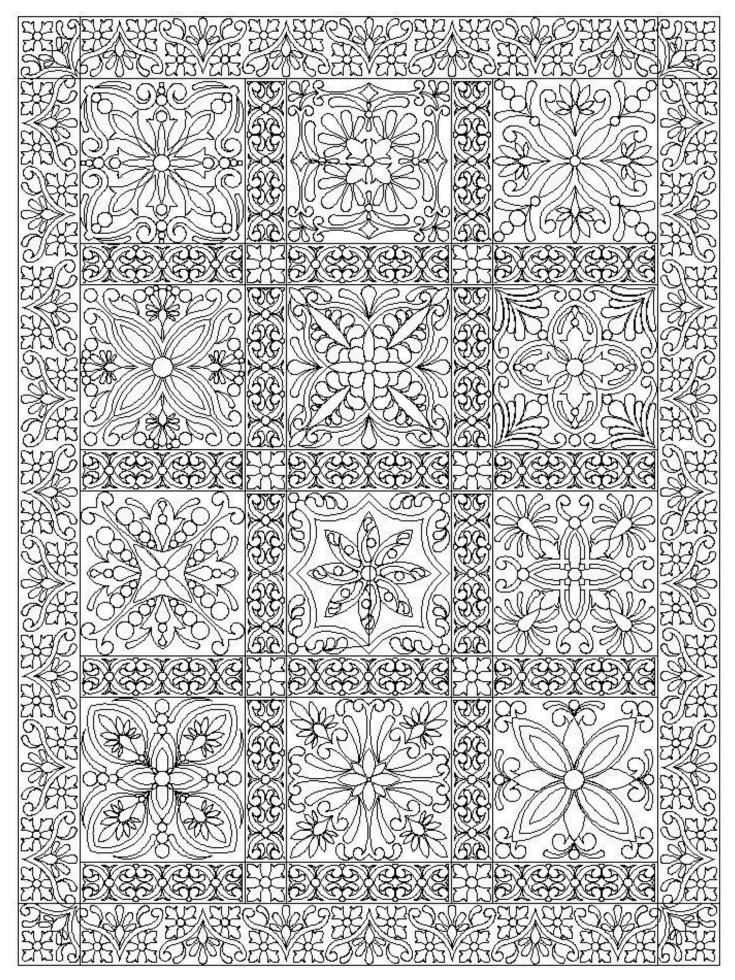
### Patterns for Judy Niemeyer's Cattails Quilt



# Coming Soon: The Mediterranean Garden Raw Edge **Applique Set**

This set contains 12 block patterns, a corner stone pattern. Sash pattern, border pattern, and border corner pattern.

Use these patterns to quilt your customer quilts or use them to make a whole cloth quilt!

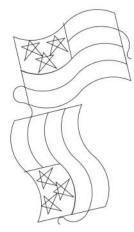


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### Patterns for the Cincinnati, Ohio Star Quilt

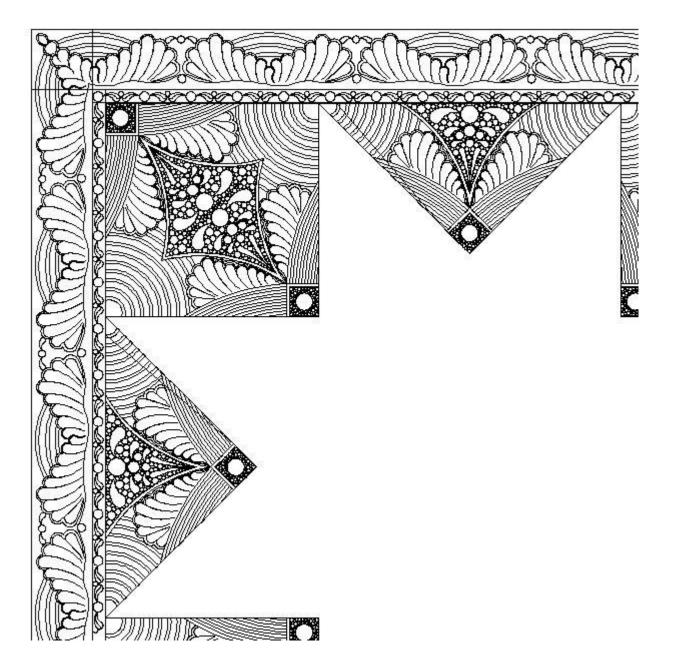


Plus a border corner to work with a much older border (Flag Border).

