

Peacock and Lotus Flower Quilts

Created by: The Janome Canada Education Team
Celine Ross, Michael Smith, Liz Thompson, Anne Sticher, Erin Aumack

Finished Size: 46 x 76"

Skill Level: Confident Intermediate

The educators at Janome Canada worked on this project. Graphics/Artwork of a peacock and a lotus flower was requested from Tania at our Oakville office. Celine digitized the 2 designs and then the education team got busy embroidering blocks using these designs. We were all working within the same colour theme as per fabrics supplied to each educator. However, how we interpreted each block and how we stitched them out was an individual educator artistic choice. Some blocks were partly appliqued-in-the-hoop rather than stitching the whole design with embroidery stitches. Other blocks had additions like crystals. In addition to the peacock and lotus flower embroidered blocks, we also asked everyone to make a few blocks using the AcuFil quilting hoop. The quilting-in-the-hoop designs used were decided by the individual educators.

Each educator was required to quilt their blocks once they had sandwiched each of them with batting and a backing. The quilts were assembled with finished blocks and quilted sashing and borders that brought them all together. Some blocks needed to have some quilting added and others were trimmed – so that the blocks could fit together neatly.

We had such fun making multiple blocks that we ended up with sufficient blocks to complete three Peacock quilts! We will show pictures of each of these 3 quilts. We have selected a bunch of the blocks and offer an insight into how these blocks were created.



The 2 designs: peacock and lotus flower are available for download. You may need to resize them to fit into your embroidery hoop if you have a machine with smaller hoops. We will not be providing edited educator versions of these designs, but you are most welcome to use your editing and digitizing skills to edit and modify the designs as you wish.



[Download Peacock and Lotus Embroidery Jef Files](#)

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PROJECT INSTRUCTIONS

PEACOCK BLOCK #1:

Made by Celine Ross



Step 1 - I used Janome Digitizer MBX v5.5 to digitize the peacock design

Step 2 - The design was embroidered on the Janome MC550E in the RE36b hoop after I resized the design larger to fill this hoop.

Step 3 - The block was embroidered on cotton fabric and cotton batting as well as a sheet of tearaway stabilizer under the batting.

Step 4 - Janome polyester embroidery thread was used.

Step 5 - Various editing functions in the embroidery software as well as on the editing screen of the MC550E were used to create 2 different parts: one was applique (the wings and some of tail feathers) and the rest was digitized stitch fill.

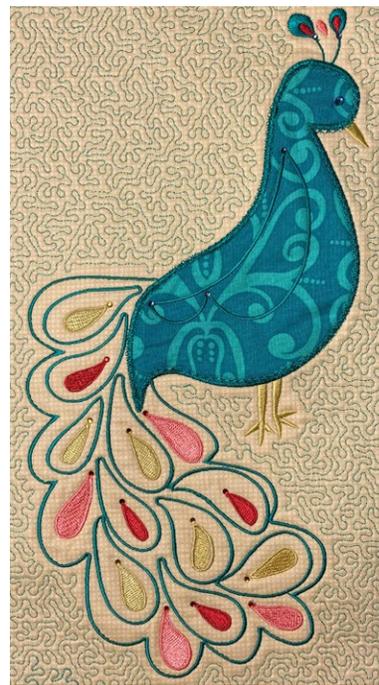
Step 6 - I used the Ambiance quilting feature in Digitizer MBX (also available in Artistic Digitizer) to add echo quilting around the peacock (stitched in blue).

Step 7 - Backing fabric was added and further quilting was done using the rulers/templates in the Janome Rulerwork Kit to create the scallops and heart. Cotton thread was used for the quilting.

Step 8 - Finally, a rhinestone was added for the bird's eye and a little heart between the head feathers.

PEACOCK BLOCK #2:

Made by Celine Ross



Step 1 - Once again, I used Janome Digitizer MBX v5.5 to digitize the peacock design.

