

# Plain spine

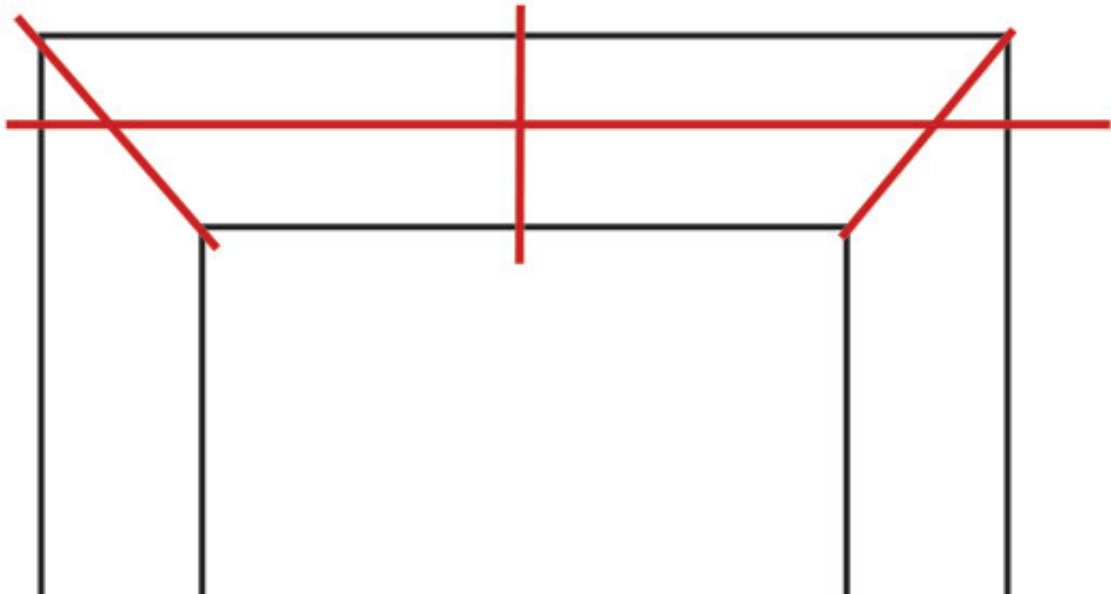
How do you get a nice even border spine on your quilt? You could use a template or a stencil (if you have a nice stencil, you can use the spine and ignore the “design” .

Those don't always work exactly the way you want, though, so here's an idea to customize your very own spine:

You'll need some circle templates, I'm not giving you a formula for the size, you can play around with sizes that work best for you.

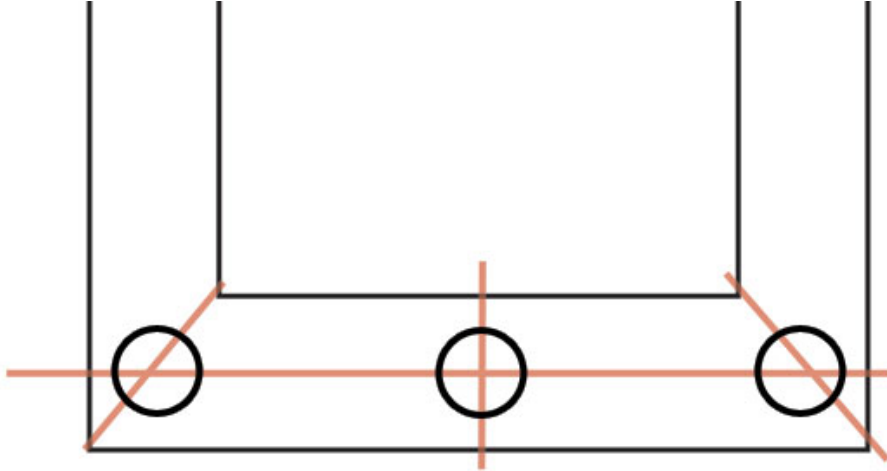
To really do this without having to erase a lot of marks, you might want to make yourself a bunch of cardstock circles in different sizes, so you can move them around before committing to a marked line.

