

# Quilter's Creative Touch 6

## QUICK-START GUIDE

### Introduction

This guide is designed to help you begin using QCT6. QCT6 is able to do complex designs on your quilts, and a quick-start guide cannot explain all the intricacies of the software. Use the tutorials in the software and other resources Grace Company provides to fully learn about QCT6. The instructions in this guide assume your frame is set up and you're ready to go.

### Task 1: Tacking Down Your Quilt

**IMPORTANT:** Tack down the edges of your quilt top before quilting. If the edges are not tacked down, the machine might fold the edges over and stitch them down during automated quilting.

### Task 2: Opening the Software

- 1 Double tap the **QCT6** icon.



- 2 Quilter's Creative Touch 6 opens. Tap **Edge-To-Edge**.



### Task 3: Navigating the Tutorials

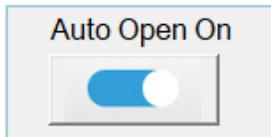
When you press **Next** on the Welcome screen for the first time, **Using the Tutorial** displays. The tutorial provides information on each new screen of the software. It pops up on each new screen until you turn off the **Auto Open** option at the bottom of the tutorial window. Use the tutorial for the first few rows of quilting, until you are confident in the process.

Tutorial information can be brought up at any time by pressing **Help** at the bottom of most Edge-to-Edge screens.

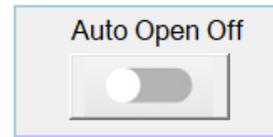
## VIDEO TUTORIAL

The QR codes and hyperlinks on each tutorial screen lead to free video courses for the software. Check them out.

- 1 Determine if you'd like to continue with the tutorial on or off.



*Tutorials automatically open on each new screen.*



*Tutorials will not automatically open on each new screen.*

- 2 After setting the tutorial to **On** or **Off**, tap the **red X** at the top right of the tutorial or press **Close** to exit the tutorial.

- 3 The Welcome to Edge-to-Edge screen can now be seen. Tap **Next**.

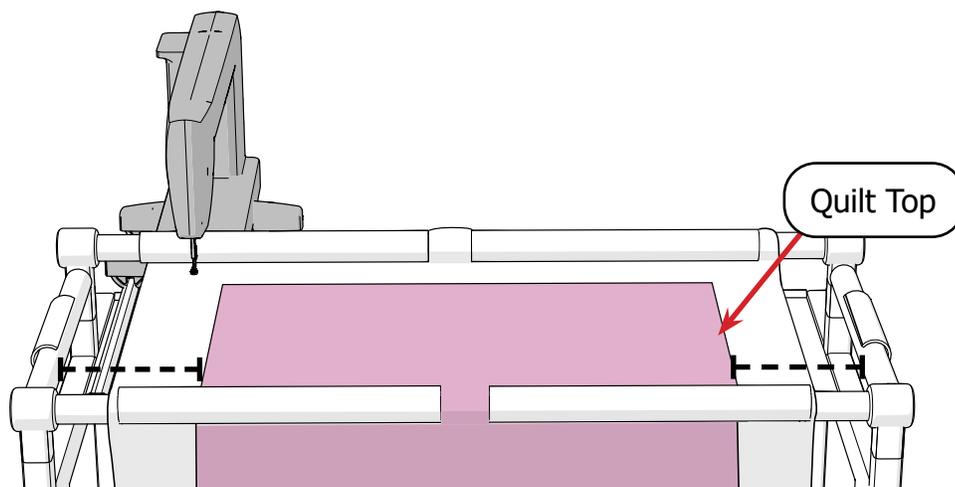


## Task 4: (Hoop Frame Only) Choosing Your Fabric Fit

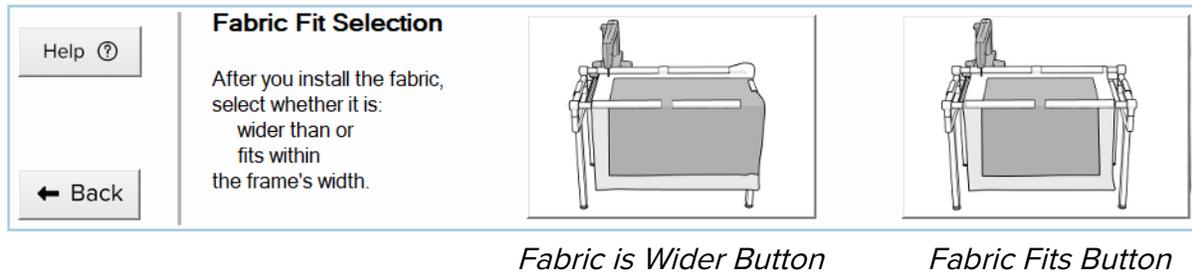
**Note:** The steps in this task only apply to users that selected that they have a hoop frame. If you are using a rolling frame, skip to the next task.

Smaller quilt tops fit on the hoop frame differently than wider ones and this affects how the automation software works.

- 1 Measure how far the sides of the **quilt top** are from each of the side rails.



- 2 If both edges are 8 or more inches from the side rails, select the **fabric fits** button. If only one (or neither) of the edges are 8 or more inches from the side rails, choose the **fabric is wider** option.