Step 2 - The design was embroidered on the Janome MC15000 in the GR hoop after I resized the design to fit this hoop. This can also be done very quickly and easily in AcuDesign App using the "Fit to Hoop" function.

Step 3 - The block was embroidered on cotton fabric and cotton batting as well as a sheet of tearaway stabilizer under the batting.

Step 4 - Janome polyester embroidery thread was used.

Step 5 - I used various editing functions in the embroidery software to remove some of the stitch fill from the tail feathers as well as substituting the body and wings of the peacock for applique fabric rather than stitch fill.

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Step 6 - I used the Ambiance quilting feature in Digitizer MBX (also available in Artistic Digitizer) to add stipple quilting around the peacock (stitched in blue). I adjusted the size of the stippling.

Step 7 - Backing fabric was added and further quilting was done using the rulers/templates in the Janome Rulerwork Kit to create the scallops around the stippling. Yellow cotton thread was used for the quilting.

Step 8 - Finally, rhinestone embellishment was added.

PEACOCK BLOCK #3:

Made by Michael Smith



In order to cut some time when embroidering, I experimented with covering part of my Peacock embroidery design with an in-the-hoop applique. It would mean less stitching time, and it was a great way to add more design originality and to play with fabric. Who doesn't love that!?

It took careful monitoring of the design, and a little trial and error, but it was great fun and really gets you comfortable with the machine and in getting out of your comfort zone of just following instructions. At times it's good to follow a road map, but at other times, it's fun and adventurous to break-free and take a detour!

Step 1 - To better learn how the design would stitch out, I stitched a few sample embroideries exactly as is, making note of the stitch counts, stitch sequence of the design, and even the direction the hoop would move in each segment. What I was trying to determine was where I could stop stitching, skip over the main body part, which would be the applique (in the coral printed fabric), then resume stitching to complete the design. Again, a little trial and error, but well worth the results.

Step 2 - I used a layer of Madeira Cotton Soft Stabilizer and a layer of 80/20 batting underneath my yellow background fabric to give support and dimension for all the dense stitching.

Step 3 - I wanted to emphasize the luster and beauty of the peacock tail feathers, so I chose to stitch over them a second time before I changed colour to go on to the next segment. It's easy to go back to the beginning of a segment by either selecting the colour, or by using the back button to move the hoop to where you'd like to start over. Many of our embroidery machines will move in increments of 10, 100 or 500 stitches at a time.

Step 4 - Using my test peacock embroidery as a sample, I roughly traced around the body with tissue paper and a pencil, as this would give me a pattern to cut the fabric for the applique. I wanted it big enough so it would be stitched down, and I could trim if necessary, before the satin stitches secured it around the edges. If you've never done in-the-hoop applique, you're in for a treat! Embroidery makes applique sew simple and precise.

Step 5 - First, placement stitches stitch out, so you know exactly where to position the fabric for the applique.

Step 6 - Next, tack down stitches stitch out to hold the fabric in place.

Step 7 - Then satin stitches, or whatever type of stitches are digitized will cover the raw edge of the fabric and firmly hold in the applique in place. It's brilliant! It's these kinds of parameters I was trying to figure out in the peacock design.

Step 8 - Colour #6 is the start of stitching the body, stitch #40,608. I did not want to stitch most of the body.

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Step 9 - I wanted to skip over all those fill stitches, so I used the "+", which is the forward button, to advance the hoop stitch by stitch. I could see where the cursor was moving over the design on the screen, so I stopped at stitch #48,642 as this was the end of the fill stitches and the beginning of a traveling stitch around the body. This was going to be the start of my fabric placement line. I started stitching at stitch #48, 642 and stopped stitching at #48, 846, (the stitches overlap a little, which is fine).

Step 10 - Use the "-" which is the back button, to return the hoop to stitch #48,642, or you can press the little needle # icon button and type in the stitch number.