1. Mark the horizontal and vertical centers of your border (but make sure your horizontal “center” is actually closer to the interior of the quilt, you want to give your border design breathing room at the outside edge):

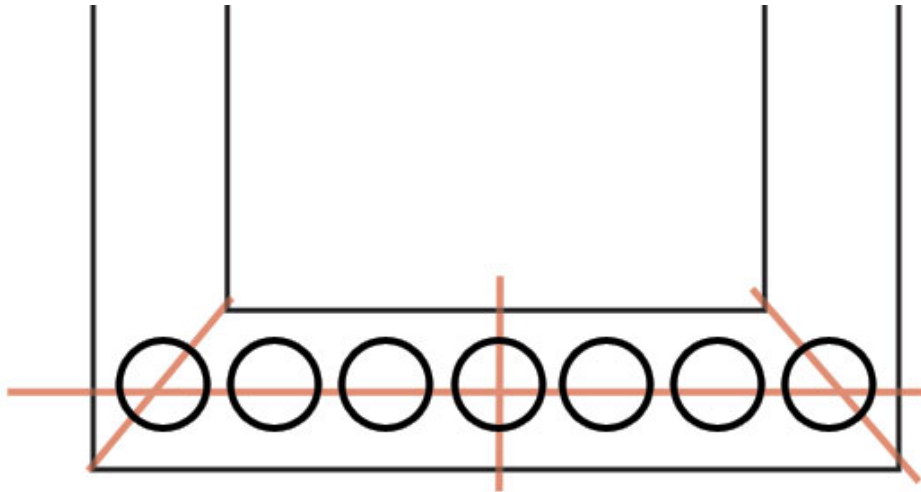


**Step by Step Feathers**

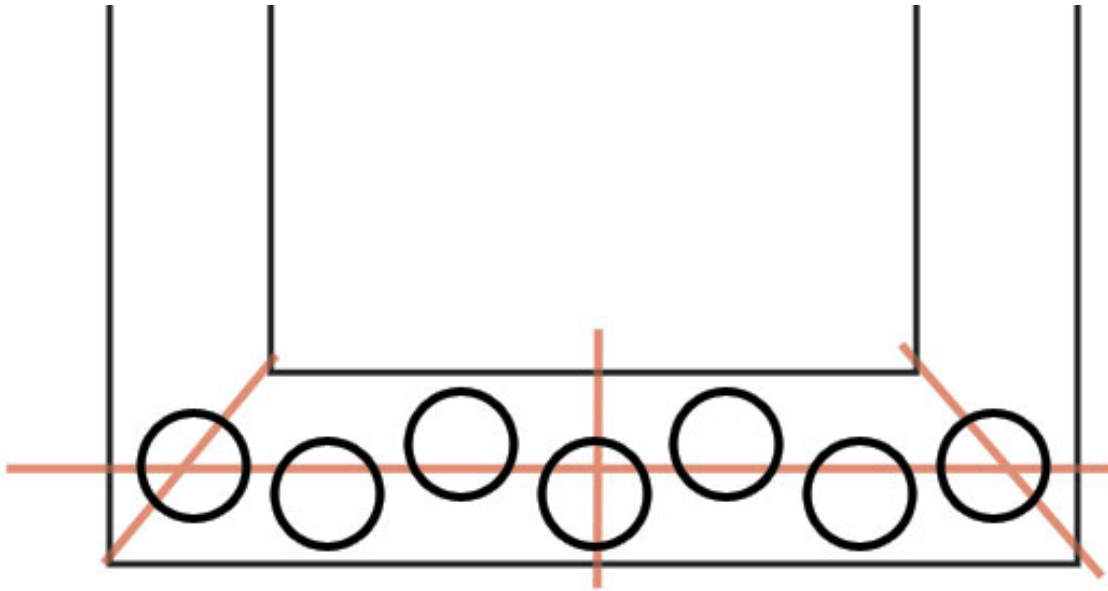
2. Lay out a circle in the center and corners. For now, you can center them on the vertical and horizontal centering lines.



