

## STAND TALL Quilt

Created by: Tamara Kate

Curves, curves and more curves! Curves add a bit of whimsy to quilts. Their organic nature makes them perfect for leaves and petals and they distract from the serious nature of a straight line.



A straight line is simple. It is direct. It is easy to sew and easy to quilt. Curves, however are not quite as obvious. In piecing, they initially induce fear and panic until we try them and realize they're not that scary at all. And when it comes to quilting, if you're anything like me, straight lines are our friends and we avoid curves at all cost. In my case, that all changed with my desire to try ruler work.



All fabrics in this project are from a number of my own fabric collections with Michael Miller Fabrics, particularly the last two, Delight and Abloom. The quilting was done with Wonderfil's variegated 50wt Egyptian cotton Tutti, colour TU05.

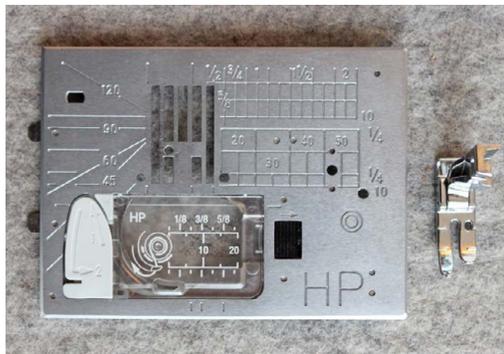
**Finished Size:** 50 x 50"

**Skill Level:** Confident Intermediate

**Time:** A long weekend

## MY FAVOURITE JANOME ACCESSORIES FOR PIECING AND QUILTING CURVES

### Janome HP Foot and Plate:



Since working on the MC15000, my go-to foot and plate are always the HP. I find my  $\frac{1}{4}$ " seams to be more uniform and I love the visibility that the slim design of the presser foot affords as well as the ease with which it allows for feeding even the tightest of curves through the machine accurately.

### Janome AcuFeed Standard Foot (AD):



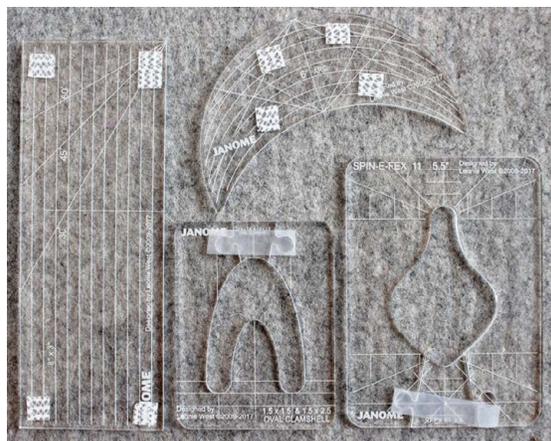
Due to its dual feed capabilities, this foot is indispensable for quilting. While I always use it for my straight-line quilting (as I did in this quilt), it works wonderfully for quilting large, gradual curves too. The guide bar keeps quilting lines / curves at equal distances apart for a clean, modern look.

### Janome Ruler Work Foot (QR):

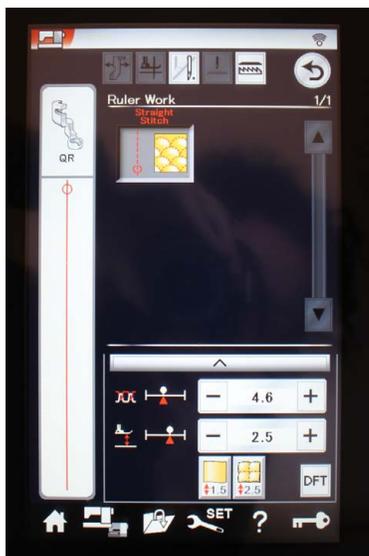


For safe, easy ruler work quilting, this is my favourite. I love that the front of the foot dips down in the centre to give great visibility of both the work area and needle and the sides are nice and high to avoid any jumping over the templates.

### Janome 6-Piece Ruler Work Kit:



A variety of motifs can be achieved with this kit, designed by Leonie West. My favourites are the most basic: the Straight Ruler and the 6" Arc Ruler, though I also used the Double Oval Clamshell Ruler and the Spin-E-Fex Ruler in this quilt. The kit includes a handy how-to DVD, an instruction booklet and even anti-slip tape to adhere to the underside of the rulers (very handy).



