

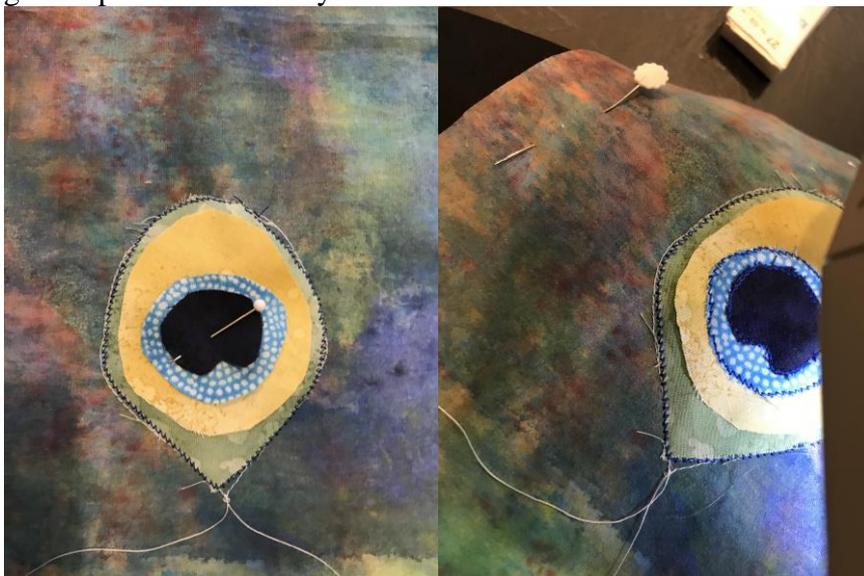
Quilting the Peacock Feather

I would have liked to have a free-motion quilting foot, but a walking foot will work equally well for this feather! I do not have even a walking foot, but I have not added a batting to my feather, so I think a regular foot will have to work here! Let us see how it goes.

1. The first thing I have to do is quilt the centre of my feather (which you may remember, I do not have in place at all!) So I flip over to the backing side and quilt the outline of the centre of the feather. I turn it around and realize I had white thread in the bobbin, so the outline shows up in white on the front. I am not very happy with this, but eventually, it will not matter.



2. Now I know exactly where the centre of my feather lies! I pin it in place, and zigzag over the edge of the outermost green layer. I then zigzag over the other three layers, beginning with the centremost to get the pin out of the way.

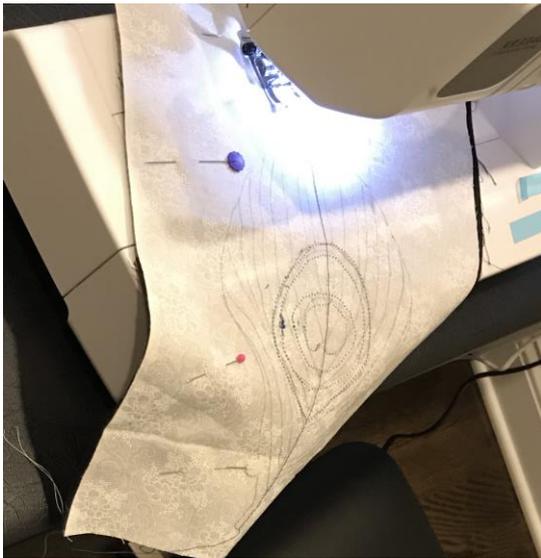




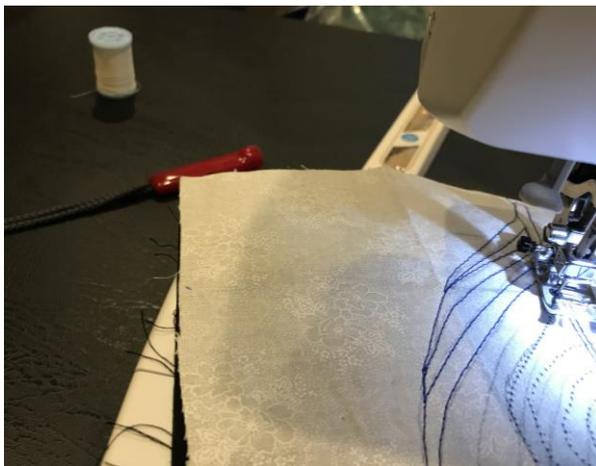
I have used dark blue thread, but you could use a deep yellow, or a dark green or even black—anything that will contrast nicely with your fabrics.

If you do not have a zigzag stitch on your machine, use the straight stitch. A tiny satin stitch will work equally well! The great thing about this feather is that you do whatever you are comfortable with. The intent is to have fun! And now the fun begins.

3. With centre in place, I turn the sandwich over and start quilting over the lines in the pattern traced on the backing. I do the central spine of the feather first.