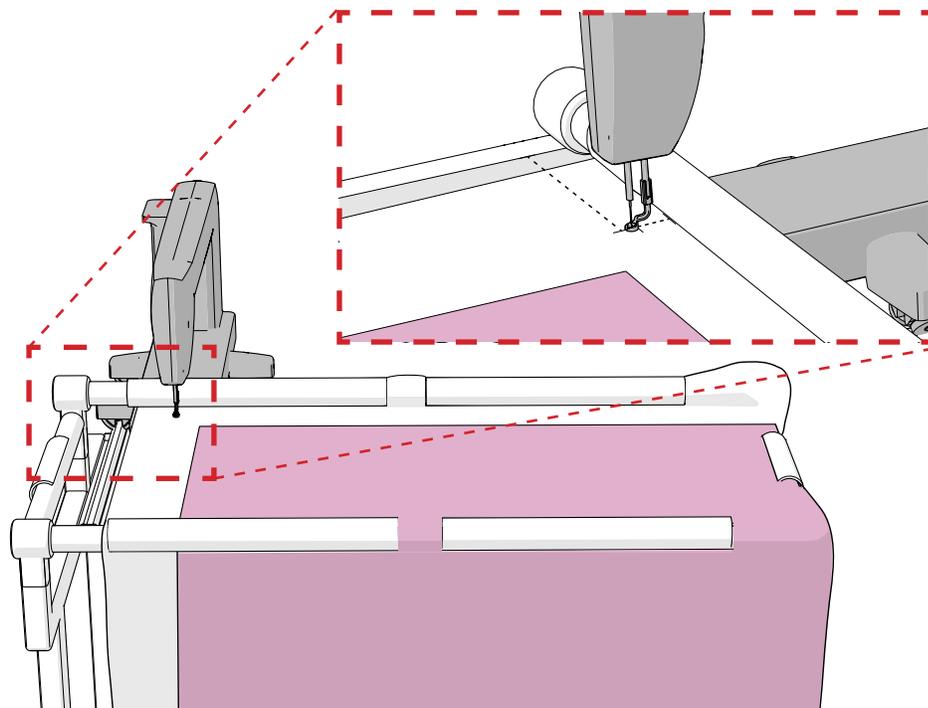
## Task 5: Setting Your Safe Area

The safe area is the space on your frame where the automation can safely move your machine without bumping into the frame's rails or sides.

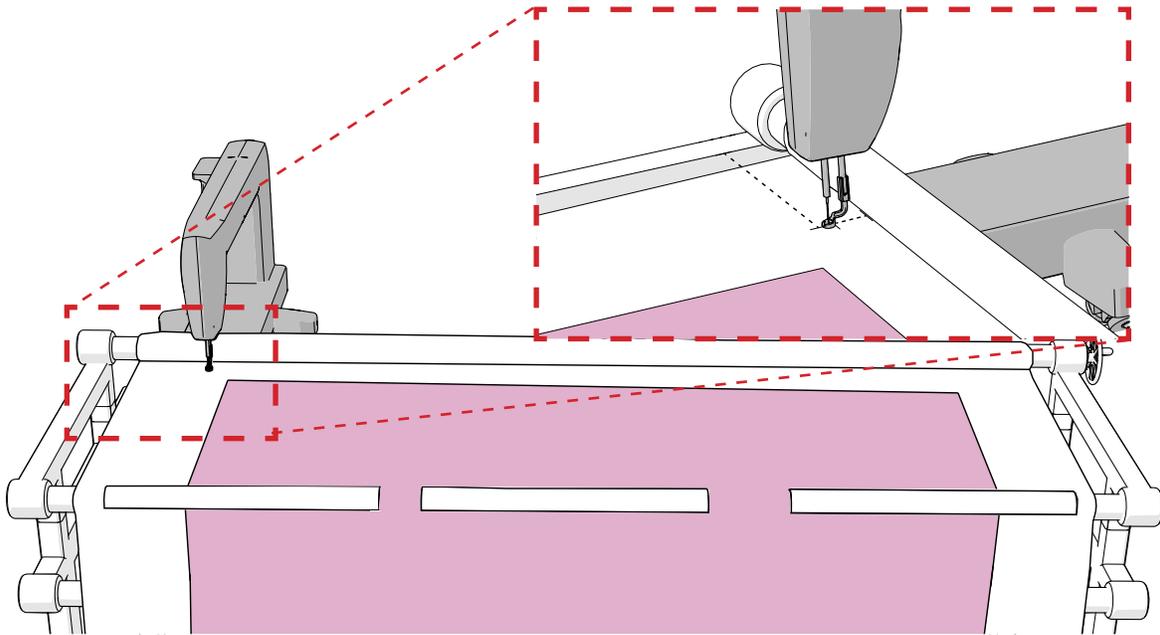
### SAFE AREA

The area where it is safe for your machine to quilt. Setting your safe area gives the automation a reference for the size of your quilting area.

- 1 Move the machine needle at least 8 inches from the left side rail, and 1–2 inches from the take-up rail. Make sure the needle is over batting or fabric. Never set the safe area over open air.
- ◇ **Note:** To avoid setting the safe area over open air, you may end up setting the safe area far more than 8 inches from the sides, especially on larger rolling frames.