## Ruler Work Mode:

The last isn't an accessory per say, but a feature of the MC15000. While one can do ruler work by making top thread and bobbin tension adjustments on many machines, the MC15000 has a built-in feature that makes all the necessary adjustments automatically. You can even choose the foot height with the click of a button depending on whether your quilt is very lofty or thinner. Just click on the Sewing Applications (t-shirt icon), select Quilting > Ruler Work. And you are ready to go.

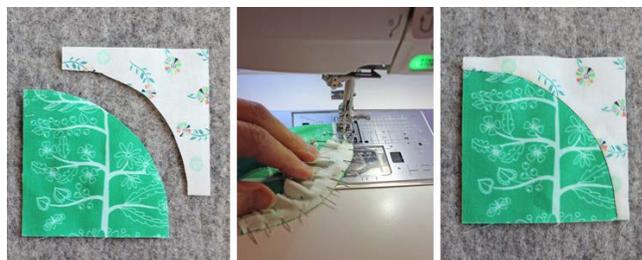


## PIECING CURVES:

While one could appliqué curved elements on a quilt, there is something very satisfying about piecing them, making them an integral part of the whole rather than something added on top of it.



While curves can obviously be all sorts of random sizes, I opted to keep things fairly regimented in this quilt so as not to make things too visually distracting. I created 4 main sets of templates that I used throughout: 1 half-circle, 1 quarter-circle, 1 clamshell and 1 orange peel. In addition, there is of course the peacock's head and body.



Whether sewing a perfect half-circle, quarter-circle or an improv uneven curve, my technique remains the same. To sew two pieces of curved fabrics together: Fold both pieces in half, making a crease along the centre of the curved edges of both pieces. Unfold. Lay the concave curve on top of the convex curve (right sides together), matching the centre crease marks along the curved edges. Pin at this point. Now you have to manipulate the top fabric to conform to the bottom curve as the curves

will be facing opposite directions. Pull the each end of the top fabric to meet the corresponding end of the bottom fabric and pin. Easing the fabric as you go, pin at the half-way to centre points on each side. Keep pinning along the curved edge, as the closer together the pins are placed, the more control you will have while sewing. Sew slowly along the curved edge, making sure fabric doesn't get caught underneath. You can see how the slim HP presser foot gives maximum visibility.

Always press seams away from the curve for best results.

**Tip:** Generally, the smaller the circle (tighter the curve), the more wrangling of fabric necessary to get the curves pieced. The smallest curve I used was a 3 1/2" half-circle (the 4-petal flowers on the peacock's feathers). Once pieced and pressed, these small curves might not want to sit quite perfectly flat. In this case, clip the curves along the seam allowance.

### AccuFeed Quilting:



The entire background of the quilt is quilted with matchstick quilting using the AccuFeed system and a marking on the foot as a guide to keep lines equidistant.



As I was using a variety of patterned fabrics on the peacock, I didn't want to add any visual confusion by densely quilting on top of them. Instead I decided to simply stitch in the ditch around all elements, again with the AccuFeed Standard Foot. Slowing the machine's speed a bit makes handling the curves easier.

### Ruler Work:



While free motion quilting relies on the quilter to have a smooth ongoing flow in their movements, ruler work is about following along the edge of a template, so it takes the guesswork out of the equation.

**Tip:** Make sure you are using a quilting needle (Janome Purple Tip) to avoid skipped stitches.



To have fun with the idea of a feathered pattern for the body of the peacock, I opted to use the Double Oval Clamshell Template. I love the scale of the "U" shapes in this one and once you start along a straight line (in my case the top of the body), it's really straightforward to keep the rows aligned without even doing any marking.



I wanted a small-scale element to subtly quilt the iconic feathers on top of the peacock's head. The Spin-E-Fex Ruler in tandem with the Straight Ruler was just right!



While I only wanted to incorporate a single pieced flower in the quilt, I found the left side of the finished top a bit spare, so I opted to include another flower and stem of leaves, just by quilting them in using the 6" Arc Ruler.



To add further continuity, the template happens to be the exact size of the majority of the pieced curves in the quilt.

**My conclusion:** Curves Are Fun!

If you would like to try making a Stand Tall Quilt of your own, the pattern will soon be available in my [\[online shop\]](#).

For all things Tamara Kate visit her online at [www.kayajoydesigns.com](http://www.kayajoydesigns.com)

