

Quiltmachine – Playing Is OK

Play is a very important part of how children learn. Play can be a very important part of learning how to use Quiltmachine, too. As adults we want to know how to do it all now, but without spending time "playing," that is not possible.

Use Quiltmachine's simulation mode to play and learn how to use QM. Here are some things to try.

Disconnect the tablet from your longarm system, open Quiltmachine and check Yes to open QM in simulation mode. Once in simulation mode you can access all of the same features except quilt. In simulation mode you can design quilt tops working with block arrangements, borders and having fun with triangle blocks in Quilt Layout.

In Pantograph mode, practice setting up an entire quilt top in EZ by entering the total height and total width of the quilt top, then selecting a pattern. Enter dimensions for the pattern height and pattern width and see how it will look. Change the dimensions, make adjustments, tap on centering options, play with stagger and flip and height and width adjustments to see how those changes will look.

Try Basic and Advanced modes and choose a pattern that you would like to flip on alternate rows or one that needs to be nested. This time work with only two rows and enter the total height and total width of the row (make sure both rows are selected when doing this). After selecting a pattern play with the size, move, flip and rotate options to see what interesting designs you can create. Remember that you can change the Step of the change from tiny to jumbo. I usually start with medium change and adjust to more or less depending on what it looks like. In Basic and Advanced you can select all rows, none, or alternate rows when making changes.

Don't be afraid to play with QM. You can create hundreds of different designs by selecting different options, starting with a standard pattern and altering it to a unique design. It is lots of fun to just sit any play. And, when you create something really special that you want to stitch out, make some notes on what you did, or better yet, save it to a "Play" design folder on your tablet.