*Hoop Frame*



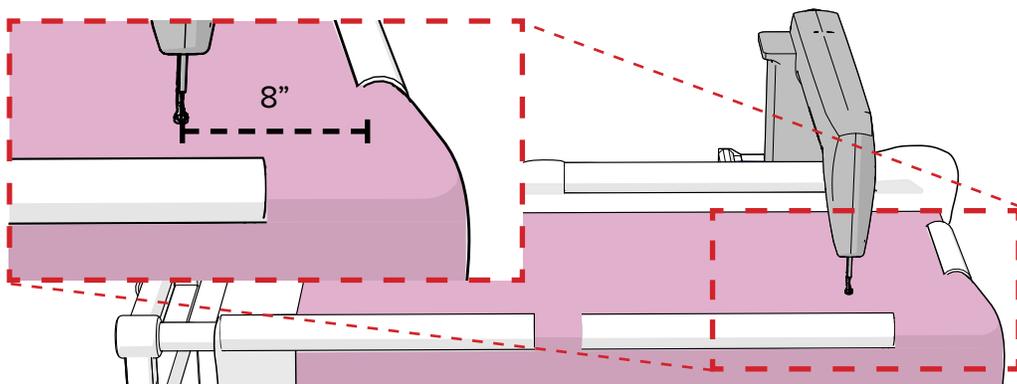
Rolling Frame



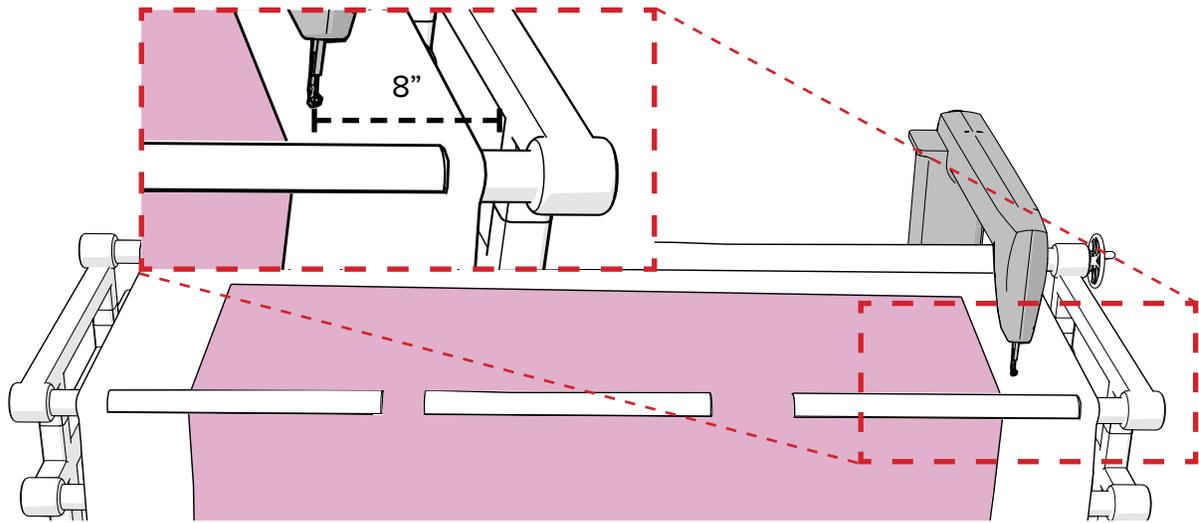
- 2 With the needle positioned, tap the **image of the frame** on the screen.

Help ?	<p><b>Set Safe Area Top-left Corner</b></p> <p>Move the needle over the batting on the left side of the frame. Position it 1-2 inches to the left of your quilt top's edge and from the take-up rail.</p> <p>Tap the image.</p>	
← Back		

- 3 Move your machine to the right until the needle is about 8 inches away from the right side rail, as far forward as it can go without hitting the take-up rail. Again, only set the safe area over fabric or batting.



Hoop Frame



Rolling Frame

- 4 With the needle positioned, tap the **image of the frame** on the screen.

<p>Help ?</p> <p>← Back</p>	<p><b>Set Safe Area Bottom-right Corner</b> Move the needle all the way forward, at least 2 inches to the right of your quilt top.</p> <p>Your needle should be positioned over batting.</p> <p>Tap the image.</p>	
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The safe area determines where the automation allows you to place designs. It important to get as much of the quilt top in the safe area as you can while still ensuring the machine cannot bump into the frame's sides or rails.

## Task 6: Selecting a Design

- 1 Now it's time to choose your design. Tap **Select Design** to open a list of designs.

<p>← Back</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Choose a Design</b></p> <div style="text-align: center;"> </div>	<p>Next →</p>
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- 2 Tap the design you like and then press **Open** at the bottom-right corner of the screen.

## Task 7: Setting Your Design Height

The design height is the distance (in inches) from the top edge of the design to the bottom edge. This setting determines how big the design will be (in inches) when it is stitched out onto your quilt.

**Tip:** To estimate a good height for your design, place a ruler down on your quilt top and imagine how the design might look stitched at different heights.

- 1 Press [-] and [+] to resize the design height incrementally.



- 2 Write down the height you choose so you can keep your rows consistent later.
- 3 When you are confident in the height you have selected, tap **Next**.

## Task 8: Setting Your Design Spacing

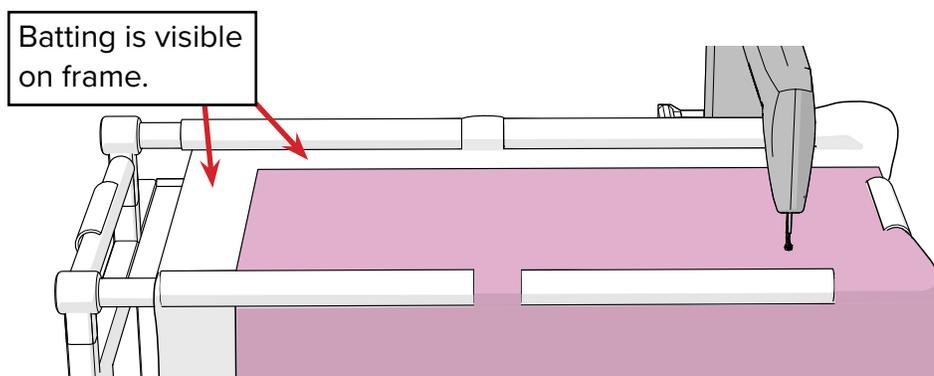
Some designs look better with different spacing (in inches) between the rows.

