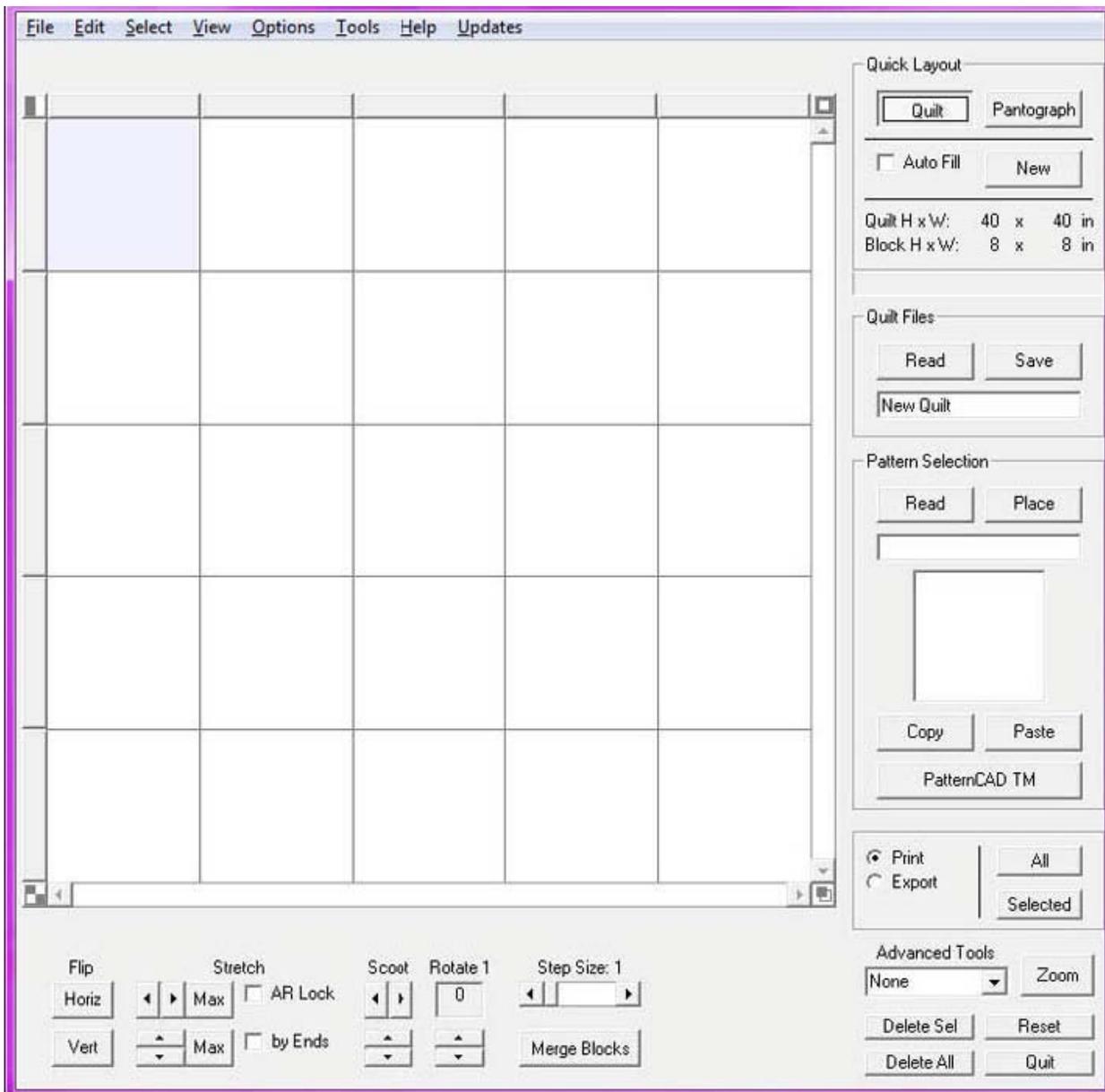


QuiltCAD Help

QuiltCAD Help will show you how easy and fun it is to design your quilt stitching patterns. Plus, as you go through the Help sections, you'll get a terrific overview of QuiltCAD, whether you have it running or not.

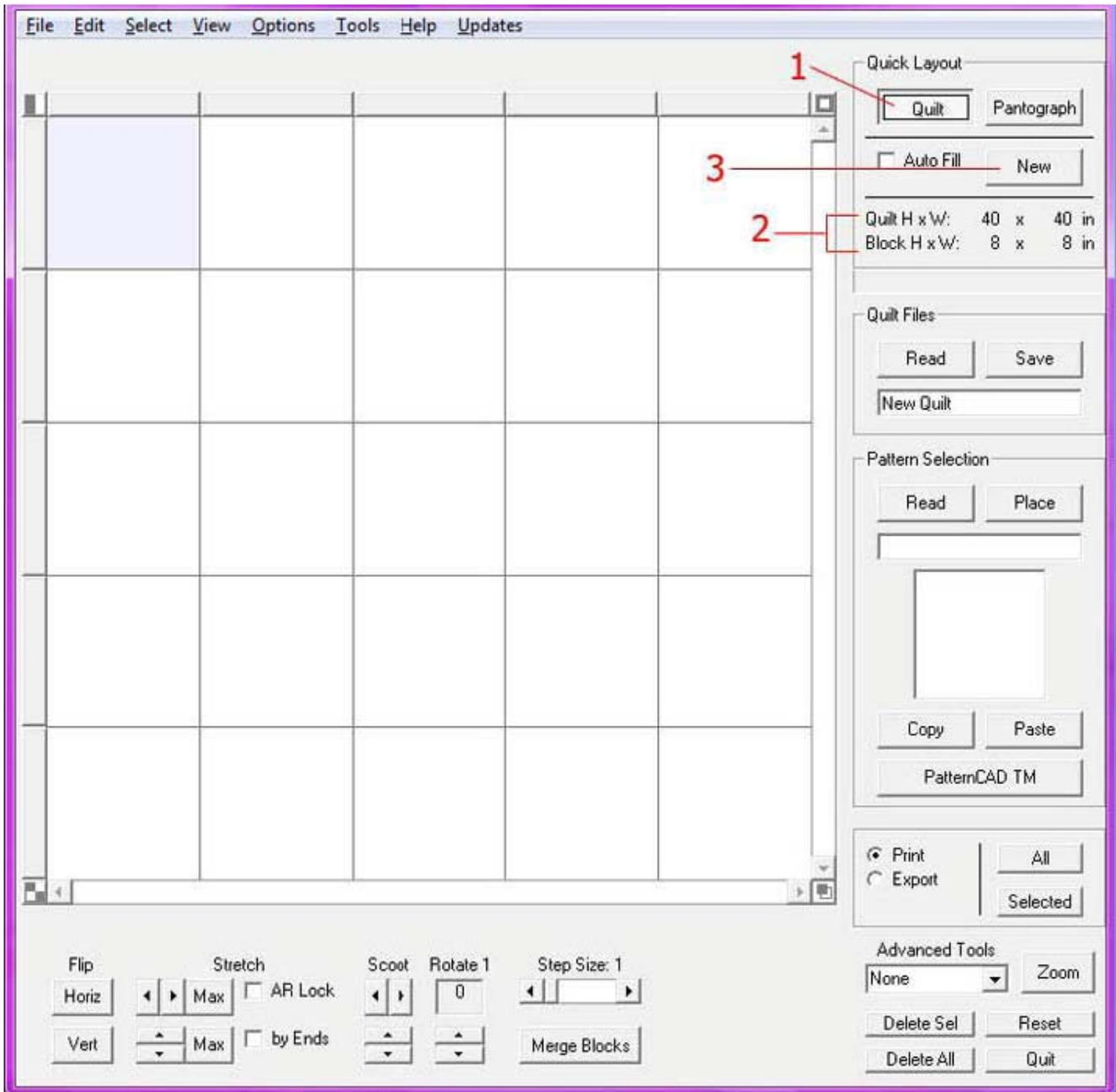
Quick Layout

Quickly designing quilts or pantographs has never been this easy! To show you how easy it is, we're going to walk you through designing your own quilt or pantograph. The lessons to follow will provide you with more details on how to set up a quilt. To continue, click on each instruction step for fully explained and fully illustrated details.



Quick Quilt Layout

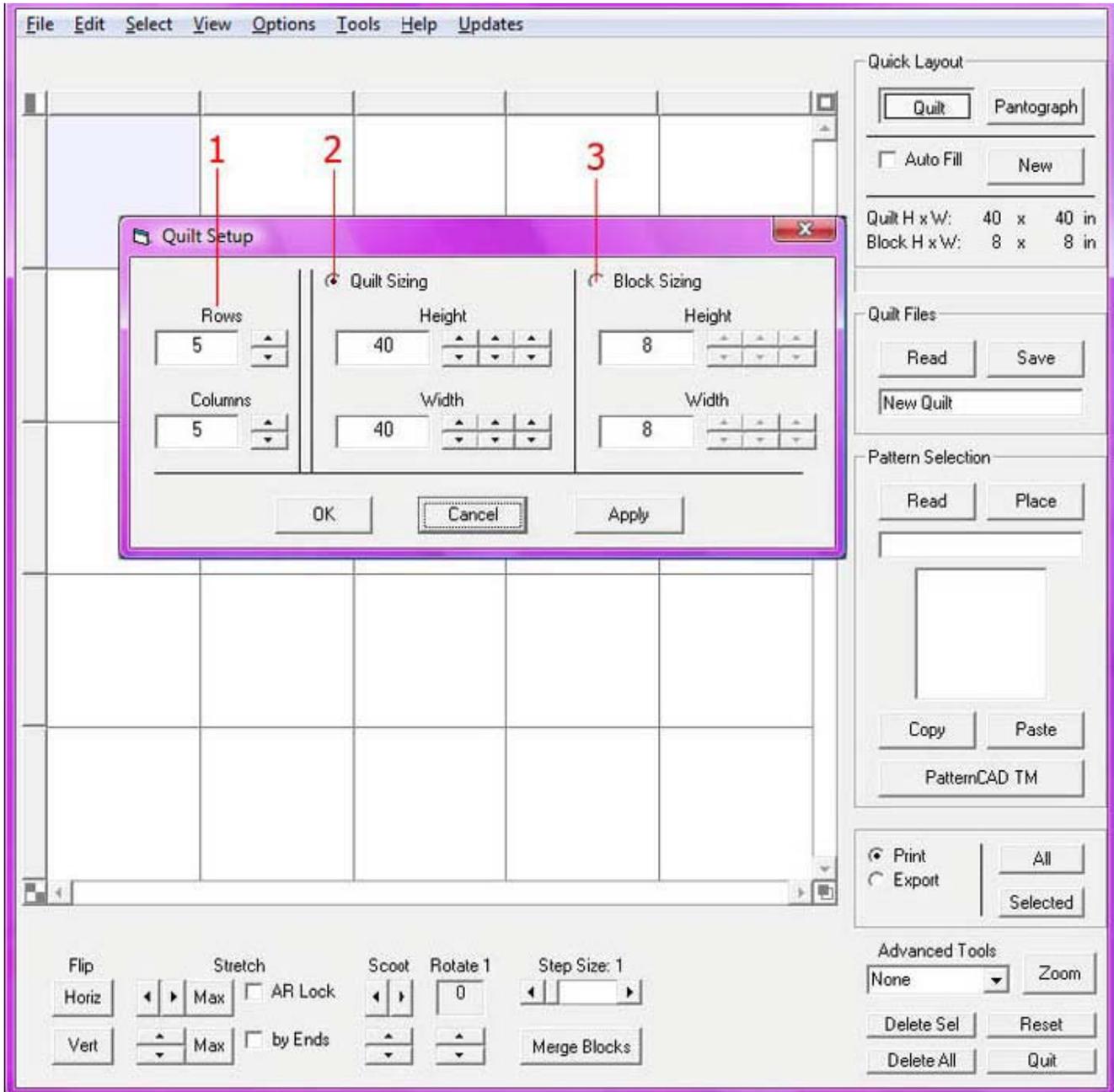
When you open QuiltCAD the default setting is a quilt layout(1). The quilt size(2) is 40" x 40" and the block size is 8" x 8", but can be changed by clicking New(3).



Change Quilt Setup

Now you can see the Quilt Setup dialog box, which allows you to change the number of rows and/or columns(1), the quilt size(2), and the block size(3). When you change any one of the options at least one other option will change to keep the ratio the same.

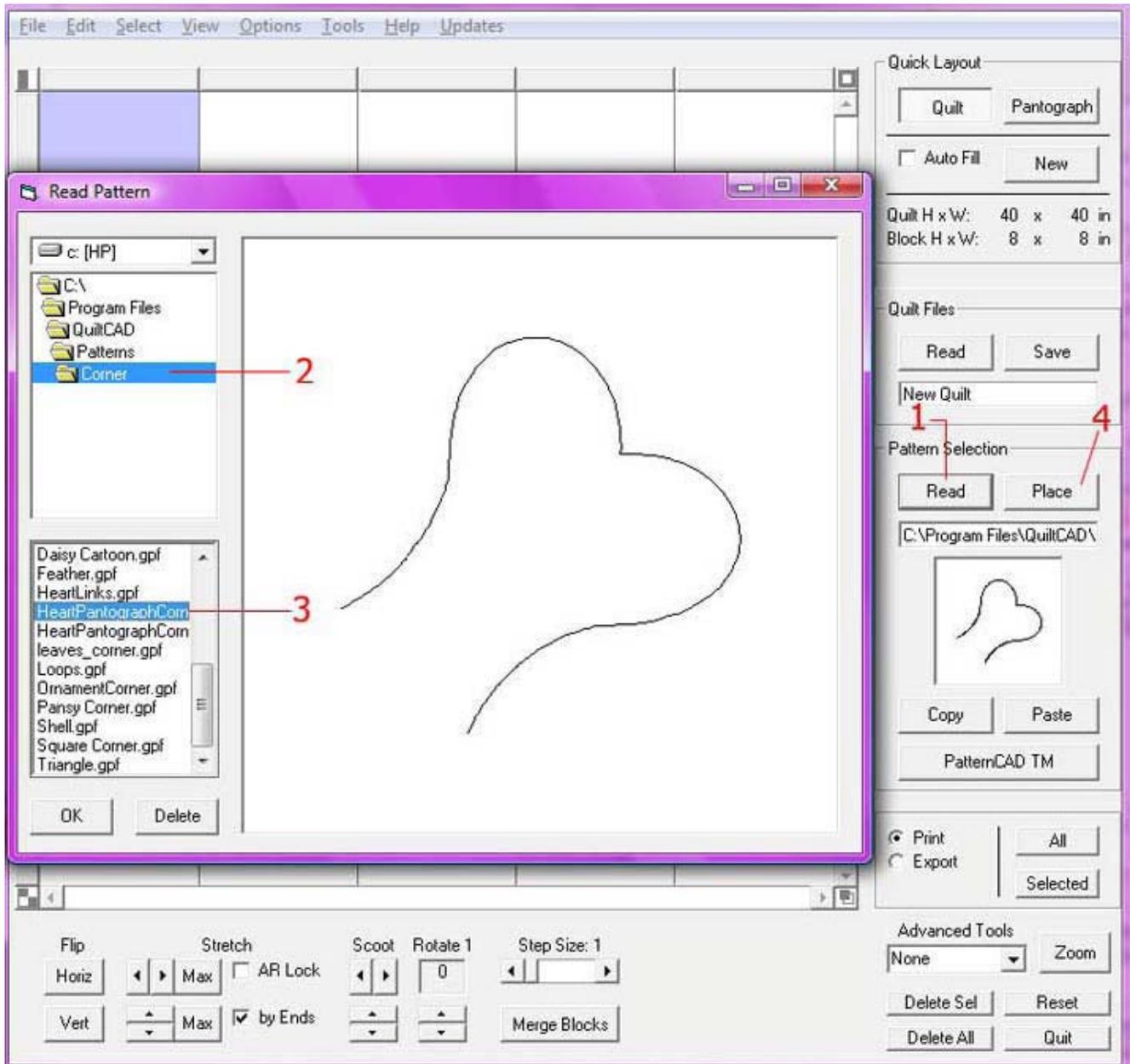
Once you have everything set up the way you want it you can either click apply and then OK or just OK.



Quick Border

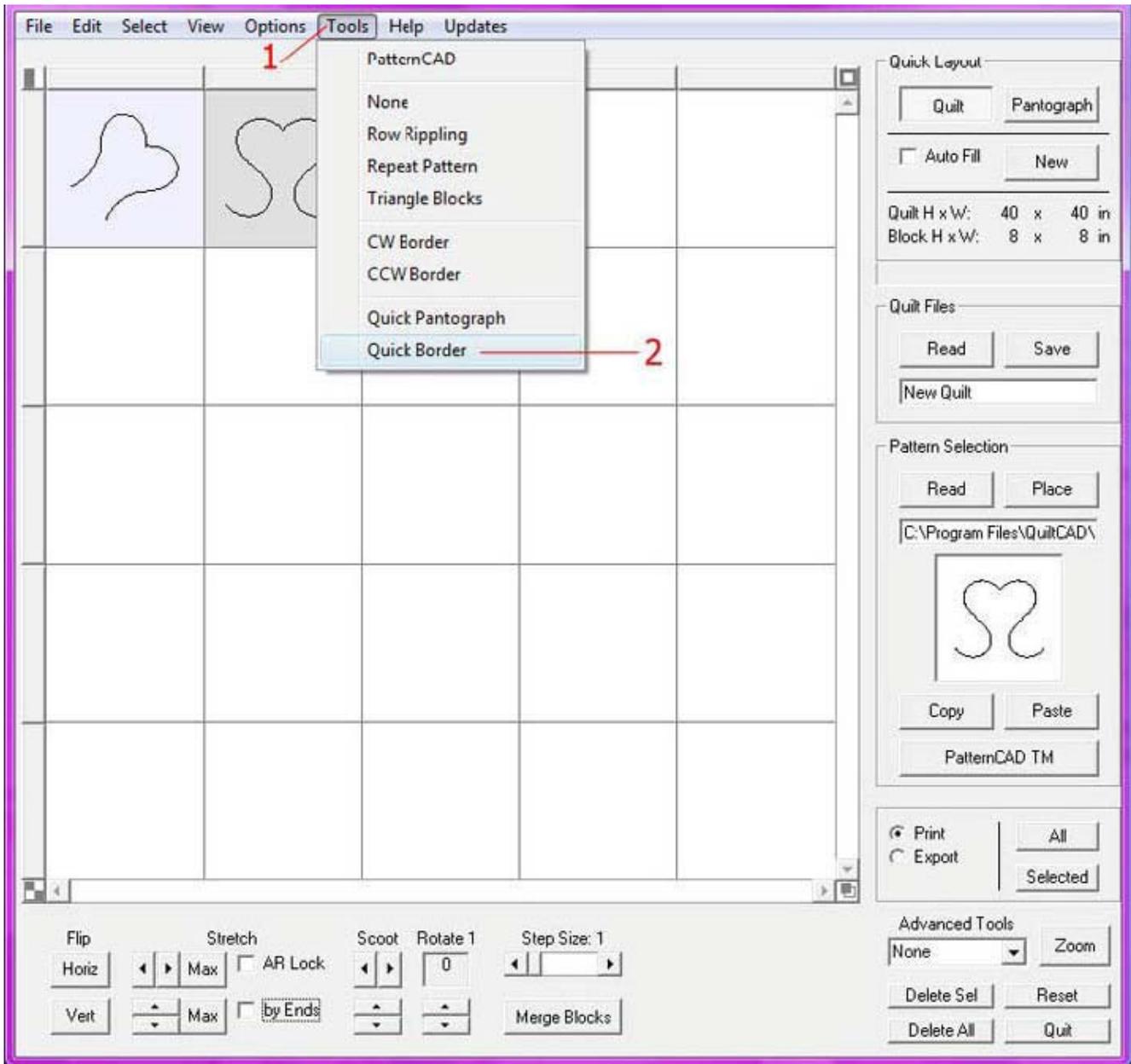
To quickly create a border you simply need to find and place two patterns, one corner pattern and one continuous line pattern.

First you will want to click on any one of the four corners. Then you will need to click on Read(1), just below the quilt size. Next you will want to click on the file named Corner(2). Now you will need to pick a corner pattern that you like, for example HeartPantographCorner (3), and click OK. Then you will click on Place(4), next to read.



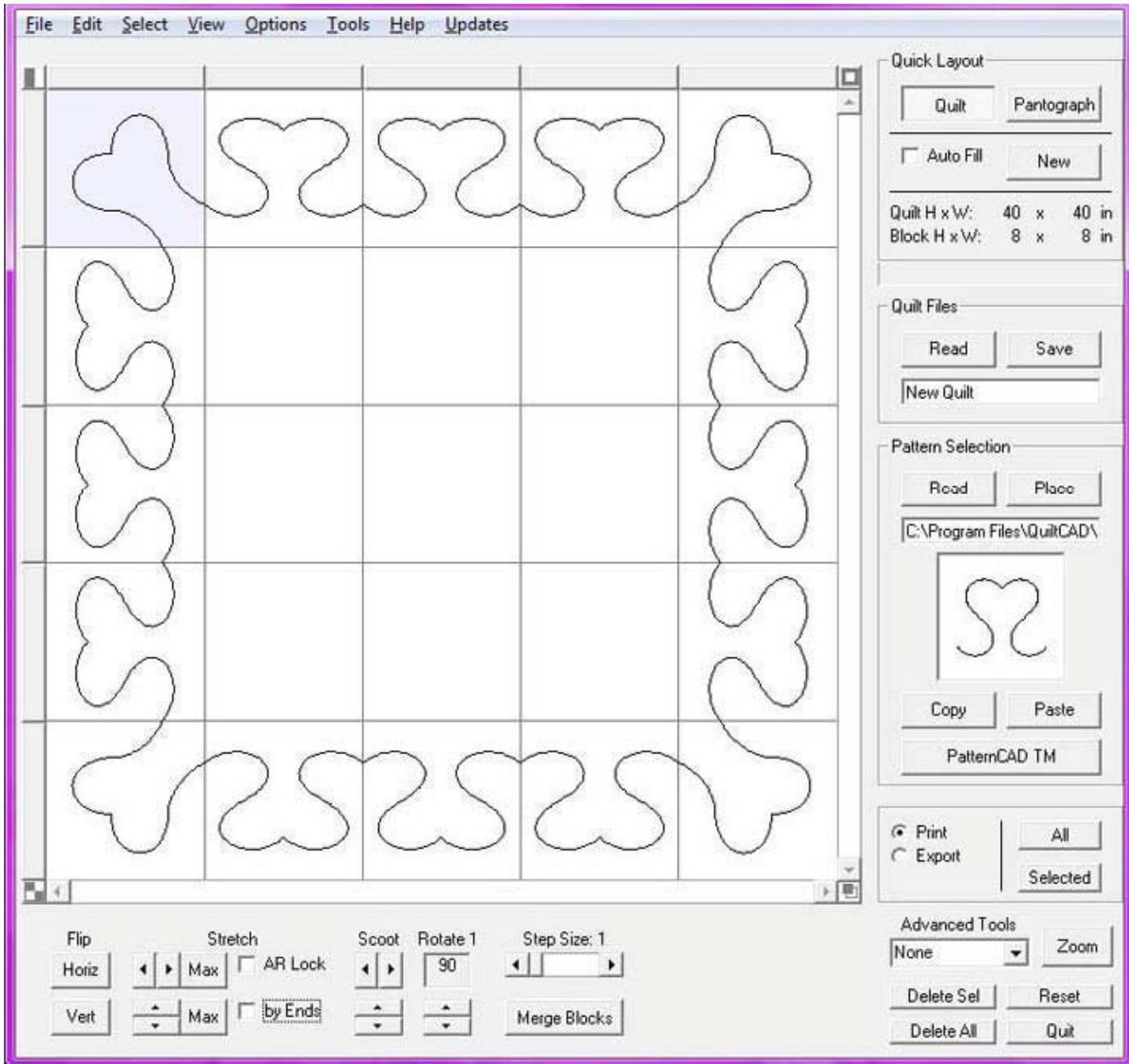
Quick Border Continued

IMPORTANT: When you are creating a border you want to make sure your corner matches your continuous line pattern. Now that you have your corner border placed you will need to read another pattern, but this time it is going to be a continuous line pattern, and we want to choose HeartPantograph to place to the right of the corner pattern. Once you have your corner and continuous line patterns placed you click on the Tool menu(1) and then click on Quick Border(2).



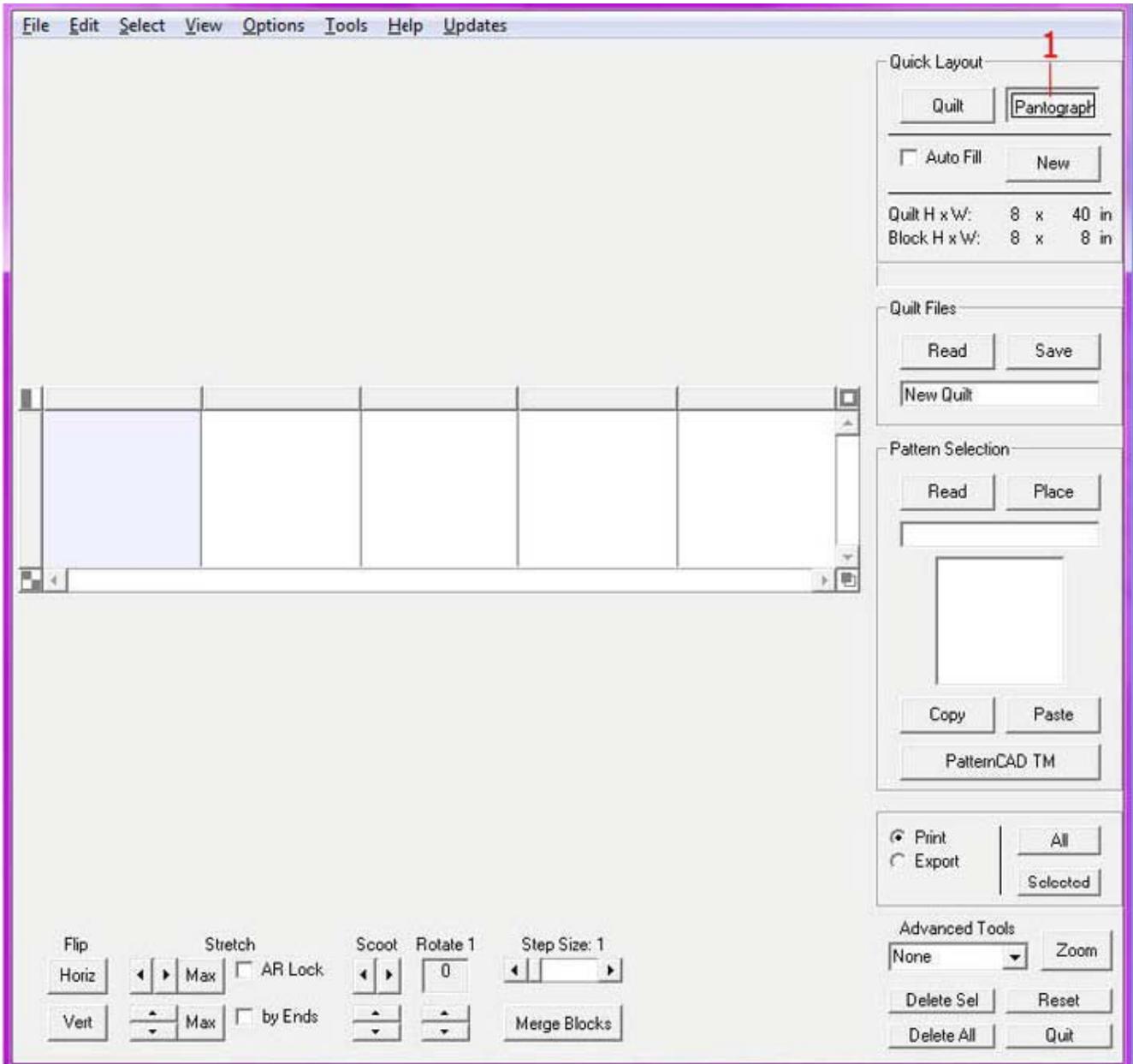
Quick Border Final

Once you clicked on Quick Border everything should have aligned properly and given you the quilt as shown below.



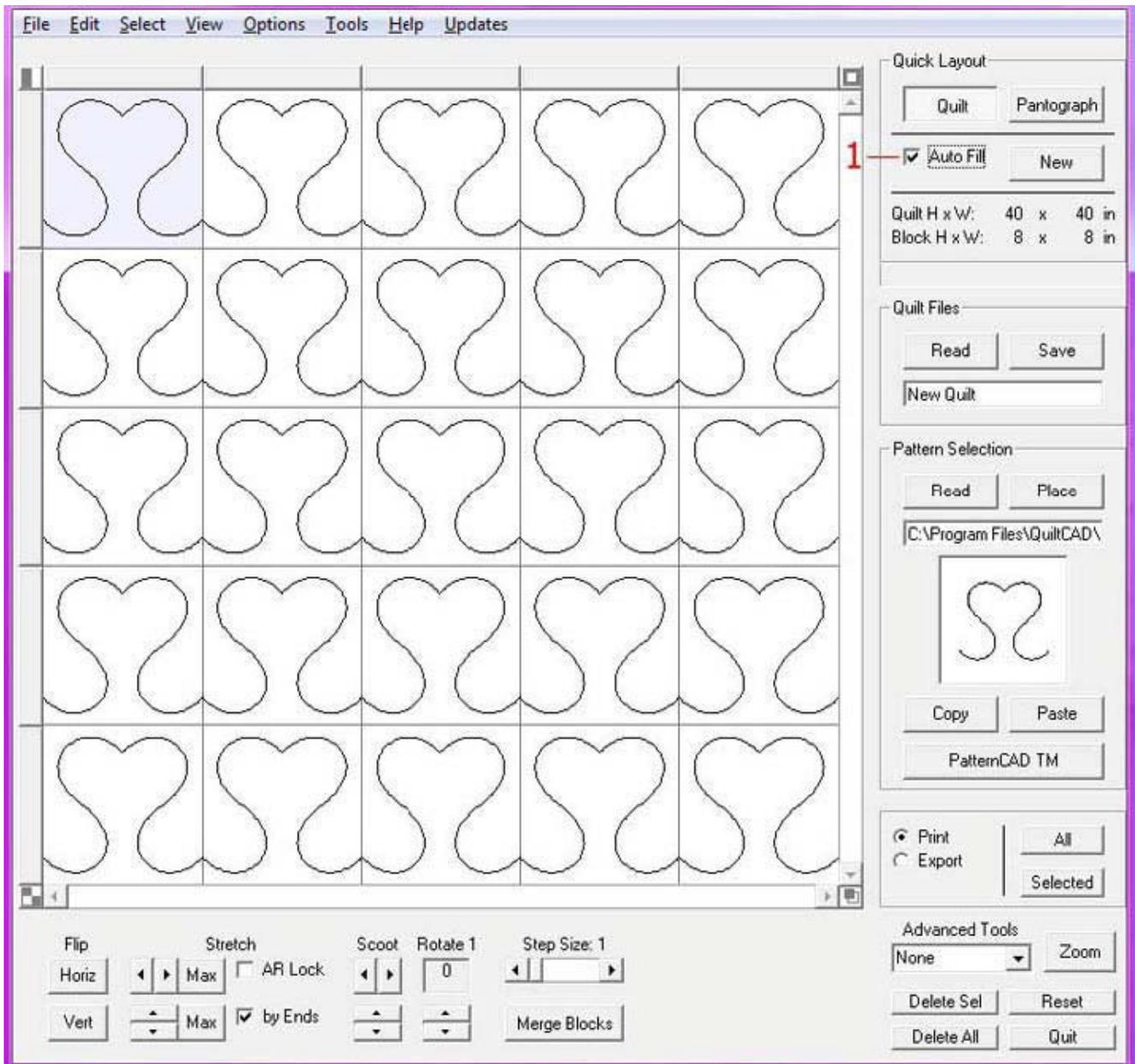
Quick Pantograph Layout

Quick Pantograph(1) is very similar to the Quick Quilts, because you read and place patterns the same way. You can also change the pantograph size the exact same way you changed the quilt size.



Auto Fill Quilt

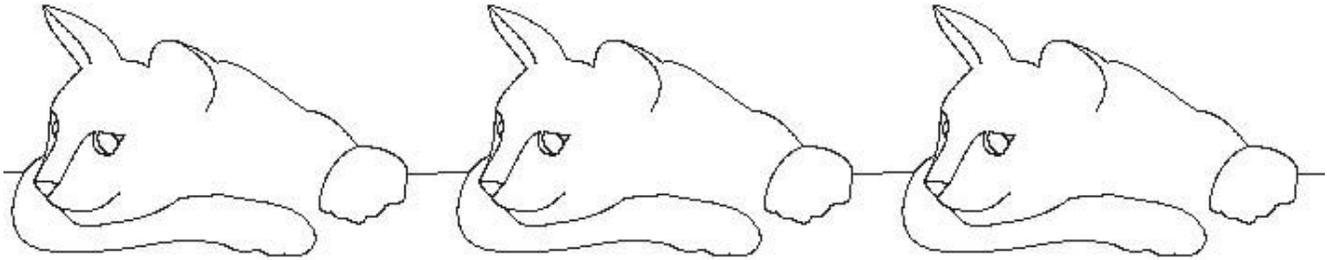
If you have a pattern that you want to be placed in every block of your quilt or pantograph you can do that by simply clicking the Auto Fill option(1). Then you will need to Read the pattern, and once you have clicked OK(in the read screen) your whole quilt or pantograph will automatically be filled.



