

## Quilters Corner

518 West State Street

Ithaca, New York 14850

Authorized PFAFF & Baby Lock sewing machine dealer

607-266-0850



## Westalee Ruler Foot & Templates

### What Ruler Foot do I need and what templates should I purchase?

The short answer is it depends. We will need to know the brand and the name or number of the sewing machine you will be using. Westalee has 4 different feet for home machines (not long arm), low shank, medium shank, high shank, and high shank special. Please ask us which foot is right for your machine.

What Templates do I need? The low and medium shank Ruler Feet take the low shank templates. The High and High Special Feet take the high shank templates.

How do I become proficient? The best thing to do regardless of what templates you purchase is to watch a video and then practice. You will find them on YouTube by searching Westalee and then the ruler name, or find them on Sew-Steady.com. These are a must. You won't believe what tips she has for you. There is a small learning curve, but practice makes perfect.

It's a bit confusing at first, but we are here to help.

What templates should I start with?

- We are recommending either Sampler Set 1. There are six templates in the set. The best way to get started is to order the Ruler Foot starter kit which comes with the arc template the Sampler Set 1.
- After that, the sky is the limit. Every quarter the Sew Steady company has put together a promotion with a set of similar rulers at a great price. We will be sending out emails about these deals.
- Feathers? There are four feather templates. You can buy them separately or a set of four for a special price. There is also a feather spine either 10" or 12" that you can use with these. If you plan on purchasing the feather spine, you won't need a straight ruler because one side of this is straight. Again, watch the feather video. Amazing.
- There are great border templates, too many to list.
- There are rotating templates. Some of these they call Spin-e-fex (get it?). These fill a square block. Great for plain blocks. There are spinning wreaths, wheels, waves....you get the idea.
- There are around 300 different templates from Westalee. You can either look at the booklet in our shop or go online at Westalee.com. In the left column, the booklet is listed; just click on the one you wish to review. Sew-Steady.com also has the booklet, but they are harder to find. I went into the search bar and searched Westalee catalog and found it, Someone else tried but couldn't find it that way.

# Westalee Ruler Foot & Templates

## Tips and Tricks

### Necessary Tools for Success:

- Ruler Foot—a Westalee Ruler Foot is a must. There are four different feet: the low, medium, high, and high shank special ruler foot. The Ruler Foot is exactly 1/2" wide. This lets you echo 1/4" from the edge of the foot. The Ruler Foot is designed for maximum viewing of your quilt while quilting. The Templates from Westalee are designed to use with this 1/2" foot. The biggest thing about these feet are that the foot itself is high enough (about 1/4") so that it doesn't slip under or over the templates. The free-motion feet that come on home machines do not have any of these features. Have your home machine in the free-motion setting when using the Ruler Foot and Templates. When installing the foot, watch the YouTube video. This will help. Also check to make sure the needle is in the center, you may have to move it to the side just a tad on some machines.
- Templates— Use a good quality template. We recommend Westalee. These templates come in several different mils (thicknesses) to match your Ruler foot shank. The Low and Medium Ruler Foot use the same low templates. The High Ruler Feet use High templates and the Long Arm machines use Long Arm templates. Can you use Long Arm templates on your home machine? The quick answer is no. The home machines don't have as much clearance between the screw on the shank and the plate on your machine. The Ruler Feet from Westalee were specially designed for this. The thicker templates made for the Long Arm machines will not fit under the back of the shank and foot when being used, especially if your foot is in the center of a template. An example of this would be a circle template. Some of the closed templates have what they call a key. This looks like a puzzle piece and is kept in place by tape. The reason for this is when using the template, it closes the pattern and you get a smooth edge. If you want to continue on with free-motion quilting after using the template, you can take the key out and move the template without breaking your thread or stopping and starting. Some rulers have a small opening 'slot'. You won't need the key for closing that space.
- We recommend adding an adhesive grip to the back of the rulers. The rulers come with Stable Tape. We are recommending Handi Grip which has 8 clear adhesive grip strips (1" x 7"). These can be cut into small pieces and adhere to the rulers. Use your old scissors when cutting these.
- Needles—recommend starting with a Topstitch 90/14 or 80/12 needle. You may also want to try Quilting needles. Change your needle often. A well used or damaged needle may cause skipped stitches and/or thread breakage.
- Thread—For best success, Westalee recommends starting with a 50 weight thread. If you are quilting something for a wall or something that won't be washed often, 50 weight is fine. If you are quilting a bed or baby quilt that will be well loved, we recommend a 40 weight or lower (thicker) thread.
- Extension Table—an extension table designed to fit your machine will make quilting with rulers and templates and free-motion quilting so much easier. You have more room for your hands, quilt, and templates with a table. If your table has gaps, try a Glider Mat to cover those areas. Your quilt may not glide well on a new extension table due to the way it is manufactured. Try a dust cloth. If that doesn't work, we sell a small bottle of Sew Steady Polish that you may wish to purchase that will make your quilt glide well.