- 1 Experiment with the row spacing for your design by pressing [-] and [+].
- 2 Write down the height you choose so you can keep your rows consistent later.
- 3 When you like the look of the spacing, tap **Next**.

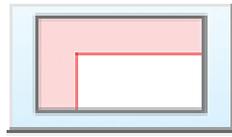
## Task 9: Selecting the Fabric Edges

The red borders on the buttons represent the band of batting you can see around your quilt top. Tap the button that best represents your quilt.

For example, if your quilt top looks like this:



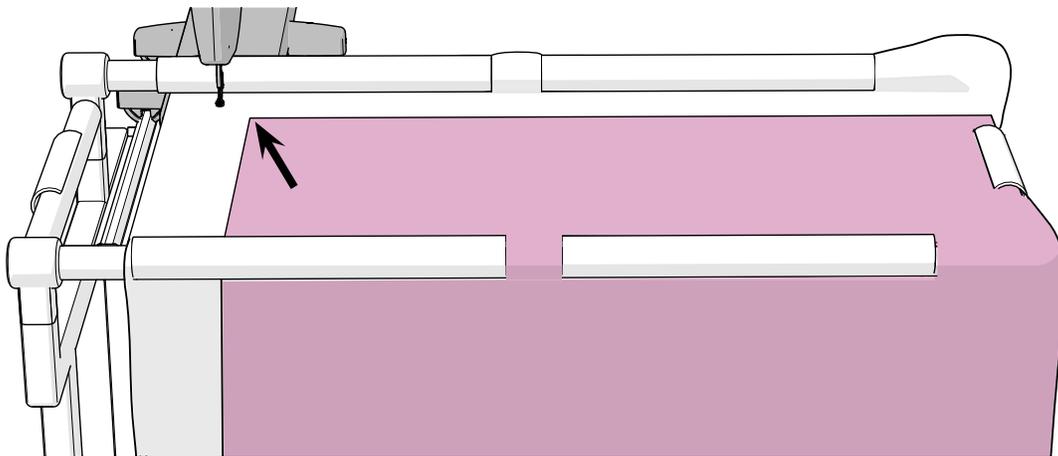
Then choose this option:



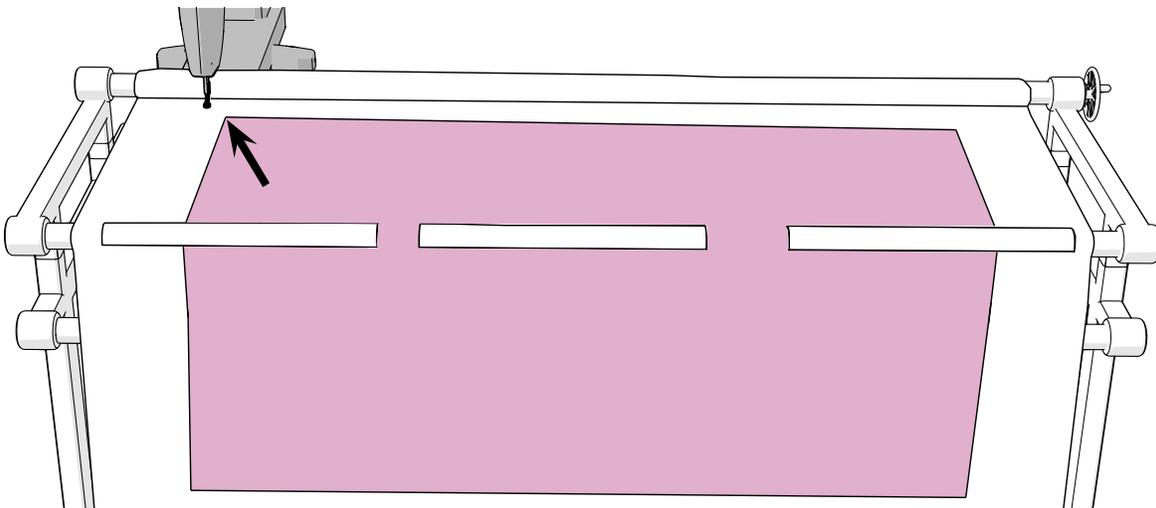
## Task 10: Setting the Fabric Edges

Next, show the automation software where the edges of your quilt top are.

- 1 Position your machine's needle over the back-left corner of your quilt top. **Note:** If you are using a hoop frame and selected a fabric edge button on the previous screen that does not have a red strip on the top or left side, you do not need to place a point in the back-left corner.



*Hoop Frame*



*Rolling Frame*

- 2 Press the top-left **gray node** on the screen to set that point. The node turns green when set.



