

Deep Curves

The main trick with a deeply curved spine is figure out what to do with the feathers on the inside of the curve.

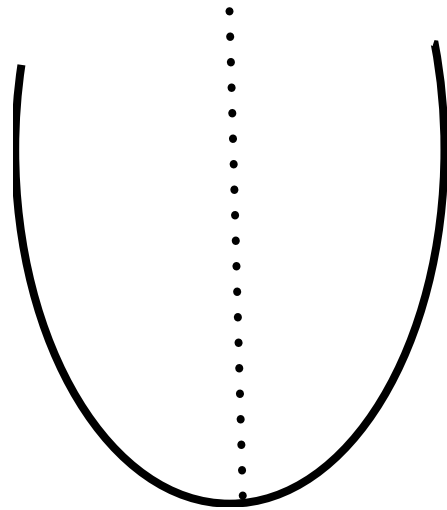
Visual Guide

As you feather into the deep curve, you do not want your feathers to be too big, or you will not have enough room for the feathers that need to fill in as you exit the deep curve. In time you will be able to visualize what size to make your feathers, but for the time being, you should draw in a line that will give you a visual guide for the sizing of your feathers.

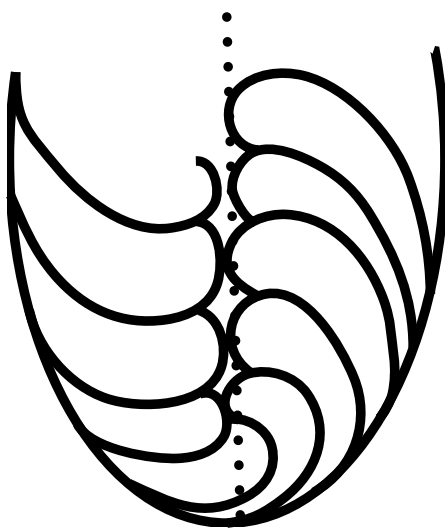
This guideline should split the negative space of the deep curve approximately in half. Use whatever marking tool is most appropriate for your situation.

Your choice of marking tool should be based on the colors of the fabric, and whether or not you can wash the quilt to remove the marking.

I like to use plain old white school chalk whenever I can. It brushes or wipes off the quilt top fairly easily.



Feathering the inside curve



As you feather into the deep part of the curve, you will make each successive feather smaller. The feathers can touch the guideline, and some might even go over it a tiny bit, but in general you do not want to cross over the guideline.

When you reach the deepest point of the curved spine, you will only retrace a tiny portion of the out feather that makes up the pair of feathers on the inside of the curve. The return feather “nestles” around the previous feather. It is acceptable for the tops of the feathers to touch the tops of other feathers when you are in the very inside of the curve.

Feathering the outside of the curve

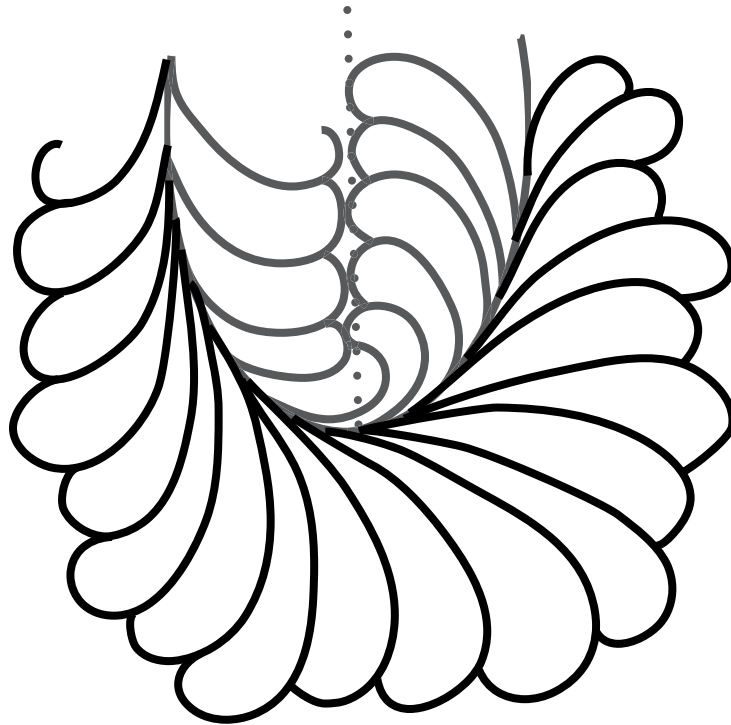
You will need more feathers on the outside of the deep curve, especially if you are feathering to fill an area.

STOP ALTERNATING

In order to “catch up” the feathers on the outside of the curve, you will need to stop alternating from side to side and stitch only on the outside.