Your First Pantograph

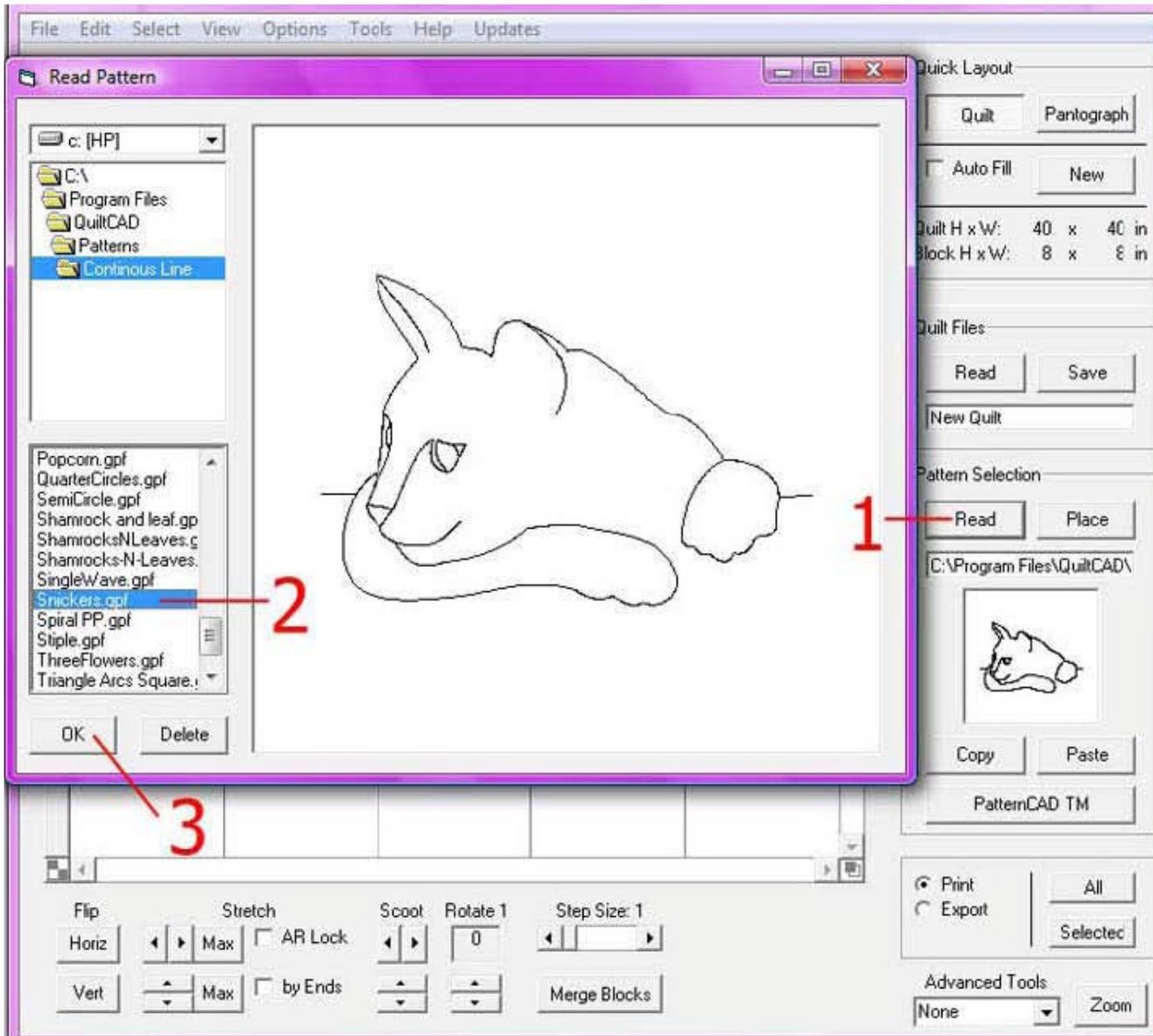
Designing quilt and pantograph stitching has never been so easy!

To show you how easy it is, we're going to blitz you through a quick pantograph design, by filling one row of the quilt with a pattern. The lessons to follow will provide you with more details, but for now, enjoy the simplicity of QuiltCAD! To continue, click on each instruction step for fully explained and fully illustrated details.



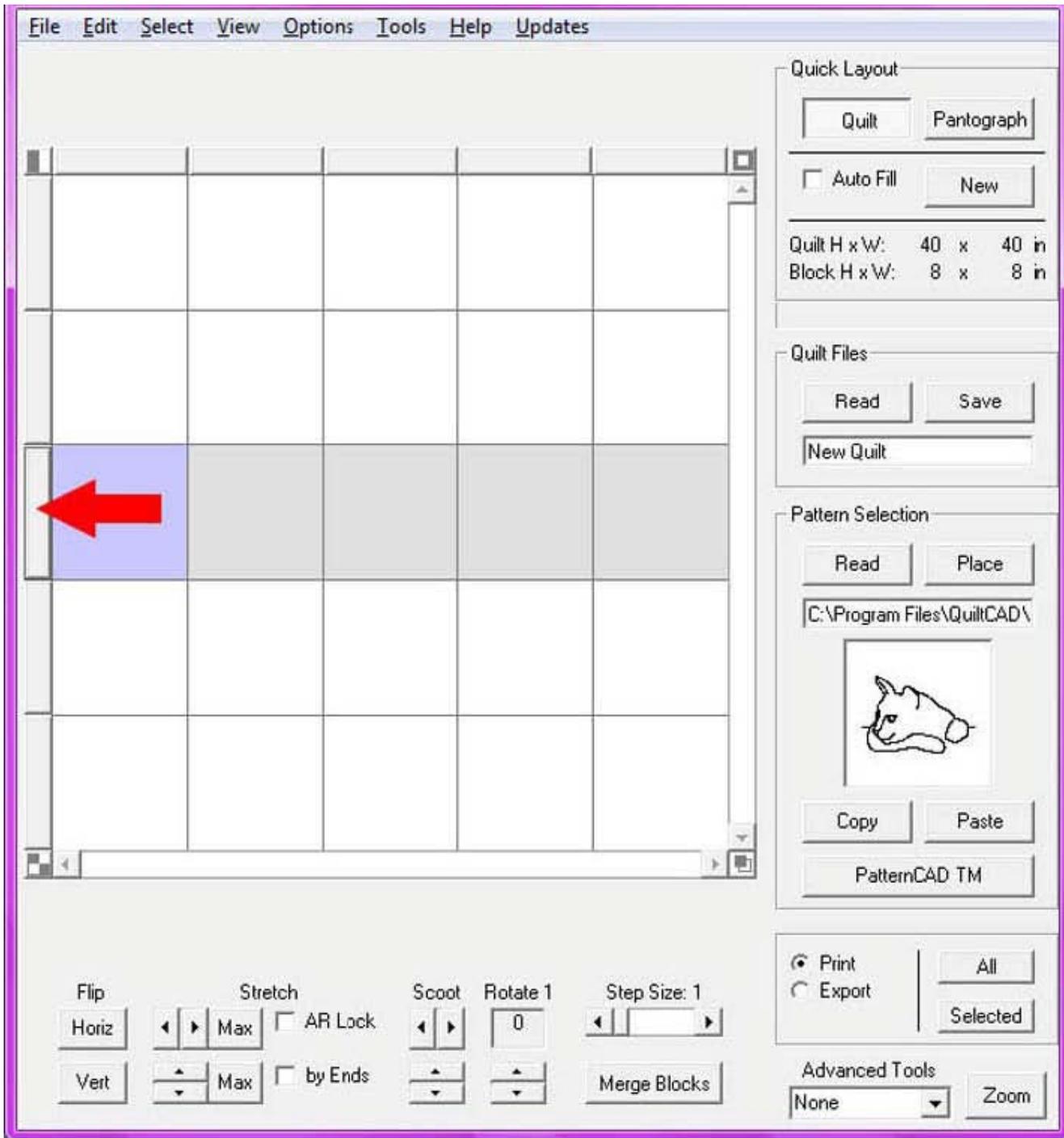
Read in a pattern

Select the Read button just above the little pattern view box (1). This will bring up the Read Pattern. Select the 'Snickers.gpf' pattern (2) and click on OK (3).



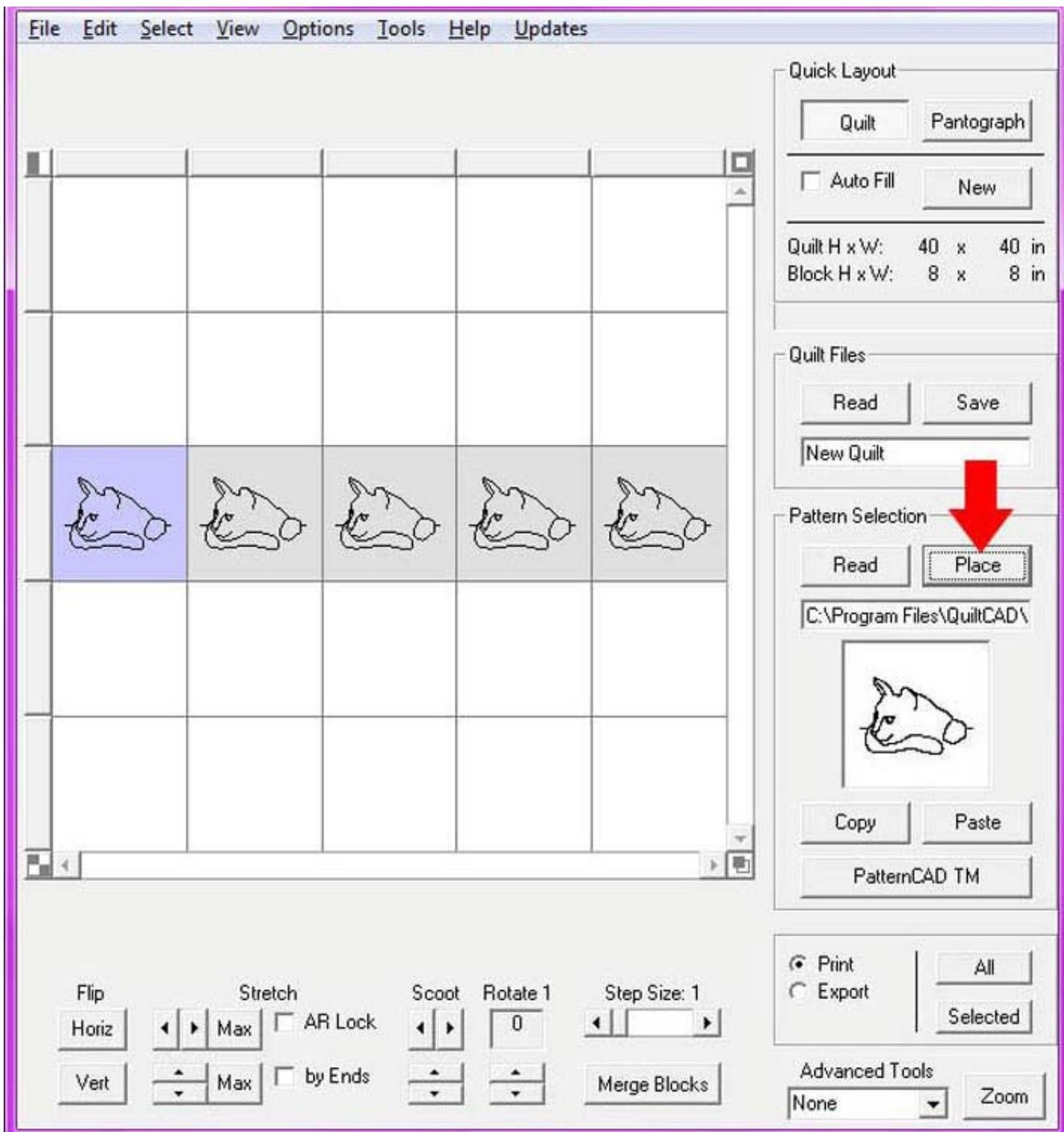
Select a row of blocks

Click on one of the row buttons at the left edge of the quilt area.



Place Snickers in the blocks

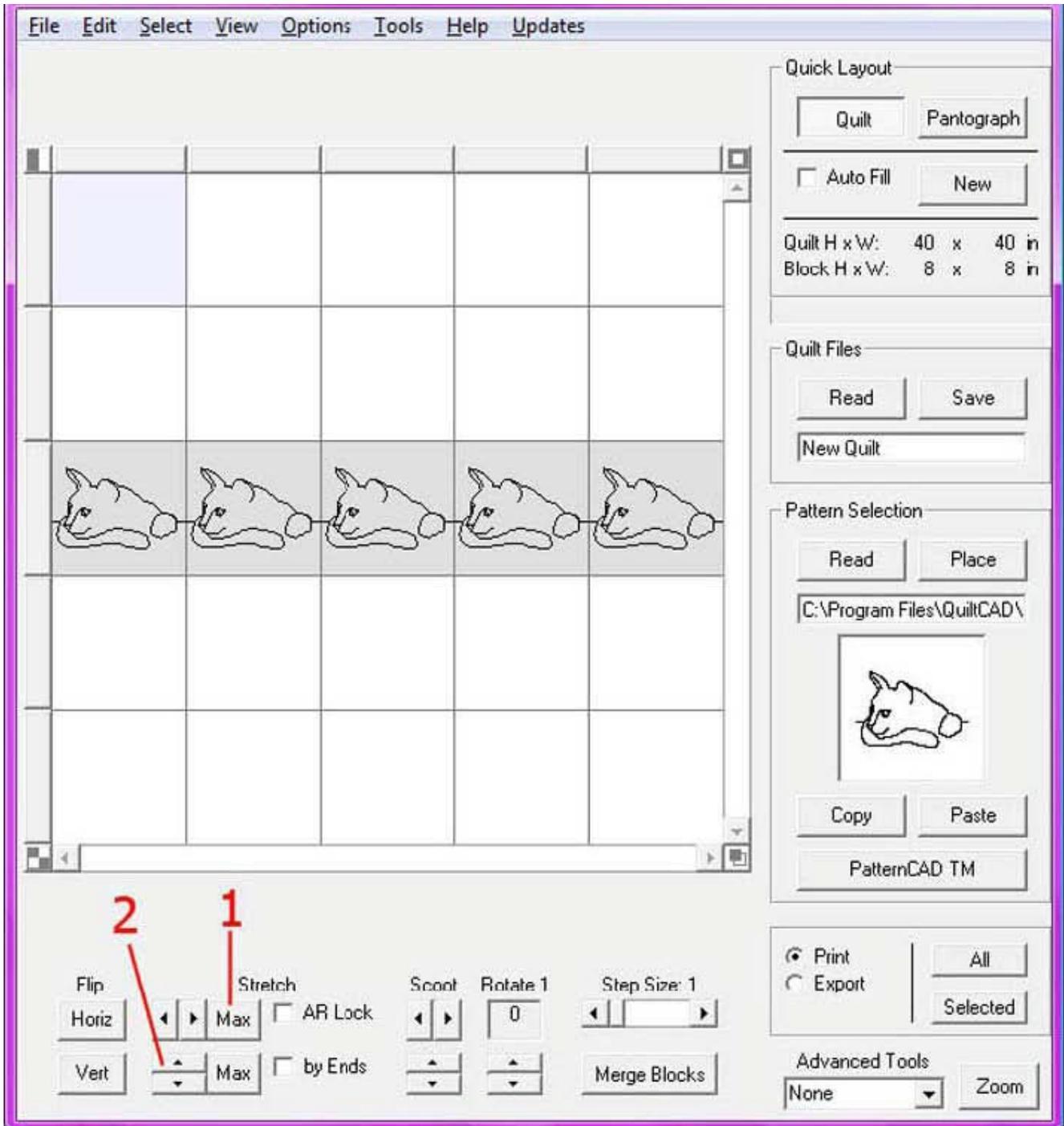
Select the Place button to fill the selected blocks with the pattern.



Stretch Snickers

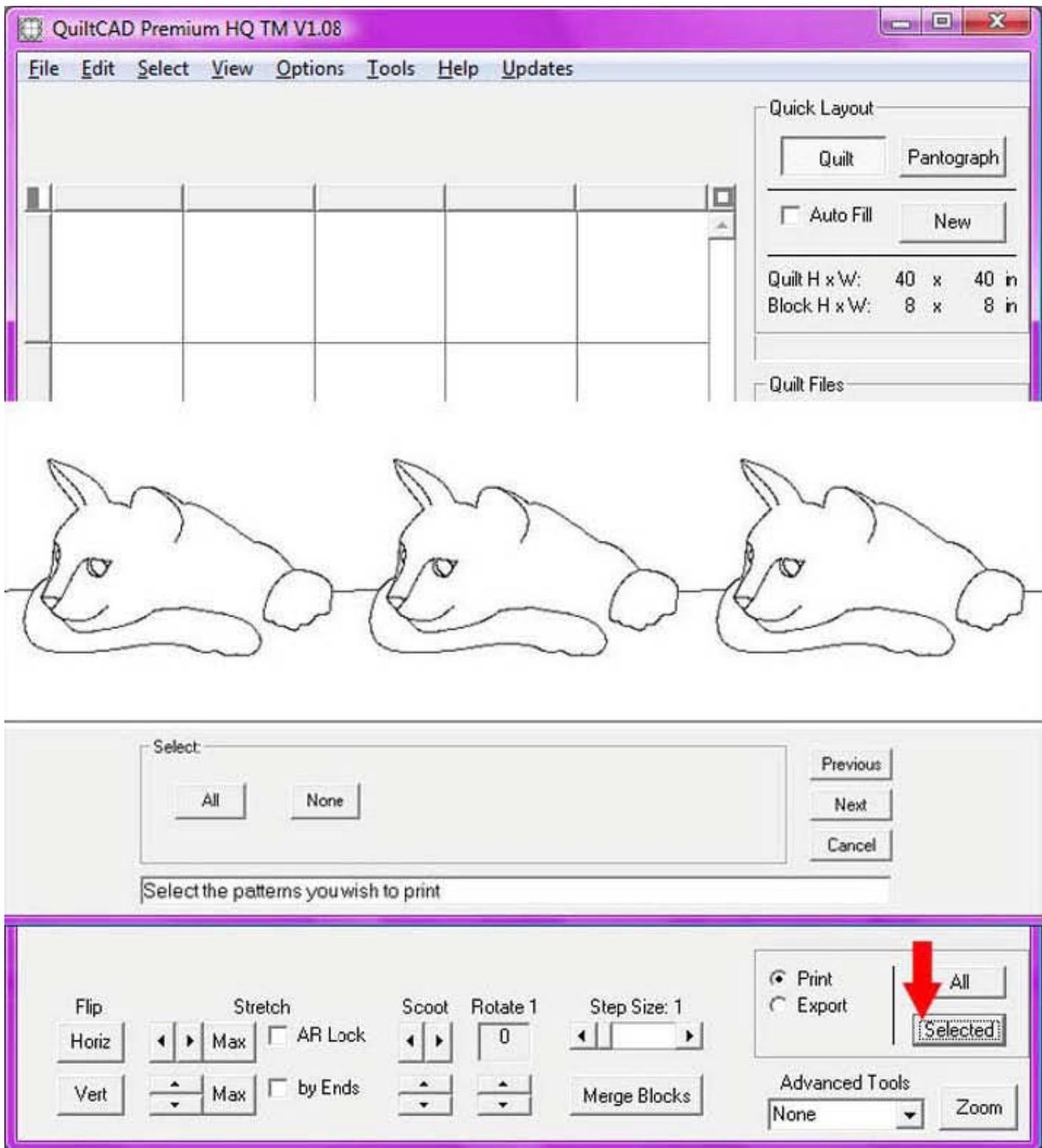
Select the horizontal "Max" button under the "Stretch" label (1). Presto!, you now have a fully connected pantograph. Click on the Stretch up arrow about 4 times to give Snickers a vertical size to match her horizontal size (2).

Just like that, you have your first pantograph!



Take a better look

Click on the 'Selected' button in the Preview box. You'll get a full screen view of your pantograph.



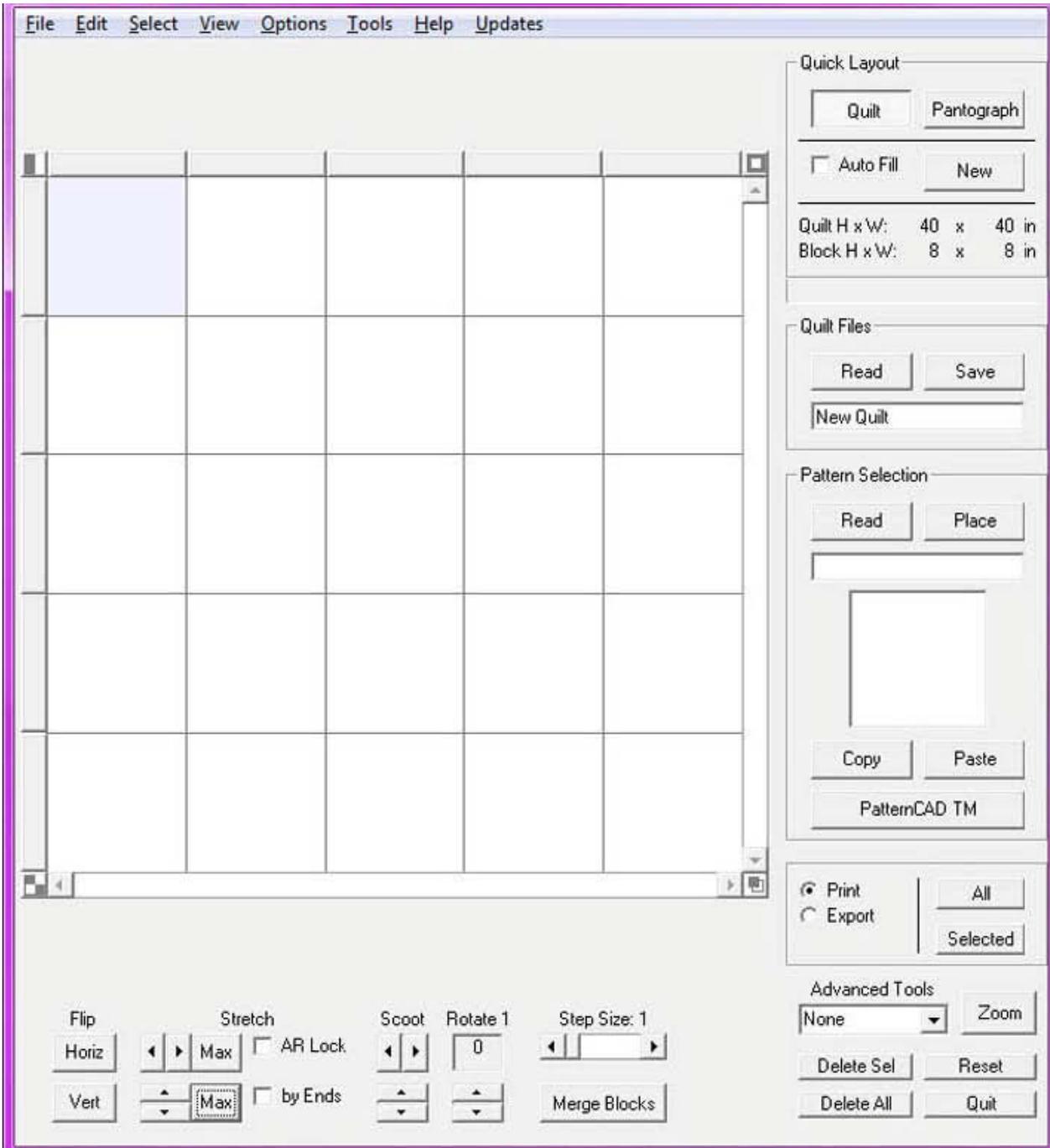
Introducing QuiltCAD

Now, let's take a tour of QuiltCAD's main features. As you take the tour, we hope you appreciate the simplicity we've designed into QuiltCAD.

First you'll find all of the QuiltCAD tools are ALWAYS in the same place. We have none of those annoying tear away tool bars that re-size themselves, are most of the time hidden and hide other things! We also do not have hundreds of microscopic icons that you need a Rosetta Stone to decipher.

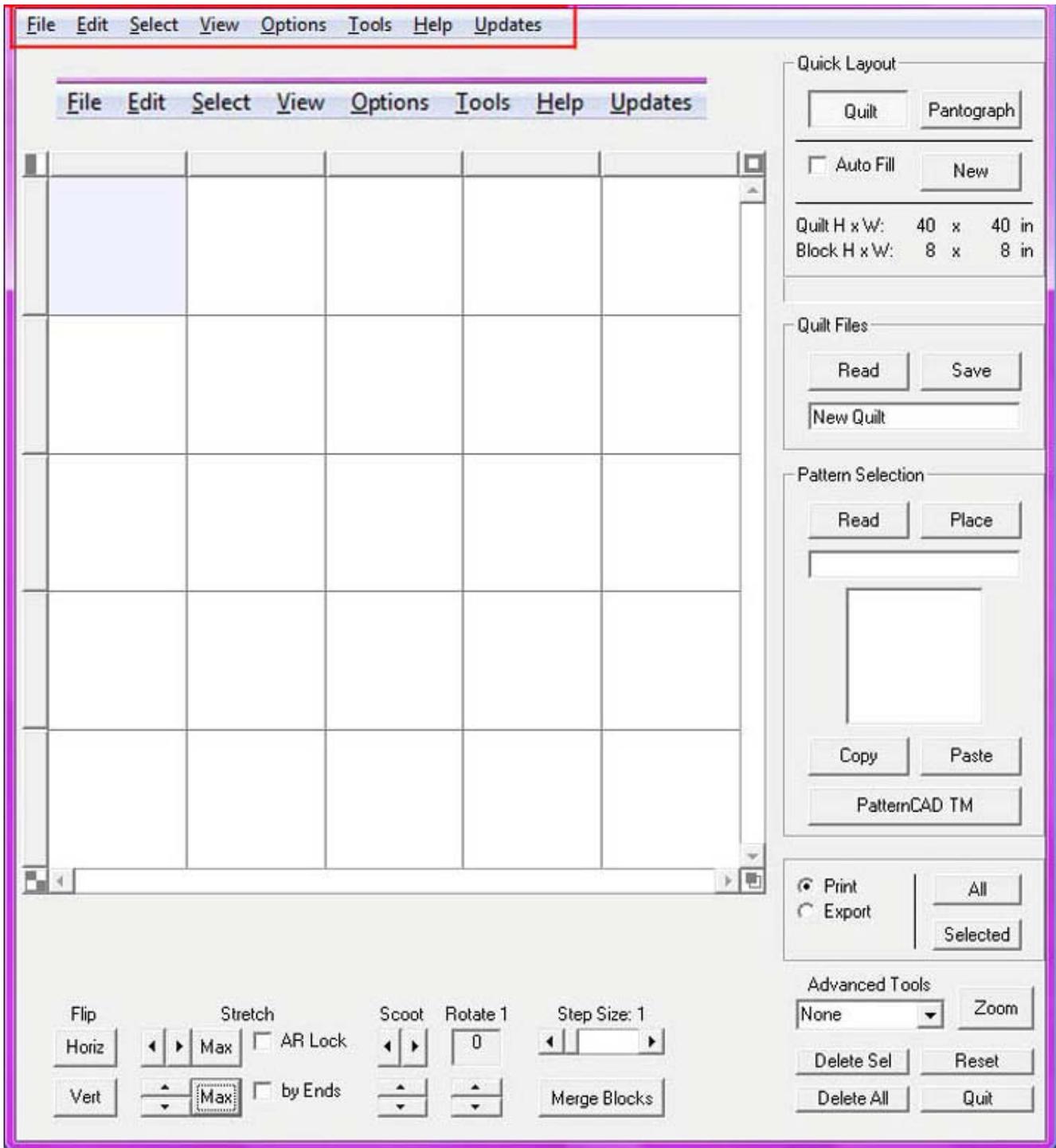
Our tools are clearly labeled, always there, and easy to use.

Enjoy the tour! Don't worry how to use the tools just yet, that comes later.



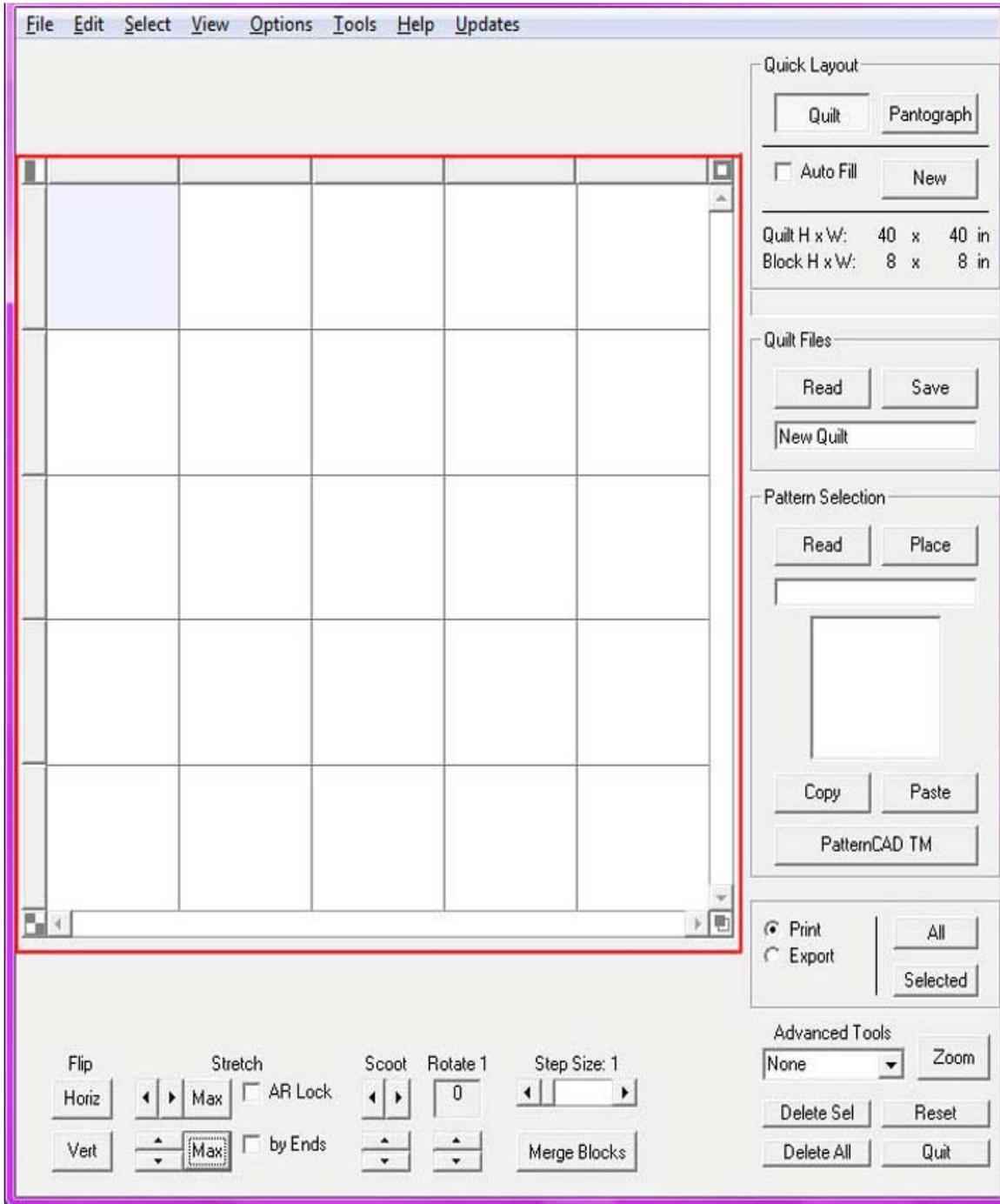
The Menu Bar

A one-stop place to perform most of QuiltCAD's features and functions.