Screen for Hoop Frame



Screen for Rolling Frame

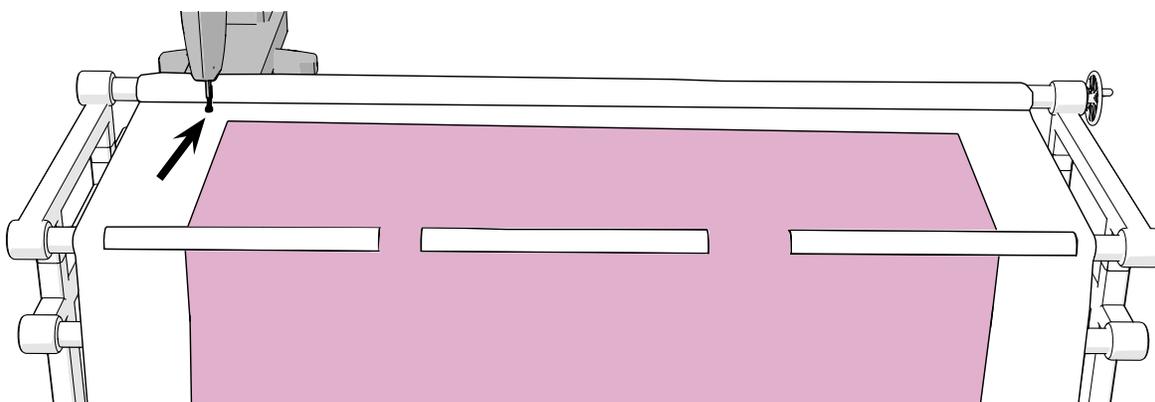
- 3 Repeat for all of the corresponding nodes on the screen.
- ◇ **Note:** If you set your edges correctly, the red strips on the screen will probably not look perfectly square on the screen. This is normal.
  - ◇ **Note:** If something goes wrong, press **Reset** to make the gray nodes re-appear at their default positions.

## Task 11: Placing Your Design

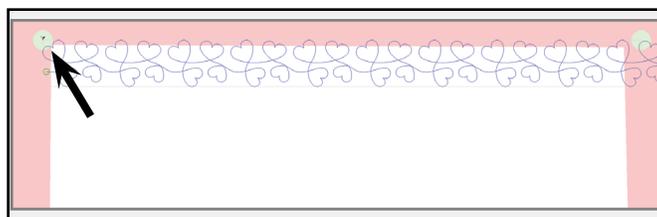
Now it's time to tell the automation where on the quilt you'd like to stitch out your design.

### Placing Your First Row:

- 1 Move your needle 1 inch up and to the left of your quilt top so that it is over the batting.



- 2 Press the **gray node** on the left. The node turns green when set.

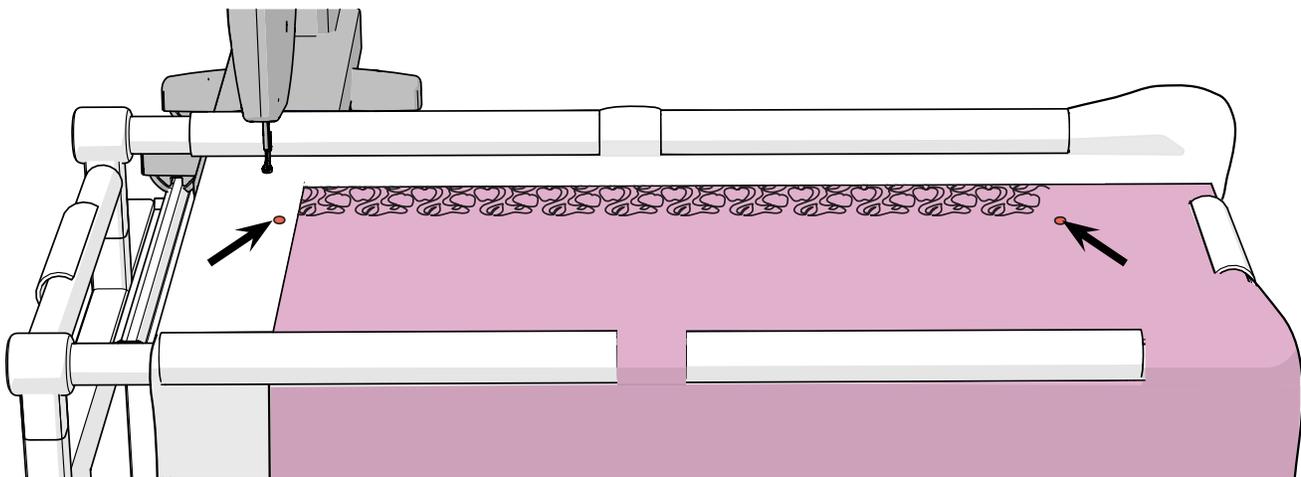


- ◇ **Tip:** If you are using a hoop frame, mark your quilt where you set your placement points. This will help you keep your first row of stitching consistent as you work your way across the top edge of your quilt.
- 3 Repeat on the right side, using the gray node 1 inch up and to the right of the quilt top. If done correctly, parts of the design will fall into the red edge areas on the screen.
- ◇ **Note:** If something goes wrong, press **Reset** to make the gray nodes re-appear at their default positions.
- 4 Tap **Next** when finished.

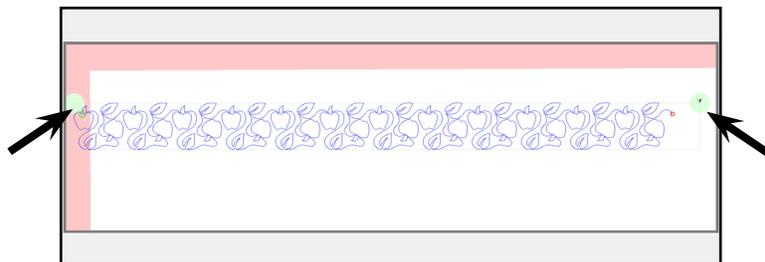
**Placing Additional Rows Down** (after your first row has been stitched out):

If you are starting a new row from the left edge of the fabric:

- 1 Move your machine needle to the marks you made after stitching your first row.