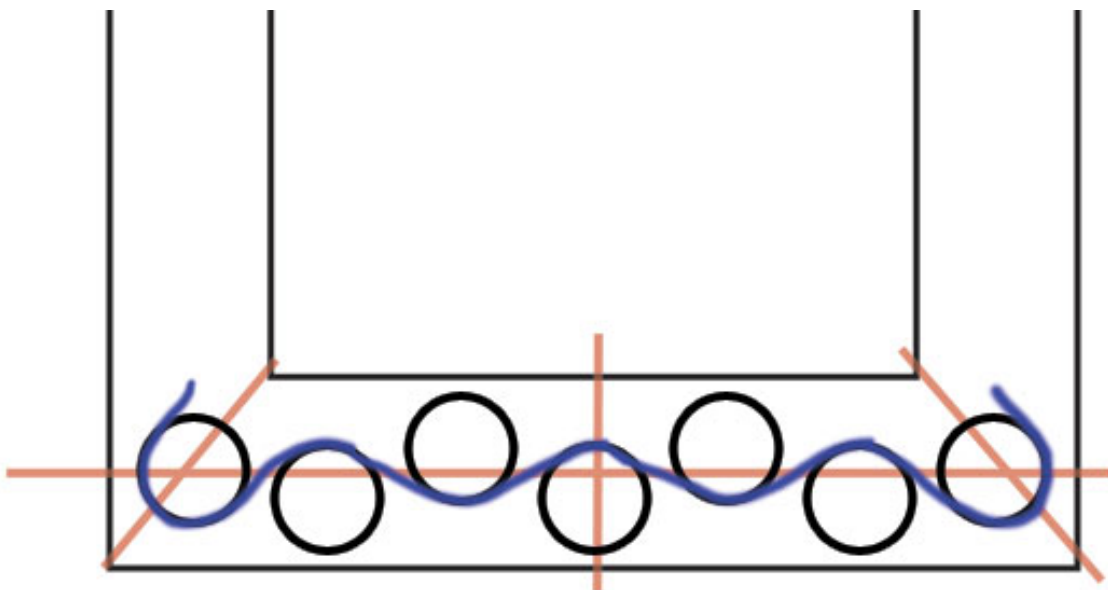
3. Add in circles to the empty spaces on either side of center. You might have to do some math to spread them out evenly.



4. Leave the corner circles where they are, but shift the other circles up or down, by the same amount, using the centering line as a guide for how much you are shifting the circles. This is where you can play with how deep the curves of your spine are going to be:

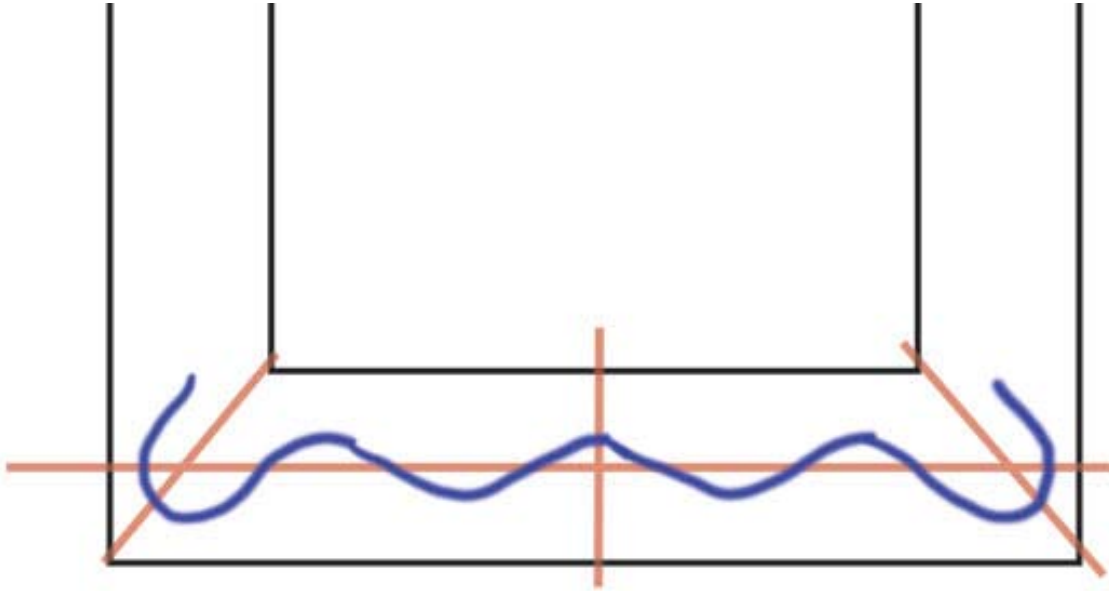


5. Using the circles as a guide, connect them to make a spine.



**Step by Step Feathers**

Here's what the spine looks like without the circles. Because you've just MARKED at this point, you can adjust the spine as necessary, refining the line of the spine until it's perfect -- and then stitch it!



Make sure you make note of the circle size and spacing, so that you can repeat the steps for the other border of your quilt. When you quilt, make sure you are stitching your feathers CLOCKWISE around the quilt.

I recommend turning your quilt to do the other sides. You may need more (or less) circles to fill up the space, and the spacing in between the circles might need to be adjusted.

To quilt this:

1. For the top border, stitch the spine from RIGHT to LEFT
2. Feather from LEFT to RIGHT
3. Reverse direction on the bottom of the quilt.
4. Turn your quilt clockwise, and repeat the process to quilt the remaining sides.