Ruler Quilting On A Domestic Machine

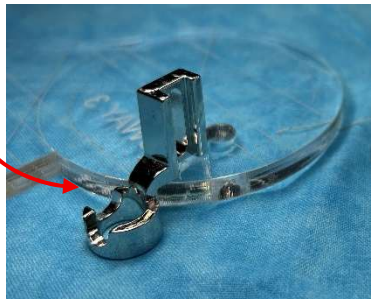
Introduction

Feet that might come with your machine: Not to be used with rulers.

- Embroidery/Darning Foot
- Free Motion Foot (*has cup shape*)

Quilting Foot For Quilting Rulers

Ruler Foot *(shown with up against a quilting ruler)*
(has ¼" sides and distance from side of foot to needle) *Does not come with standard machines.*



Supplies Needed for Success with ruler quilting:

Ruler Foot – See picture to the right. **"Important"** Purchase the one that fits your machine. When properly installed, you should be able to slide a credit card underneath it.

Quilting Rulers ¼" Thick (longarm rulers)
These are designed ¼" thick so that the ruler foot does not hop over the ruler and cause damage to the needle. The ruler foot will ride along side the ruler. They also have marked lines that correspond with the position of the needle to the foot.
Grip Tape for back of ruler – This can be tape as simple as the clear surgical tape that can be purchased at the local grocery store. Or the more expensive kind from any longarm retailer.
Gloves with rubber grip (expensive kind or some gardening gloves)
Basting products for sandwiching your quilt together. I like Quilters Select Basting Powder.
Rulers – don't buy a lot of rulers to start off. Buy basic rulers that have a straight edge, a curve (convex and concave). Some of the rulers combine these features. A good wave ruler is very useful as well. Once you have mastered basic ruler quilting, then look into other specialty rulers. (examples shown at the end)
My favorites are Angela Walters Rulers, Piece N Quilt, and HandiQuilter. There are others on the market so find what works best for you and your budget.

Ruler Quilting On A Domestic Machine

Marking Tools *(it's okay to mark your quilts with beautiful designs to make your quilting easier to accomplish)*

Blue Mark-B-Gone marker – This marker is water soluble and will mist or wash away. My favorite marker!

Chalk Pencils that will brush or iron off

Chalk Pounce Pads – make sure to read how to remove before any washing or ironing.

Slick Surface Area –

Supreme Slider – designed for Free Motion Quilting. It helps your quilt slide on your machine.

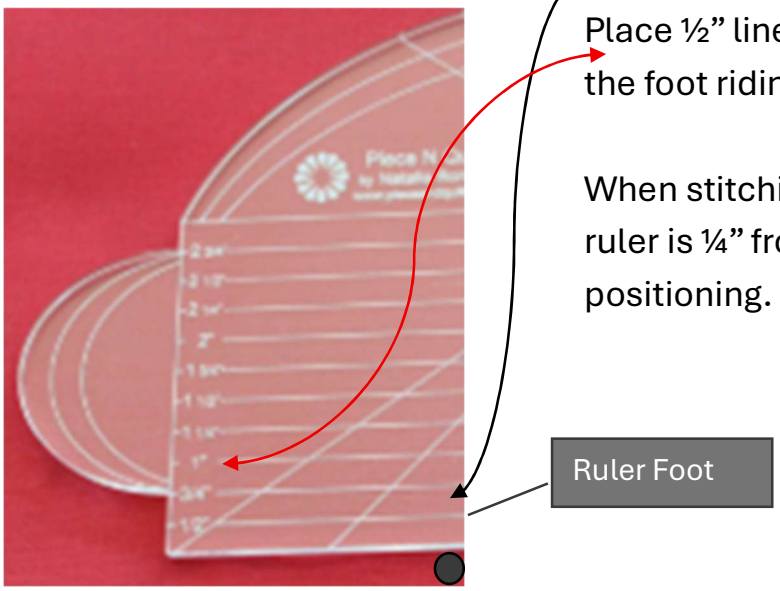
Thin chopping mats that can be found out the Dollar Store will also work well to help your quilt move on your machine.

Understanding the Ruler

Longarm rulers are designed with the needle placement being ¼" from the edge of the ruler. The lines on the rulers are marked with this understanding.

Example:

Ruler foot rides on outside edge = ¼" away.



Place ½" line of ruler looks like it is only ¼" but with the foot riding on the edge of the ruler it gives ½" line.

When stitching your lines to a mark, make sure your ruler is ¼" from the mark so as to have correct positioning.

Ruler Quilting On A Domestic Machine

LETS GET STARTED

Start with a clean machine to help prevent tension issues at the beginning.

*Drop your feed dogs *Put your gloves on *Make sure your quilt sandwich will slide freely

Set your stitch length to as close to zero as your machine will allow (if you have a machine that will let you)

If you have a speed adjustment, set it to the middle speed setting. (This will allow you to put your foot down and not worry about how fast the machine is going.)

Mark out your design whether it be the full marking or just dots to show where to start and stop.

First stitch – one stitch and pull up the bobbin thread. Hold onto your tails and stitch a couple of stitches in place to lock your stitches.

**Think slow and steady. Just because your needle is moving fast, does not mean you have to move at the exact same pace. Try to make consistent stitches. Keep the needle area between your hands. Stop at any time you feel you are losing control or your hands have moved beyond the needle space. **Breathe, reset your hands and start again.