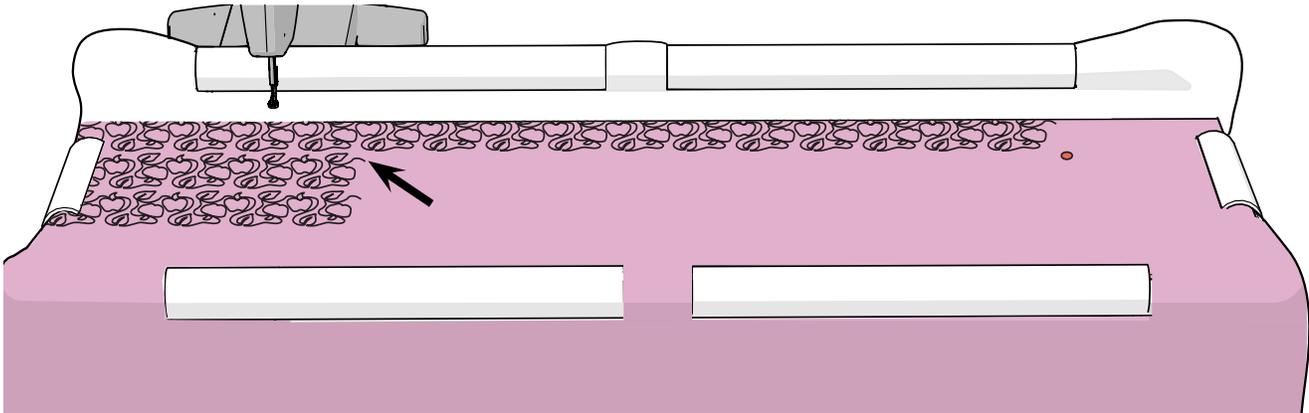
- 2 When your needle is positioned, tap the associated gray nodes.



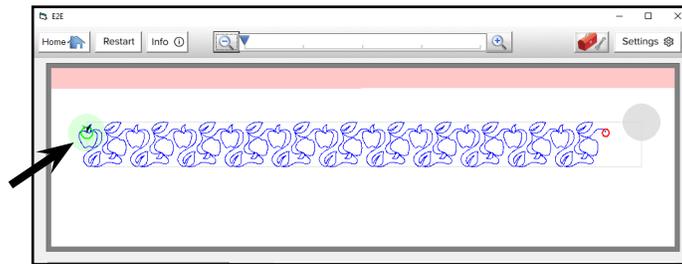
- 3 Tap **Next** when finished.

## Placing Additional Rows Across (hoop frames only):

- 1 Move your machine needle over the last stitch at the end of the unfinished row.



- 2 When your needle is positioned, tap the **gray node** on the left.



- 3 Set the right placement point over the sticker mark as usual. If you do not have a mark because this is at the top edge of your quilt, set your placement the same way you did your right placement on the first row in the previous section of the quilt.

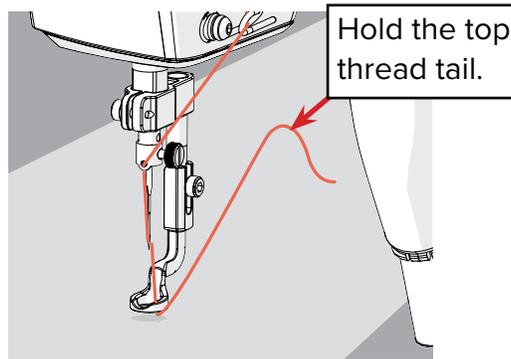
## Task 12: Pulling Your Bobbin Thread at the Start

**Note:** This step in the software can be turned off in Stitch Settings (**Pull Bobbin Thread Steps**). When this step is turned off, the pull bobbin thread screen does not appear.



Pulling up the bobbin thread keeps the bobbin tail from making a mess underneath your quilt. This must be done at the start and end of stitching.

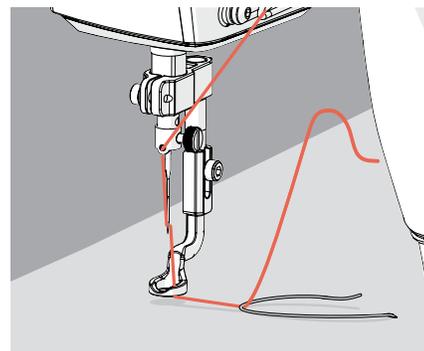
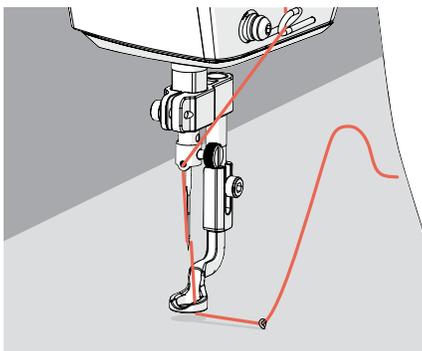
- 1 Grab the top thread tail and hold it a few inches away from the needle.



- 2 Still holding the thread tail, press **Starting Stitch**. CAUTION: Keep your hand a safe distance from the needle. The machine will move to the start of your design and do a single stitch.



- 3 Still holding the thread tail, move the needle away from the starting stitch. The thread you're holding pulls up a loop of bobbin thread. Pull until the bobbin tail pops out completely.

