

## Quilted Holiday Ornaments

Created by **Erin Kroeker**



### Janome Maker

Erin Kroeker, founder of [The Blanket Statement](#), Erin draws inspiration from the outdoors to create modern, quilt and bag patterns that are welcomed by quilters of all skill levels.

**Finished Size:** approx 2" - 4"

**Skill Level:** Beginner

Add a handmade touch to your holiday decorating this year with these charming quilted ornaments! They're fun, quick to make, and a great way to use up scraps or leftover quilted panels. Each ornament is quilted, stitched, and trimmed... no turning or stuffing required.

Whether you make a few to gift or a whole collection for your own tree, these little keepsakes are a cozy, creative way to celebrate the season

### Materials and Tools ...

- Sewing Machine; I used the Janome Continental M8
- AcuFeed Flex Professional Grade Foot (HP2) & HP Plate
- AcuFeed AD Open Toe Foot & Plate
- Janome Purple Tip Needle (90/14)
- Pinking Shears
- 12 wt Thread, Perle Cotton or Embroidery Floss
- Hand Sewing Needle
- Fabric Marking Tool
- Printed Template Shapes (Or free hand your own!)
- Fabric for front and back of ornament
- Batting



### Create (or Choose) Your Quilted Panel ...

If you want to make one of each ornament, cut two pieces of fabric (front and back) and one piece of batting to 8½" × 11" (the same size as standard printer paper). This size works perfectly with the templates provided at the end of the tutorial.

If you're using scraps, you can use any size pieces as long as they are at least ½" larger than the ornament shape you want to make. Just be sure you have enough room around the traced outline for quilting and trimming.

A fat quarter offers plenty of flexibility! You can get 4 – 5 ornaments of each template shape from a single FQ, depending on your layout.

If you'd like a patchwork look, sew together small scraps or squares first to create your top panel. Alternatively, leftover quilted fabric or trimmings from a finished quilt are perfect for this project too... a wonderful way to make use of every little piece!

To assemble your panel, layer your back fabric right side down, then batting, then your front fabric or patchwork panel right side up to create the quilt sandwich.

Quilt your panel however you like! Straight lines, crosshatch, grids, wavy lines, free-motion quilting, or even decorative stitches all look beautiful on small projects like this. Once quilted, give your panel a light press to flatten it out.

**Tip:** A slightly denser quilting design helps your ornaments hold their shape nicely.



## Trace Your Shapes ...

First, print the provided template sheet included at the end of this tutorial. Carefully cut out each shape along the outline. These will be your tracing templates.

Place your templates on top of your quilted panel and trace around them with a fabric marking pen or pencil. Try to center your favorite section of quilting or fabric design within each shape.

You can trace several shapes at once if your panel allows, just be sure to leave at least ½" of space between each outline for stitching and trimming later.

**Tip:** If your fabric is busy or dark, trace on the back of the panel instead, it may be easier to see your markings.



## Stitch on the Marked Line ...

Set your sewing machine to a short stitch length (around 1.5–1.8 mm). The smaller stitches give you smoother curves and help secure the quilting stitches once trimmed.

Sew directly on the marked line of each shape. Go slowly, and when you reach a curve or corner, stop with the needle down and gently rotate the panel to follow the shape smoothly.

If your machine offers a hover feature (where the presser foot slightly lifts when you stop), this is the perfect time to use it! It makes navigating curves and points even easier!

**Tip:** Use a neutral thread for a classic look, a contrasting color for a decorative look, or metallic thread for a festive sparkle.



**Optional:** Add a touch of Fray Check or clear fabric glue along the edges for extra durability if your fabric tends to fray. (I recommend testing first, as it may leave a mark.)



## Cutting out the Ornaments ...

Using pinking shears, carefully cut around each stitched shape, leaving a ¼" seam allowance outside the stitching line. The pinked edge helps prevent fraying and adds a sweet handmade finish.

**Tip:** When you need to move the shears, try lining up the first "zig" of the blade with the last cut you made before you snip again. This helps keep the points consistent and prevents any jagged or mismatched peaks as you move around the shape.

If you prefer clean edges, use regular scissors instead, just handle gently to avoid fraying.



## Add a Hanging Loop ...

Thread a hand sewing needle with about 10" of 12 wt thread, perle cotton, or embroidery floss. Starting from the back of the ornament near the top, insert the needle through just the backing and batting layers (not all the way through to the front), travel approximately ¼", then bring it back out through the back again. (You can add this stitch vertically or horizontally, depending on how you want the loop to look and the ornament to hang)

This creates a secure spot for your loop while keeping the front of the ornament clean and free of visible stitches.

Tie the two ends of the thread together in a small knot to form a hanging loop. If you'd like to hide the knot, simply tug gently on the thread to "pop" the knot between the layers — just like you would when hand quilting.



**Tip:** Adjust the loop length as needed depending on where your ornament will hang.

## Alternative Finishing Ideas ...

Sew a small fabric loop or ribbon tab into the top edge before quilting for a neat, built-in hanger. This is easiest if making ornaments one at a time, rather than a large panel.

Add a wooden bead, tiny bow, or jingle bell to the loop for extra holiday charm!



Give yourself a pat on the back, you did it! And now it's time to make another one... or dozen. Quilted ornaments are like holiday cookies, best enjoyed in batches!



## Ideas and Variations ...

### Patchwork Magic

- Combine leftover scraps in a simple patchwork layout before quilting your panel. Try a checkerboard, stripes, or even improv piecing. Each ornament will feature a different section of your design.

### Embellished Ornaments

- Add hand-stitched details, buttons, or beads after quilting for extra sparkle. Tiny stars, snowflakes, French knots or even some initials make lovely accents.

### Play with Color and Texture

- Use linen, chambray, or velvet for a mix of matte and soft textures.
- Upcycle fabrics such as flannel shirts, bed sheets, denim, etc. (I made mine out of an old, Christmas table cloth that I never use!)
- Try low-volume fabrics for a minimalist look, or bold brights for a playful tree.
- Use metallic or variegated thread for your quilting lines.

### Fussy Cut

- Use small leftover motifs (snowflakes, florals, animals, text) and fussy-cut them into the center of one of them templates for a feature moment. Works great with novelty prints, holiday fabric, or selvage edges with fun text.

### Gift Tags or Place Cards

- Write names or dates on one side with a permanent fabric pen. They make beautiful personalized gift tags or keepsake place cards for holiday dinners!

### Garland or Wreath

- String several ornaments together on twine or ribbon for a festive garland, or attach them to a wreath for a handmade holiday decoration.

### Scrap-Friendly Tips

- Use up leftover binding trimmings, bias tape or rick-rack as hangers.
- Small offcuts from quilting projects make perfect mini panels.
- Save your mini quilt practice pieces, they can easily become a whole set of ornaments!
- Leftover quilt blocks such as HSTs or tiny 4-patches could be turned straight into ornament panels! Just add batting, backing, quilting and trim!



*Happy Sewing!* Erin Kroeker, JANOME MAKER