The Quilt

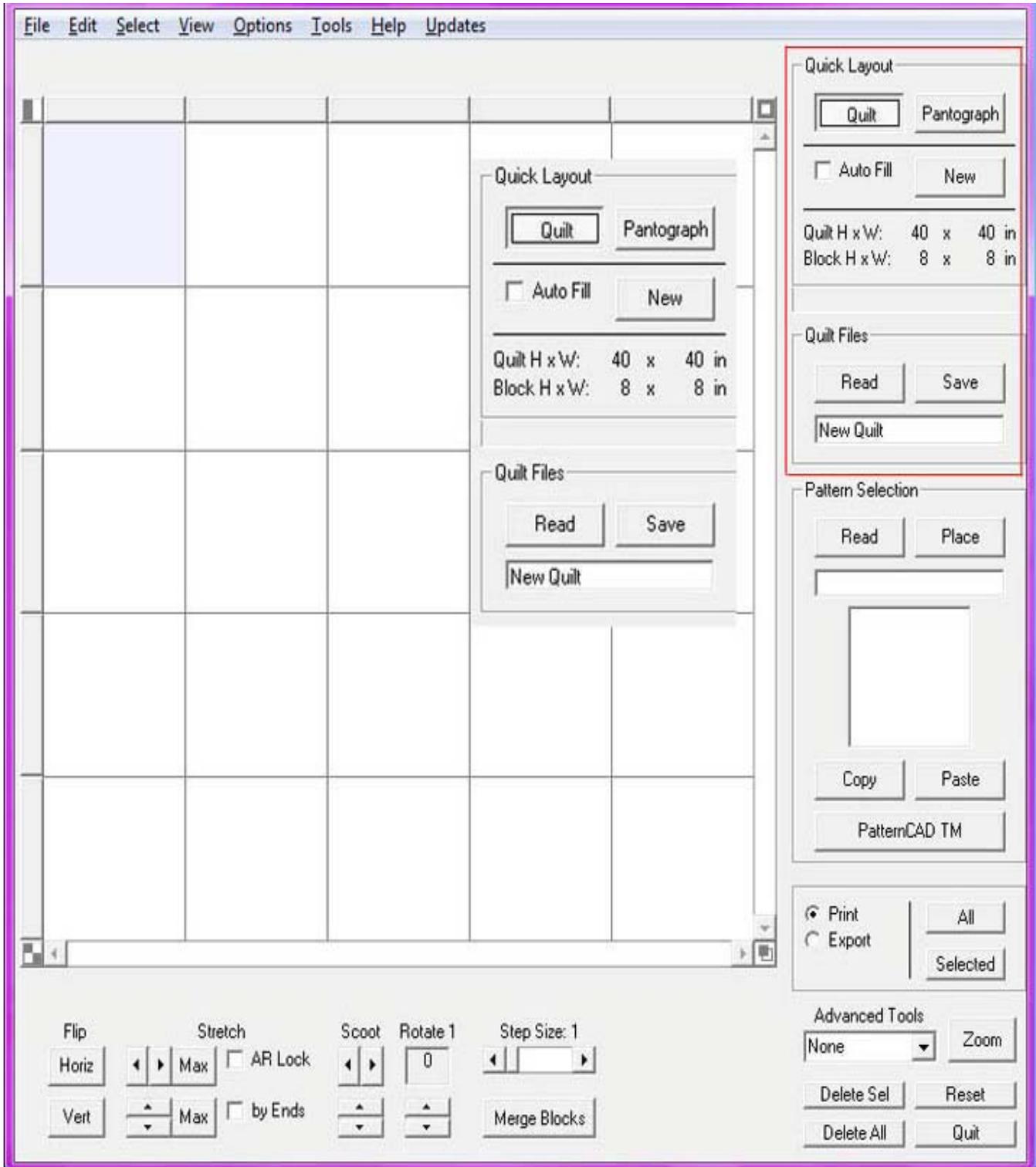
Here is the heart of QuiltCAD, the layout of your quilt. 'The Quilt' is a graphical spreadsheet that permits you to precisely plan and view your continuous line art stitch designs. The squares represent the blocks of your quilt, the number and size of the blocks can be easily set to the dimensions or your choice. The buttons surrounding the squares provide powerful block selection tools. From simple pictures to astonishingly intricate patterns, you will truly enjoy the ease that you can design and implement your continuous line art into your quilts.



Quilt Setup

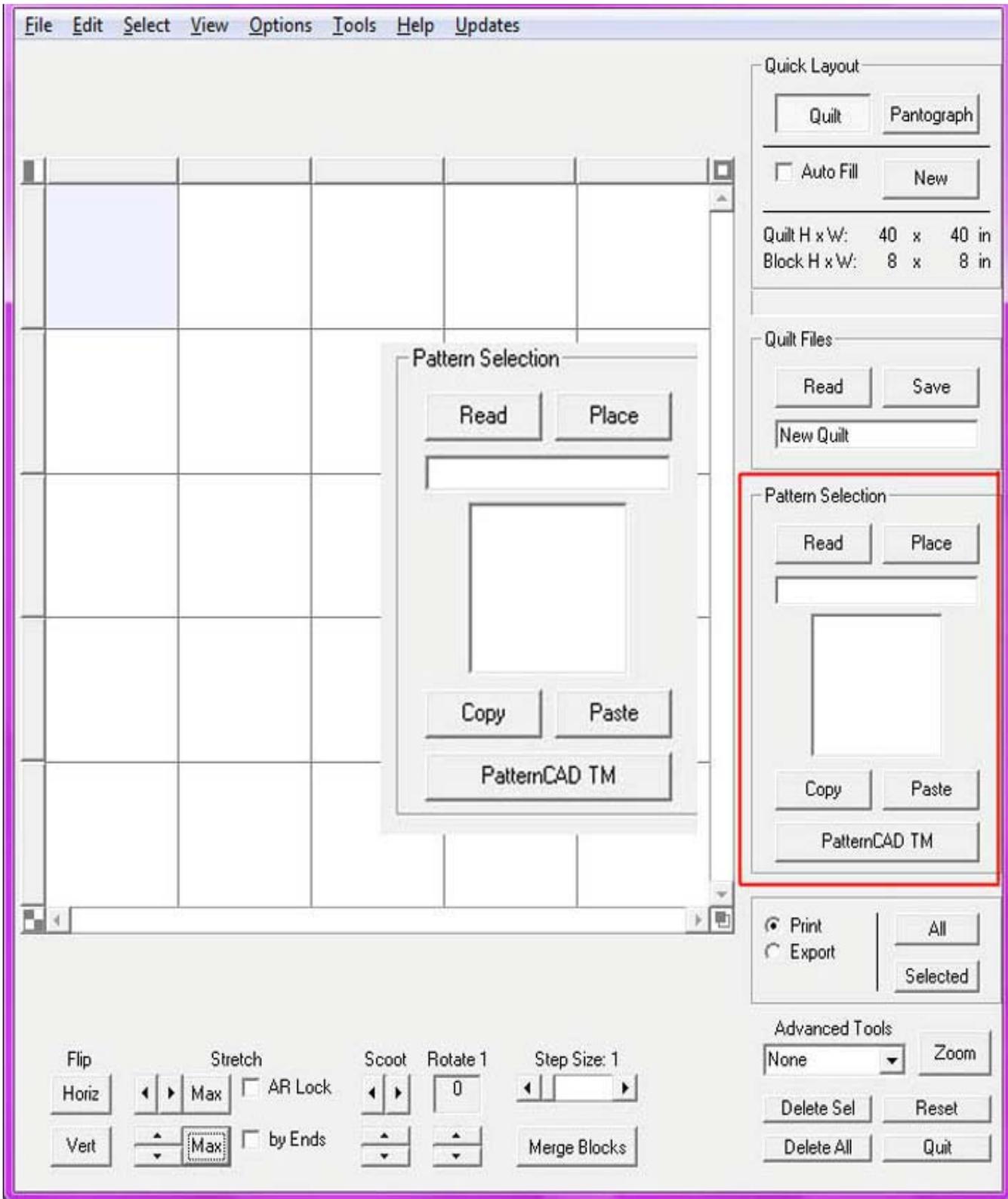
This is the place you can save and load your Quilt or Pantograph designs, under Quilt Files towards the bottom of the red box.

Also, you can bring up a box to setup your blocks by selecting the number of row and columns and by selecting the block and quilt height and width.



Pattern Selection

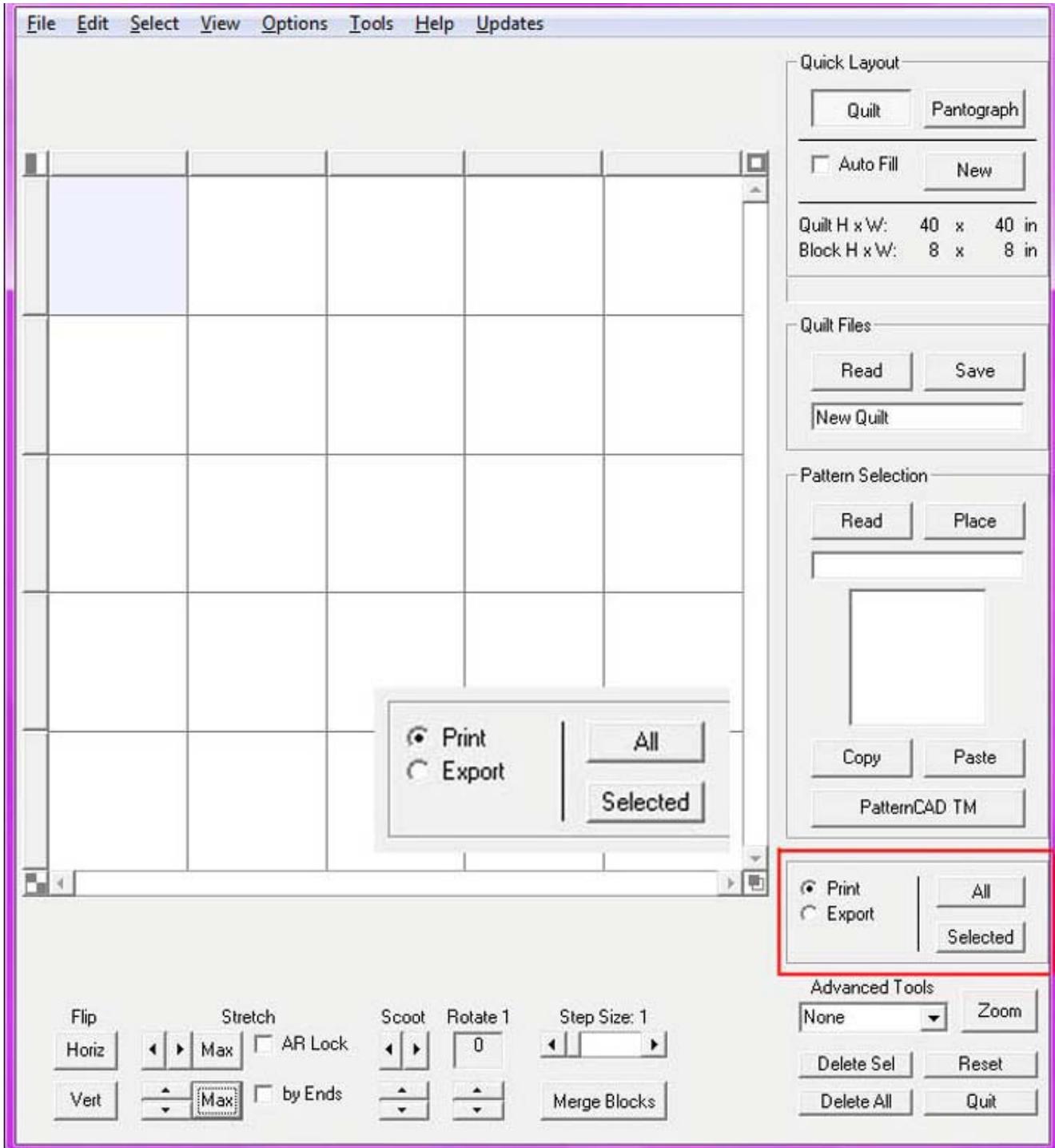
Read-in and view the patterns you wish to place in your quilt. The gateway to QuiltCAD's fully integrated pattern design editor, PatternCAD, is also here.



Preview

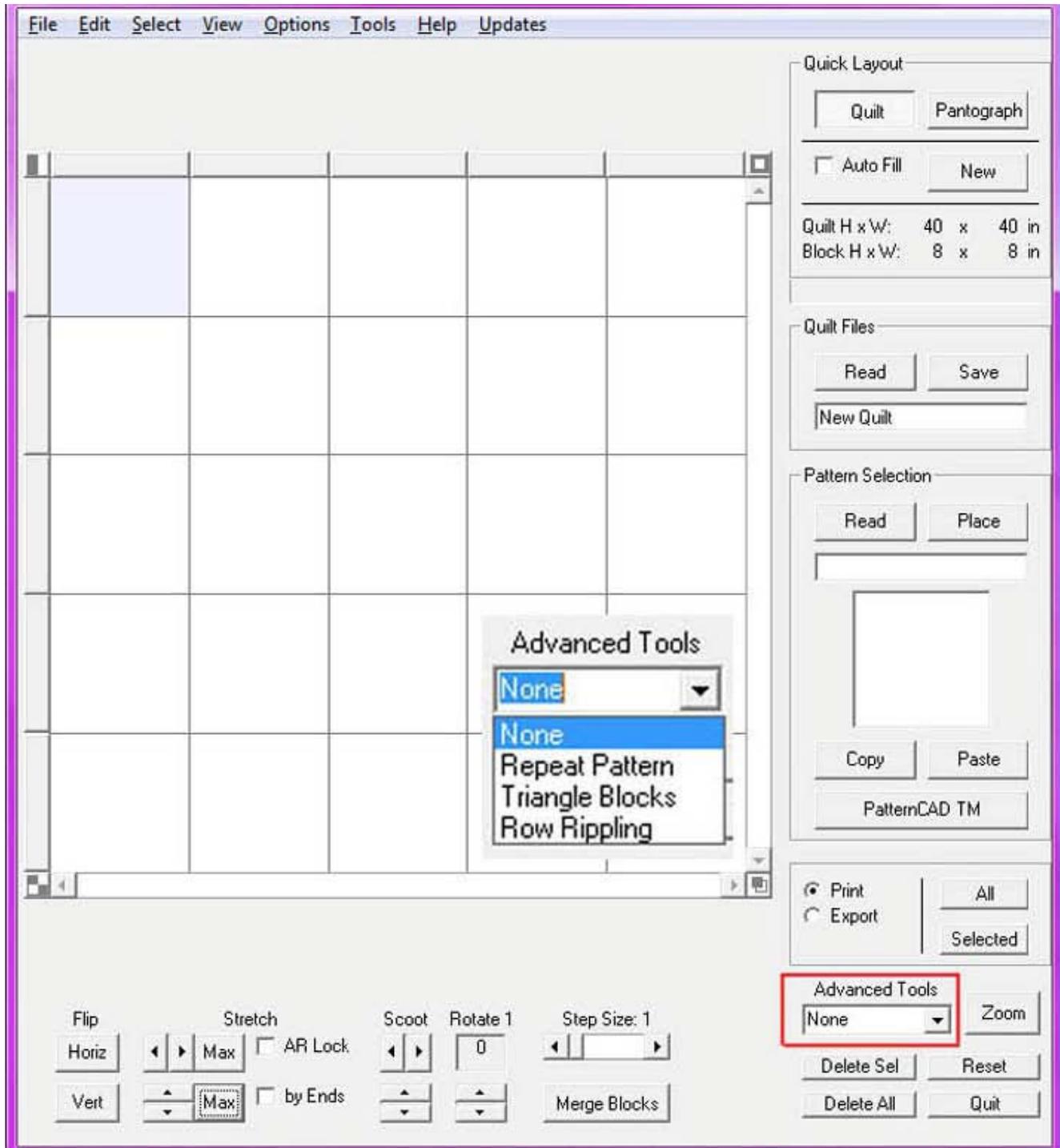
Print Preview launches the Quilt Preview and Print window. You'll see your design fill the entire screen, with no block lines.

The Preview window is also the print previewer. You can see exactly how your quilt design will print to paper, and you can print your designs to full scale.



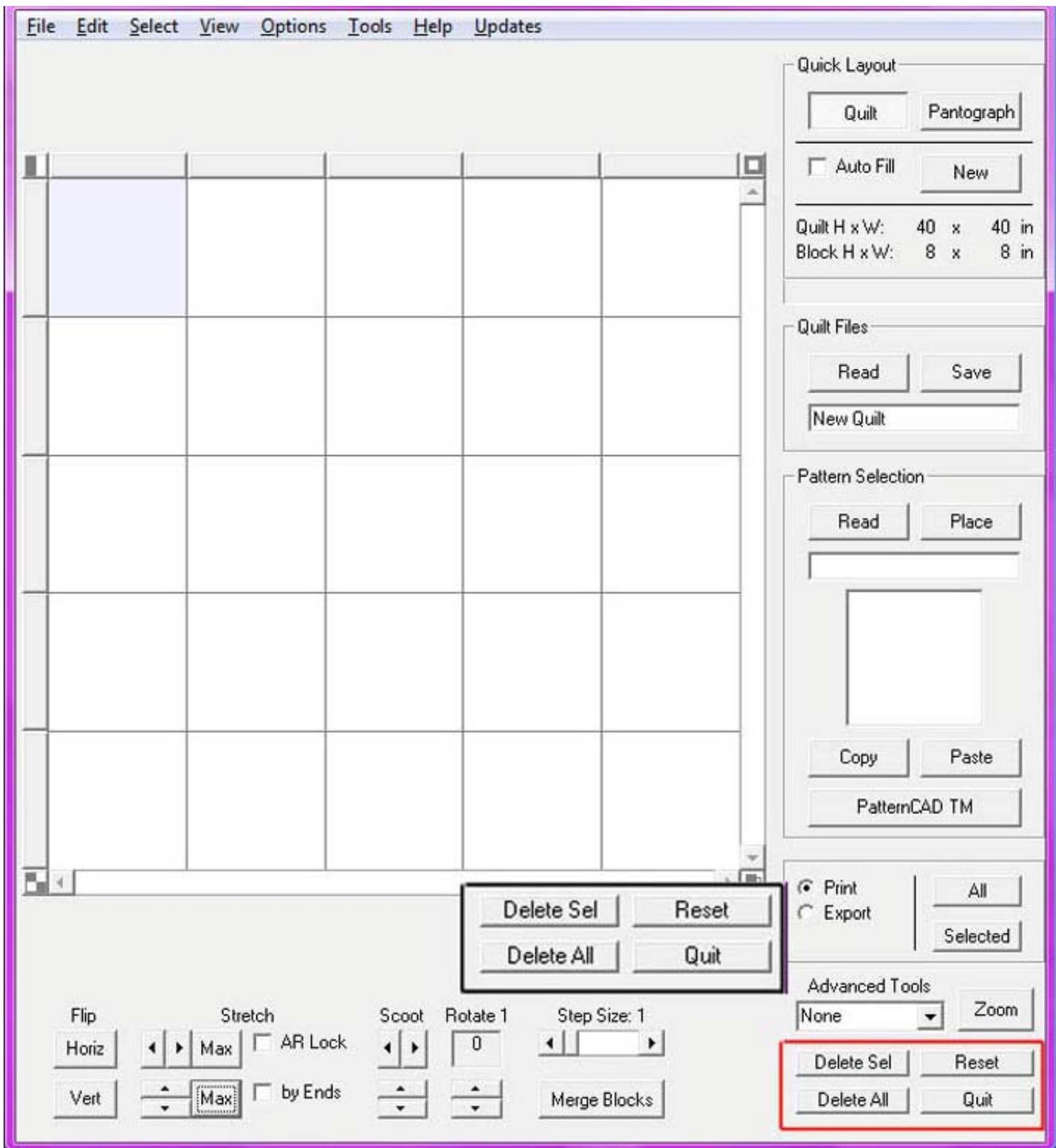
Advanced Tools

You'll find the Advanced Tools let you create astounding effects to give your quilt beautiful stitch patterns you probably had not imagined possible or practical for the home quilter.



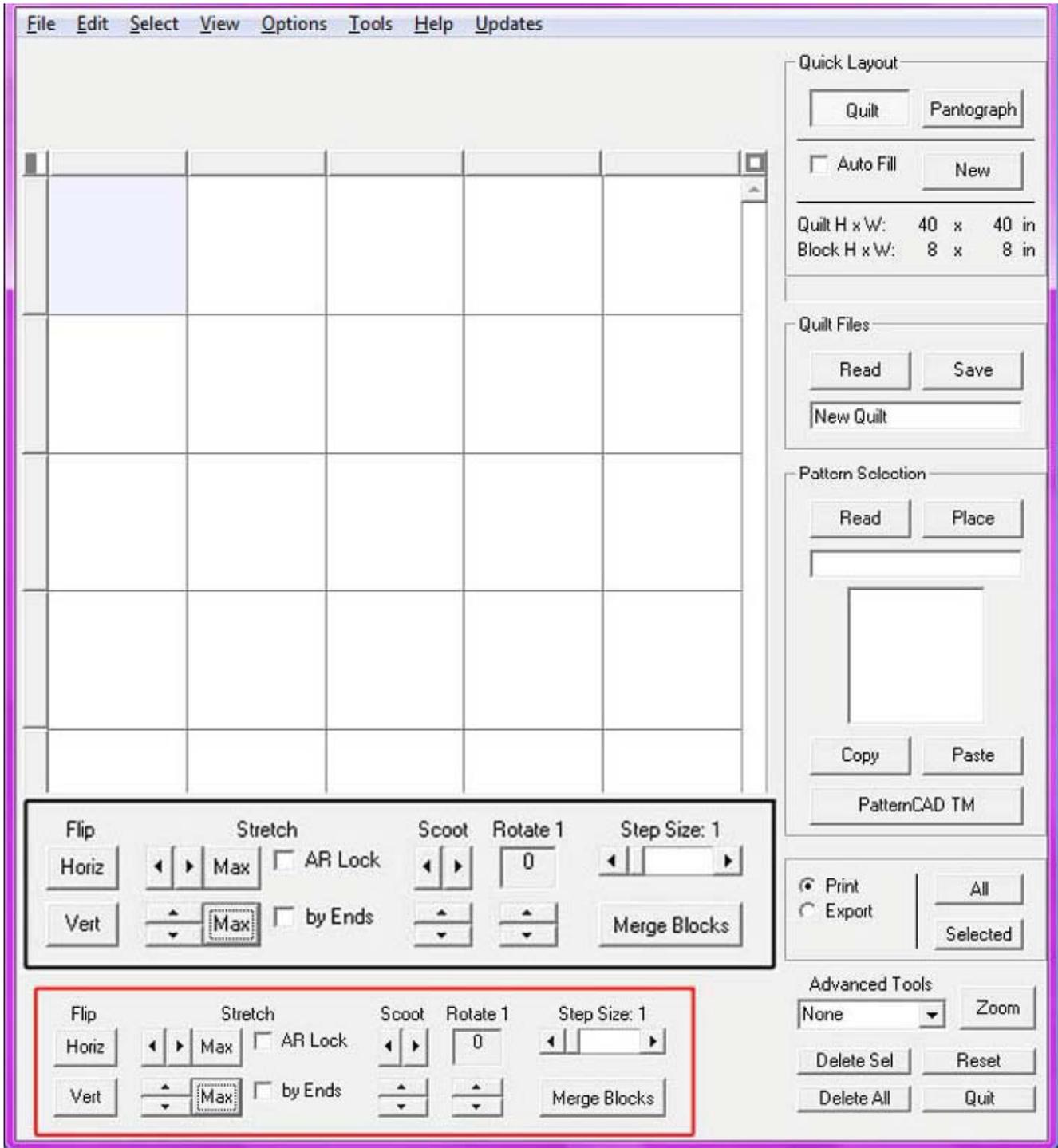
Miscellaneous Tools

A few more tools to give you the control and view of your patterns.



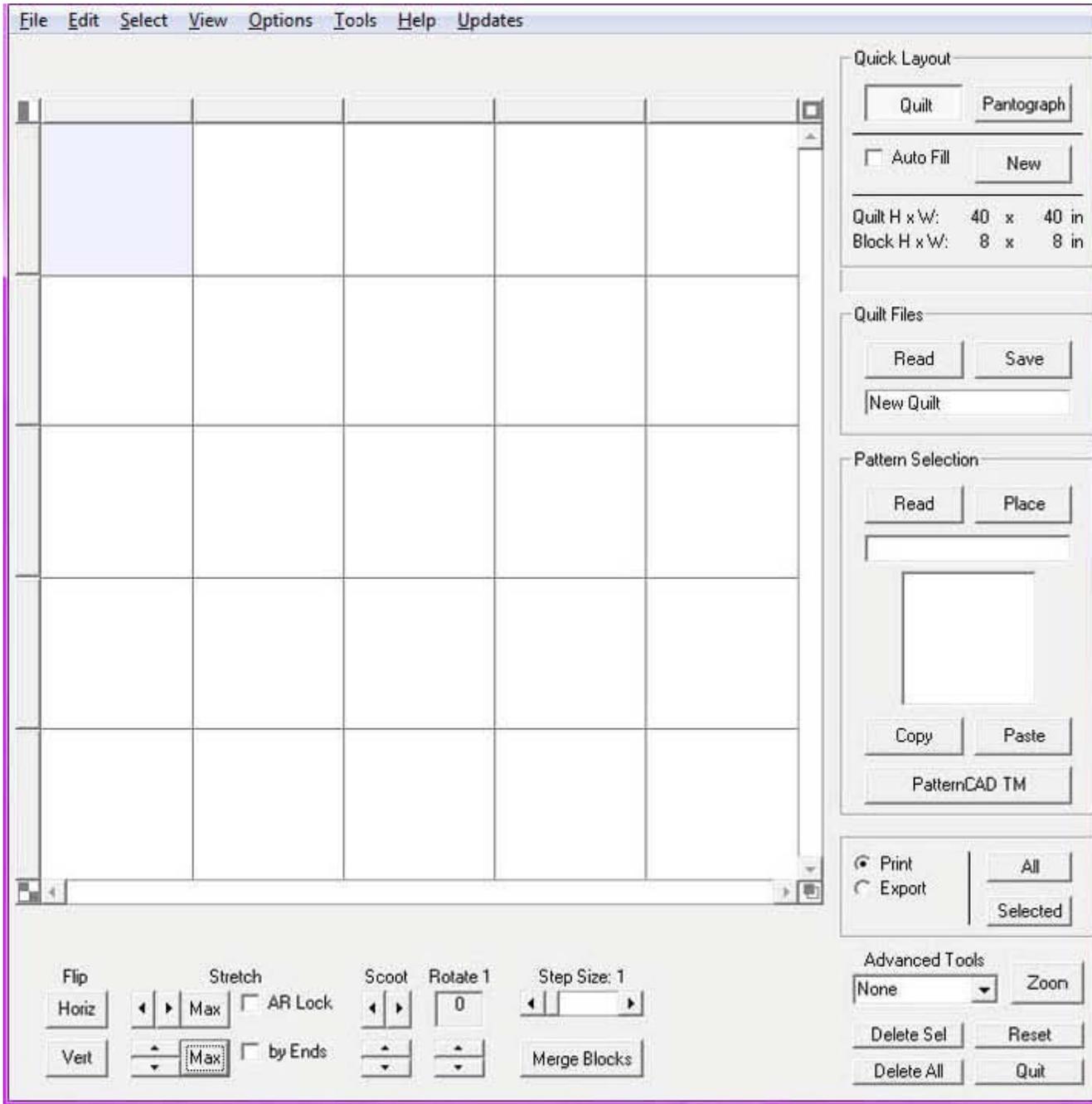
Pattern Shaping Tools

The basic tools to precisely fit your patterns into your quilts. You can rotate, flip, stretch and move the patterns with the click of a few buttons.



Selecting Blocks

QuiltCAD provides you with powerful tools to let you place and shape your continuous line patterns in your quilt layout. It all begins with selecting which blocks you want to put your patterns in.



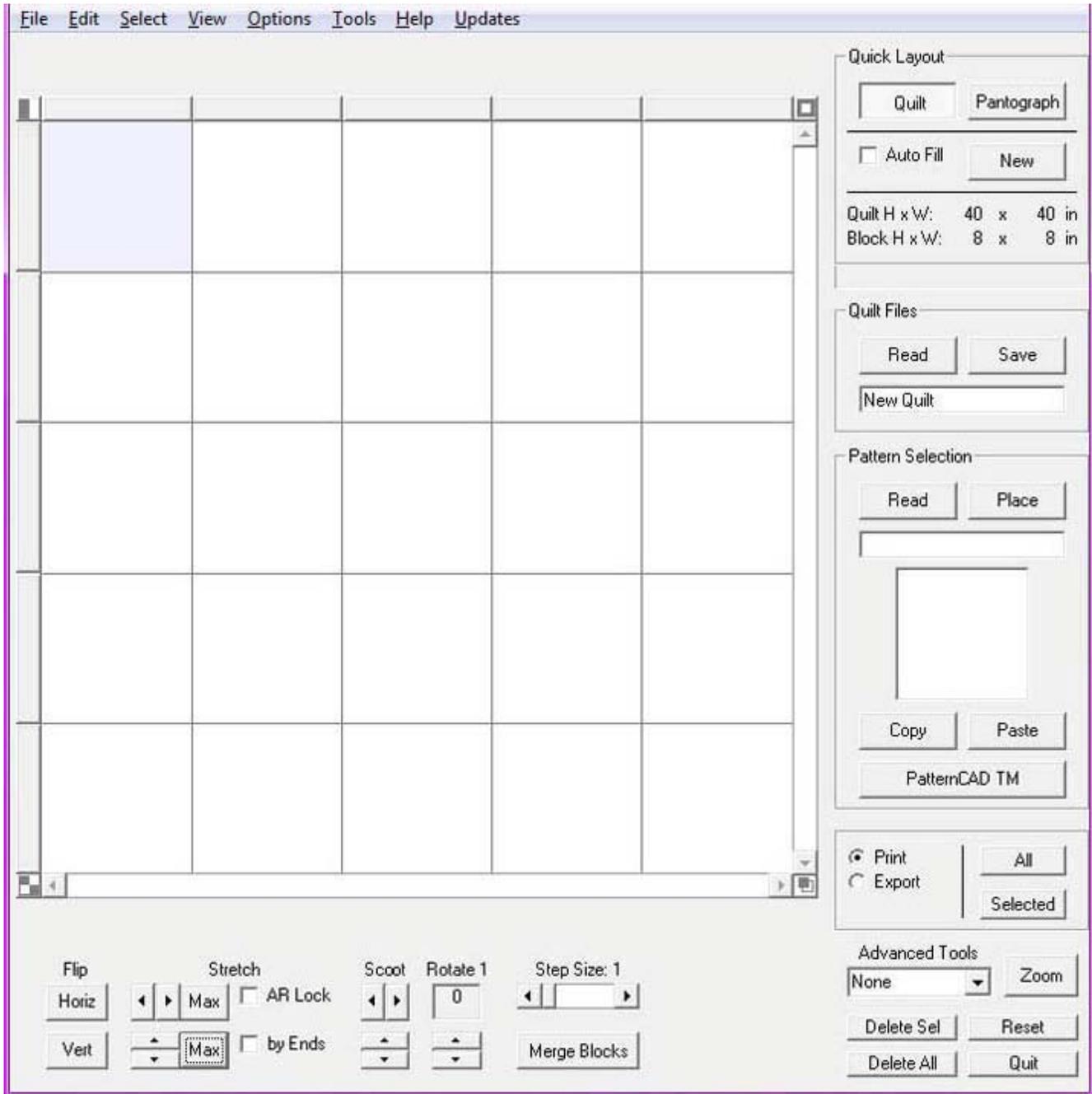
Why select blocks?

For two BIG reasons:

It allows you to place patterns in the quilt, and..

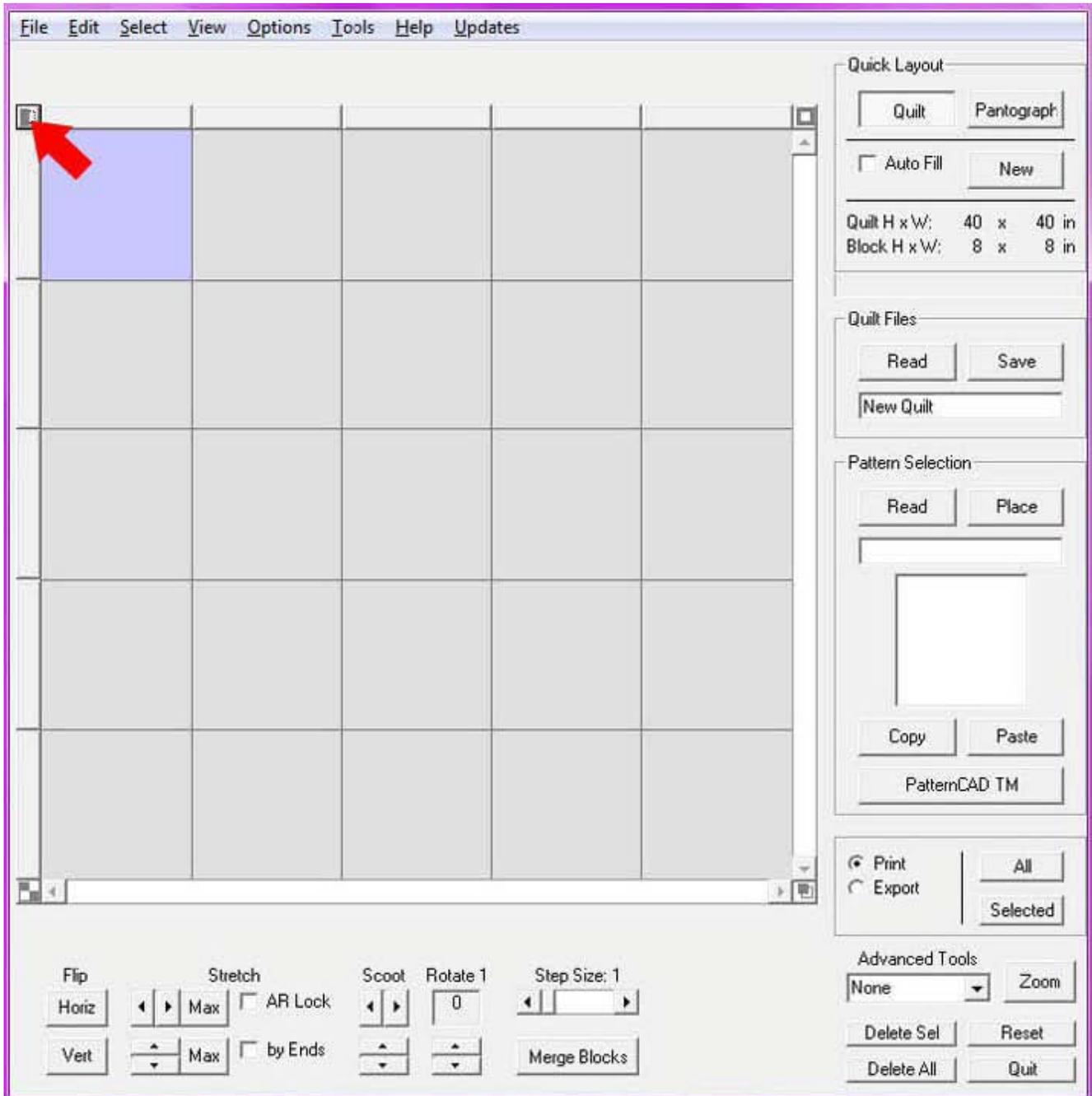
It allows you to re-shape the patterns once they are placed.