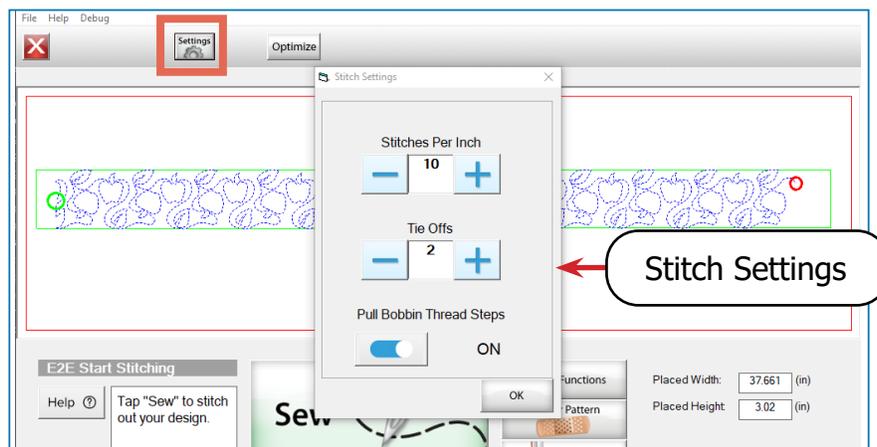


If successful, a tail of thread pokes up through the fabric. Repeat as many times as needed to successfully pull up the bobbin thread.

- ◇ **Note:** If the bobbin thread tail is too short, it is hard to pull up. After repeated failed attempts, it might be best to remove the bobbin case and pull the bobbin tail out 4–5 inches.

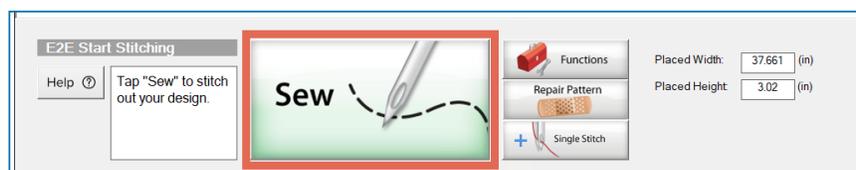
## Task 13: Quilting

- 1 Tap **Settings** at the top to confirm that your **stitch settings** are what you'd like them to be.



- 2 When you're satisfied with your settings, press **OK**.

- 3 Press **Sew** to stitch out your design.

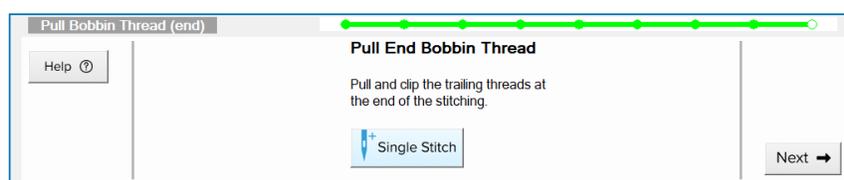


◇ **IMPORTANT:** If something goes wrong during quilting, press **STOP** to halt the machine.

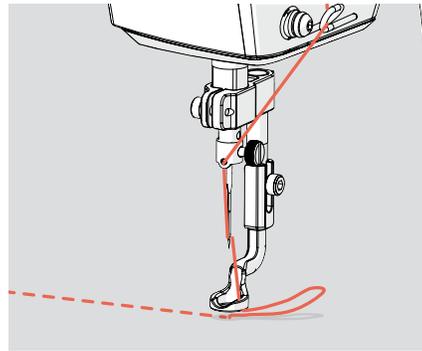
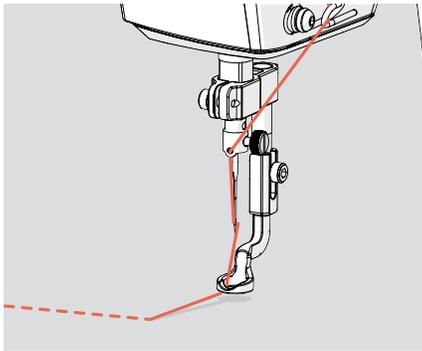


## Task 14: Pulling Your Bobbin Thread at the End

**Note:** This step in the software can be turned off in Stitch Settings (**Pull Bobbin Thread Steps**). When this step is turned off, the pull bobbin thread screen does not appear.



- 1 Move your machine away from the last stitch and grab the trailing top thread. Pull it a few inches away from the needle, then move the needle back to the tie off stitch.

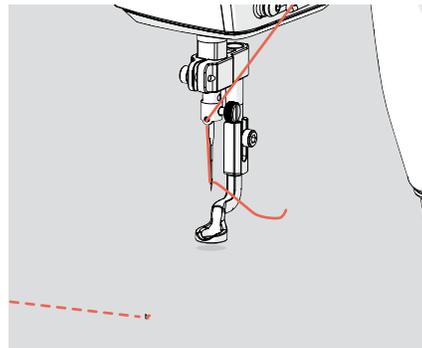
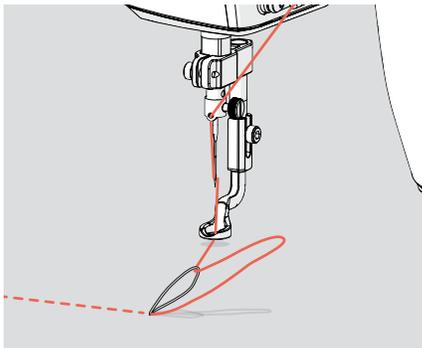


◇ **CAUTION:** Keep your hand a safe distance from the needle.

- 2 Press **Single Stitch** on the screen.



- 3 Move the machine away from the tie-off stitch again. A loop of bobbin thread is pulled up, but this time the tail will not completely pop out. Cut the threads close to the tie-off stitch.

