

Quiltmagine – Panto – Layout a Whole Quilt

When stitching a panto using QM, there is a tendency to think like we did before we had QM. That is, set up the panto and stitch row by row. While this does work, there are disadvantages to doing it this way.

A better way of working with pantos in QM is to set up the entire quilt first. Setting up the entire quilt allows for changes in pattern size, the opportunity to visualize on the screen the pattern on the whole quilt, and the option of making modifications and adjustments to your overall design using features found in the Pantograph portions of the software. It may take a few minutes longer to set up the entire quilt first, but you will find it is not hard to do, and opens up many more options.

In the Pantograph mode of QM there are three modes for setting up a pantograph, EZ, Basic, and Advanced. EZ mode is the easiest to use and has the least number of options. Basic and Advances each have more features available. For purposes of this post, I will walk you through setting up your quilt in the EZ mode (default mode) and will also mention a few of the options available in this mode.

Panto Set Up

1. Open Pantograph, select a pattern and set the safe area of the quilt. If you have questions on safe area, see a recent post on the QM Facebook page.
<https://www.facebook.com/Quiltmagine-665464126896099/?fref=ts>
2. Define the total height and total width measurement of the quilt top you plan to quilt. The measurement to enter in QM for Total Height is the length of the quilt top plus 2". The measurement to enter in QM for Total Width is the width of the quilt top plus 2". After entering those numbers you probably will see the pattern you selected spread across the screen in several rows and possibly several patterns wide, often using the default height and width measurements of the pattern selection.
3. On the screen you will see a gray box around the pattern. The gray box is the outside dimensions that you entered as Total Height and Total Width. This box is your reference. You may notice the pattern does not go to the top and bottom, or the sides of the "quilt." The directions that follow will make adjustments so that the entire "quilt" will be covered by the pattern.
4. Aspect ratio lock. If you are working with a pattern that would not look very good if the height to width ratio changes, you can lock the aspect ratio by tapping on the lock. When the lock is closed, the ratio will remain the same as other changes to your layout are made. If you change the height of the pattern, the width of the pattern will adjust automatically to maintain the same ratio. If the pattern you are working with won't matter if the ratio is different, leave the lock open.
5. Making adjustments to the pattern:
 - a. Stretch the pattern to the right and left edges of the quilt by tapping on the horizontal stretch button (middle button). More pattern repeats may be added if the aspect ratio lock is on.

- b. Stretch the pattern to the top and bottom edges of the quilt by tapping on the vertical stretch button (bottom right button). More pattern rows may be added if the aspect ratio lock is on.
- c. If the pattern looks too large or too small, you can change the number of patterns across the row, as well as the number of rows by tapping on Pattern Height and Pattern Width. What you see on the screen is a fairly accurate representation of how the pattern will look when quilted out. For a more true to life representation of the pattern quilted out, tap on the magnifying glass at the top of the page, then tap on 100%. At 100% you will see how close the pattern lines will stitch out. Note: if the aspect ratio lock is on, changing either the number of patterns per row, or the number of rows will alter the other.
- d. At this point, depending on the pattern, it may be possible to change how the patterns nest (top box with red arrows). As you toggle through these buttons, watch the screen to see what happens. Then, select the option you want.
- e. The stagger and flip options may or may not be available depending on the pattern and which nesting option is selected. If the word "stagger" is grayed out, it is not available. Toggle through the nesting options and if the word turns black, then the stagger option is now available. By using the stagger and flip options, you can customize your design and make it really unique. The buttons to the right of "odd rows" will change only the odd rows (1, 3, 5, etc.) and the buttons to the right of "even rows" will only change the even rows (2, 4, 6, etc.). Play with the buttons. Each little round circle is another option, so toggle through all of the options by tapping on the larger button.

After making all of the adjustments and you are satisfied with the layout, save your layout by selecting the save button at the top of the screen. Establish a file for panto layouts and give your layout a name. Always save. It makes it so much easier to go back to a project at a later time, or bring it back up if the power goes off in the middle of quilting.

You are now ready to stitch, tap on "quilt as rows." After stitching the first row, follow the on-screen prompts to place the next row. Make sure you mark where this next row will start using a pin, piece of masking tape or bulls eye sticker (available at www.delightful-qs.com/qm_resources.htm) BEFORE you advance the quilt top.

Below is a list of a few of the panto patterns that the stagger and flip features work well with and even create nice secondary patterns. Some time when you have a few minutes, play with these to see how these functions work.

- Loops Triple
- Knobs
- Curl Wave
- Wave