QuiltCAD block selections are 'persistent', that is, once you select a block, it stays selected until you do something else to unselect it. The rest of the menu items below introduce to QuiltCAD's block selection tools.



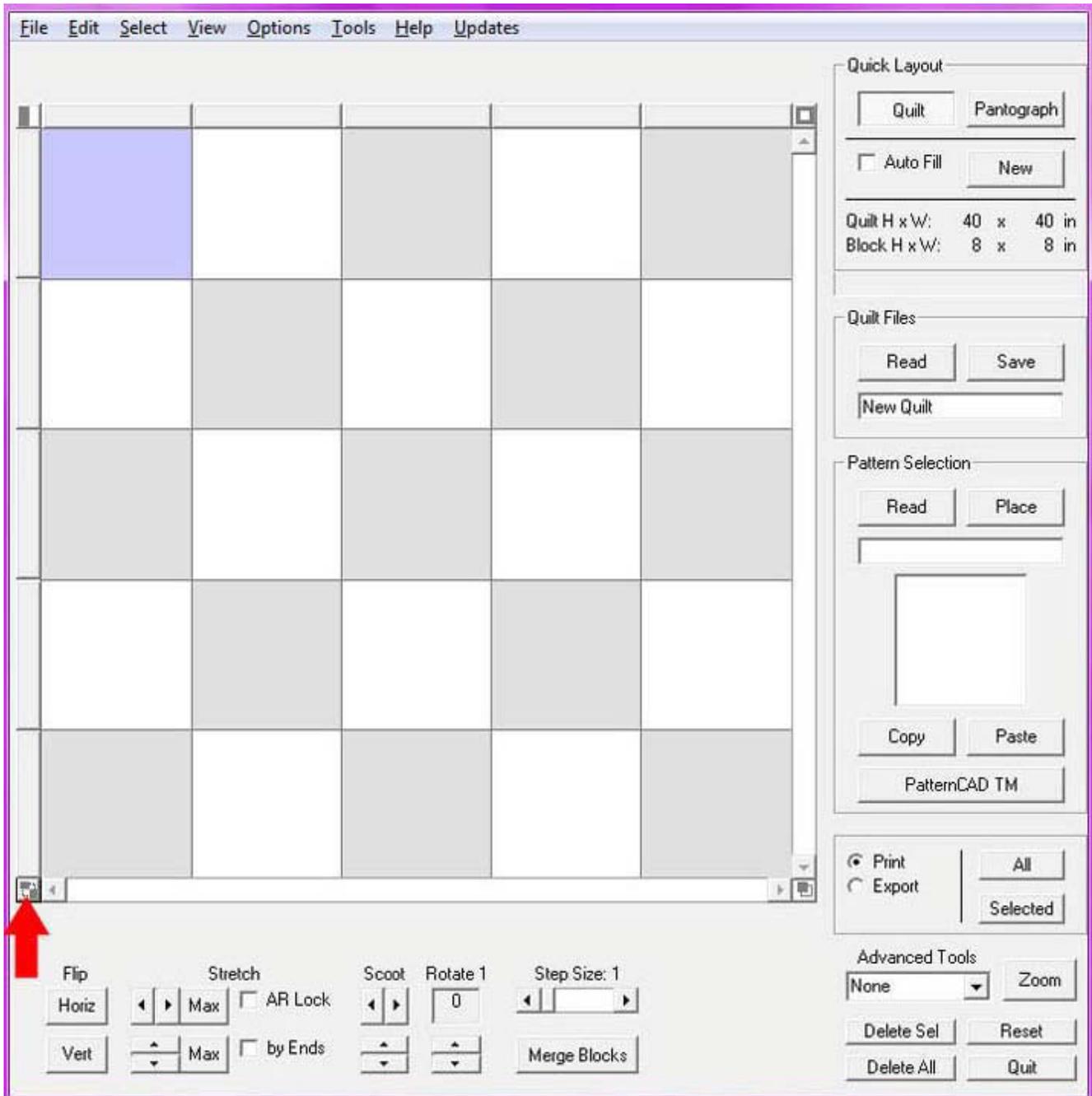
All or Nothing

The upper left button in the spread sheet will first select all the blocks. Click it a second time, and no blocks are selected. Notice that all selected blocks are gray and all unselected blocks are white--except for one. The blue-shaded block is the 'active' block. When it's dark, it's selected, otherwise it's not. (Don't worry right now about the active block, just realize it's different and will be explained later on.)



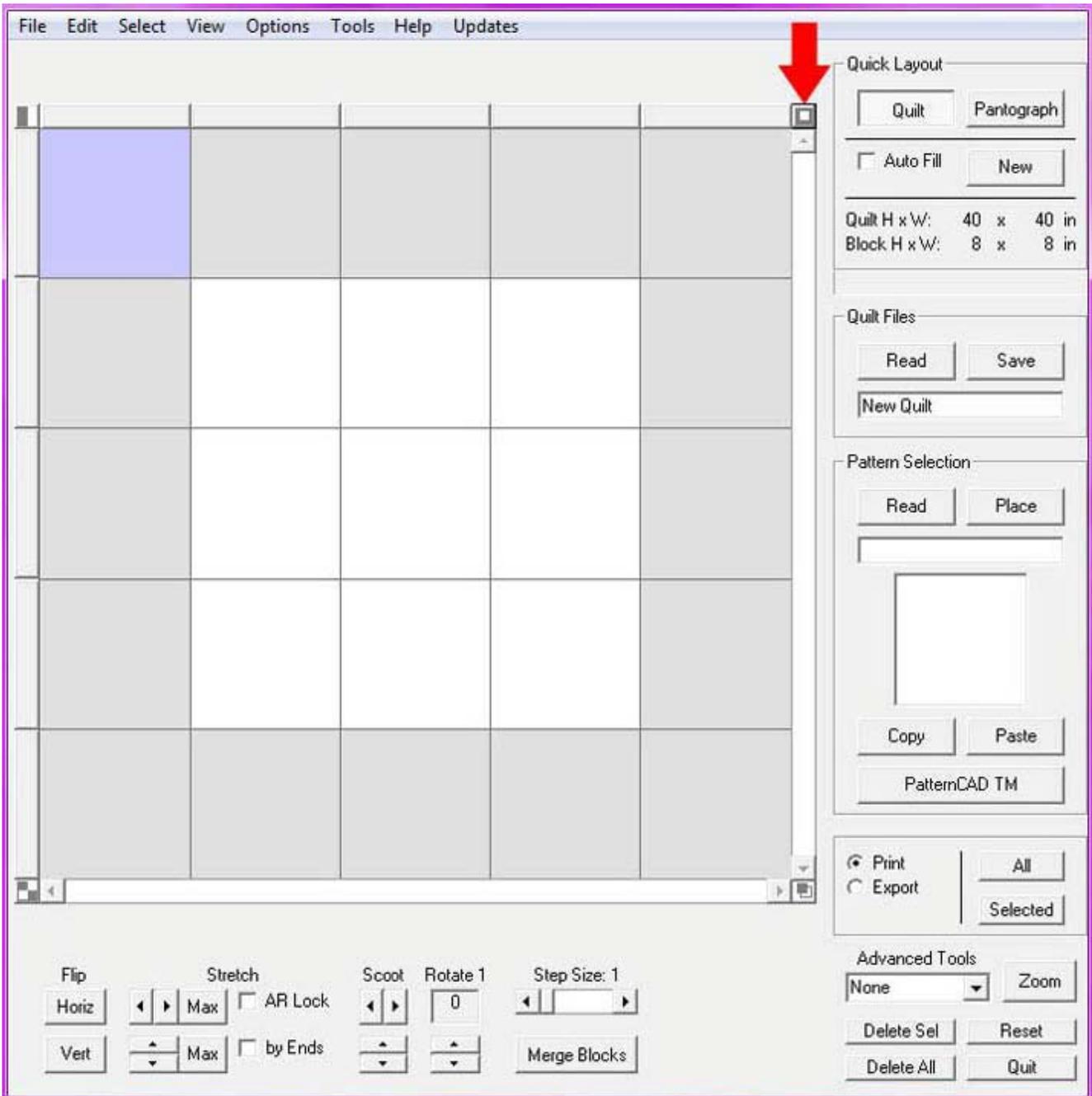
Checkerboards

The lower left button selects the blocks in a checkerboard fashion. Click it a second time and the opposite checkerboard blocks will be selected .



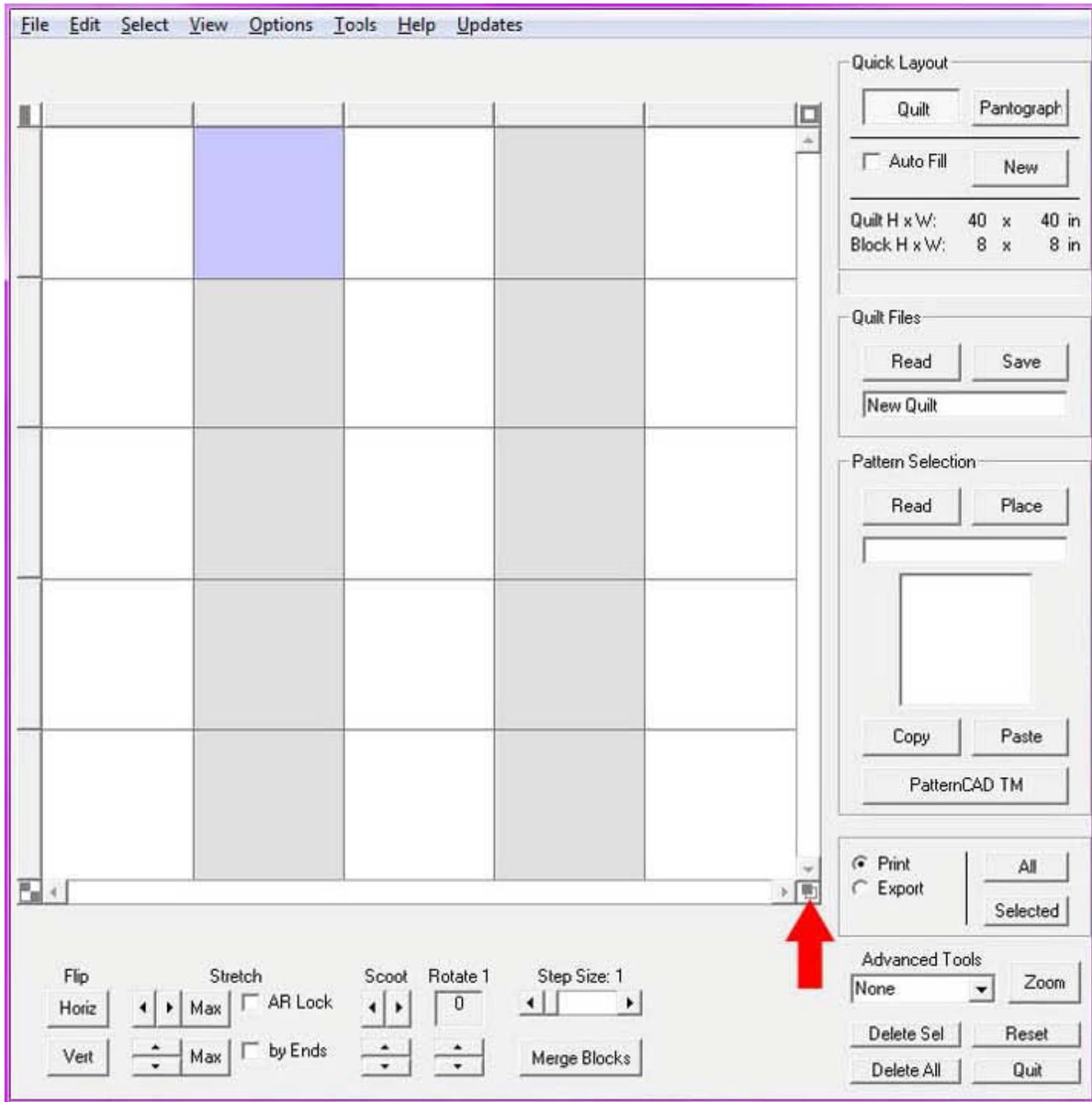
On the Border

The top right button is for border selection. The first click will select the entire border of the quilt. A second click will select only the corners. A third click will select the whole border except the corners.



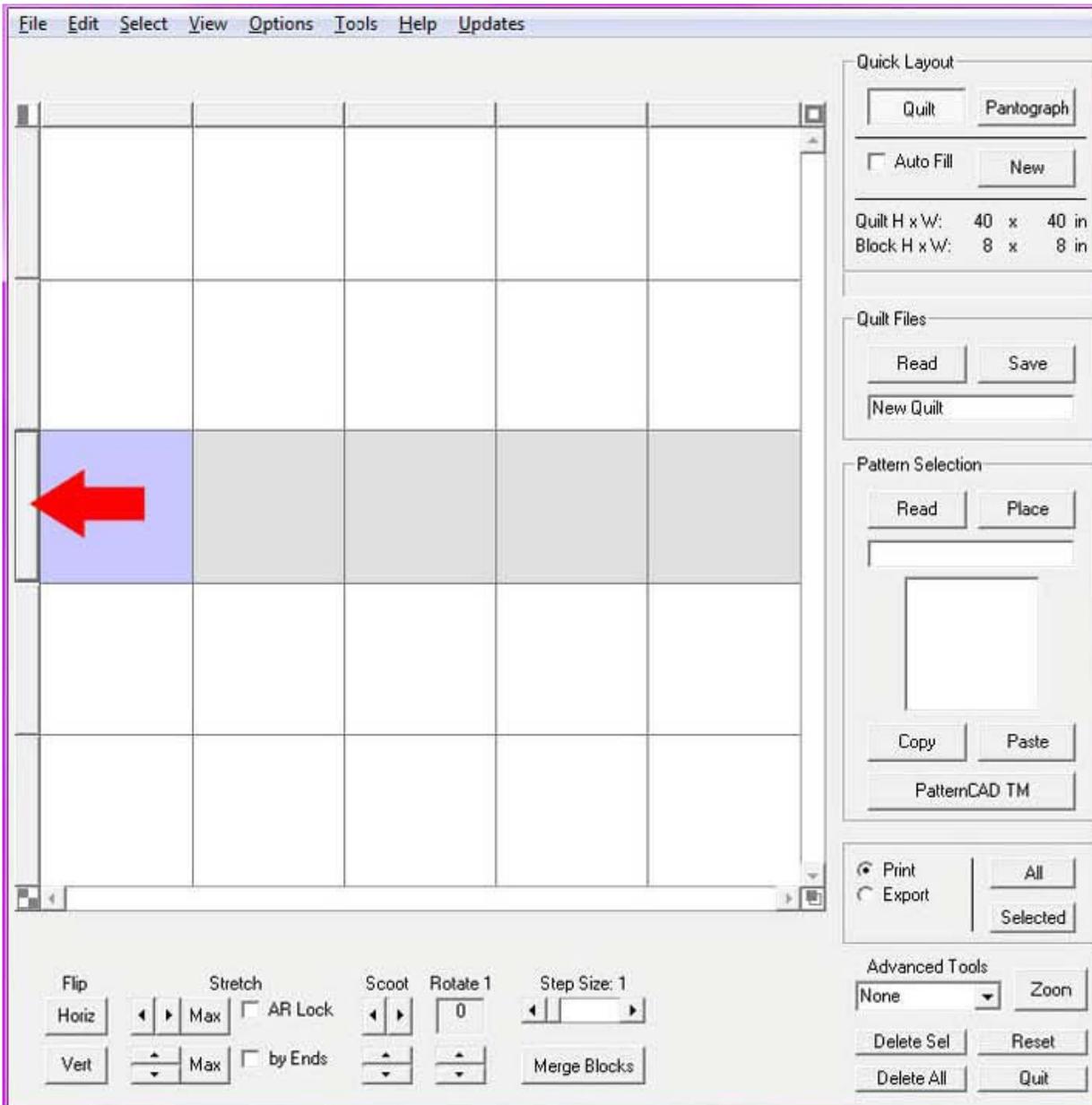
Selecting Opposites

The lower right corner button selects the opposite of whatever blocks are selected. This feature is very powerful when you want to fill your quilt with two different patterns.



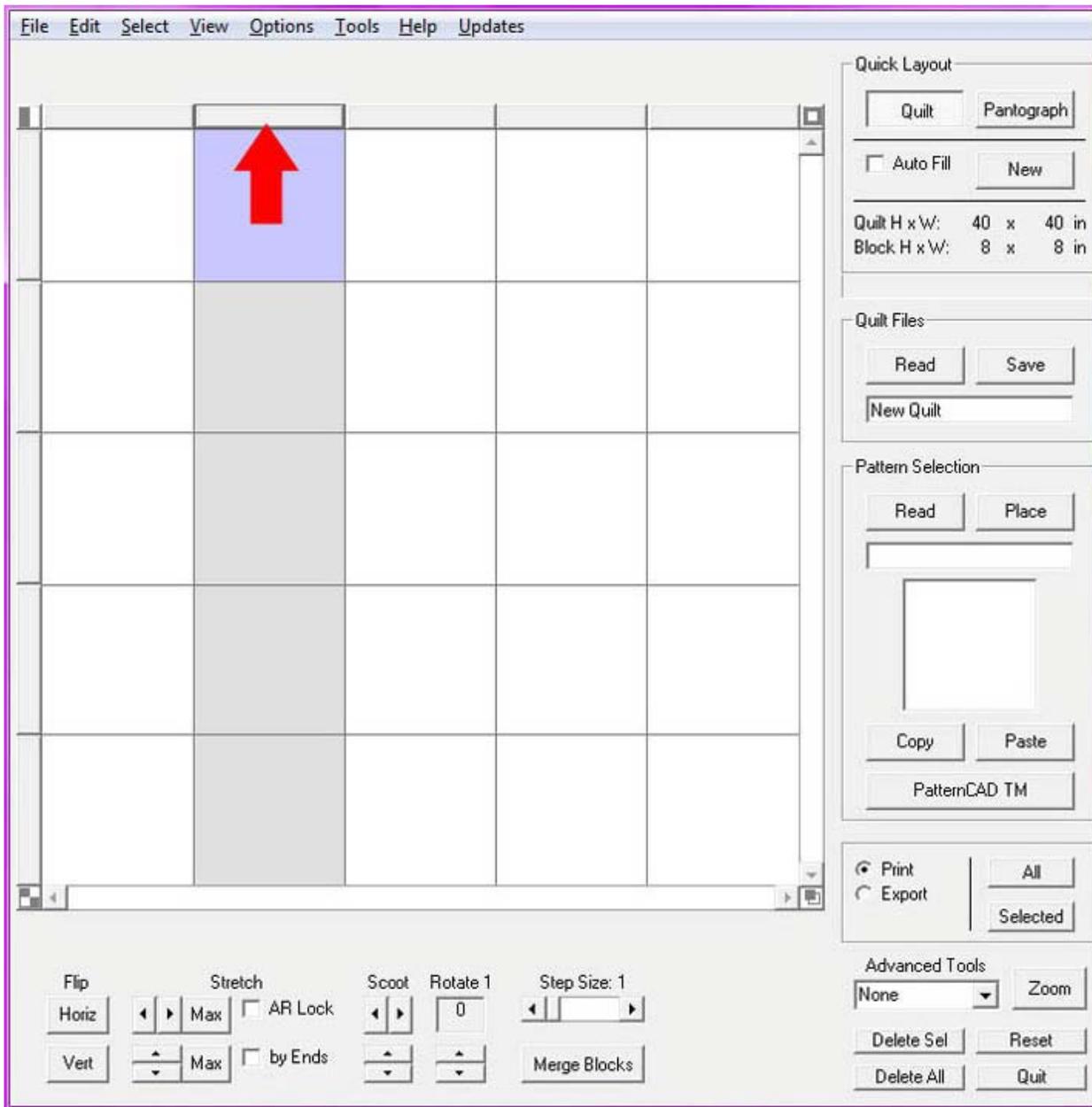
Selecting Rows

The buttons on the left edge of the spreadsheet select and unselect entire rows of blocks.



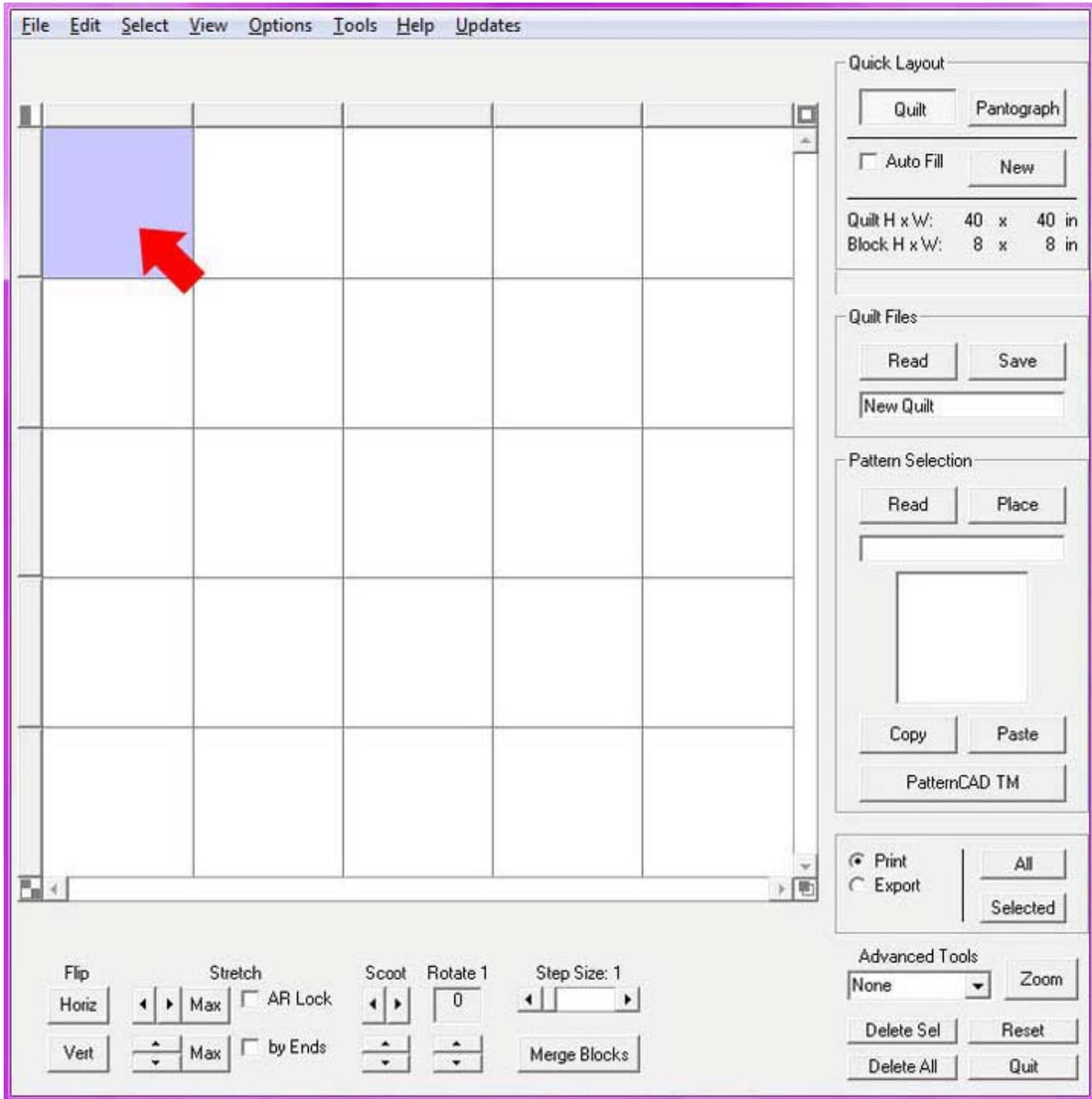
Selecting Columns

The buttons on the top edge of the spreadsheet select and unselect entire columns of blocks.



Single Blocks

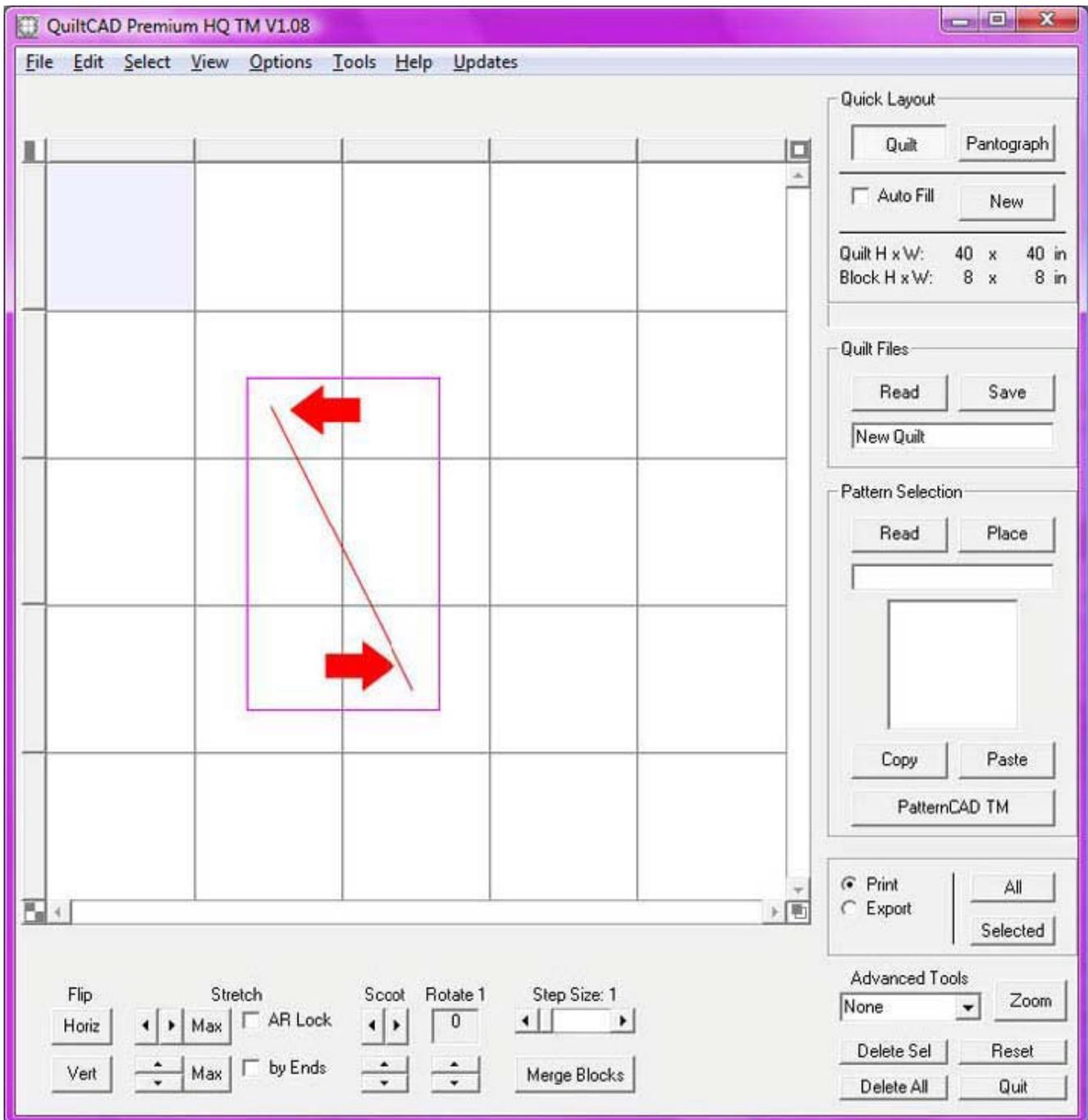
To select a single block, simply click inside of it. Do the same to unselect any single block that is already selected.



Group Blocks

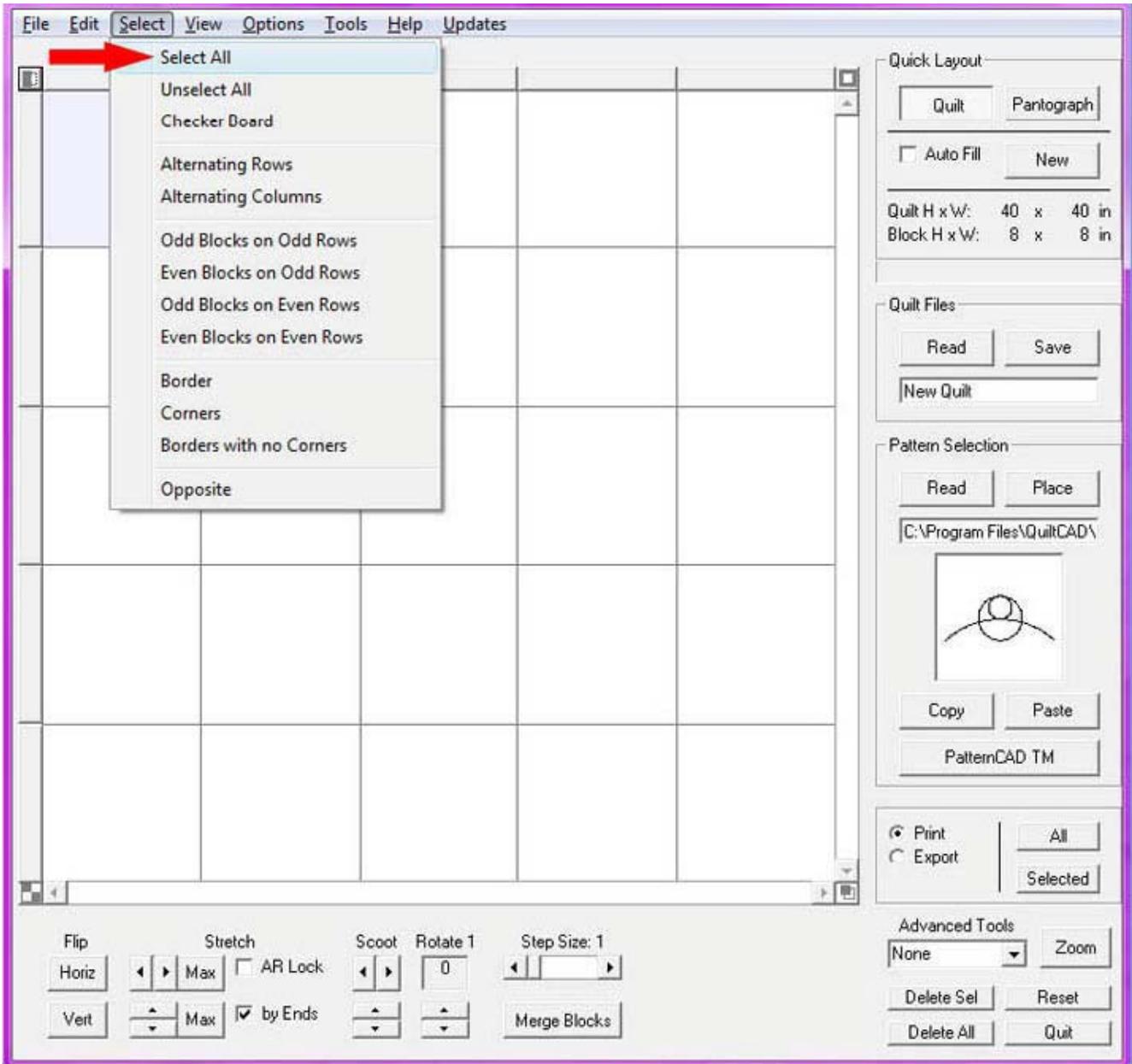
You can select a rectangular group of blocks by placing the mouse cursor in one corner of the desired selection area, holding the left mouse button down and dragging the cursor to the opposite corner of the selection area.

When you release the mouse, all the blocks that are outlined in blue will be selected. You may unselect groups of selected blocks in the same manner.