Step 11 - Lay down the fabric for the applique. Use a little Artistic Tack spray or fabric glue stick if you wish. Carefully smooth the fabric down if needed, stop the machine if necessary, to adjust the fabric as you stitch around the body shape again. This is the "tack down" stitch.

Step 12 - Once back to stitch #48, 846, stop the machine and remove the hoop from the machine, but do NOT remove the fabric from the hoop!

Step 13 - Trim the fabric close to the stitching line, being careful not to cut into the background fabric.

Step 14 - Replace the hoop in the machine and continue stitching the rest of the design as normal.

Step 15 - Again, a little trial and error and keep a note pad handy to write down the stitch numbers, but it's fun way to try something new and get comfortable playing with your machine. Maybe you want to do an applique of fabric for the wing instead of stitching it out or do appliques in some of the tail feathers? Sew many fun, creative possibilities!

Step 16 - Quilting of this block was done by Liz Thompson: the Acufeed flex foot and quilting guide bar were used to quilt vertical rows about an inch apart. Yellow cotton thread was used.

PEACOCK BLOCK #4:

Made by Liz Thompson



I was, like Michael, experimenting with different ways of embroidering the same peacock design. This can be an enormous amount of fun as well as being a very good skill builder as you don't learn if you don't try new things – right?

Step 1 - I had some gorgeous sequin fabric which I thought would be really nice for our peacock. Only problem was that it was a stretch fabric. So, I thought about it and asked myself: "What would I do if I was embroidering a knit fabric?" Well stabilize well is the answer.

Step 2 - I made sure that I had both a layer of batting and stabilizer behind my yellow cotton fabric. I also considered fusing a layer of interfacing to the back of the sequin fabric but I was concerned the sequins may melt as I think they are not metal. I winged it and experimented without interfacing. It worked!

Step 3 - In order to figure out where to stop & start stitching the digitized stitch fill in order to substitute the body of the peacock with my sparkly fabric. I did much the same as Michael did in block # 3 above. I'm not going to repeat that here as he gives a very good explanation above.

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Step 4 - I omitted the wing as I wanted my sequin fabric to be the star of the show with this peacock!

Step 5 - I also used Madeira metallic threads for the little paisley shapes on the tail feathers. I stitched each one twice to have a little more metallic luster.

Step 6 - The peacock was given an iridescent silver bead for his eye.

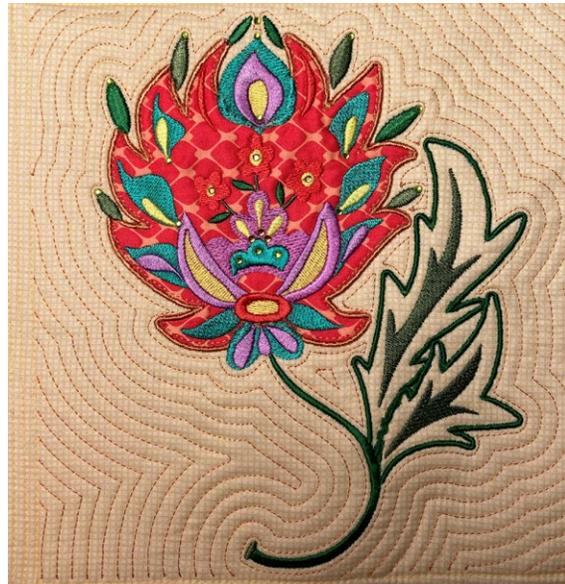
Step 7 - The block was quilted using the Acufeed flex foot and quilting guide bar with a grid placement with vertical and horizontal rows approximately an inch apart. Only 1 vertical row and one horizontal row were marked with a wash away marker. The rest of the placement was done using the Quilting Guide bar.

Step 8 - Yellow cotton thread was used for this.



LOTUS FLOWER BLOCK #1:

Made by Celine Ross



Step 1 - Embroidery software used was Janome Digitizer MBX v5.5 and Horizon Link Suite Acufil Tool.