Place your ruler in the position you want to quilt your line. Place your left hand over the ruler applying gentle pressure but not too much pressure. Keep your hands and ruler centered on either side of the needle. With both hands begin to move your quilt, and ruler along the ruler foot in a consistent pace to create your quilting line. (Don't let your hands move too far beyond the ruler foot.) Reset your hands and continue to quilt your line.

(hint – you might find it helpful to have your pinky finger resting on the fabric just outside of the ruler. You may find that you can control any slippage better this way.)

Caution: Don't apply pressure at the edges of the ruler only. It could cause the ruler to pop up and become wedged between the ruler foot and needle.

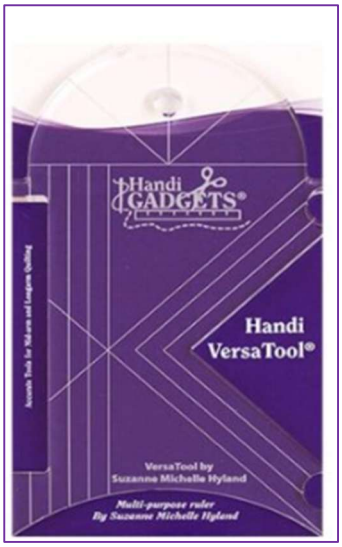
Patients and Practice, Practice, Practice, Practice

A good way to practice is to take a *clear plastic shower liner*, *dry erase markers* and practice "quilting" on the clear plastic over your quilt. It's a good way to see what your design will look like before actually stitching on the quilt.

Ruler Quilting On A Domestic Machine

Examples of My Favorite Rulers

Versa Tool by HandiQuilter. - It has multiple angles making it an easy ruler to begin learning on.



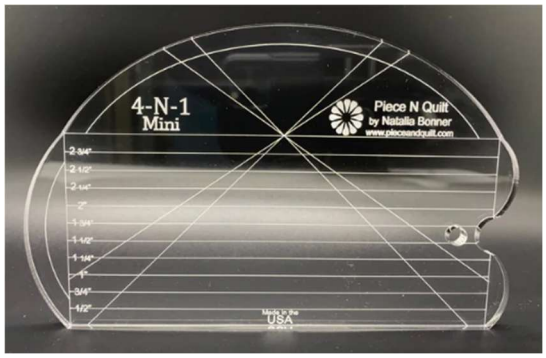
HandiQuilter Mini Scallop Ruler

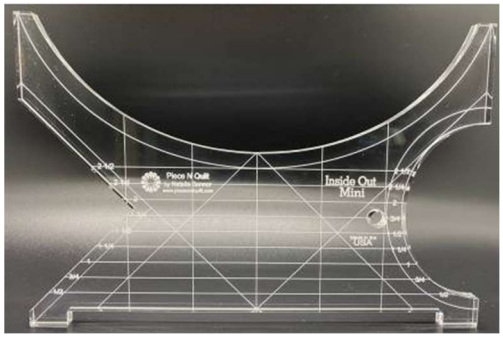
This has a longer straight edge plus a small scallop edge that can be utilized.

Great for Stitch in the ditch.

Angela Walters Rulers shown below. She has videos showing how to use all of her rulers.

Natalia Bonner of Piece N Quilt has designed *4-N-1 Ruler* and *Mini* version, the *Inside Out* and *Mini* version. Plus, her *Sway 3", 4" 5"* curve rulers.





She has videos on how to use all her rulers.

Ruler Quilting On A Domestic Machine

Resources: (This is just a few of the resources that I watch on YouTube)

Angela Walters Free Tutorials on YouTube.
I have taken her online classes via YouTube (I learned so much just from watching here and practicing!)
quiltingismytherapy.com for all the information about Angela and Shopping
Free Tutorials on YouTube _ quiltingismytherapy.com/quilting-challenge/
Scroll down in the page to find past tutorials

- Dot to Dot quiltingismytherapy.com_dot-to-dot-free-motion-challenge-quilting-along/
- Help How Do I Quilt It? quiltingismytherapy.com_help-how-do-i-quilt-it-free-motion-challenge-quilting-along/
- Machine Quilting with Rulers: quiltingismytherapy.com_machine-quilting-with-rulers

Natalia Bonner with Piece N Quilt
I started watching Natalia on YouTube when she was doing her block a day tutorials. All the things she says can easily be adapted to a sewing machine.

- *I have taken* several of her classes including the 9 Patch A Longs.
    - ***www.piecenquilt.com/collections/free-classes***
- ****Mini 4n1 Quilt ruler - *YouTube video Mini 4n1 Quilting Ruler*** A very good video that explains machine quilting rulers and the markings on them.

String and Story – Local quilt shop in Duluth, GA www.stringandstory.com

- 3150 Main St #101, Duluth, GA 30096 | (678) 243-5281
- Shop Hours Thursdays 12 - 4pm / Fridays 12 - 4pm / Saturdays 12 - 3pm
- Classes throughout the week

- ***How to Adjust the Tension on your sewing machine*** String and Story YouTube_How to Adjust the Tension on your sewing machine

Quilting Nerd www.youtube.com/@quiltingnerd

Bold Notion Quilting www.youtube.com/@BoldNotionQuilting

Adria Good Adria Good Longarm Quilting Coach Chick

Please Note: All products listed are ® Registered or ™ Trademarked Items.