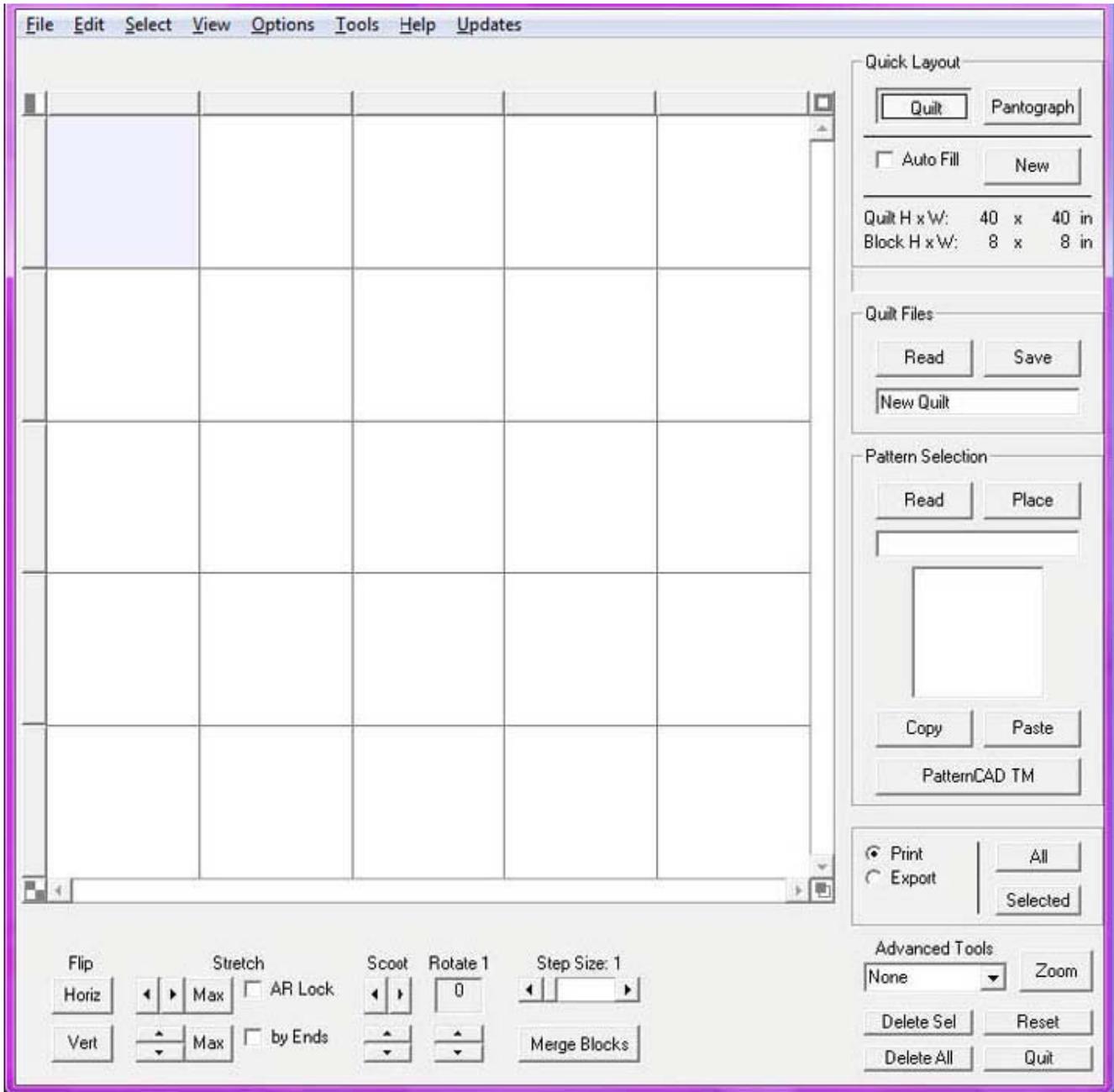
Menu Bar-Select Menu

Many of the same select options are available to you from the Main Menu-Select Menu. There are other options, too. Go ahead and try them. And don't forget the 'Opposite' option, which basically doubles the number of selection tools in the menu.



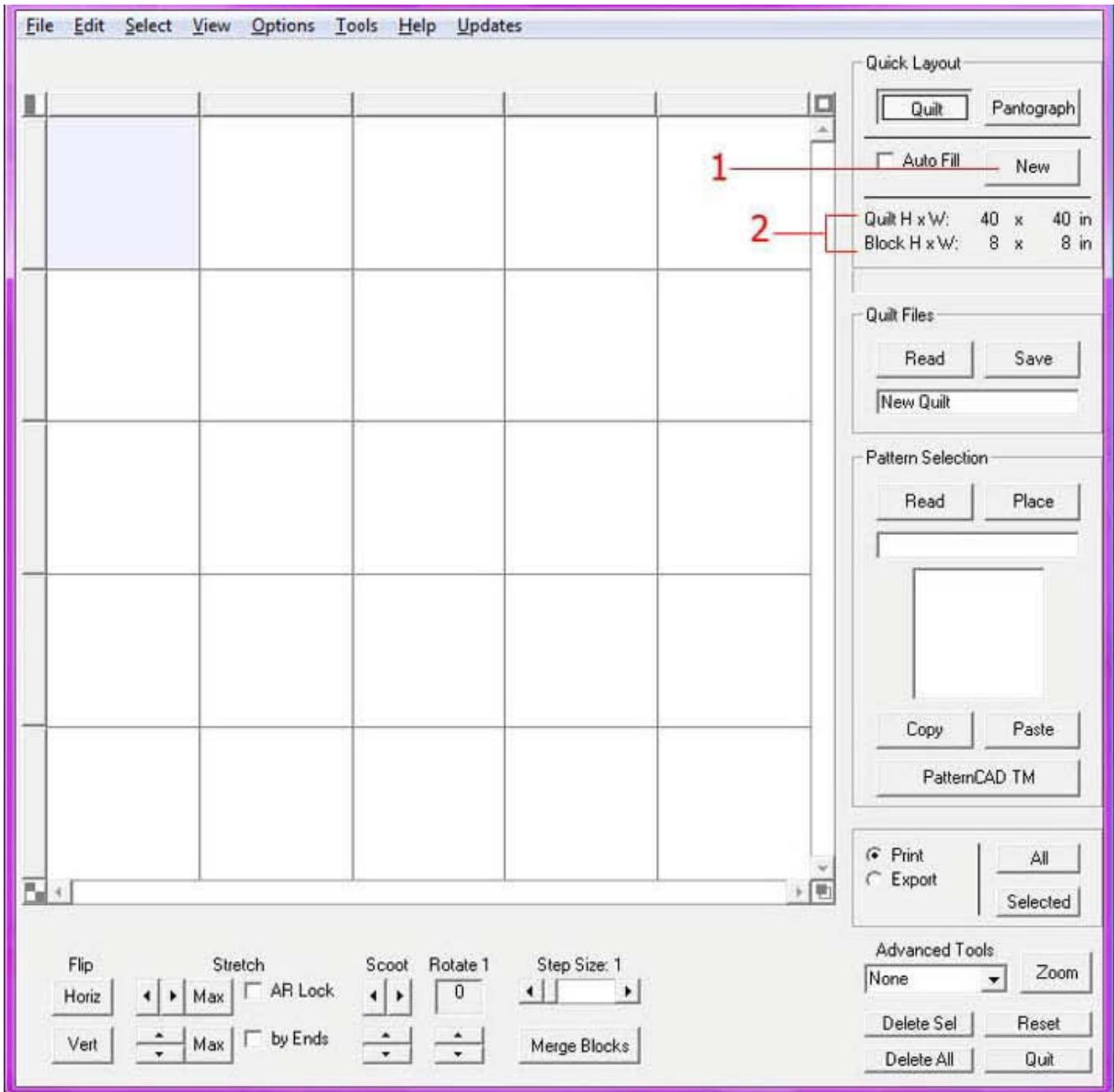
How to Re-size Your Quilt

You can resize your quilt to any size from 1 inch by 1 inch up to 17 feet by 17 feet, with a whole lot of sizes in between.



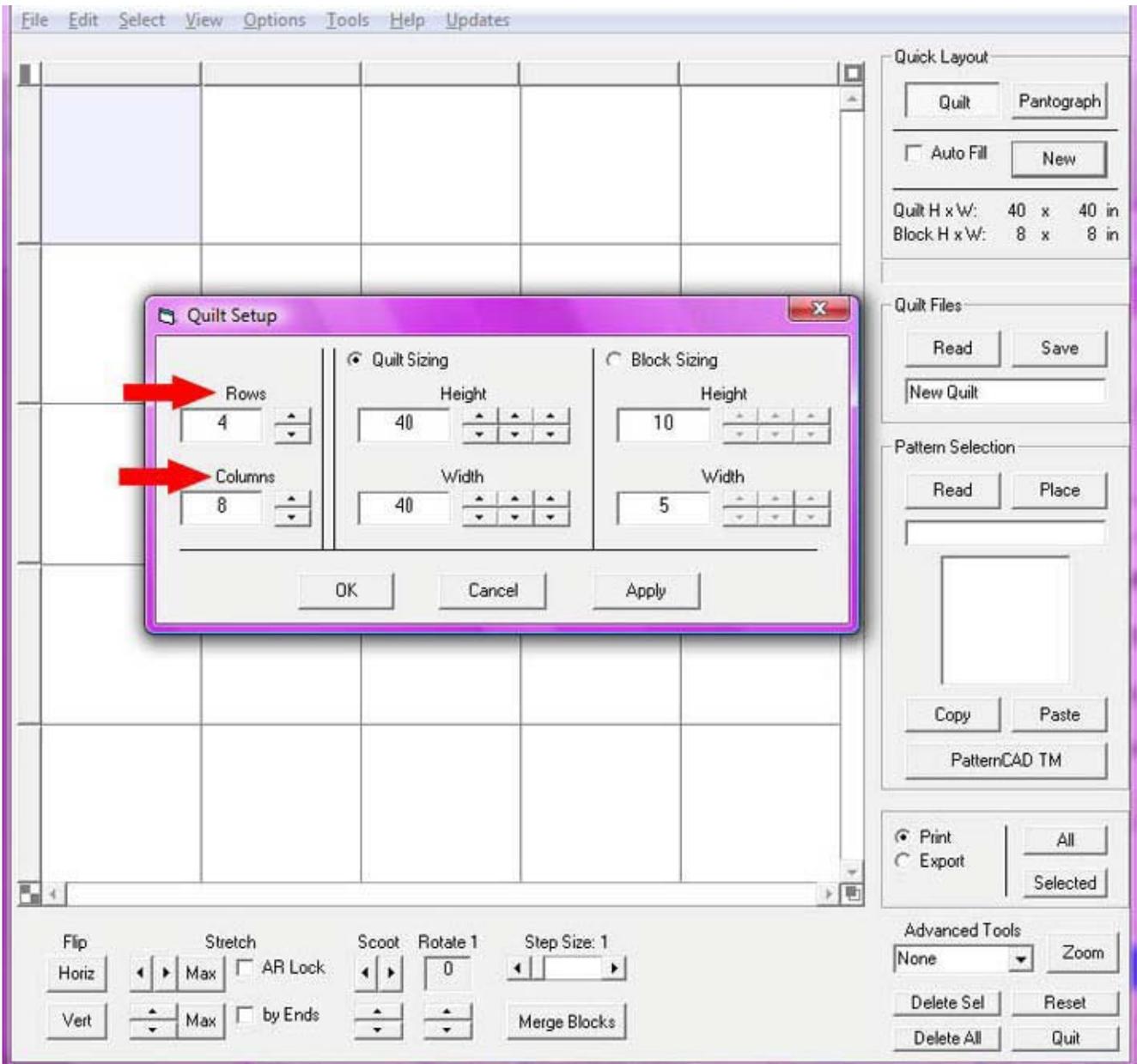
Open the Quilt-setup box

The New(1) button above the quilt size(2) brings up a little box that lets you re-size your quilt.



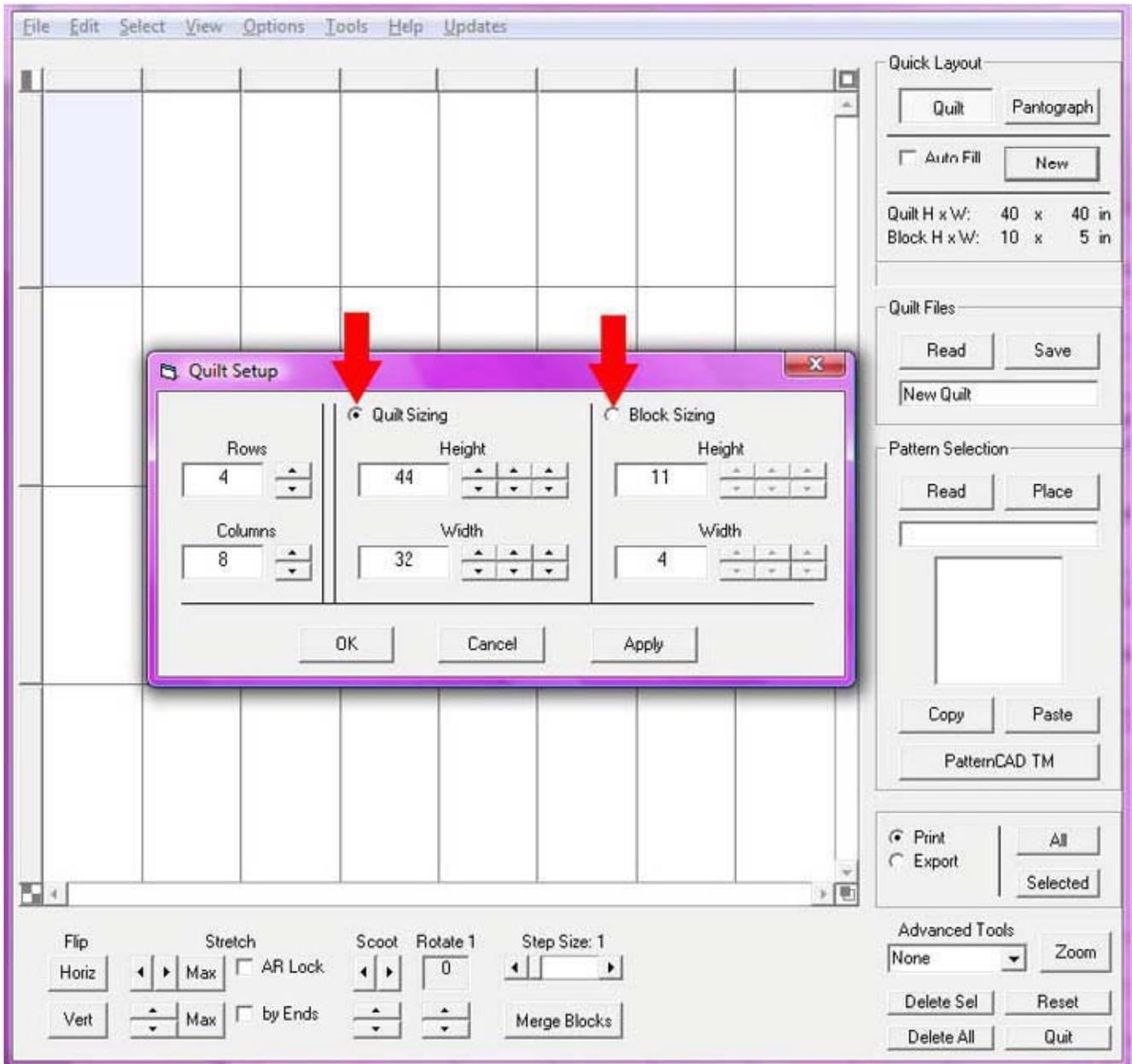
Change rows and columns

Just for fun, let's make a quilt that is 4 blocks high and 8 blocks wide. Click on the Columns and Rows arrows until you get a 4 x 8 block quilt. (Sometimes you have to click on these arrows twice before they start responding)



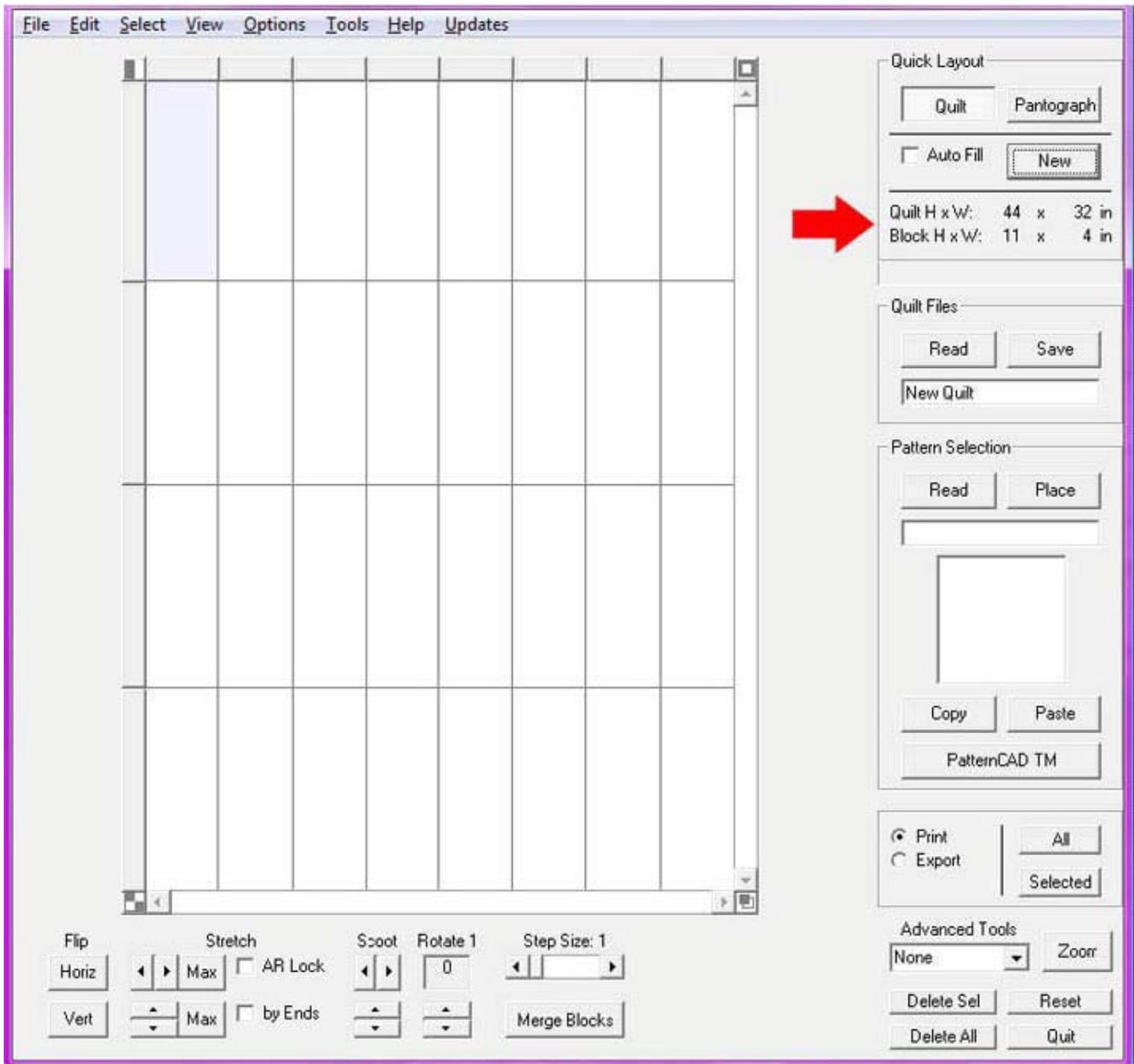
Re-size the blocks and quilt

You can re-size the blocks and quilt by clicking on the either the Block or Quilt Height and Block or Quilt Width arrows. If you change either the height or width of the Block Sizing then you will also change the Quilt Sizing, because they change at an aspect ratio to keep everything even. The first arrows, starting from the right to left, move the size by 1". The second arrows move the size by 1/16", and the third arrows move the size by 1/32". For example, the '1' column of arrows will increment or decrement the block sizes in steps of one inch per click. Click on OK when you're done re-sizing.



A few more notes..

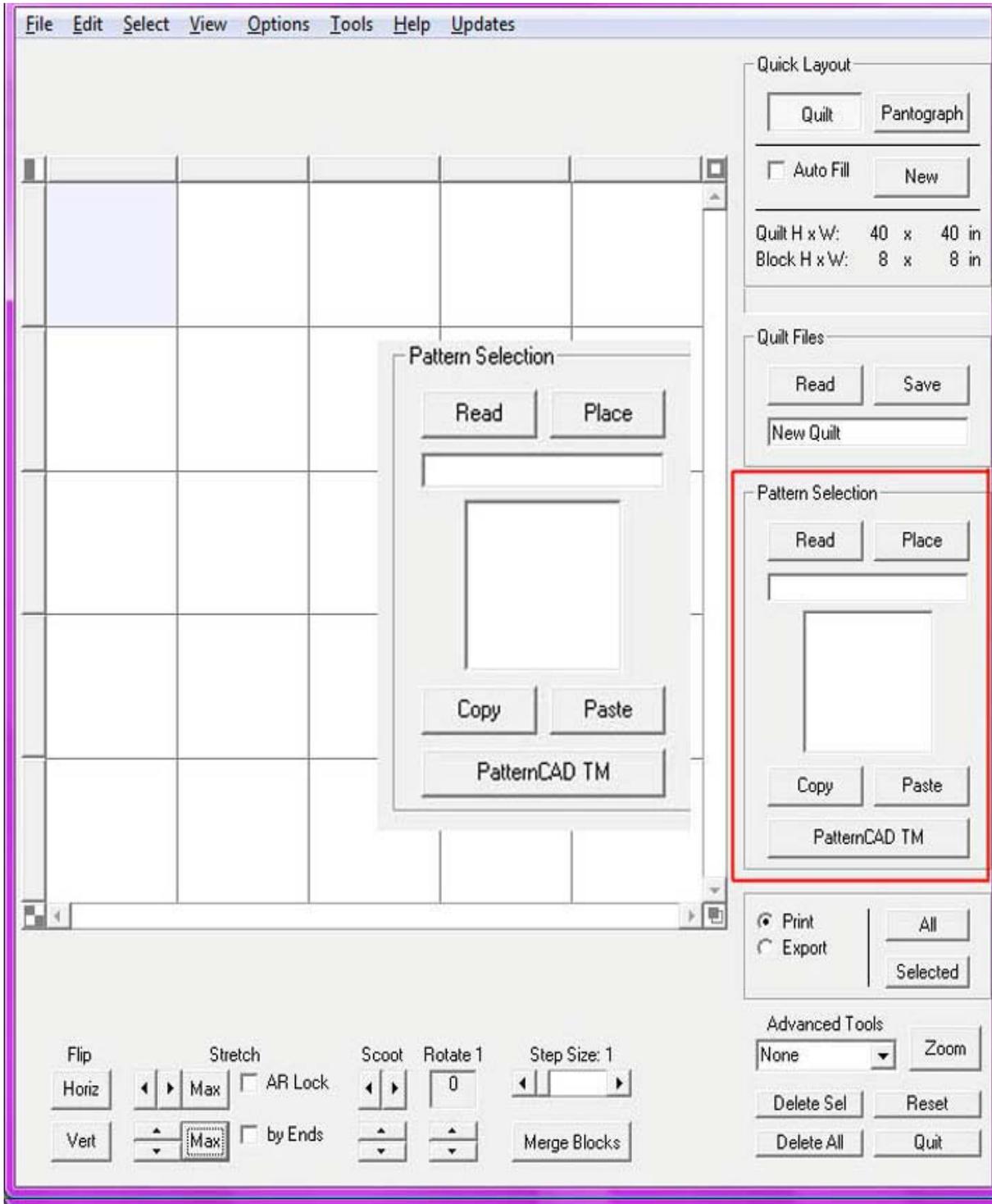
The quilt dimensions in the Quilt Setup window are automatically updated as you re-size your quilt. The block sizes are limited to a minimum height and width of 1 inch. **WARNING** - As you increase the number of blocks in your quilt, you may notice your computer slowing down. As you start to get above 25 or so rows and columns, things can get quirky, so beware! When sizing the block height, be sure to take into account how long the arm is on your machine. In other words, make the block height a few inches less than the arm length of your machine.



Reading and Placing Patterns

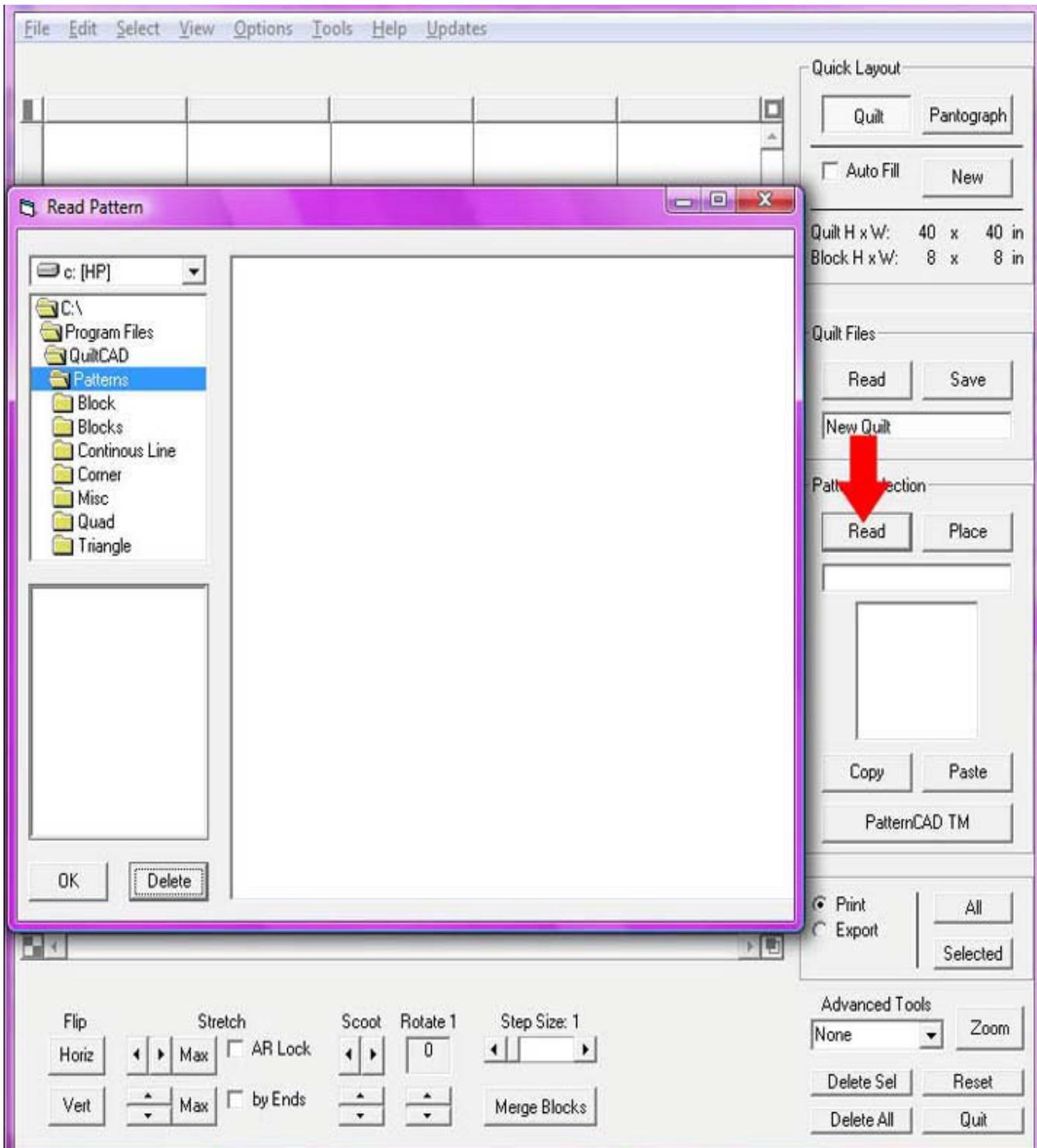
This lesson will show you how to easily get your patterns into your quilt. There are two ways to do this: Read the pattern from a file, then place it in selected blocks.

Copy a pattern already in your quilt, then paste it into selected blocks. The Pattern Selection box contains the tools to do this.



Read a pattern file

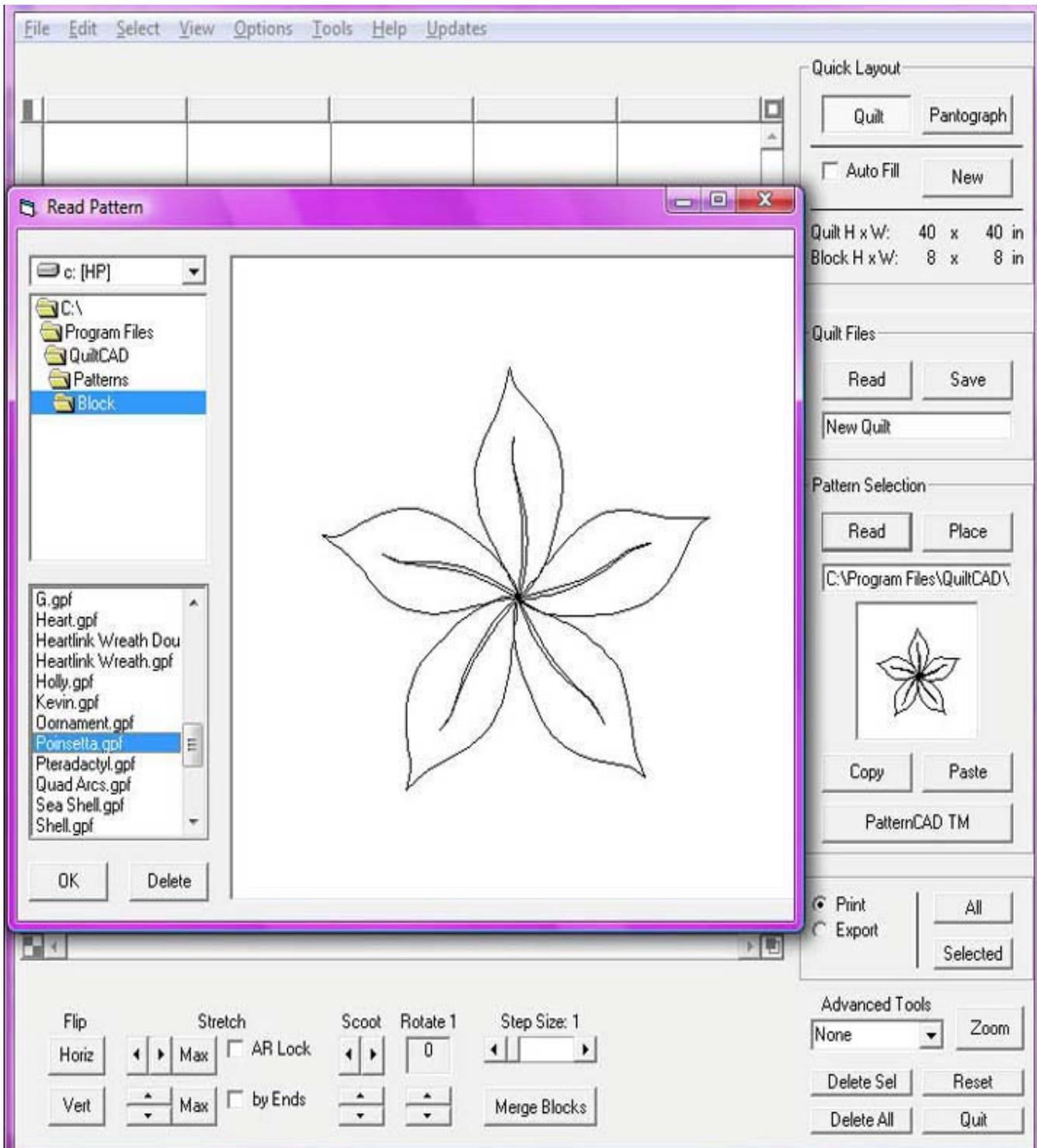
To read in a pattern file, click on the Read button in the Pattern Selection box. (Not the Read button in the Quilt File box) This will bring up the 'Read Pattern' dialog box, which provides a convenient way to both read and view all of your patterns.



Select your pattern

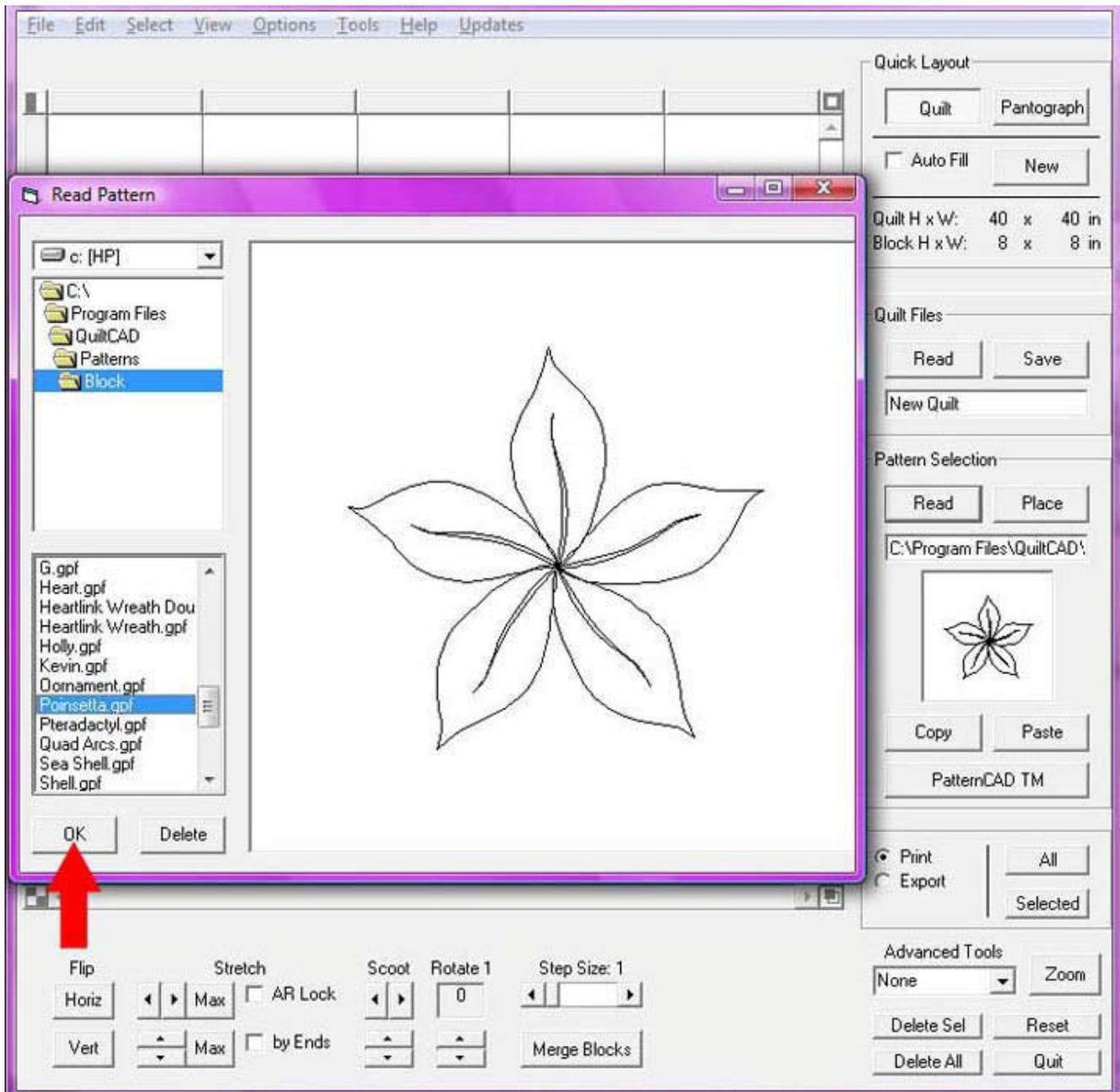
First, be sure to get into the patterns directory by selecting the 'Patterns' folder.