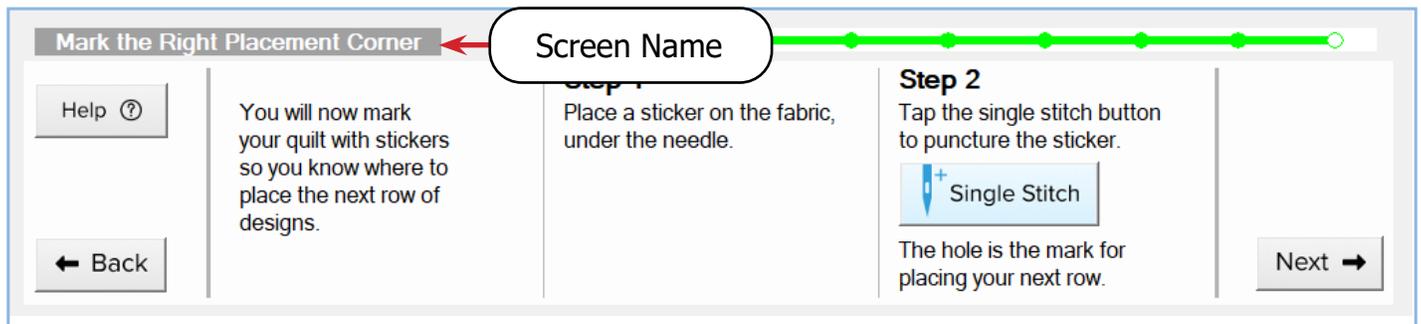


- 4 Tap **Next** to continue to the marking screen.

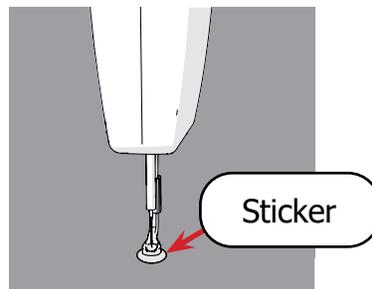
## Task 15: Marking Your Quilt for Additional Rows

Marking your fabric helps you place your next design. It also enables you to resume a quilting session if you take a break and shut down your system or if there is an unexpected shut down or problem during quilting.

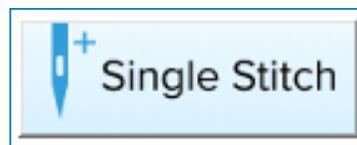
- 1 Check the **screen name** to Make sure you are on the Mark The Right Placement Corner screen. If you are on this screen, automation has moved your machine needle directly over the place on your quilt you need to mark.



- 2 Place a **sticker** on the fabric, underneath the machine foot.

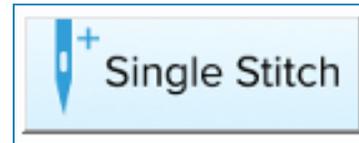
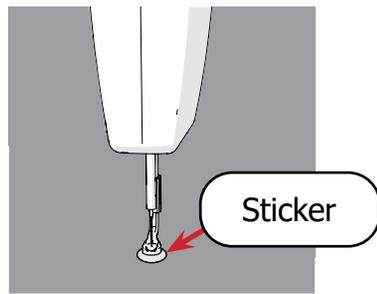


- 3 Tap **single stitch** to puncture the sticker. The hole in the sticker is the mark you will use when you place your next row of designs.



- ◇ **Tip:** If using a hoop frame, use a pin to fasten down your mark. This prevents your stickers from falling off when you shift your fabric. Just make sure the pin doesn't cover the puncture mark.
  - ◇ **Note:** If you run out of stickers, use tape as an alternative. You can also mark with fabric chalk or a pen directly under the needle. You still need to press **Single Stitch** to proceed to the next screen, however.
- 4 When finished, press **Next**.
  - 5 Depending on your frame and the part of your quilt you are working on, either the Mark the Left Placement Corner screen or the Place the Edge to Edge Design screen displays. If you are on Mark the Left Placement Corner, continue with these steps. If you are on Place the Edge to Edge Design, skip to the next task.

- 6 Automation has moved your needle over the next place you need to mark. Place a **sticker** on the fabric and do a single stitch through it as before.



- 7 When finished, press **Next**.

## Task 16: Placing Your Next Row

See the steps for placing additional rows on page 9.

## Task 17: Shifting Your Fabric

When you run out of room to place your next design, a message appears telling you it is time to shift your quilt. When shifting to the next area to quilt, be mindful of where you set the safe area, especially if you're using a hoop frame. The next portion of quilt must fall within the safe area to be properly stitched out. Also remember to tack down the new exposed edges of the quilt.

## Tips and Tricks

- Write down your design height and spacing at the start of each project and keep it with your quilt at all times. It is much easier to resume quilting from a long or unexpected break if this information is handy.
- Pin down your sticker marks to keep them from falling off, especially if using a hoop frame. Stickers can easily fall off when shifting the fabric on the frame, and it is difficult to place designs correctly without the stickers.
- Read pop-up messages carefully before pressing any buttons. For additional information pop-up messages, see “Explanations of Messages and Popups” in your *QCT6 Software Installation and Registration* manual.
- For video tutorials, scan the QR Code on the Welcome screen with your phone’s camera.
- Check your stitches carefully after each row. Test your stitch tension on practice quilt every time you use new thread or change your bobbin. Make sure you use the same kind of fabric and batting for the practice quilt as you are using in your project.
- If a row of stitching is interrupted or doesn’t stitch out properly, see “Continuing an Interrupted Row of Stitching” in your *QCT6 Software Installation and Registration* manual.



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