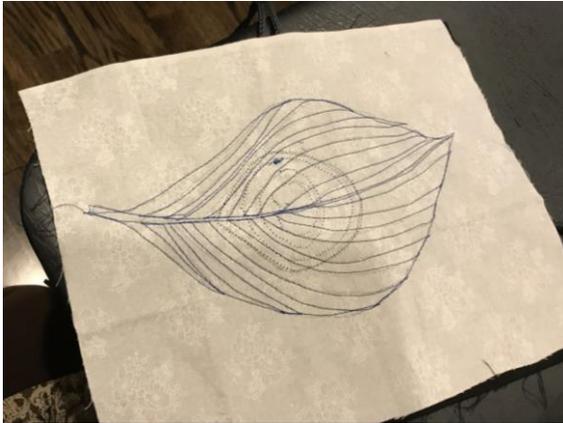
The trick is to quilt slowly; it is quite simple really, just quilting over a line drawn on the fabric!



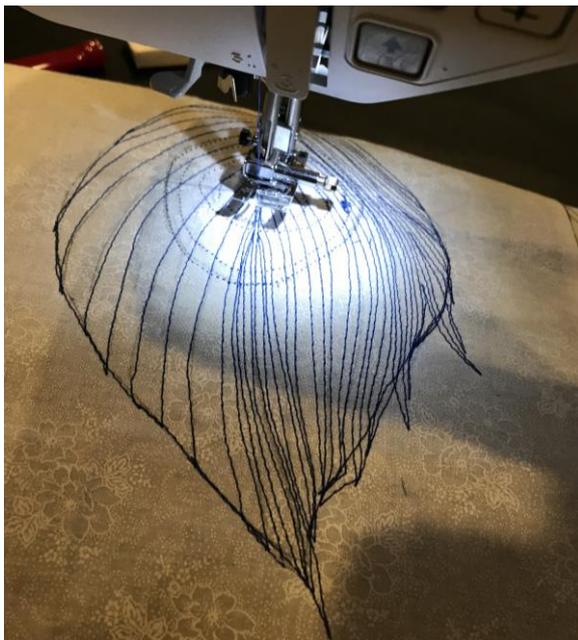
4. I then start doing the rest of the feather, beginning at the bottom. Start from the central spine, travel to the outer edge, travelling up a little to the next line...
...stop the machine with needle down, turn around the sandwich and travel back to the centre. Travel up a little to the next line and repeat!



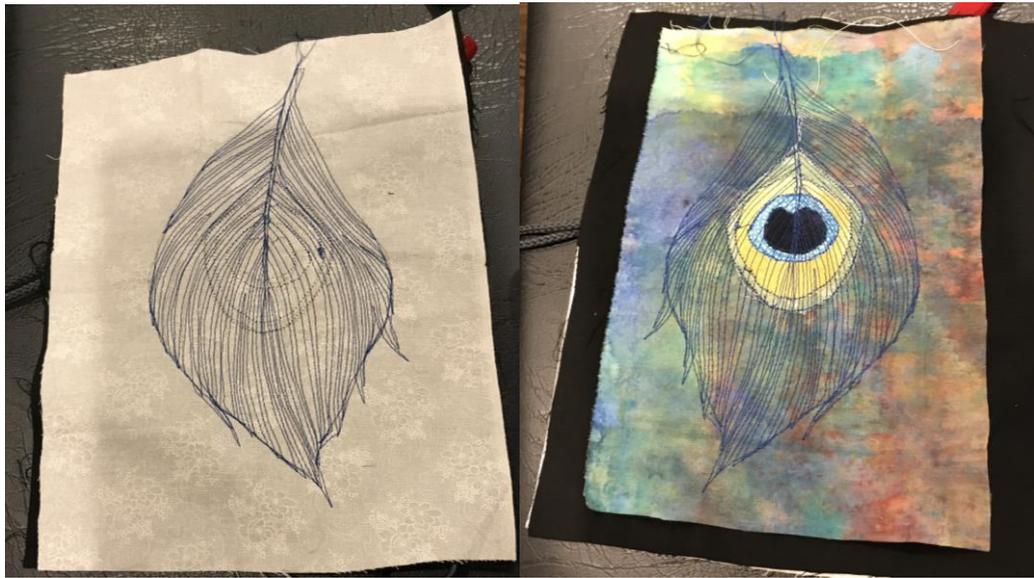
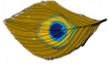
Once one side of the spine is quilted, I sew over the lines on the other side. In less than 10 minutes, I am done!



5. I am ready to add details to the feather now. I start, literally, to quilt between the lines. Note that I go beyond the outline in several places, just travelling with the flow!



Another 10 minutes, and I have finished quilting my feather!



The Final Step

6. Now I am ready for bringing my feather to life! I pick up my really sharp scissors and start trimming the feather along the quilted outline. The fraying of the fabric will only give it a feathery look, so be adventurous and go right up to the central spine. We are done!