Click on any pattern file name in the list of patterns. It will put the pattern into the large viewing area. For our example, scroll down to the Poinsettia pattern in the block folder and select it.



Close the 'Read Pattern' box

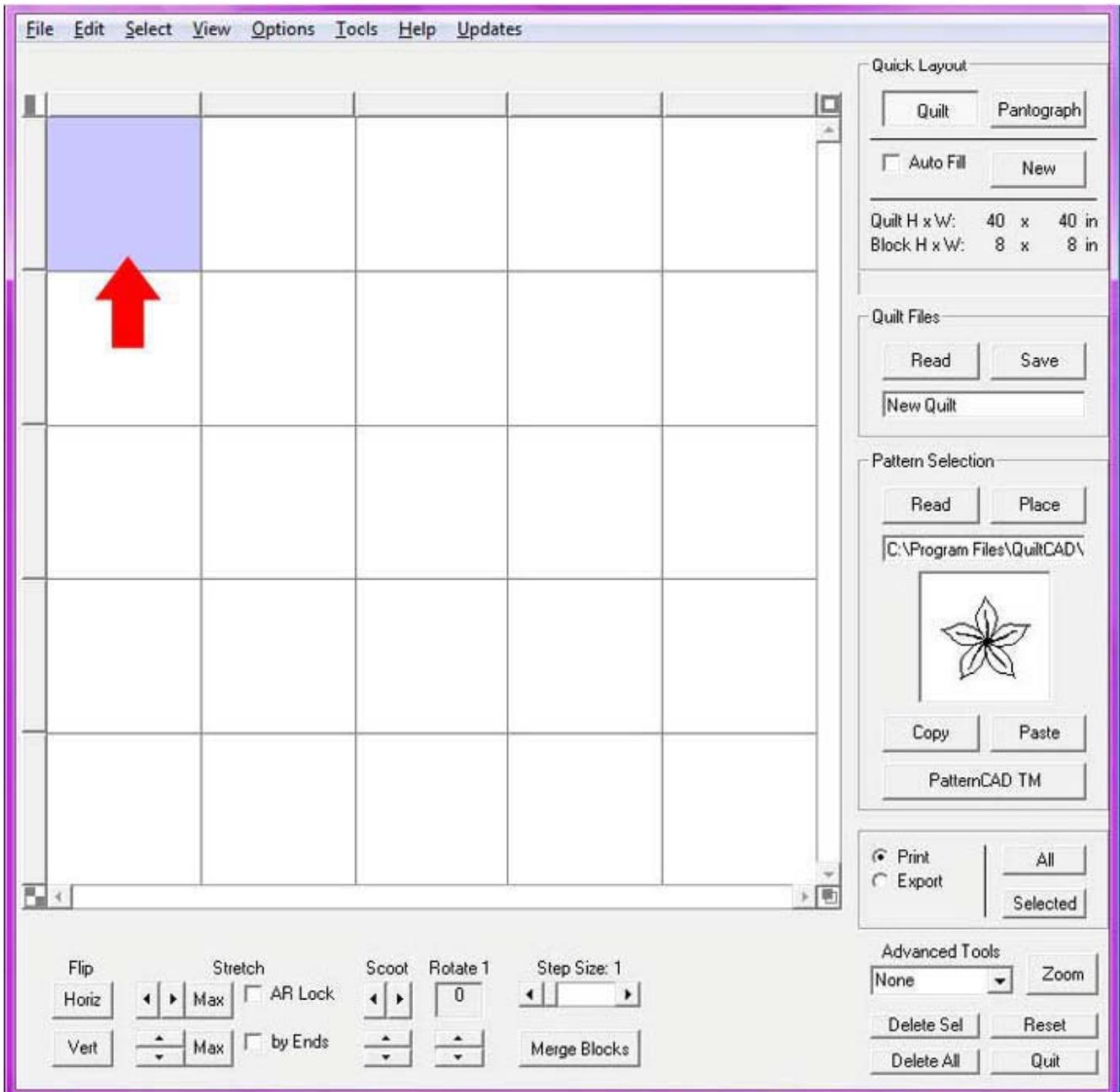
Click on OK. You'll see that the small pattern viewing window in the 'Pattern Select' box also contains the pattern.



Select your target block(s)

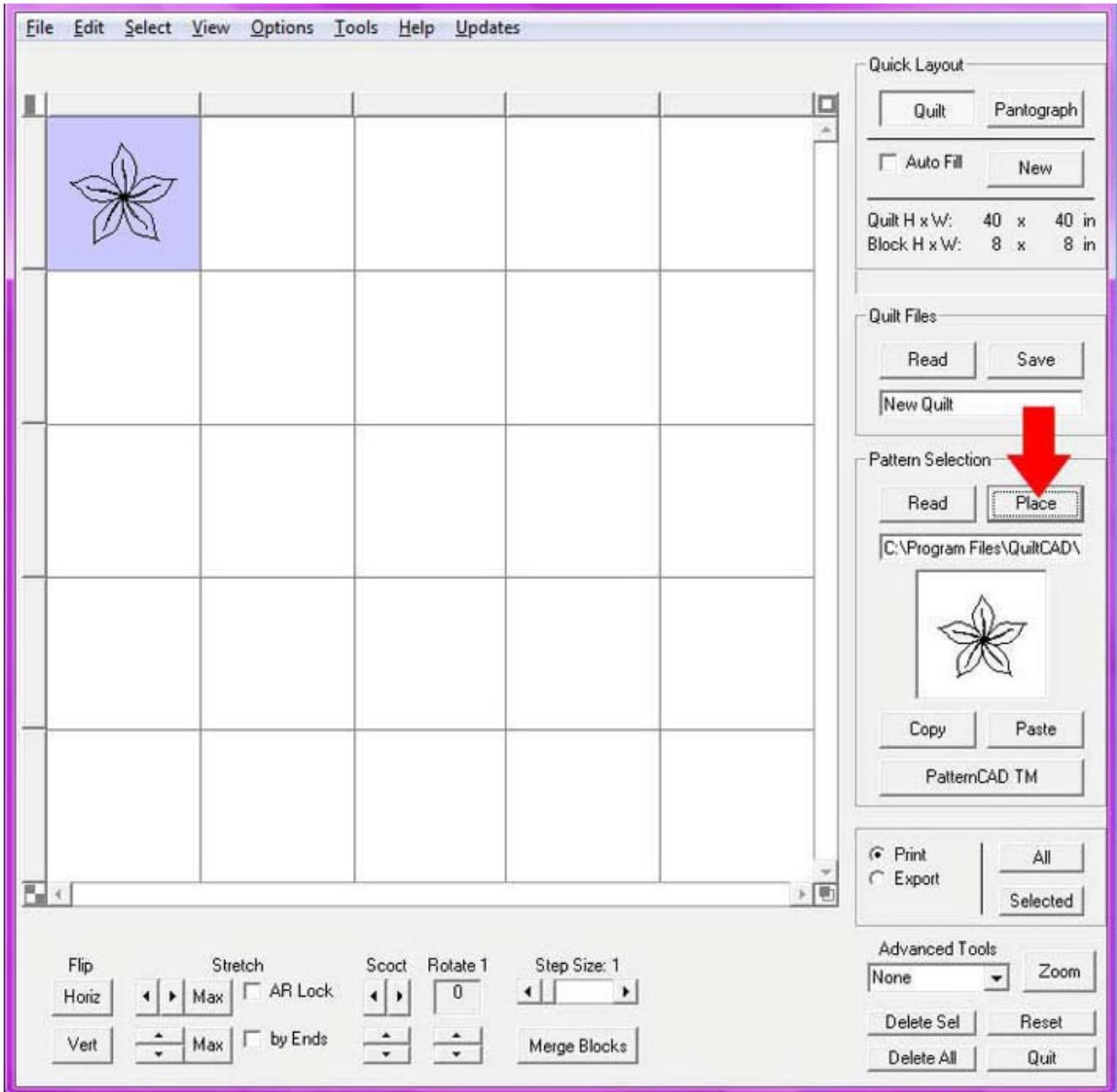
For this example, we're going to select a single block, the top left one to put the pattern in. You could actually select as many blocks as you want.

To select the block, click in it once (it will turn dark blue).



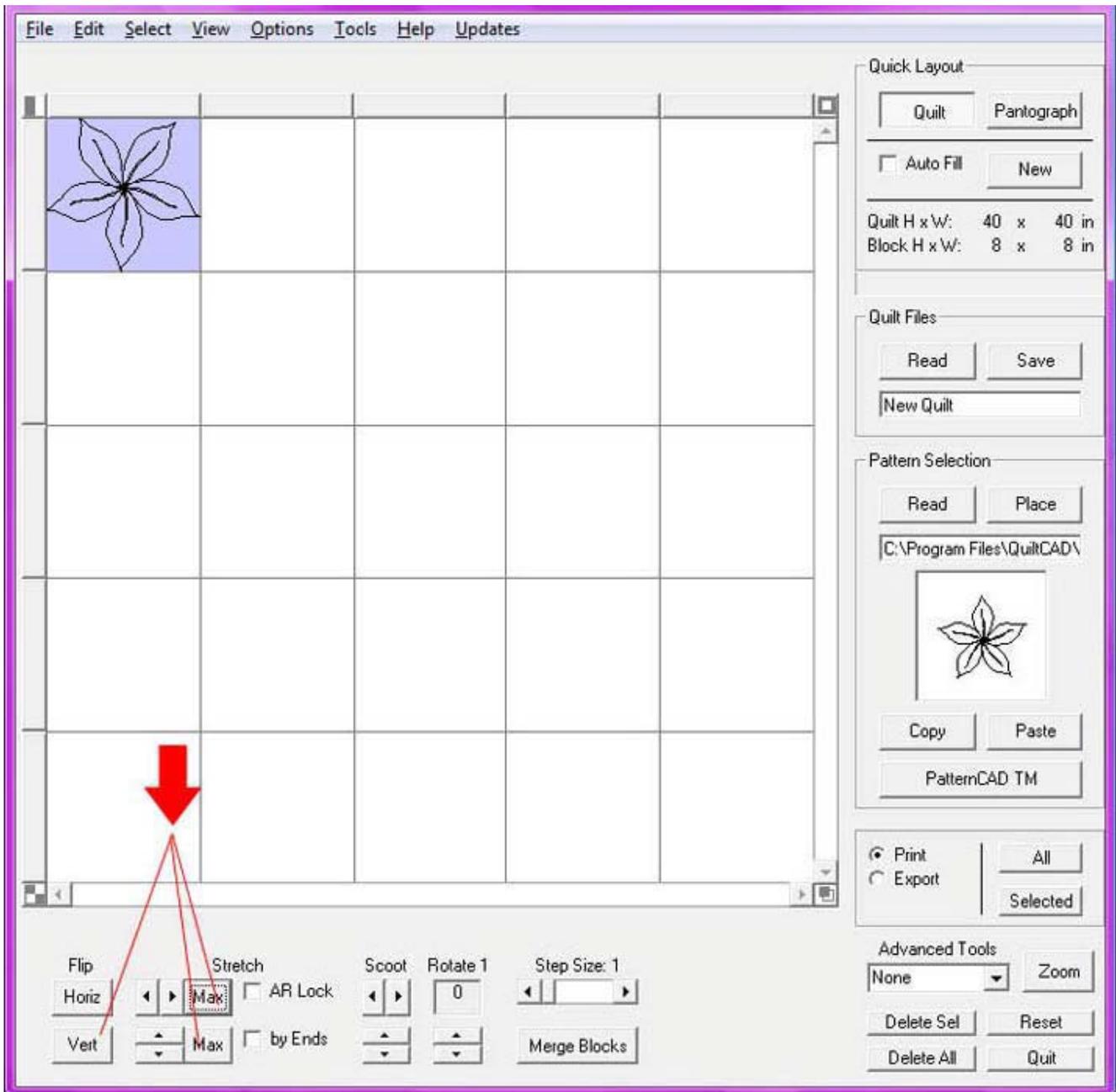
Place the pattern

Simply click on the 'Place' button, and the pattern will appear in the selected block. That's all there is to it. Again, if you have more blocks selected, the pattern will be placed in all of them.



Re-shape the pattern (Optional)

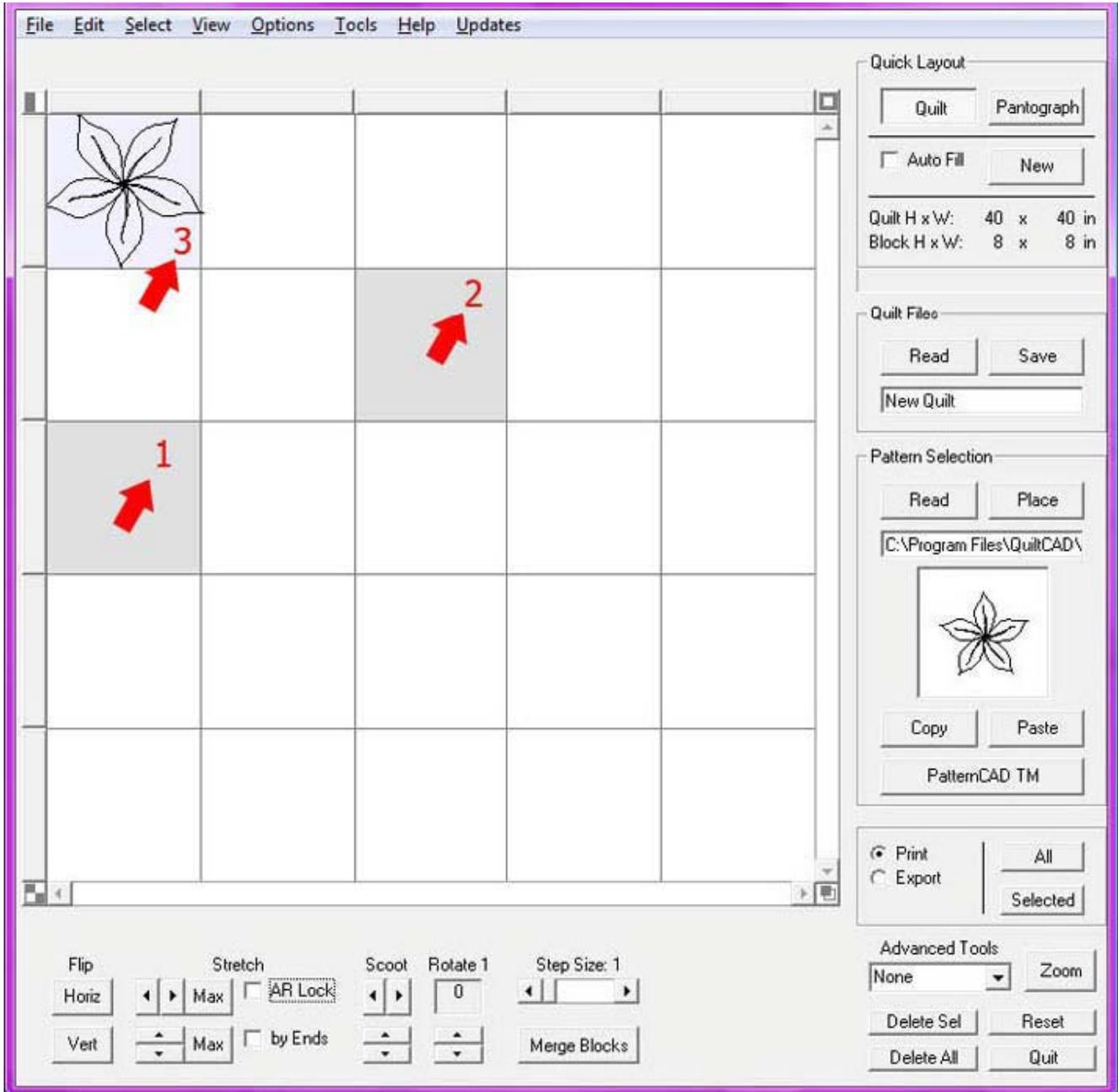
We're going to change the shape of the pattern to show you how Copy and Paste is a bit different than Read and Place. Click once on the button and arrows the lines are pointing to, to re-shape the pattern. (You'll learn more about re-shaping patterns in the next lesson)



Select target blocks for pasting

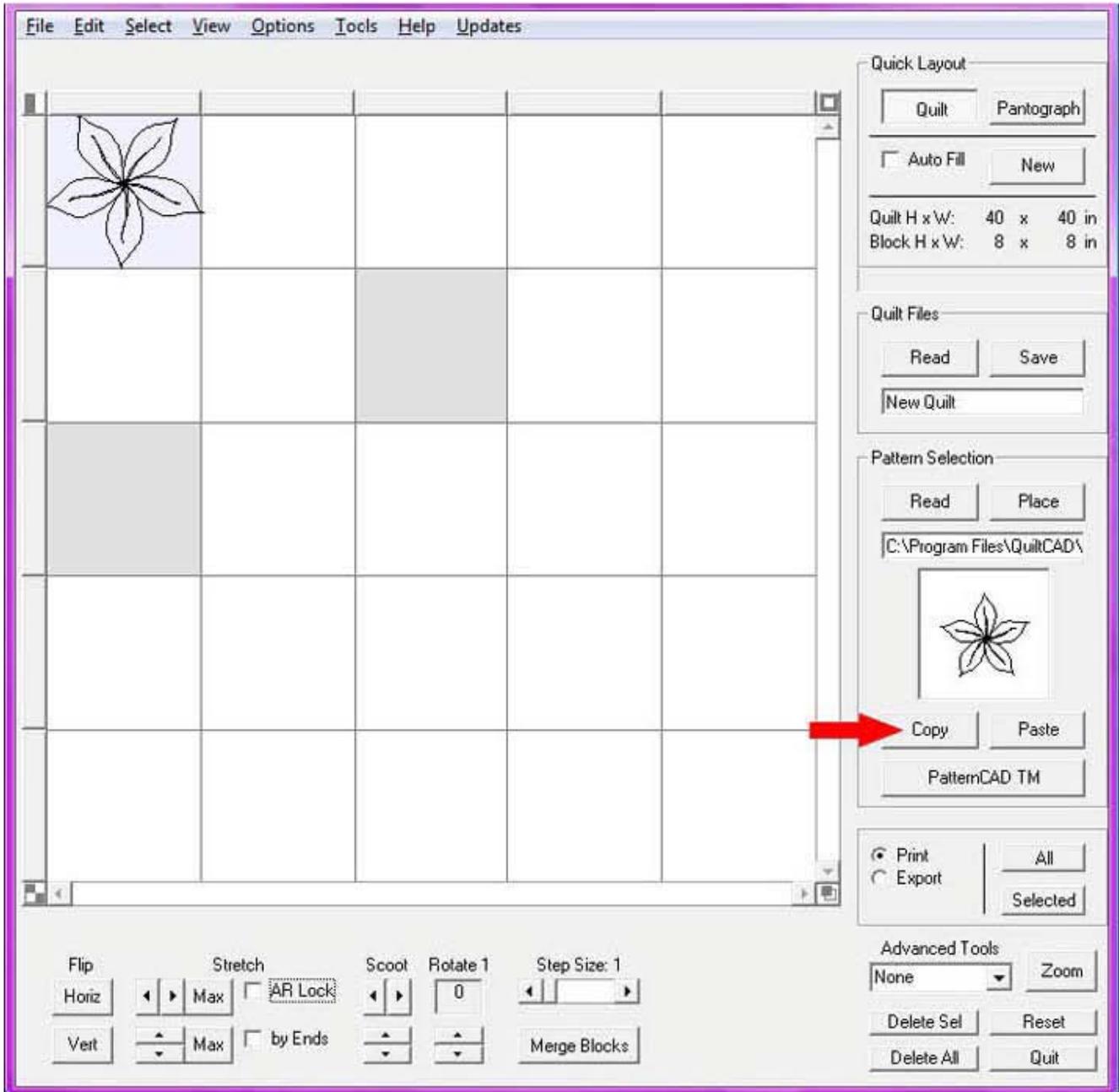
In the order shown, click once in each of the blocks.

This does a few things. It selects the blocks you are going to paste into. It unselects the block with the pattern in it. It also sets the block with the pattern in it as the 'active' block (the blue shading indicates this).



Copy the pattern

Just click on the Copy button. The 'active' or blue-shaded block's pattern is now copied and ready to be pasted.

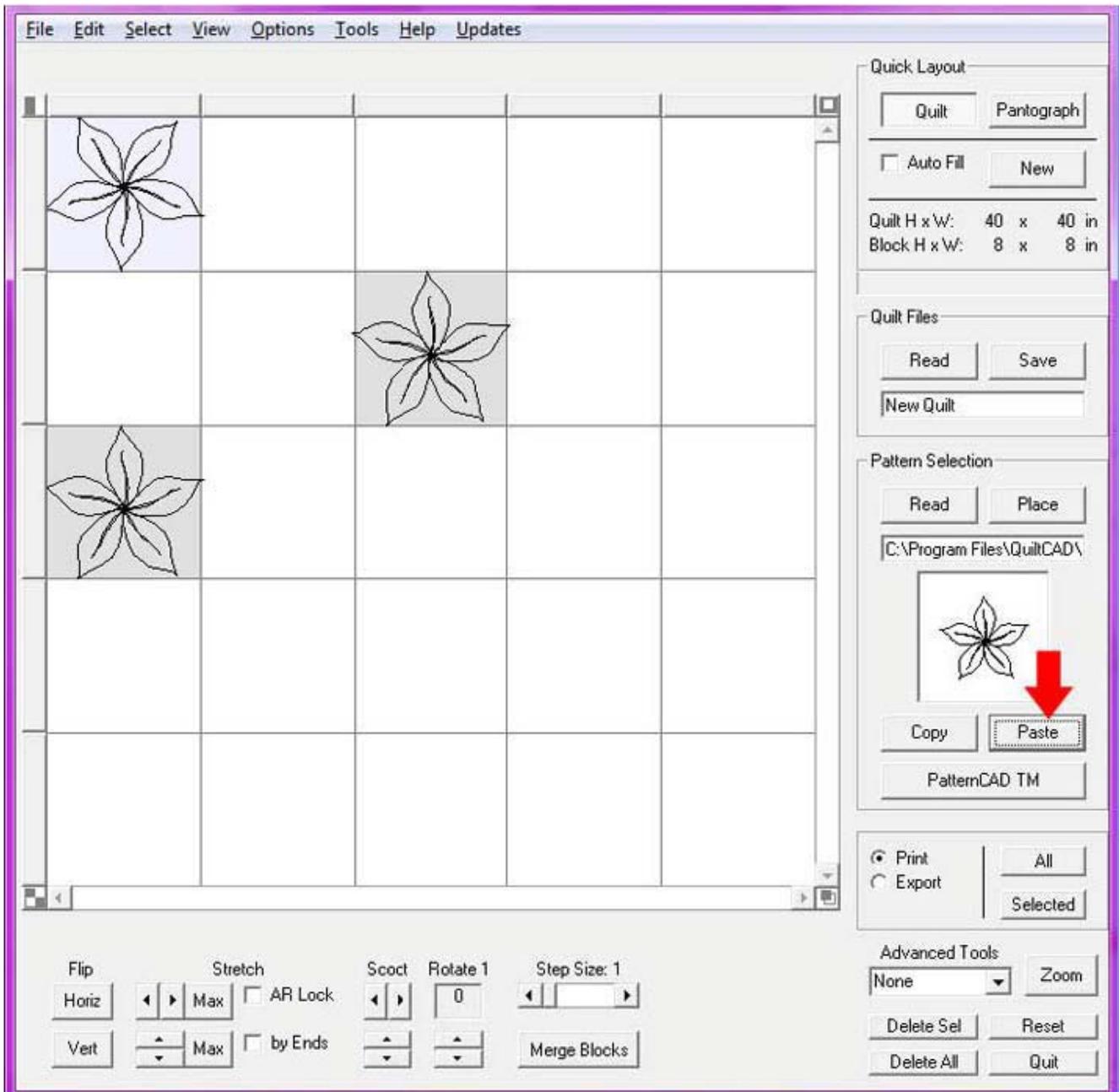


Paste the copied block

Click on Paste, and the pattern is pasted into the gray selected blocks. Notice that the re-shaped pattern is copied as it appears in the 'active' block.

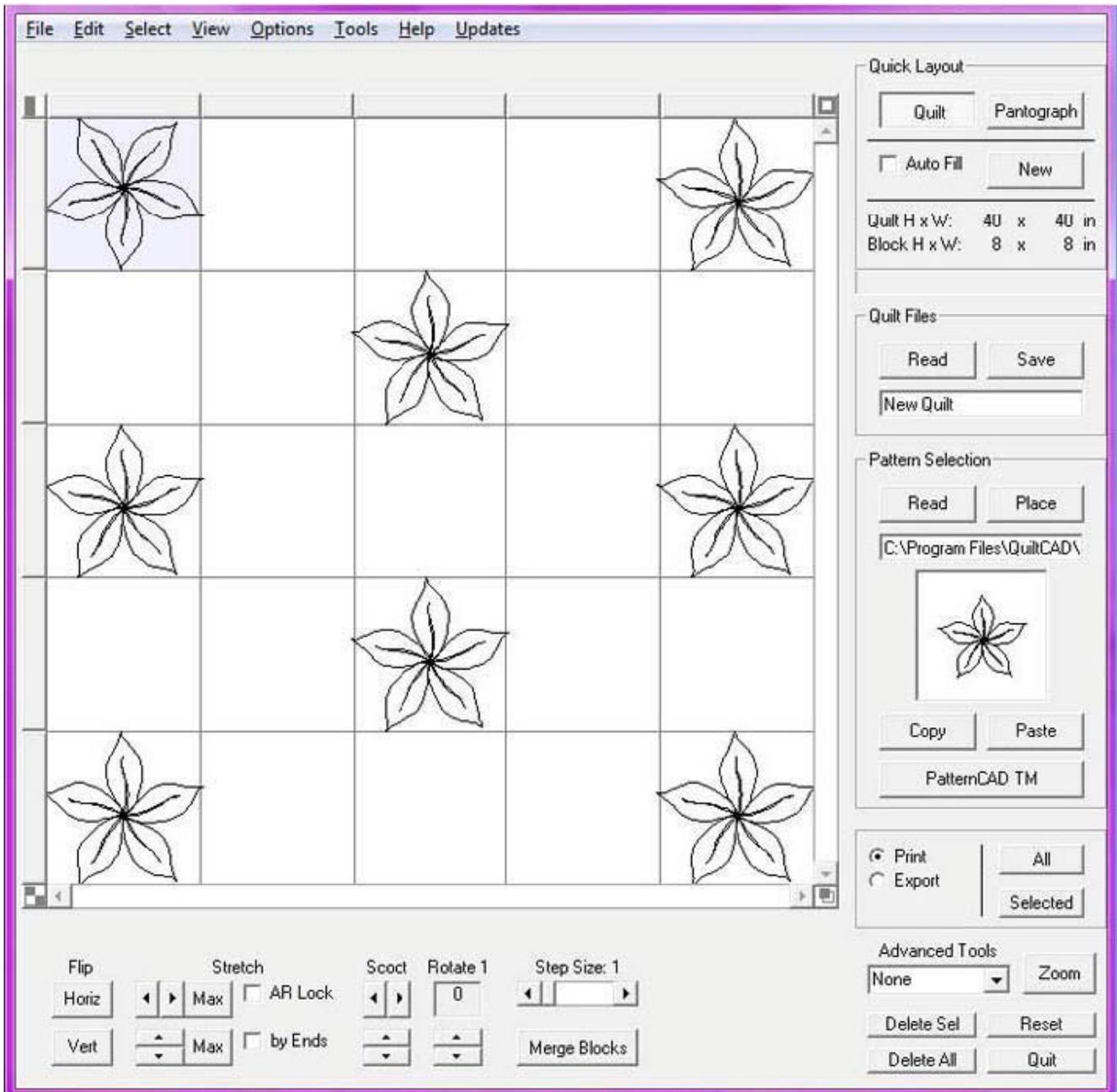
Also know that the 'active' block can either be selected (dark blue) or unselected (light blue) when copying.

Just make the pattern you want to copy is in the 'active' block by clicking in it once just prior to using the Copy button.



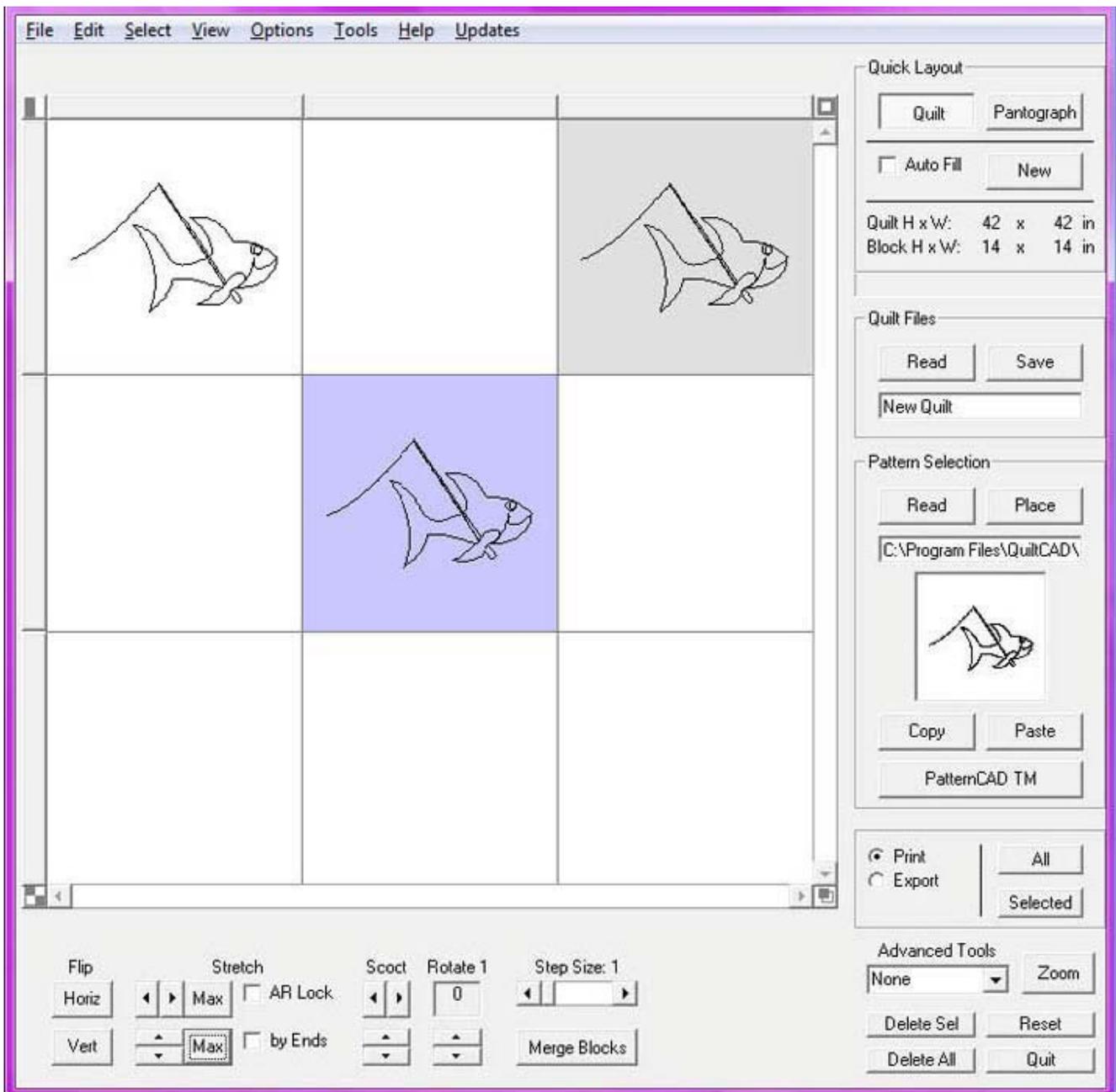
A few final words..

We hope you see how fun and easy it is to create your own quilt stitching designs with QuiltCAD. The beauty of simple line art is greatly enhanced through repetition and symmetry... ..and QuiltCAD gives you the tools to do just that!