CHANGE THE ANGLE & STOP TRAVELING

Some of the feathers need to be at a greater angle away from the spine, and will all start (and stop) in the same approximate place on the spine, gradually tipping back towards the spine, until they return to a 45° angle, and can continue to move along the spine.



Drawing Assignment 3

You will again need your drawing pad and a pen, pencil or marker. You will also want some larger pieces of paper or a big whiteboard.

TASK 1

Trace the feathers in your handout. This is just a portion of a meandering line, to help you understand and work on the inside and outside of the deep curves.

TASK 2

Use your drawing pad and create a meandering line that covers the whole page. The last page is an example of what your meandering line might look like. Make sure your meandering line includes lots of deep curves that you can practice feathering. Feather the line, filling up the entire page. You can pencil in guidelines in order to divide the negative space, to give yourself a guide for how big to make your feathers.

TASK 3

Using a larger piece of paper (i.e. 18 by 24 or larger), fill up the entire page with a meandering line that you feather. Try to keep the negative space between the lines about 3 or 4 inches apart. Up until now, your feathers have probably been on the small side, as they've been constrained by the size of the paper -- now that you are getting the size and the shape down, you will want to try drawing them bigger.

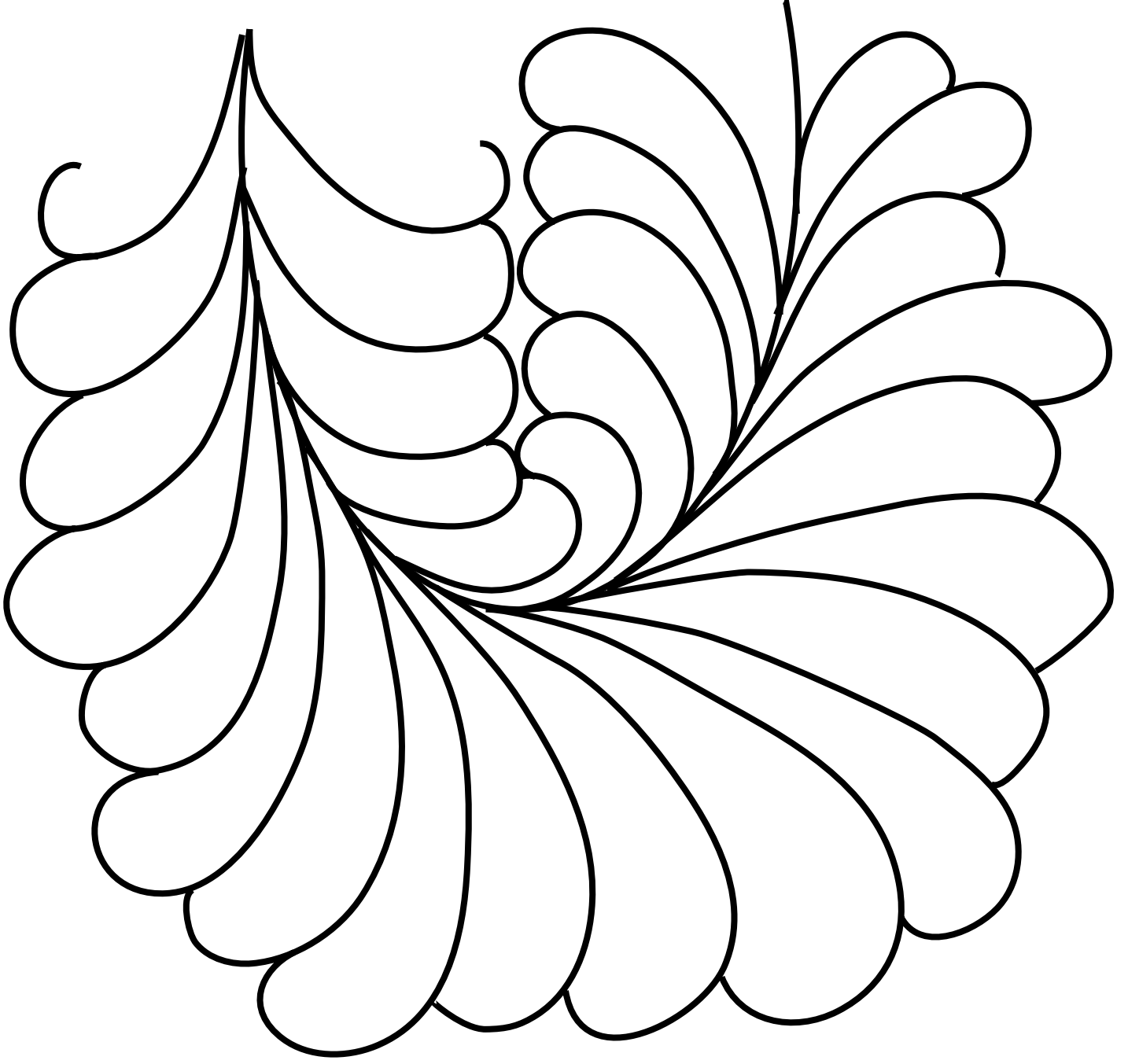
SELF-CHECK

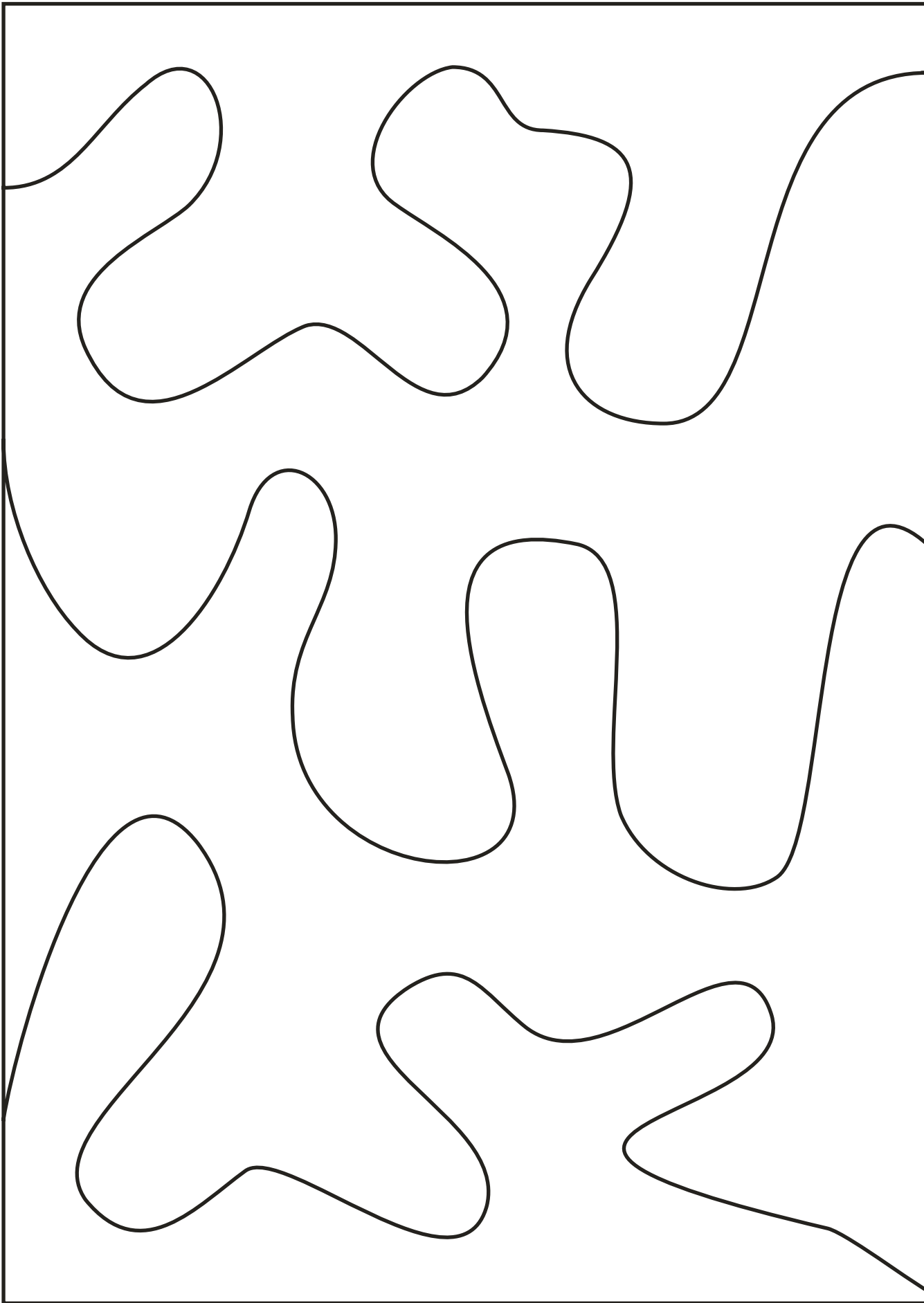
As before, take a break and step away from your drawing.

When you look at your work with a fresh eye, look first for the feathers you are happy with. Circle them, or mark a star next to them. Maybe you need some stickers!

As you look for feathers that could use improvement, keep in mind the guidelines that have been talked about in previous assignments. Examine the inside and outside of the deep curves to determine if you have gracefully feathered those areas.

Step by Step Feathers





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