Step 2 - Block was embroidered on the Janome MC15000 in the ASQ22 Acufil hoop.

Step 3 - Design was enlarged to fill this hoop.

Step 4 - Various editing functions were used to separate some of the stitch fill and substitute this for applique fabric (the coral print). Some of the stitch fill in the leaves was deleted.

Step 5 - Ambiance quilting (also available in Artistic Digitizer software) was used for the Scroll clipped echo quilting around the flower.

Step 6 - The flower was embroidered on cotton fabric and batting plus a layer of tearaway stabilizer under the batting. Janome embroidery thread was used.

Step 7 - Rhinestones were used for embellishment.

Step 8 - Finally, more quilting was added around the outside edge using the HP2 foot and needle plate which gives beautiful straight stitching and excellent feeding of the layers of fabric.

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LOTUS BLOCK #2:

Made by Michael Smith and quilted by Liz Thompson



The Lotus flower is so beautiful, so why not have more than one?! It's easy to do with the editing capabilities built-in to so many Janome embroidery machines, like the MC550E, MC500E or embroidery-combo machines, like the MC15000 Quiltmaker, MC12000, Skyline S9 and MC9850, for example.

Step 1 - The editing can be done on the screen of the actual machine, but it can also be done very conveniently away from our machines via the software CD included with these machines which is to be installed on a Windows-based laptop or desktop PC.

Step 2 - I stitched my Lotus flowers on the Janome MC550E, so I used the included Embroidery Editor software on my laptop to first edit and create a new design, all while relaxing on the sofa with my feet up!

Step 3 - The BIG RE36b 7.9"x14.2" was selected so two flowers could be stitched in one hooping.

Step 4 - I then selected the Edit tab to reveal all the editing capabilities which are built-in to the embroidery machine.

Step 5 - Most of our .jef designs can be resized 20%, so I selected Resize to decrease the size of the design to 80%.

I didn't need to do this to fit the two flowers in the hoop as both would have fit at 100%. I just choose to shrink them, so I'd have space for some background quilting around them when the quilt was completed.

Step 6 - I then selected Copy/Paste to duplicate a second flower. You can see in the Design List on right hand side of the screen that there are now two flowers.

Step 7 - I then selected the lower flower, which has a yellow box around it, so you know it's the one selected, then selected the Rotate tab to spin the design 180 degrees. You can then click and drag each design as desired. I wanted the stems to "nest".

Step 8 - Once finished editing, insert a USB Flash Drive into your computer, click Write A Design, save the design onto the stick (into the EMB folder is recommended so you can find it more easily once at the machine) then remove the USB Flash Drive once safe to do so.

Step 9 - Insert the stick into the USB port of your embroidery machine and open to the Folder to retrieve the design. Make sure the USB icon is selected, then click on the EMB folder if you saved your design in there. If not, select the UP arrow to look for the design on another "page". Click on the link here for a [Janome Life blog with more information](#).

Step 10 - Once the design is up on the screen of the machine, click the Home icon, then the Edit icon to open more editing capabilities, specifically the Colour Grouping icon, which looks like little spools of thread.

Step 11 - By clicking this function, you will combine the colours from each design, so they'll stitch out one after another, which saves time with multiple thread changes. Instead of 36 colour changes between the two Lotus flower designs, you'll now be left with only 18. Janome thinks of everything!

Step 12 - Quilting was done using the Acufeed flex foot and the quilting guide bar: one row only was marked for the vertical. That was stitched and all subsequent rows on either side of this were stitched using the quilting guide bar to space the rows.

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Step 13 - How to stop & start quilting rows when reaching the embroidery: Quilt up to the embroidery and anchor with a small stitch or 2. Either use the thread cutter to trim the threads which you will bury on the back of the quilt later. OR move to the other side of the embroidery making sure you are going in a straight line. You will be dragging an uncut thread both from the needle and the bobbin. That's fine – just leave it there as you will cut later and bury. Start stitching again to continue to the edge of the block. I often hold the fabric firmly for the first couple of stitches (so that 2 or 3 small stitches are formed as the fabric is stopped from moving) or do a lock stitch to anchor the threads.