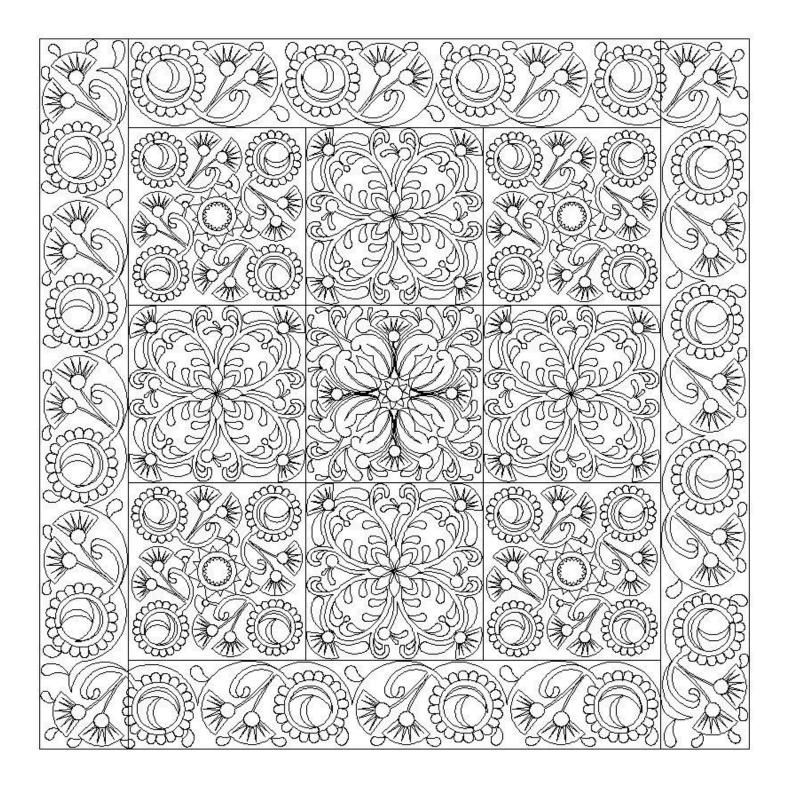


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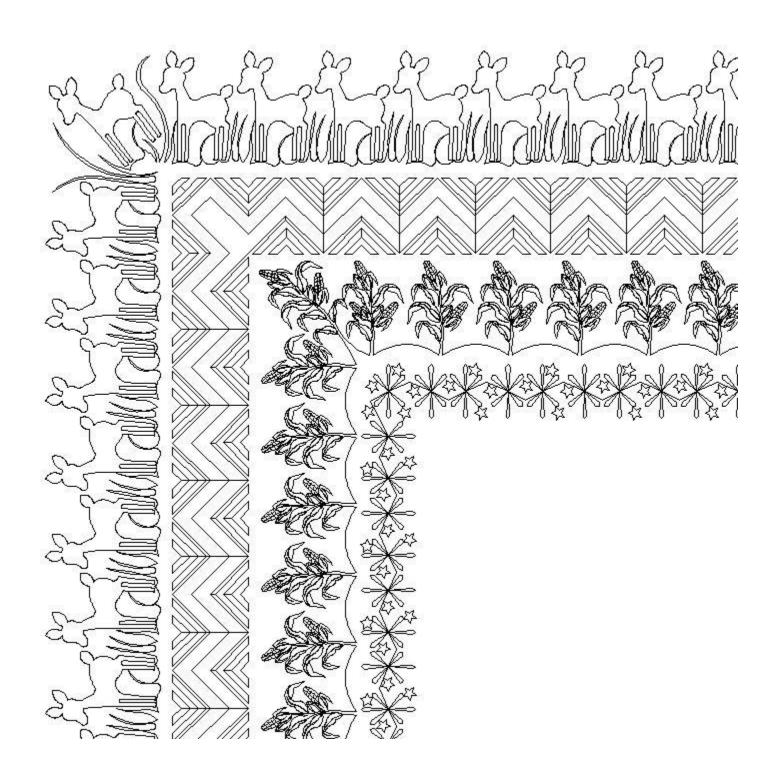
## New Lone Star Patterns