Re-shaping the Patterns

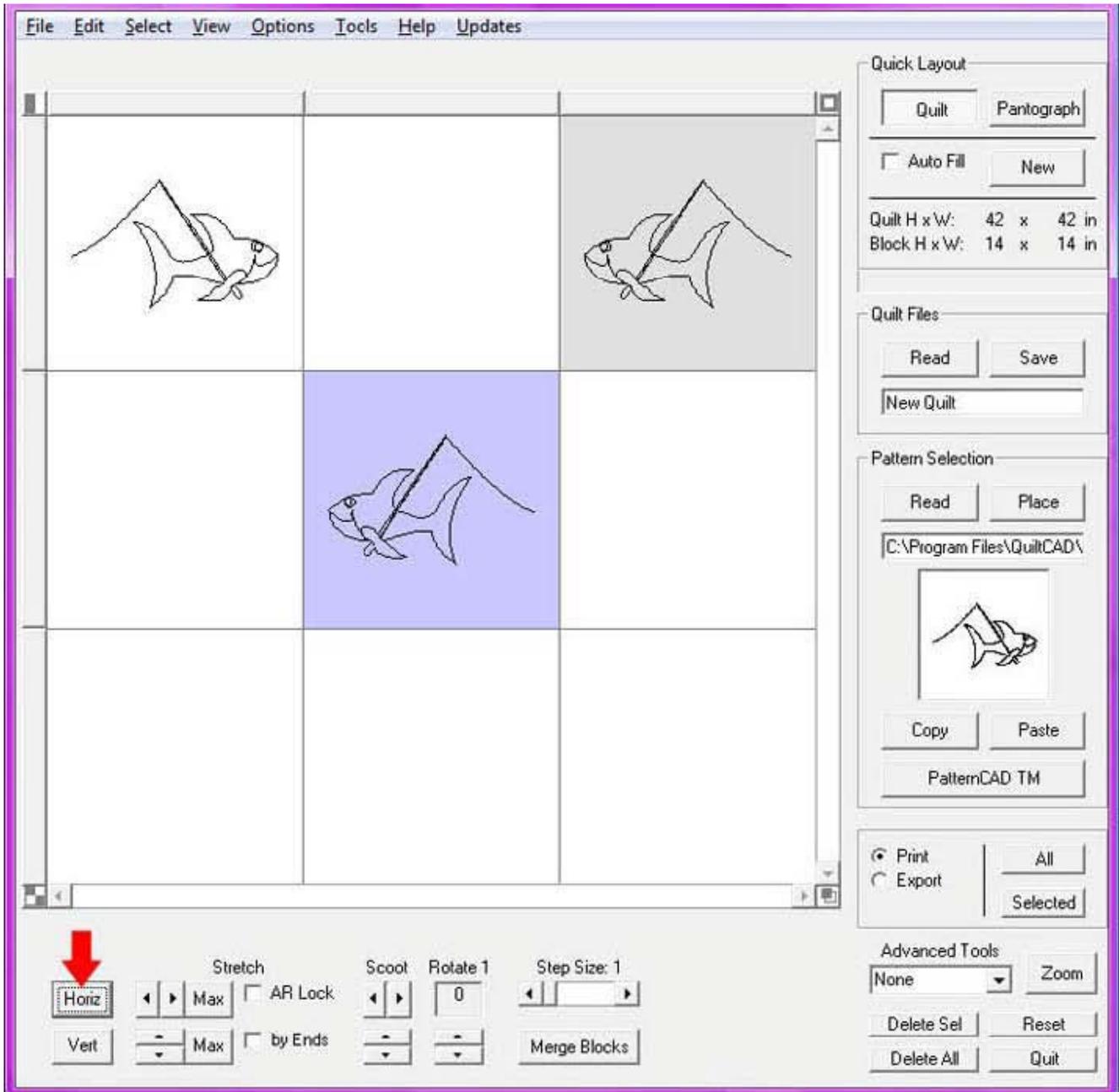
Learn how to stretch, scoot, and fit the patterns within the blocks just the way you want them.



Horizontal Flip

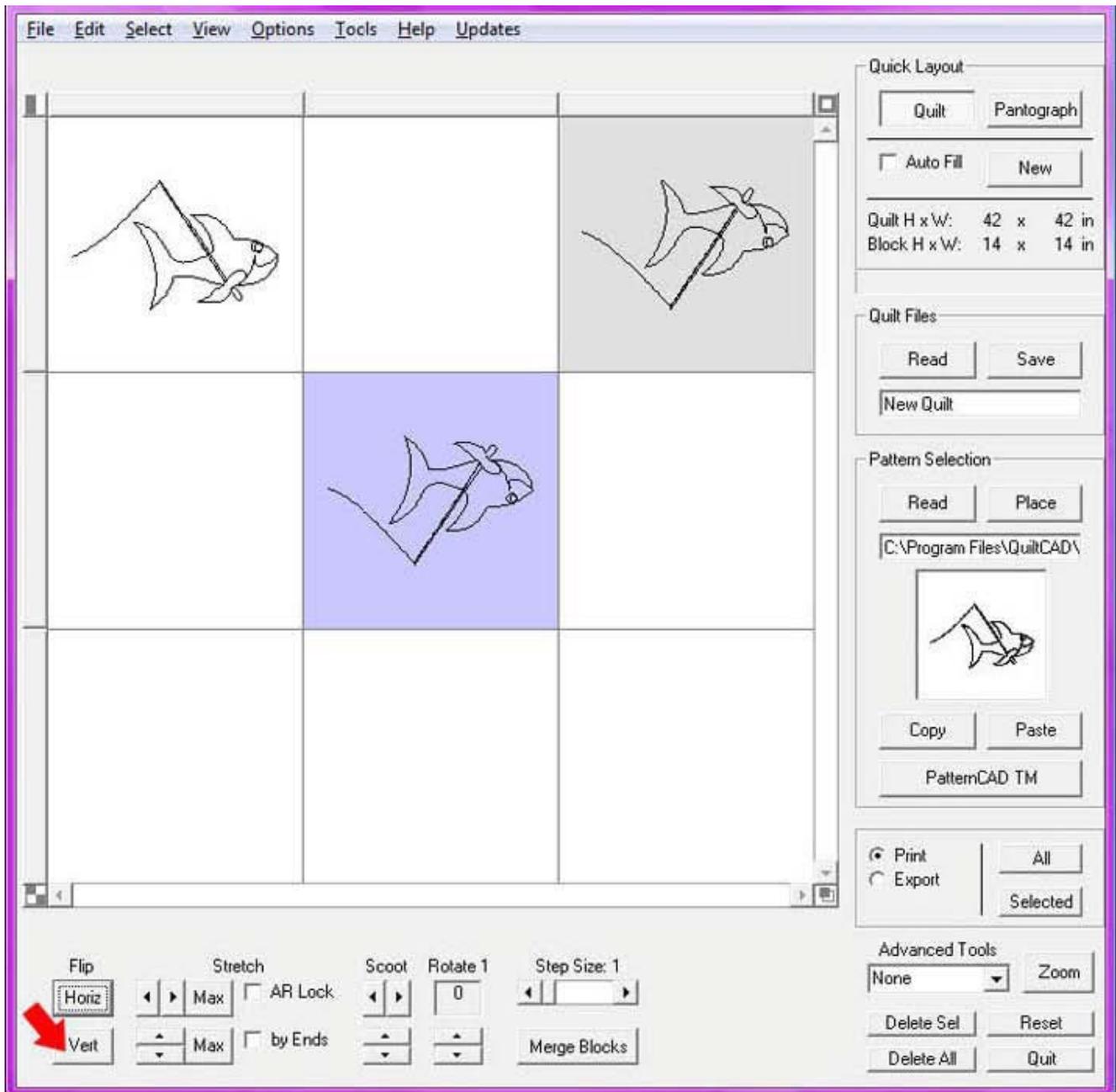
A horizontal flip flips the pattern 180 degrees horizontally.

We're using three fish patterns on purpose. It is to clearly illustrate that only the selected patterns (the ones in the dark blue or gray blocks) will respond to these shape controls. The fish in the white (and sometimes light blue) block will not change. Don't worry about if the block is dark blue or gray, either way it's selected, and the pattern will change. Click inside the screenshot to the left to see the horizontal flip in action.



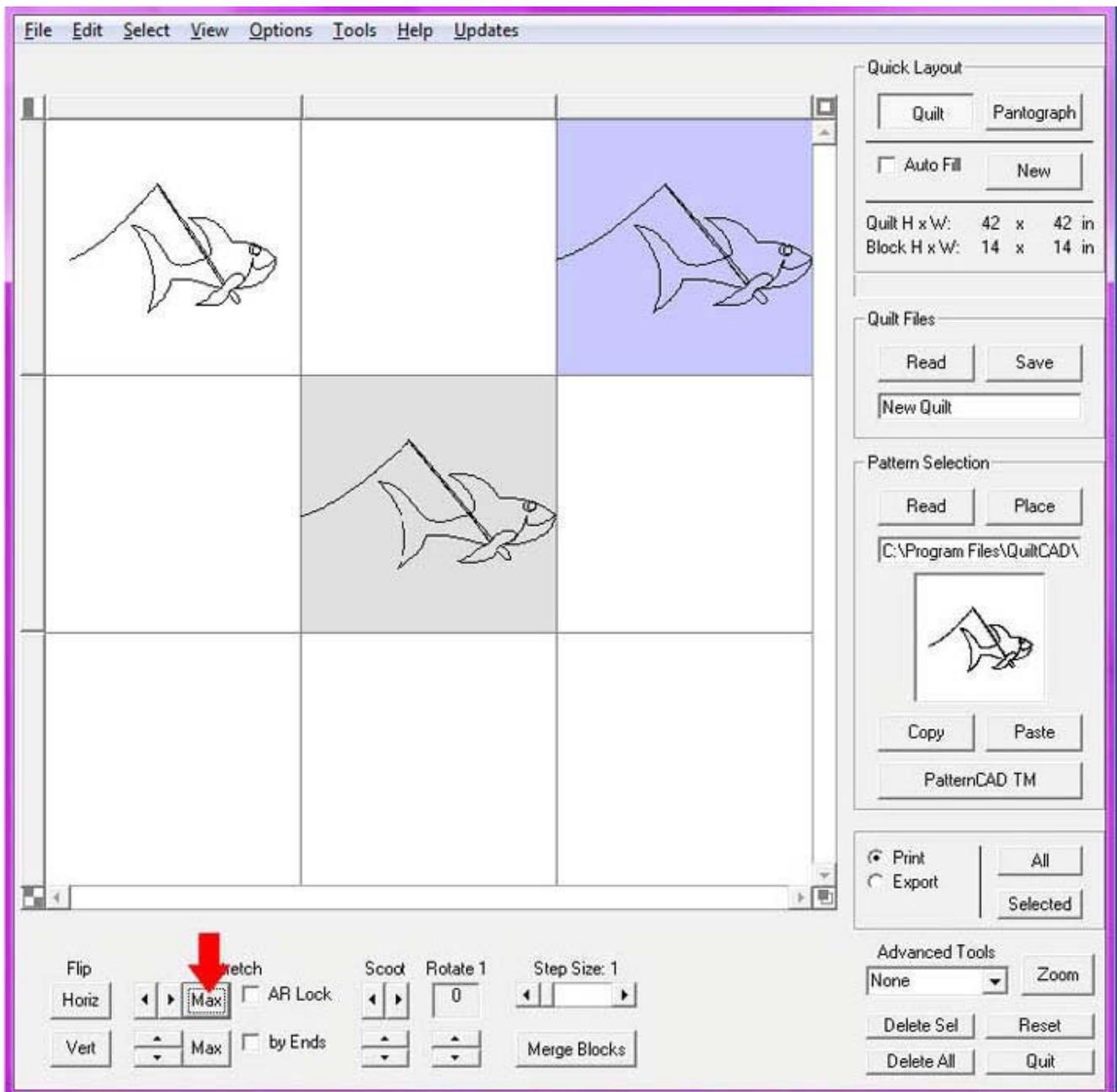
Vertical Flip

A vertical flip flips the pattern 180 degrees vertically. Again, you can see this flip in action by clicking in the example picture below.



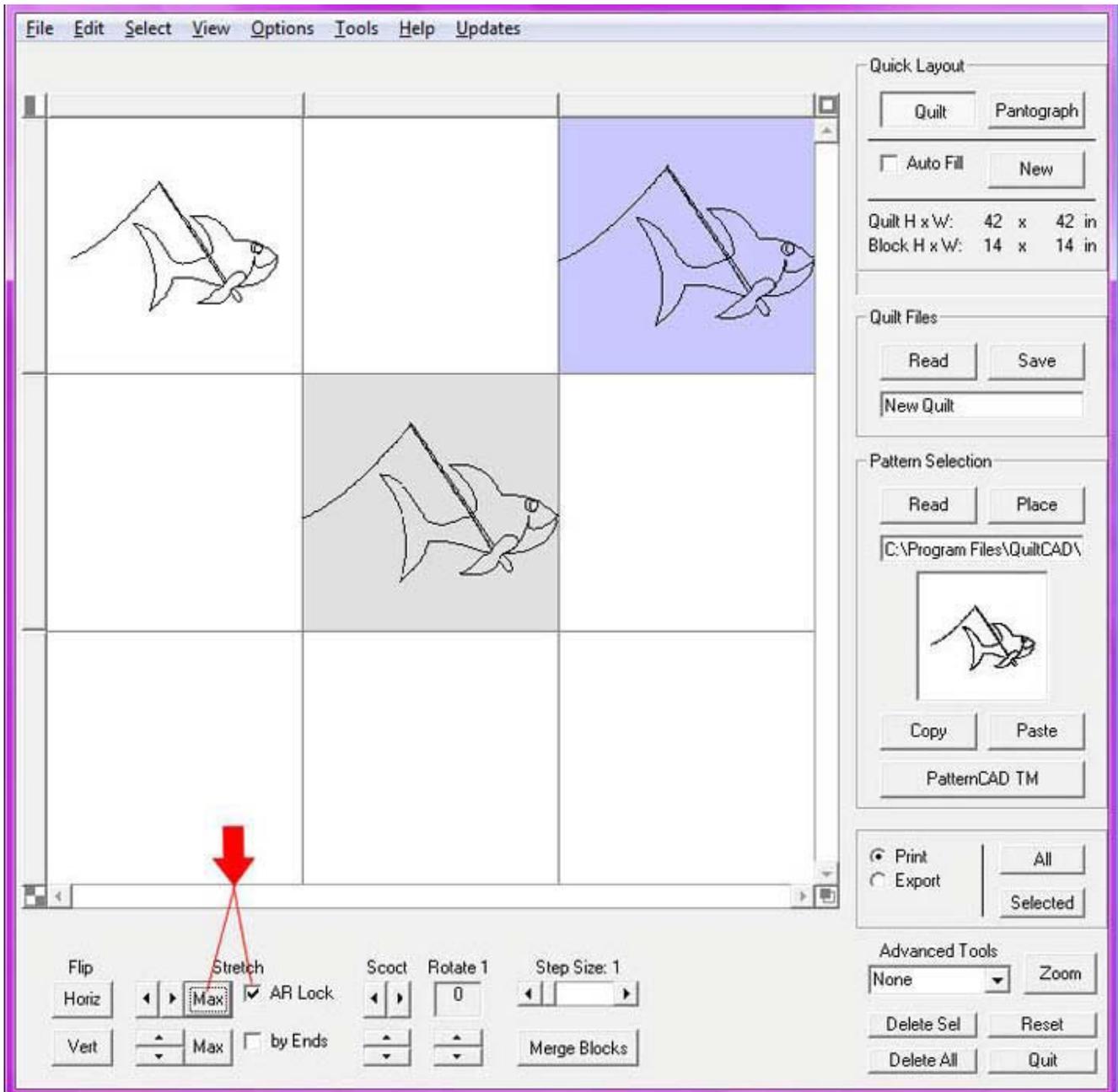
Horizontal Stretch (Maximum)

Stretches the pattern to fill the block horizontally.



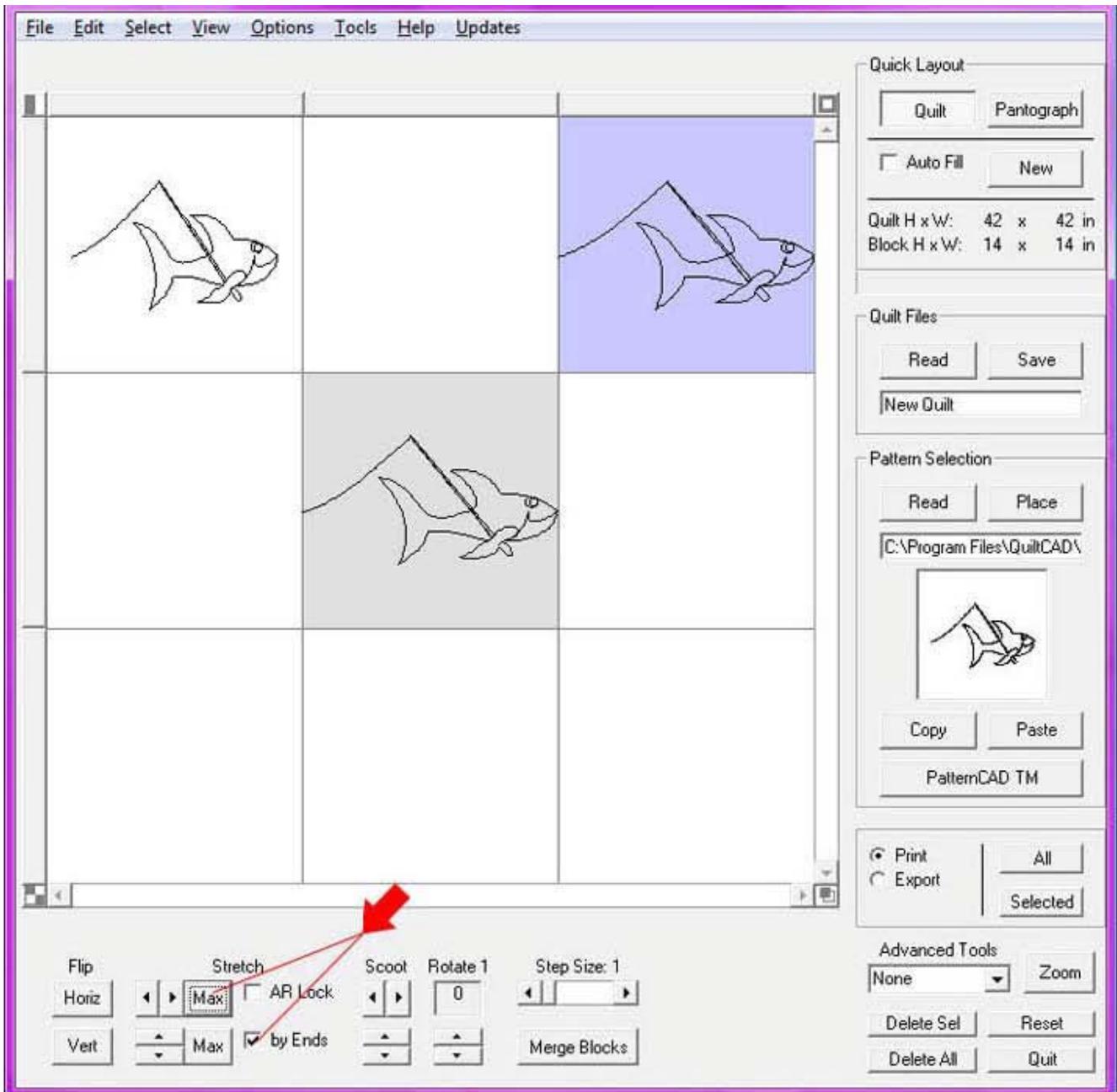
Horizontal Stretch (AR Lock)

Stretches the pattern to fill the block horizontally, but keeps the aspect ratio the same. As you can see the fish fits the box horizontally, but is still symmetrically vertical.



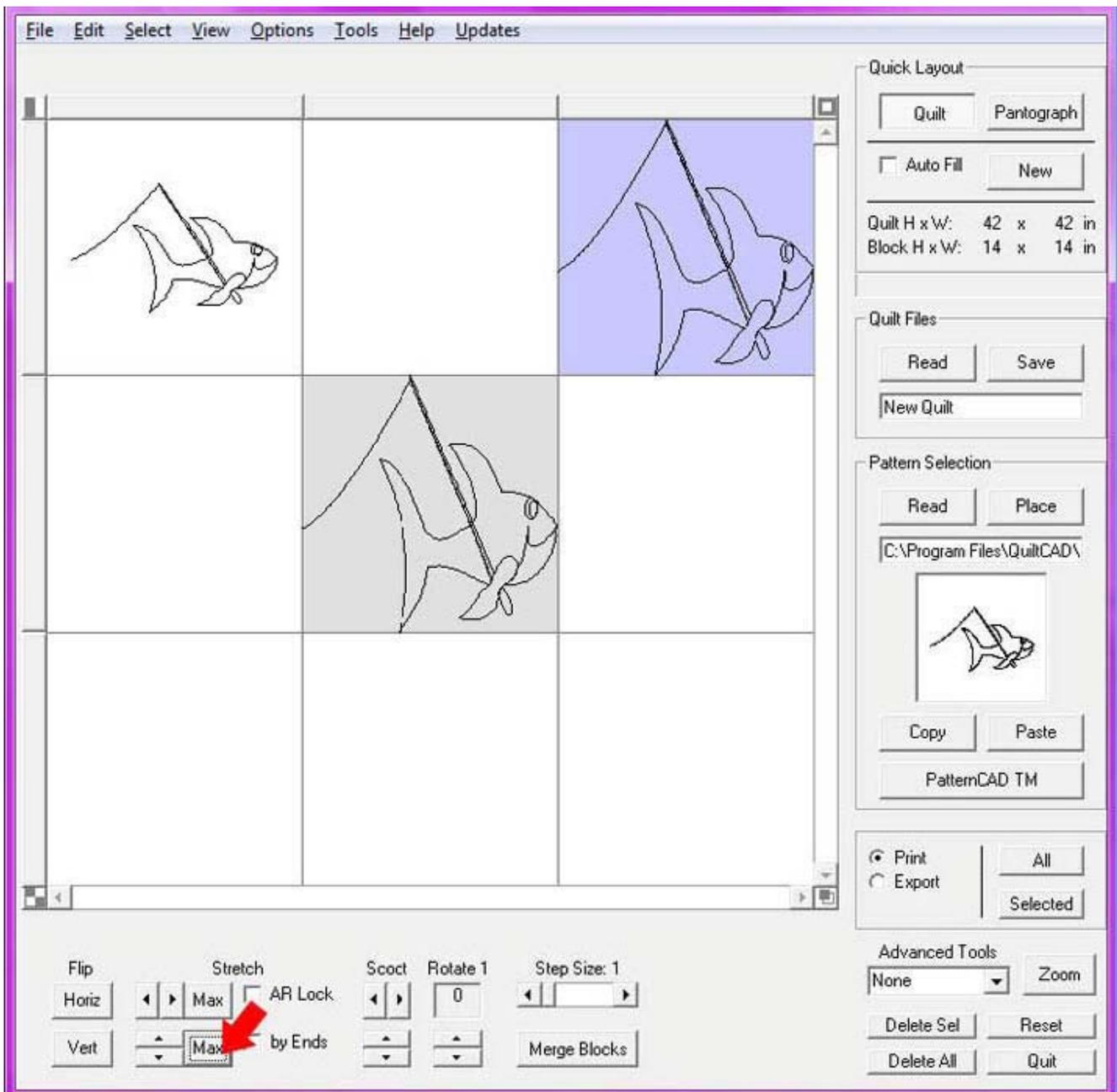
Horizontal Stretch (By Ends)

Stretches the pattern to fill the block horizontally from the right end to the left end, and the pattern is not stretched in a symmetrical way.



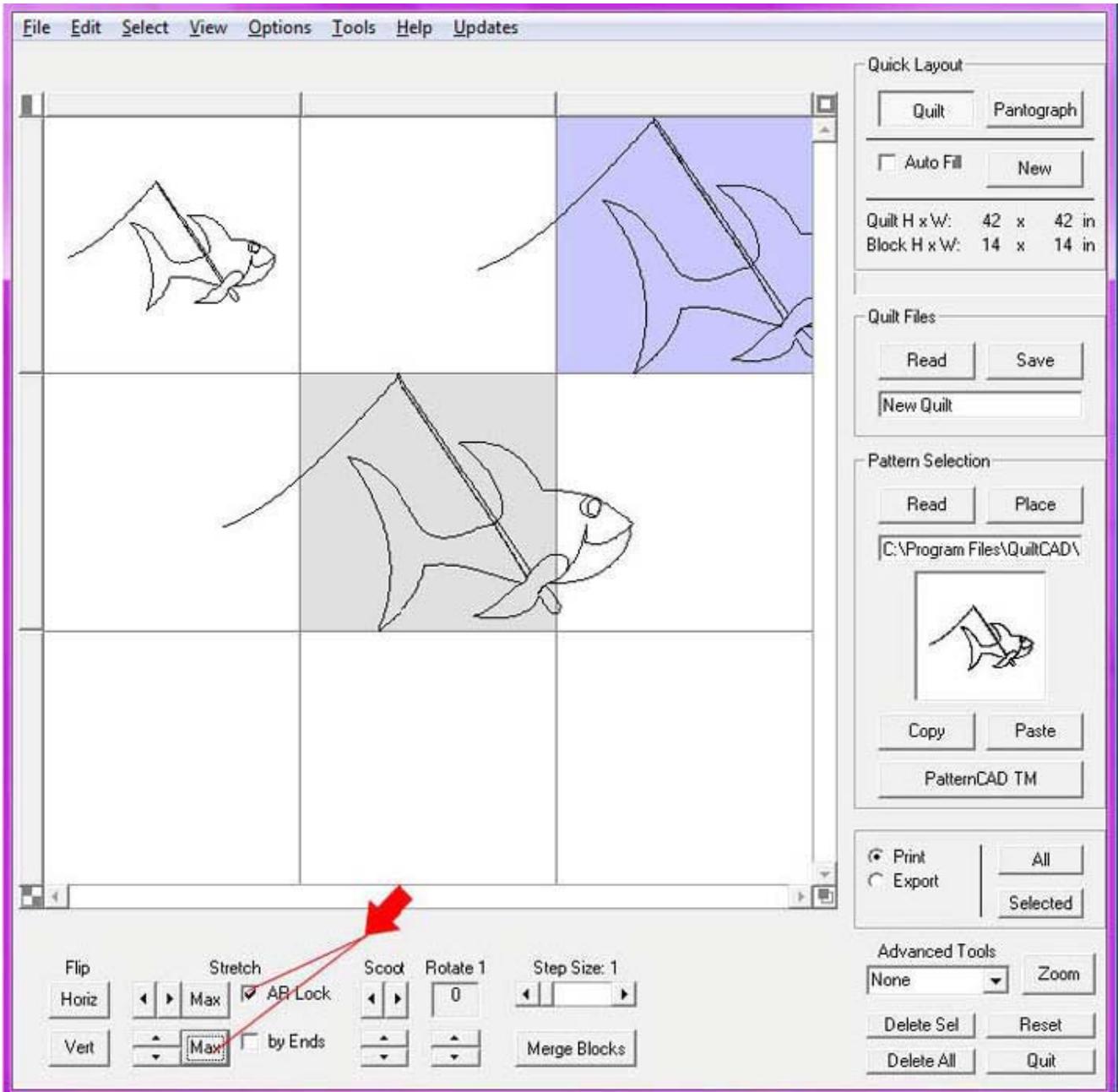
Vertical Stretch (Maximum)

Stretches the pattern to fill the block vertically.



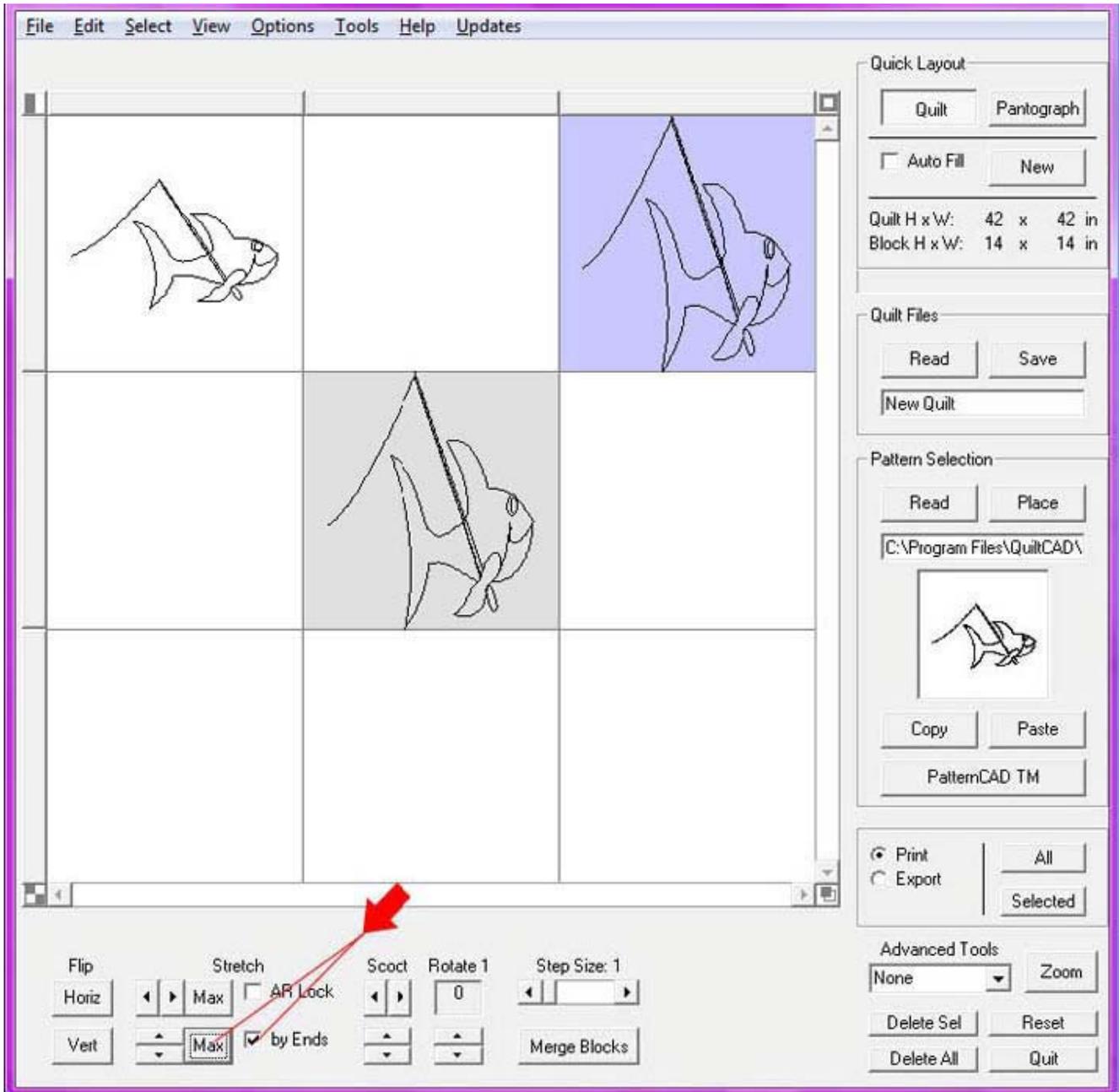
Vertical Stretch (AR Lock)

Stretches the pattern to fill the block vertically, but keeps the aspect ratio the same. As you can see the fish fits the box vertical, but is still symmetrically in the horizontal manner, that is why it is outside the box.



Vertical Stretch (By Ends)

Stretches the pattern to fill the block vertically from the top end to the bottom end, and the pattern is not stretched in a symmetrical way.



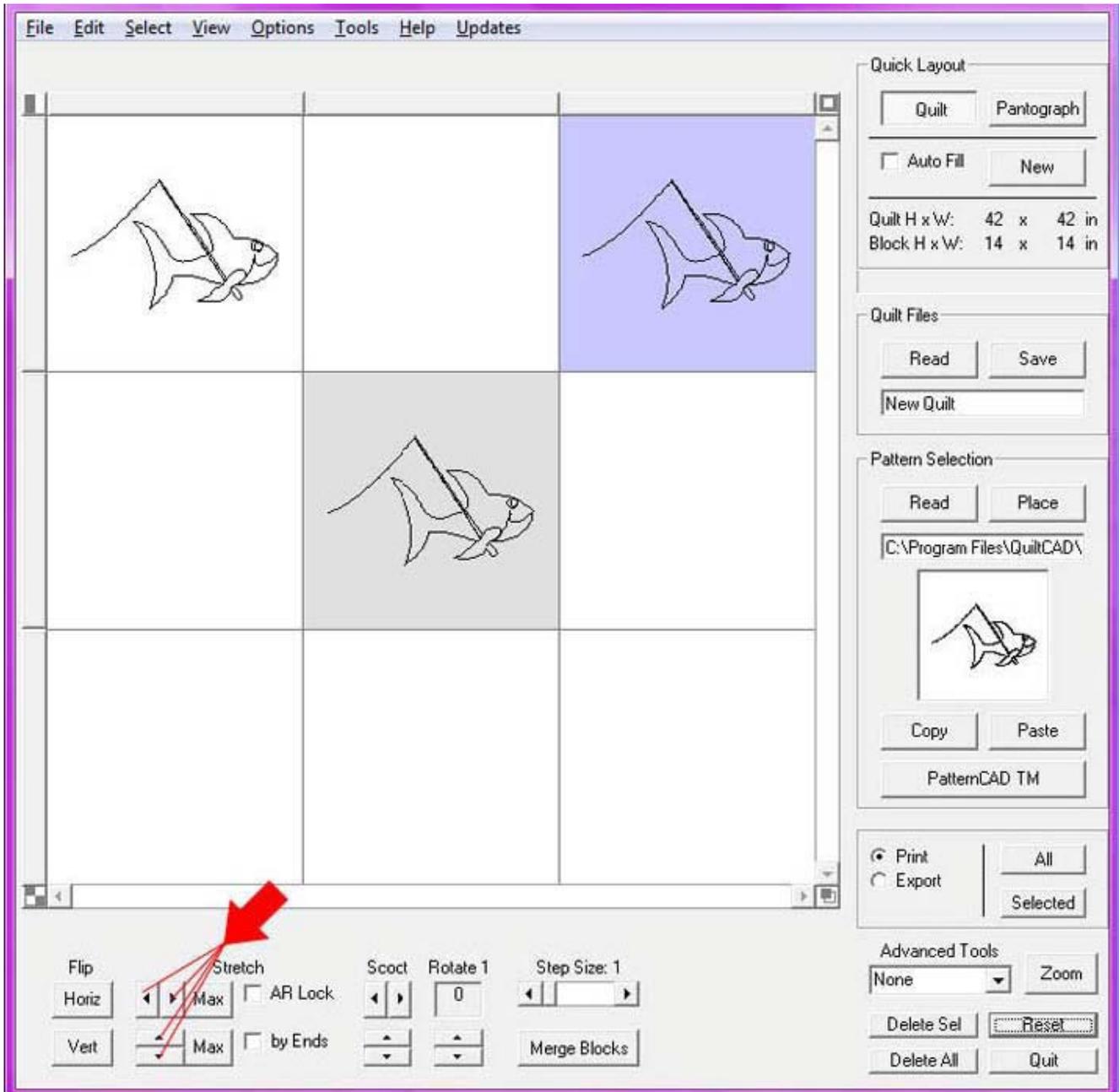
Incremental Stretching

These arrows stretch the pattern in smaller steps, so you can tweak the pattern size.

