

# Machine Quilting Design Concepts: Add Movement, Contrast & Depth to Your Quilts



Machine quilting is an art form that allows you to add your own personal touch to your quilts. By learning a few basic design concepts, you can create quilts that are visually stunning and full of life.



## In the Studio with Angela Walters: Machine-Quilting Design Concepts - Add Movement, Contrast, Depth & More by Angela Walters

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In this article, we will discuss three essential machine quilting design concepts: movement, contrast, and depth. We will also provide some tips on how to incorporate these concepts into your own quilting projects.

## **Movement**

Movement is the illusion of motion in a quilt. It can be created by using lines, curves, and other design elements to draw the eye in a certain direction.

There are many different ways to create movement in a quilt. One common technique is to use quilting lines that follow the natural flow of the fabric. For example, you could quilt along the seams of a pieced quilt block, or you could follow the curves of a floral print.

Another way to create movement is to use contrasting colors or values. For example, you could quilt a light-colored block with dark-colored thread, or you could quilt a dark-colored block with light-colored thread. This will create a sense of depth and dimension in your quilt.

Finally, you can also create movement by using different quilting stitches. For example, you could use a straight stitch for most of your quilting, and

then add a few rows of decorative stitches to create a sense of interest.

## **Contrast**

Contrast is the difference between two or more elements in a quilt. It can be created by using different colors, values, or textures.

Contrast is a powerful tool that can be used to create a variety of effects in a quilt. For example, you could use contrast to create a focal point, to highlight a particular design element, or to simply add interest to your quilt.

There are many different ways to create contrast in a quilt. One common technique is to use different colors. For example, you could use a light-colored fabric for the background of your quilt, and then add dark-colored blocks or motifs.

Another way to create contrast is to use different values. Value refers to the lightness or darkness of a color. You could use a light-colored fabric for the background of your quilt, and then add darker-colored blocks or motifs.

Finally, you can also create contrast by using different textures. For example, you could use a smooth fabric for the background of your quilt, and then add textured fabrics for the blocks or motifs.

## **Depth**

Depth is the illusion of three-dimensionality in a quilt. It can be created by using a variety of techniques, such as shading, perspective, and overlapping.

Shading is a technique that can be used to create the illusion of light and shadow. By using lighter and darker shades of the same color, you can create the illusion of depth in your quilt.

Perspective is a technique that can be used to create the illusion of distance. By making objects in the foreground larger than objects in the background, you can create the illusion of depth in your quilt.

Overlapping is a technique that can be used to create the illusion of depth by placing objects in front of or behind each other.

### **Tips for Incorporating Design Concepts into Your Quilts**

Now that you have a basic understanding of machine quilting design concepts, here are a few tips on how to incorporate them into your own quilting projects:

- Start by considering the overall design of your quilt. What is the focal point? What are the supporting elements?
- Use a variety of quilting lines, stitches, and colors to create movement, contrast, and depth in your quilt.
- Don't be afraid to experiment. The best way to learn is by trying new things.
- Have fun! Machine quilting is a great way to express your creativity.

Machine quilting design concepts are a powerful tool that can be used to create stunning quilts. By learning a few basic concepts, you can add movement, contrast, and depth to your quilts, and take your quilting to the next level.



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