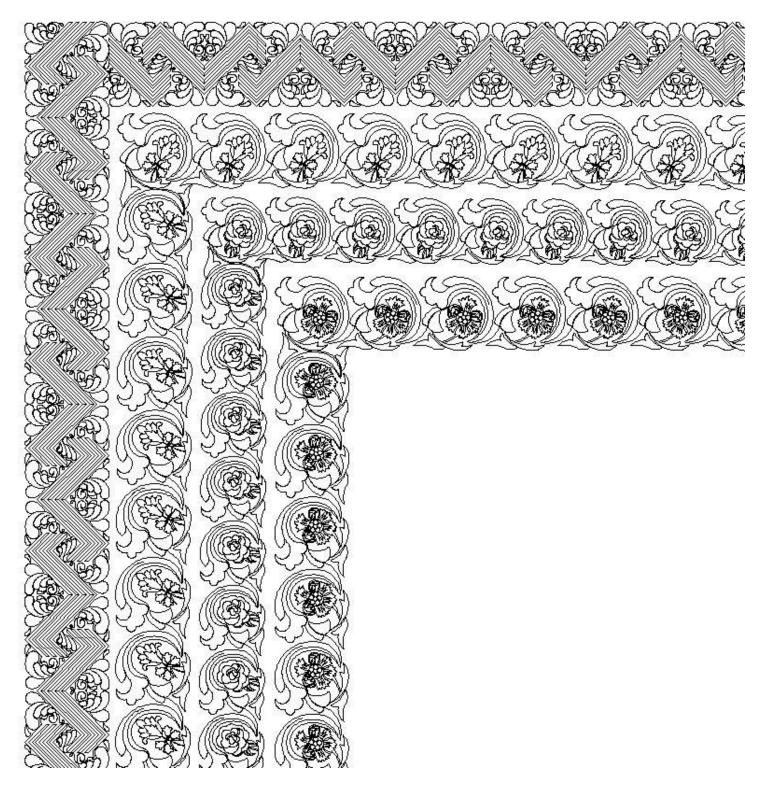
## Wilma's Garden



### New Border and Border Corner Sets



### More Border and Border Corner Sets



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Pattern Type	Size	Name of Ex- isting Pattern for Modifica- tion	Name to be included in pattern	Attach good pho- tos of quilt and blocks	Style you're going for. Other patterns you're us- ing in the quilt, etc.
Block #1					
Block #2					
Block #3					
Border & Border Corner #1					
Border & Border Corner #2					
Border & Border Corner #3					
Triangle-Equilateral (all sides equal and all angles are 60 degrees)					
Triangle–Isosceles (two equal sides and two equal angles)					
Triangle-Scalene (no equal sides & no equal angles)					
Sash					
Point-to-Point					
Edge-to-Edge—Directional					
Edge-to-edge-Non Direction- al					
Edge-to-Edge-Interlocking					
Edge-to-Edge-Squared					

#### Important things to consider and include with your design request:

When you take photos of the quilt and/or quilt block, the camera should be parallel to the quilt (we need a straight on shot). If we have to draft out the block, it helps a lot to capture correct angles.

If you want an existing pattern modified, we need the exact pattern name. (We cannot modify another designer's pattern, so please don't ask us to do that.)

Style you're going for: If you want celtic, but don't tell us and we make floral, no one will be happy.

If you want a name included in the pattern, you need to double check the spelling before you submit the request. If you find out after the pattern has been designed that you requested the pattern with incorrect spelling, your submission of the correct name spelling goes to the end of the drawing list, causing a delay for you.

If your machine has a short throat, please make sure you tell us the largest amount of the fabric your machine has access to quilt. PLEASE <u>email your design requests</u> (you can follow up with a phone call, but it helps us to have the email.)



We've had many questions from new longarm quilters about the best places to buy their supplies. So, we thought we'd provide a list of our favorite vendors. This is not an exclusive list....you may already have other vendors who take care of your longarm supply needs...and we're not trying to convert anybody.

**Superior Thread:** I buy King Tut Thread in the 2000 yard cones, although they have poly thread as well. They sell wholesale only, so you'll need your sales tax certificate to set up an account. They have an amazing selection of thread. They have fabulous customer service and an easy online account set up process. They also ship internationally! <u>http://www.superiorthreads.com</u>

**Checker Distributing:** Wholesale Only.....I have rarely looked in vain for anything quilt related on their site. Shopping for supplies can be addicting! Shipping is charged on large items, but not on items such as pins, needles, thread, books, scissors, or most other notions. They do charge shipping on bolts of fabric, luggage, cutting mats, Ott Lights, etc. http://www.checkerdist.com

**SouthStar Supply Company:** They have scissors, snips & holsters, bobbins, pattern making supplies, rotary cutters, mats, knives, sharpeners, notions, needles, pins, ergonomics, safety, & handling supplies, steamers, machine oil, spot lifters, silicone....and they are very nice people to work with.

http://www.southstarsupply.com

Quilter's Dream Batting: I have pretty much stopped purchasing rolls of batting. I find it easier to maintain an accurate inventory of batting, and it stores well. Unlike some packaged batting, I don't find that the QD batting is distorted, and so it doesn't require a trip through my dryer before I can use it. Some of my best friends who also have longarm quilting businesses stock packaged batting as well as batting on a roll. We agree that these people are easy to work with! <u>http://www.quiltersdreambatting.com</u>

**Quilted Memories:** This Hobbs Batting distributor is only a quick phone call away. She ships UPS or Fed Ex. UPS costs a bit more, but since they'll put my packages inside my garage rather than leaving it out on my front porch, I don't mind that extra cost. This lady (Lyn Heilman) makes it happen! When I find myself in a batting crunch, she's there for me! Just gotta love that! (Plus she provided all the classroom batting for the SUGAR 2010 Conference this past summer). <u>http://www.quiltedmemoriesllc.com</u>

**Virginia Longarm:** I buy the dress bag and the 3-sided zipper totes to deliver my quilts to customer. They bring their next quilt to me in their bag. When I arrive at our guild meetings, laden with my purple bags, people say it looks like Christmas. Their quilts stay clean and it adds a little extra class and professionalism to my business.

http://www.virginialongarm.com or call 804-708-0741.