Step 14 - Bury all threads when the quilting is complete. If you are satisfied with your anchor stitches, you can cut them off and omit burying threads.

ACUFIL QUILTED BLOCK #1:

Made by Celine Ross



Step 1 - Acufil tool from the Janome Horizon Link Suite (MC15000) was used to create this quilting design.

Step 2 - The block was embroidered on the Janome MC15000 (should be a capital) using the ASQ22 hoop.

Step 3 - Teal print cotton fabric was used with cotton batting. Contrast yellow thread was used for the quilting.

Step 4 - Backing fabric was added and attached using the simple pointed oval rulerwork template in the Janome Rulerwork Kit to quilt the series of oval shapes.



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ACUFIL QUILTED BLOCK #2:

Made by Celine Ross



Step 1 - Acufil tool from the Janome Horizon Link Suite (MC15000) was used to create this quilting design. Stippling designs in the Acufil Tool software were chosen and then duplicated 4 times to fill the hoop using the cornering tool.

Step 2 - The block was embroidered on the Janome MC000 (should be a capital) using the ASQ22 hoop.

Step 3 - Teal print cotton fabric was used with cotton batting. Contrast yellow thread was used for the quilting.

ACUFIL QUILTED BLOCK #3:

Made by Michael Smith



AcuFil Quilting is just sew much fun, but especially when combined with the myriad of decorative stitches built-in to the fabulous and equally fun Janome AcuStitch software. The AcuStitch software is available for many of our Janome embroidery-only and embroidery-combo machines, including the Janome MC550E and Janome MC9850. Click this link for [more information](#).

Step 1 - After loading the CD into your Windows-based computer, you have so many design and stitch possibilities available at your fingertips. And don't worry, there's built-in help to walk you through step-by-step.

Step 2 - Simply choose a shape: I chose the Spiral, then a stitch. My selection was the adorable clothesline design from the Pictograph category, which is also built-in to many of our Janome machines.

Step 3 - You can edit your design on the computer screen with the same editing capabilities which are built-in to your embroidery machine: Resize, Rotate, Corner, etc. or, you can open the design in the machine and continue to edit it there. I used the Corner function to instantly create 4 designs to fill each quadrant of the hoop.

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Step 4 - I then rotated and moved the designs, so they'd stitch in a continuous line between two designs. It's sew much fun to play.... Move them around however you wish.

Step 5 - The steps to save and transfer the design to the machine are the same as in so many other Janome software programs: Write a Design, save to a USB Flash Drive, open the design in the machine; select the edit screen if you wish to continue editing the design.

Step 6 - Select OK when you're ready to start stitching.

Step 7 - The Janome MC15000 Quiltmaker was used to stitch out this design in the included ASQ22 AcuFil Quilting Hoop. But other embroidery machines also have optional Acufil quilting hoops: There's an AcuFil Quilting kit for the MC12000 and the embroidery-only machines, like the Janome MC550E, MC500E, MC450E, MC400E. Ask your Janome dealer about these options.

Step 8 - The unique AcuFil Quilting hoop uses a thick clear acrylic template which helps you position your designs, and it also helps to compress the quilt sandwich (backing, batting and quilt top) while you secure the edges with large magnets. Very important! Be sure to remove the template before hitting the Start button on the machine!

Step 9 - Click on the link to the Janome HQ You Tube channel for a [video on AcuFil Quilting](#).