- Tension—To have the look of good quilting, you should have your top and bottom threads buried in the batting where they connect. If you are seeing the bobbin thread on the top of your quilt, the top tension is too high, so lower it. If you are seeing the top thread on the back of your quilt, your top tension is too low, so raise it. These adjustments may be small. You may also need to adjust your bobbin tension. Westalee has a great YouTube video on bobbin case adjusting. Westalee recommends lowering bobbin tension and then adjusting your top tension after that. Try a different type and size needle. Your machine may work better using Topstitch needles than quilting needles. Also, are you using a good quality thread? This will make a difference. What batting are you using? Try Quilters Dream Mid-loft. This gives your thread a place to meet and not be seen. Also make sure your foot is low on the sandwich, but not dragging. We have found that if it is too high the quilt jumps a bit and may also cause skipped stitches. Tension issues can be frustrating. You can always ask for help.
- Basting—We recommend 505 Basting Spray. Quilters Corner has sold this product for years. With a basting spray, you don't have to stop and remove pins every 10 seconds when quilting. It holds your quilt together for months (Cyndi has said years), and washes away. It holds the sandwich from shifting better than pins or thread basting.
- Marking—When using Westalee Templates, it is beneficial to mark guidepoints or lines. We recommend the Bohin pencil. This product is a mechanical chalk marker and has a fine line. You can purchase several colors of chalk and refills. Always test your marking products on your current project, and remove before heat setting.

Some more quick tips for success:

With certain Pfaff machines use the Spring Free Motion setting with the Ruler Foot.

**\*Don't put your presser foot up when the needle is down.** This is an important one. The way the Ruler Foot is made you won't be able to do this. Get in the habit of always disengaging the needle down function before lifting the presser foot. Once you start doing this, it will easily become a habit.

\*Don't use your IDT (walking foot) if your machine is a Pfaff with the Westalee Rulers.

\*Do watch the Westalee Template videos on YouTube. They are wonderful, and we find new things every time we watch one.

\* **Do tighten the foot with a screwdriver** after you find your proper foot placement.

\* Do stop or pause at the points of the templates to have a nice point.

\* Do bring your bobbin thread to the top at your starting point to avoid a 'nest' on the back of the quilt.

\* Do be safety conscious and keep fingers away from the needle and moving parts of the shank.

\* Do wear quilting gloves - we recommend Machingers. They are light weight and have great finger tips.

\* Do have fun with the Ruler Foot and Templates. Enjoy quilting, get excited and create!

\* Do contact us with questions and we will be happy to help. Quilters Corner—607-266-0850

\* Remember that every stitch of quilting that you sew draws in your quilt, so it is always necessary when quilting to make slight adjustments as you go so that your template pattern sews out correctly.

\* When using rulers it is best to slow down.

\* When holding the template on the quilt do not push so hard that you restrict the movement of the quilt.

\* Store you templates flat or in a template rack out of direct sunlight.

\* Clean templates with Isopropyl (eyeglass cleaner) or warm soapy water. Do not use anything that contains ammonia.

\* Clear cast Acrylic can break if dropped.