PUTTING THE QUILTED BLOCKS TOGETHER:

This part of the quilt assembling was done by Liz Thompson and Anne Stitche



This ended up being a little like building a jig-saw puzzle! Once all the blocks were embroidered and quilted but not yet trimmed, I laid them out on the floor and auditioned them for best positioning. I soon realized that we had enough blocks for 3 quilts which is great as we can spread them out across the country to use at different shows or in-store events. Or they could be grouped to maximize appeal at a show. We are hoping they will have their debut at Quilt Canada 2021 seeing as we could not show them in Edmonton in 2020. Fingers crossed!

Step 1 - Once the blocks were moved around and had "found" their best locations, they were trimmed to fit into 3 vertical rows per quilts.

Step 2 - Each quilt was set aside with careful noting of the order that the blocks would need to be sewed together.

Step 3 - I used a quilt as you go technique where I simply butted the blocks up against each other and stitched together using a wide zig-zag stitch.

Step 4 - I sewed all the blocks in one vertical row together. Then repeated this for the other 2 vertical rows. Finally, the 3 rows were stitched together.

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Step 5 - Sashing was narrow – approx. 1 ½ inches wide. I joined long strips together as I was going to need a lot of sashing for all 3 quilts.

Step 6 - The raw edges of these strips were pressed under to the wrong side. Using a bias tape maker is a help although I rigged up a system of pins on my pressing board through which I pulled these strips as I pressed with my iron. Same idea and it worked like a charm.

Step 7 - If you wish you can fuse something like Steam-a-seam 2 on the reverse side of these strips. It does make the job of positioning it on the quilts a little easier although pinning works too.

Step 8 - This needs to be done on the reverse side of the quilt as well as the top in order to cover over the zig-zag stitching.

Step 9 - Once pinned or fused in place, use the Janome Acufeed flex (walking) foot to stitch neatly down both sides of the sashing strips. I used a serpentine stitch although other stitches would work just as well. I made sure that the stitching would catch both the top and back. Check before you move to the next step. Sashing strips need to cover all the vertical and horizontal joins. Don't worry about the edges of the quilts yet as borders still need to be added.

Step 10 - Once complete, square and trim the quilt slightly if necessary.

ADDING BORDERS TO THE QUILT:

This was done by Anne Sticher



Step 1 - To continue with the quilt-as-you-go method, I pre-cut the border strips at 5" wide and sewed them together with a ¼" seam to create a long strip.

Step 2 - I used Janome Artistic Tack Temporary Adhesive spray to ensure that the strip stayed in place. This way I didn't need to use pins while I was quilting. I sandwiched the backing, batting and the top and then quilted them.

Step 3 - On two of the borders I used the quilting guide bar to create perfectly evenly spaced rows of decorative stitches.

Step 4 - On the third border I used Acufil quilting on the Janome embroidery machine to quilt them.

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Step 5 - I hooped up with stabilizer and floated the pre-cut borders on top of the hoop. I marked on the stabilizer where my repeated placement would be to maintain continuity of placement.

Step 6 - I then pinned the border to the piece of stabilizer on the outside of the hoop to ensure it stayed even and did not pull on the quilting in the hoop.

Step 7 - A built-in design on the Janome MC550E embroidery machine was used. This gave the border a completely different look.

Step 8 - Next up was attaching the borders to the main part of the quilt: This was done using an elongated zigzag stitch.

Step 9 - To cover the zigzag stitch, a 2" strip of a complementary border colour was folded along both long raw edges under and pressed.

Step 10 - This was pinned to the back of the quilt. I turned the quilt over and attached a similar strip to the join between quilt and border on the front of the quilt.

Step 11 - The front strip was sewed in place with a decorative stitch. As I sewed down, it caught the back strip and covered the zigzag stitches on both sides of the quilt. I sewed this slowly because of the pins from the back strip. The finished product looked great.

ADDING THE BINDING:

This was done by Anne Stitche



The Janome Quilt Binder set was used to add binding to all 3 quilts. We have offered many Janome Life posts as well as Janome Life You Tube videos on [how to operate the Janome Quilt Binder](#) set.