Note: Though not obvious by looking at them, the left horizontal arrow shrinks the pattern, the right arrow enlarges it.

Also, the 'Step Size' control allows you to adjust the size of the Stretches. The higher the number, the larger the Stretch.

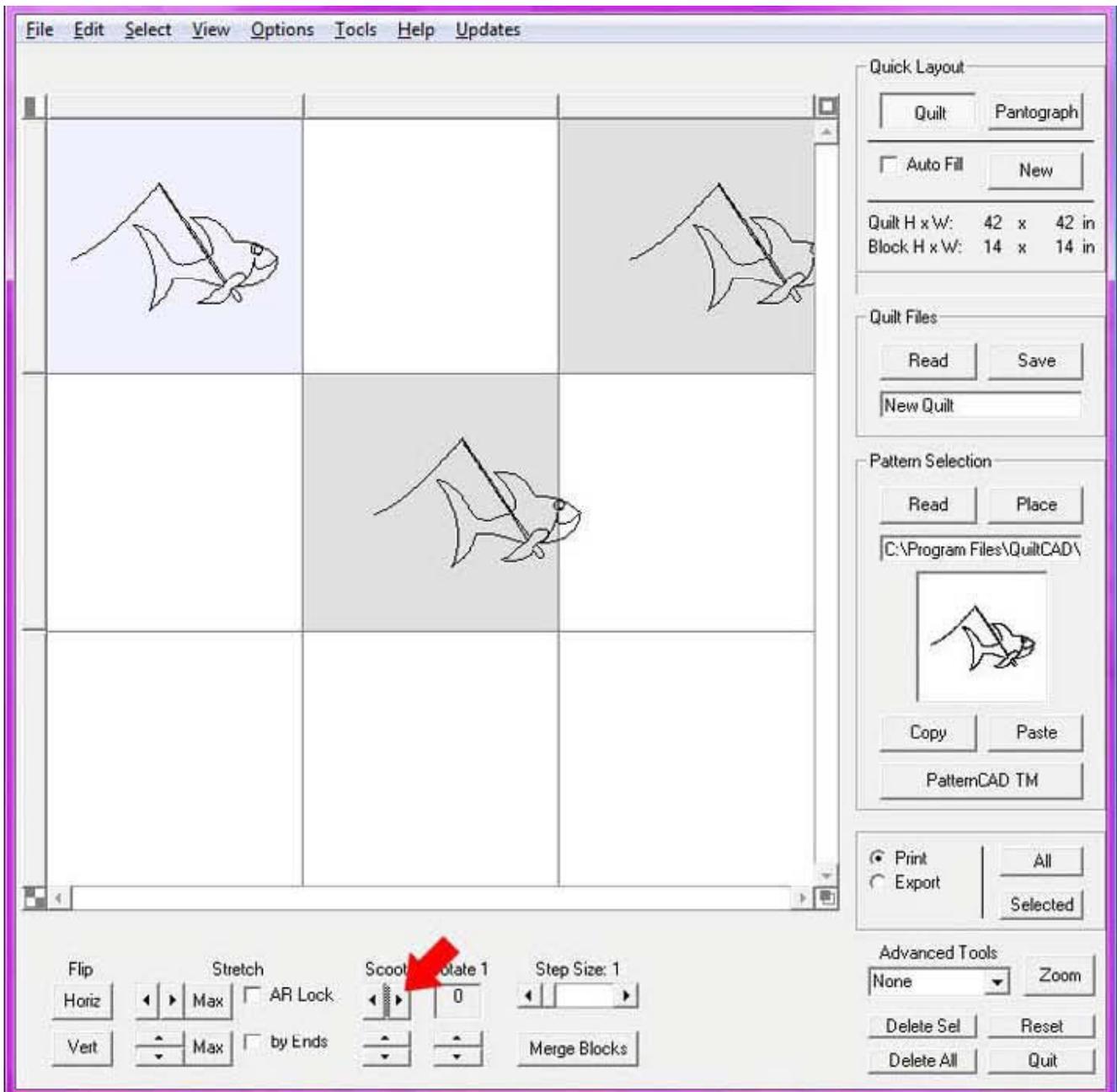
You can also use the AR Lock and by ends when stretching incrementally.



Horizontal Scoot

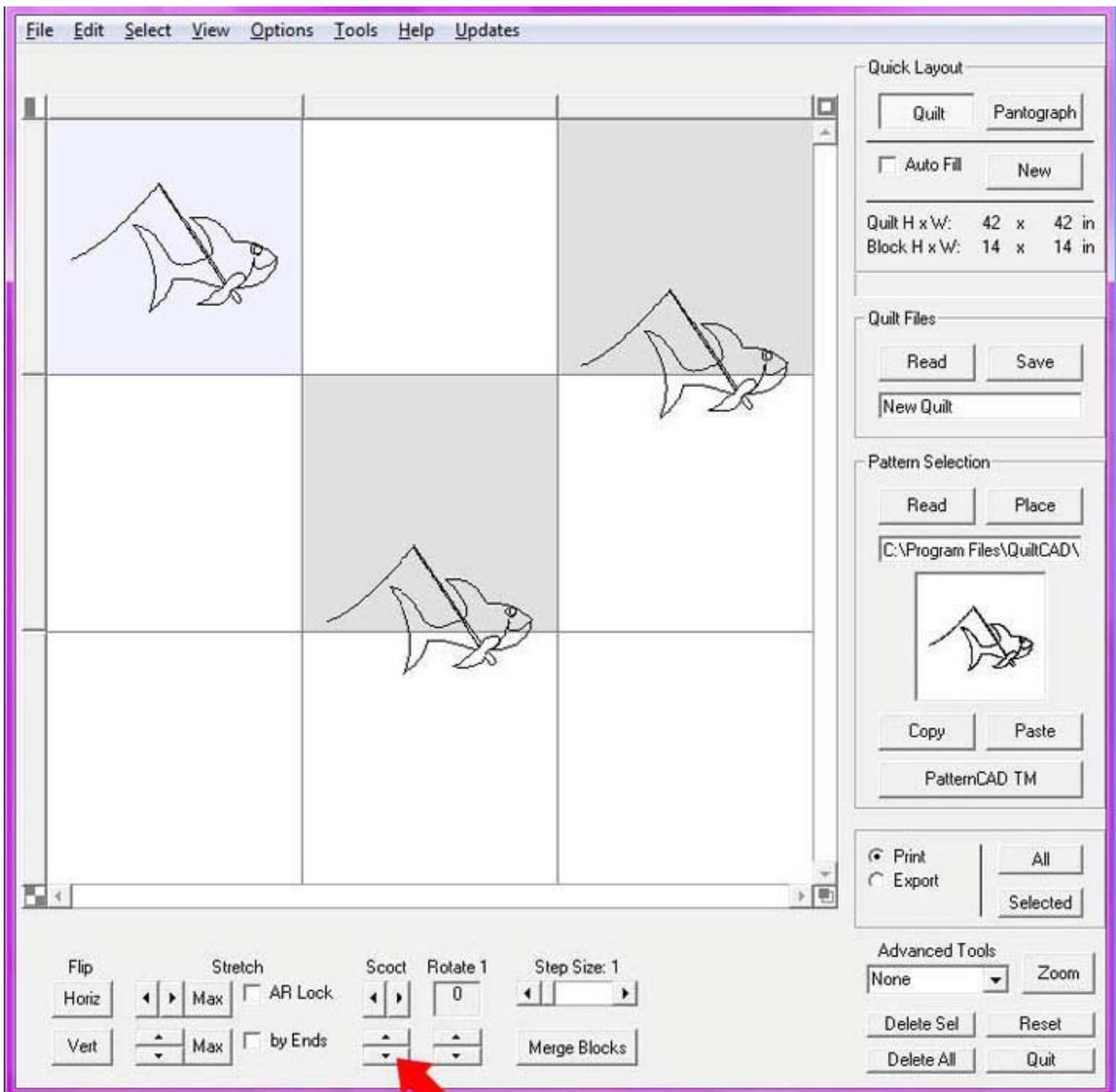
These arrows let you move the pattern to the right or left. Again, the 'Step Size' changes the size of the Scoots. We've intentionally scooted the fish out of their original blocks. As you can see, you can move an item from 1 block into another.

But, if you move it off the edge of the quilt, it will be "clipped", that is, the pattern lines will stop and run along the quilt's edge.



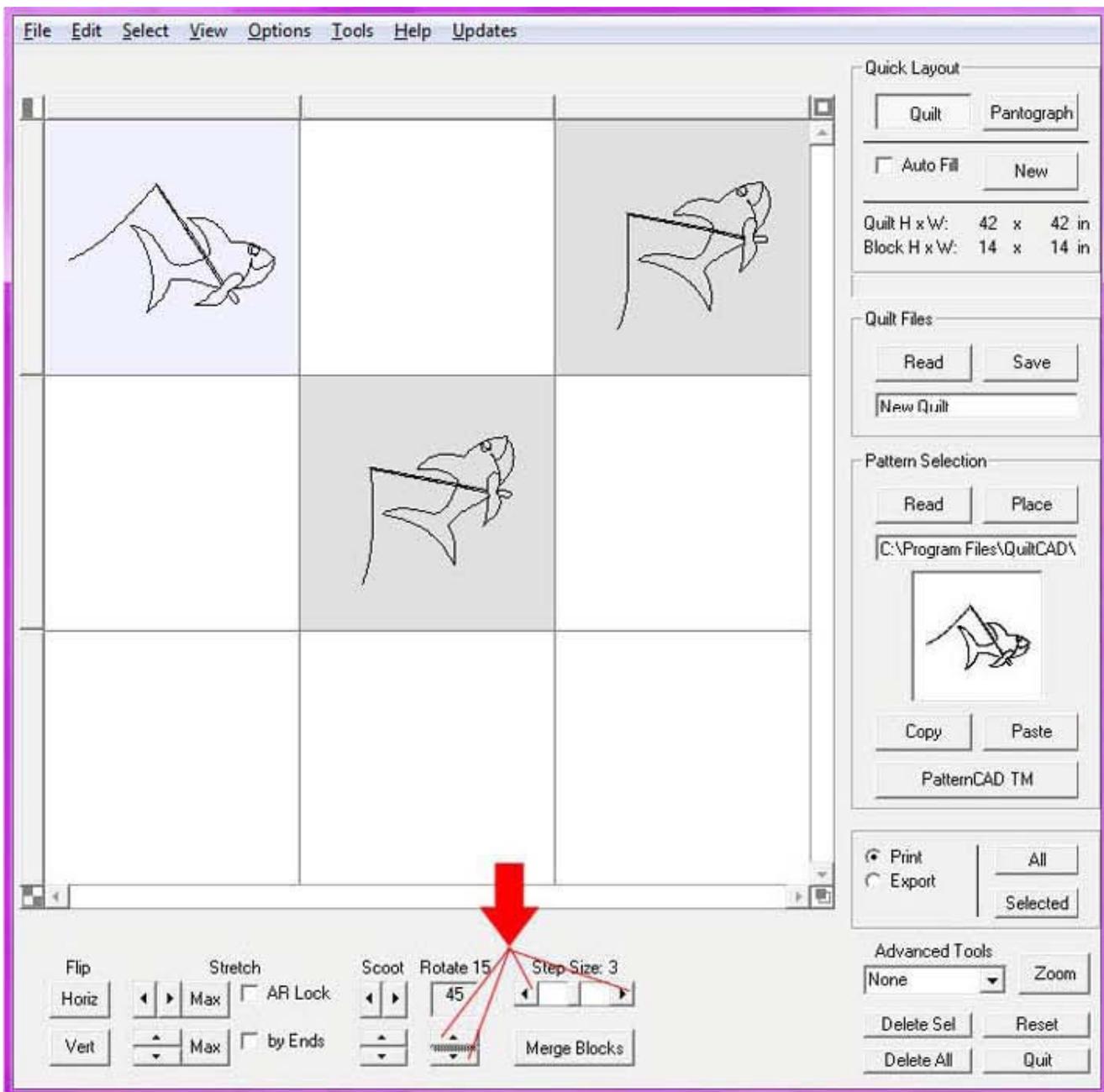
Vertical Scoot

Move the pattern up or down.



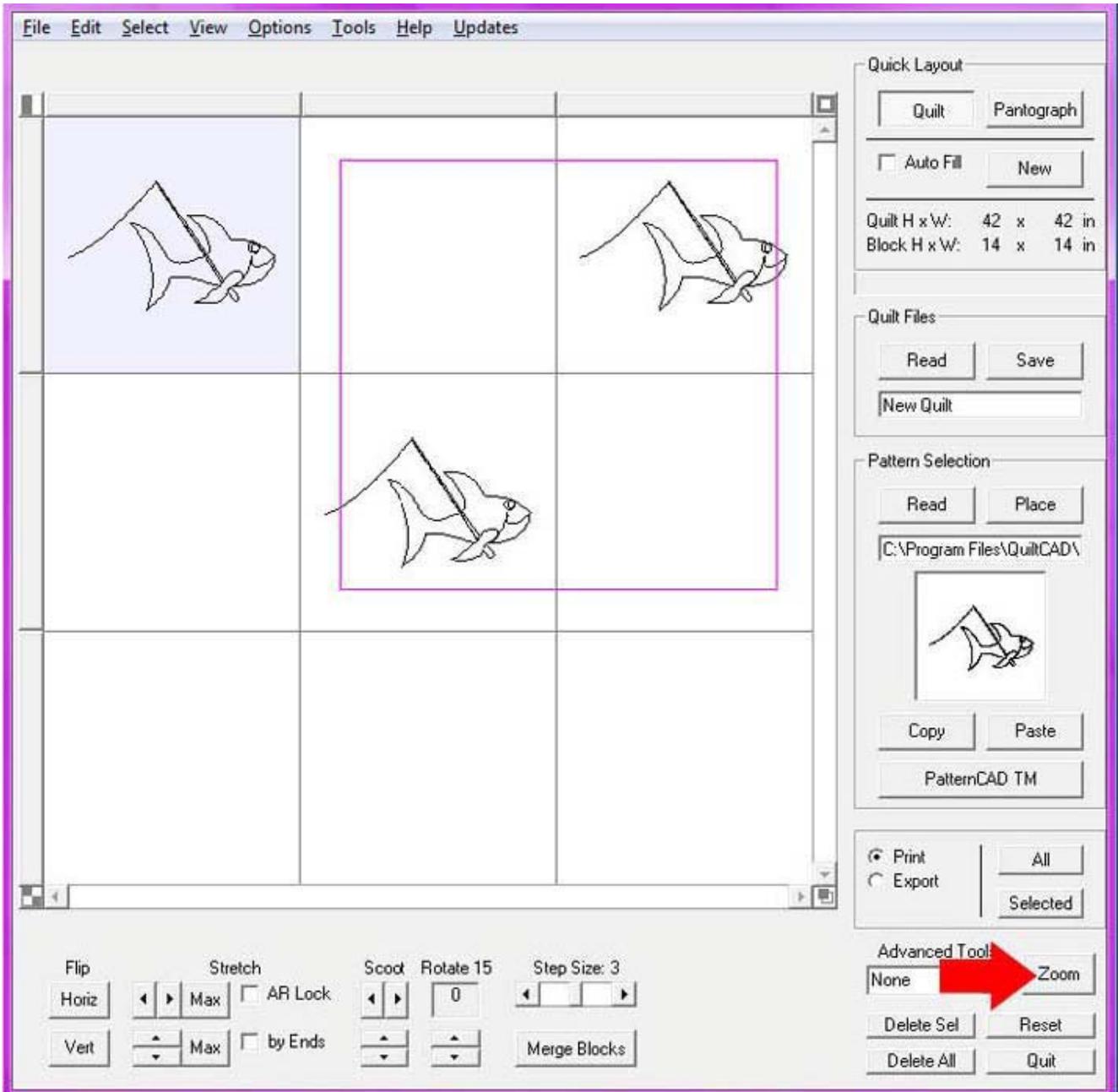
Rotate

Rotate the pattern either clockwise or counter-clockwise. This example has rotated the fish counter-clockwise 45 degrees by clicking twice on the up arrow. Again, the 'Step Size' control adjusts the size of the rotates. Adjust the 'Step Size' and watch the Rotate number change (in degrees).



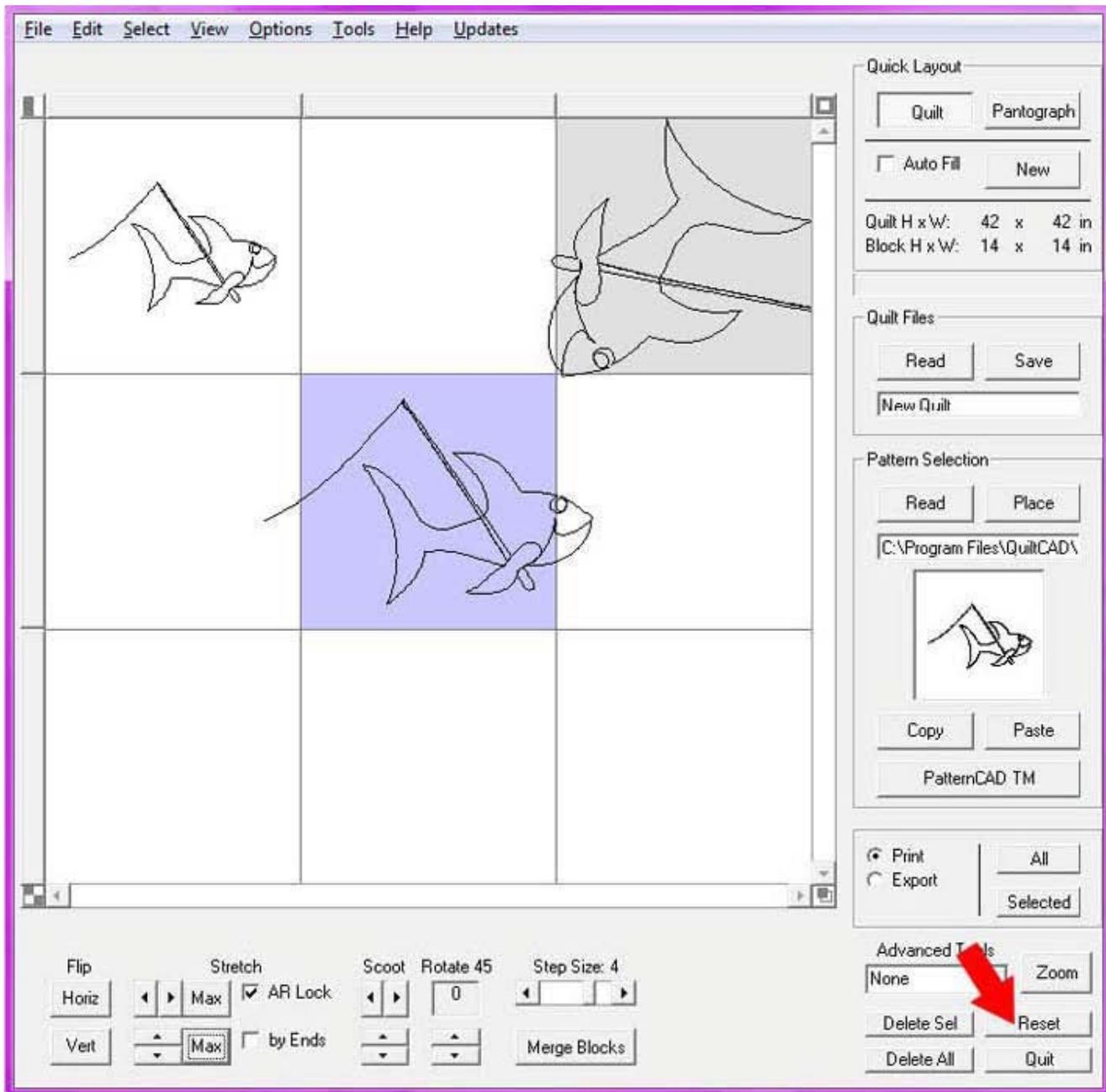
Zooming

You can zoom in or out on the selected blocks by clicking on Zoom. The zoom area covers the rectangle formed by the outside edges of the selected blocks only. The zoomed in view of the lower fish will be cut-off because it is outside the zoom area.



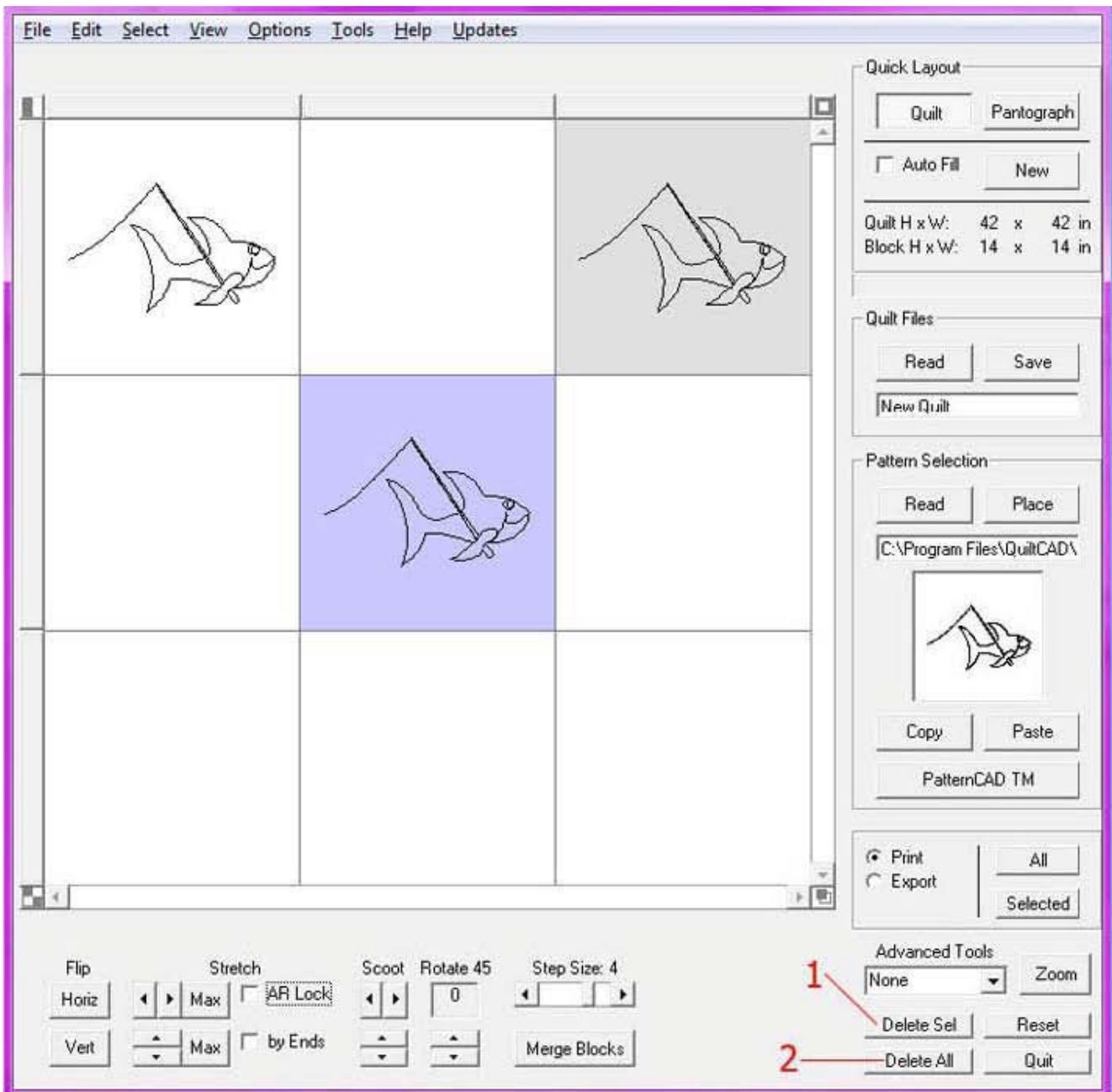
Resetting Patterns

If your patterns are re-shaped beyond where you want them to be, you can restore them to their original state by resetting them.



Deleting Patterns

The Delete Sel (1) button removes only the patterns selected in gray. The Delete All (2) button removes all patterns on the quilt or pantograph.



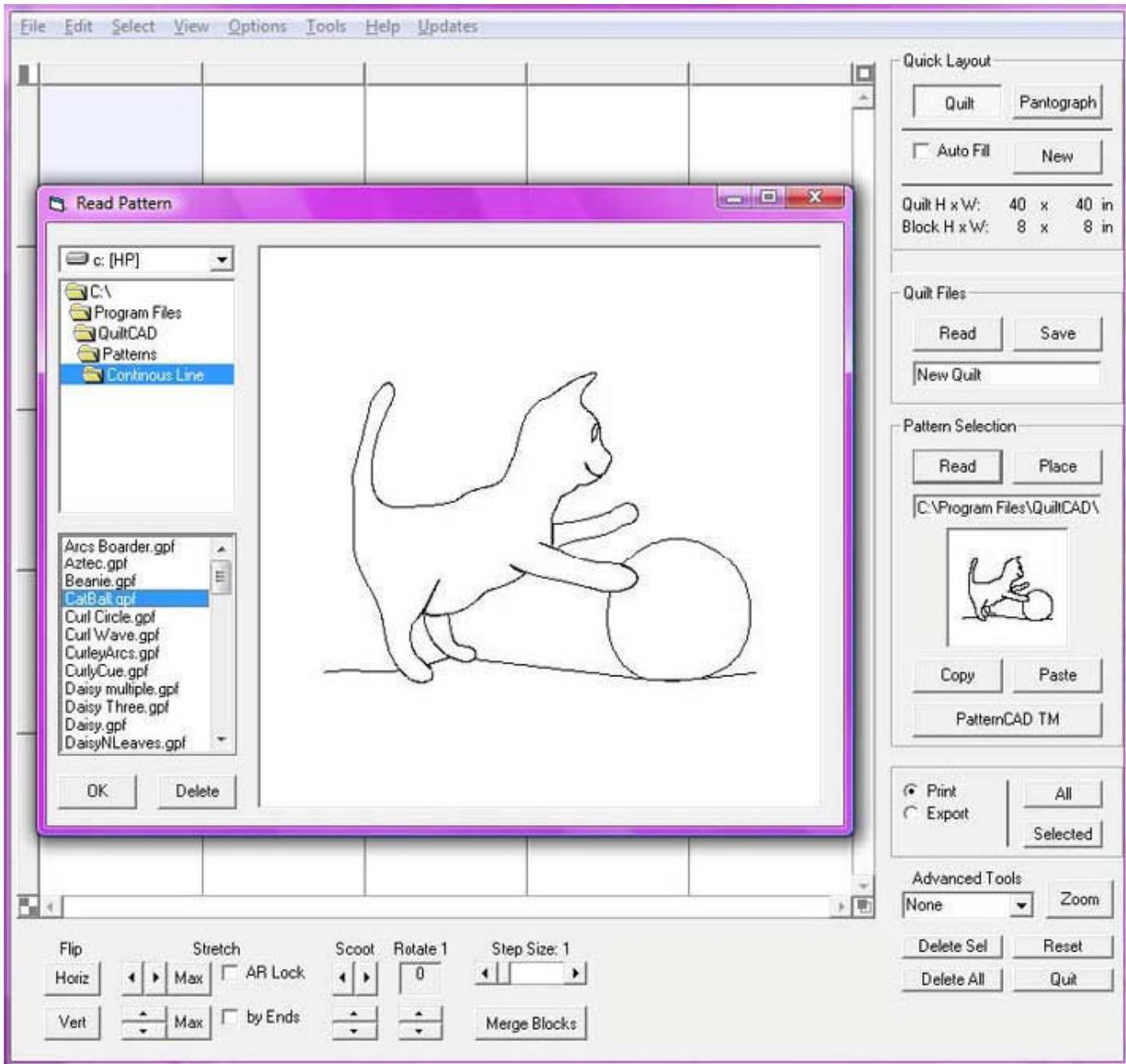
Repeating Patterns

You can place a single pattern in a single block and quickly repeat it multiple times. This is an excellent way to create pantographs or fill a row with perfectly spaced patterns. QuiltCAD provides you with three ways to place and repeat your patterns.



Read your pattern file

Let's use the 'Catball' pattern this time. Click the Pattern Selection box 'Read' button and select your pattern.

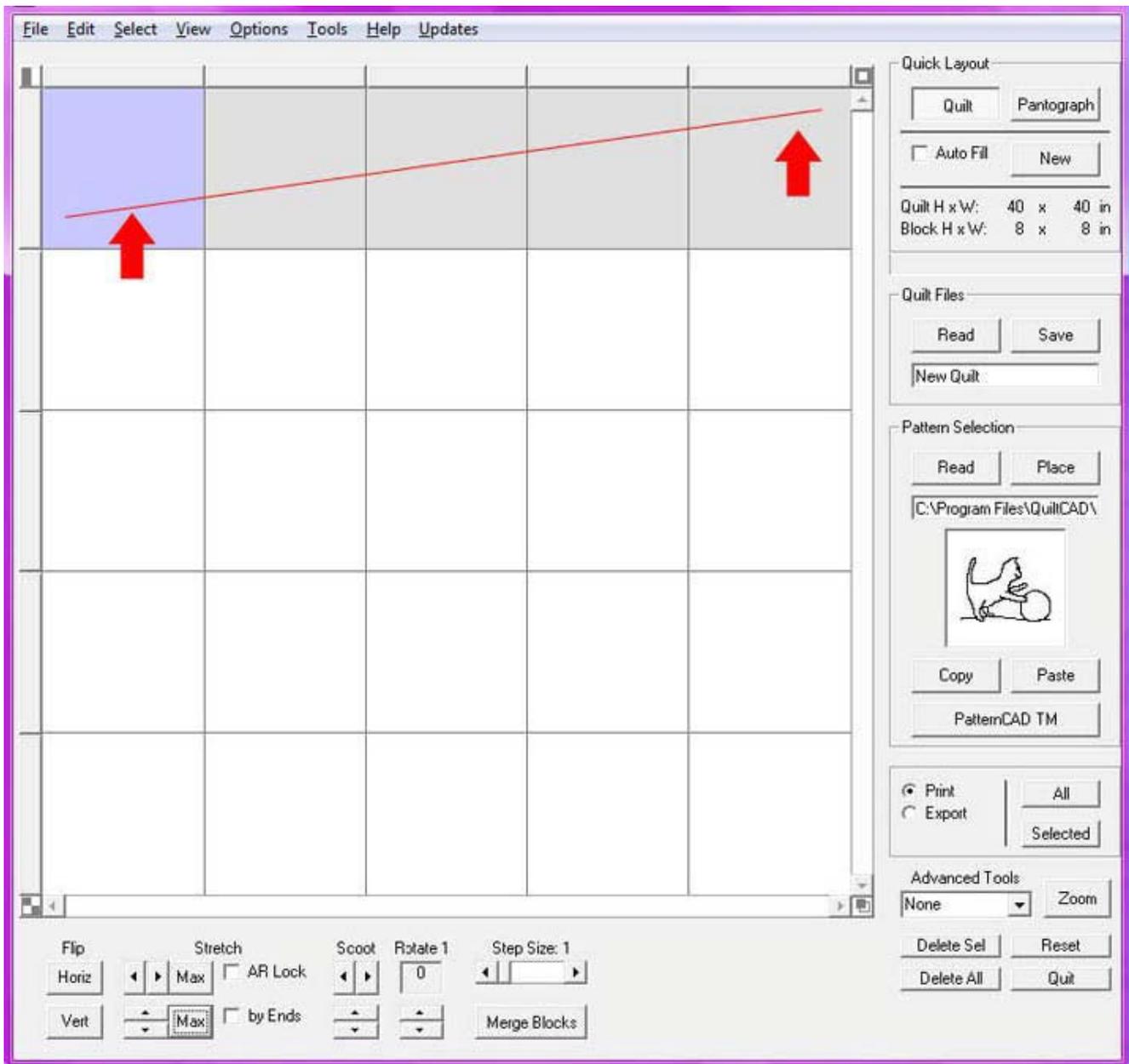


Set-up the top row block merge

We're going to create a single block across the entire row.

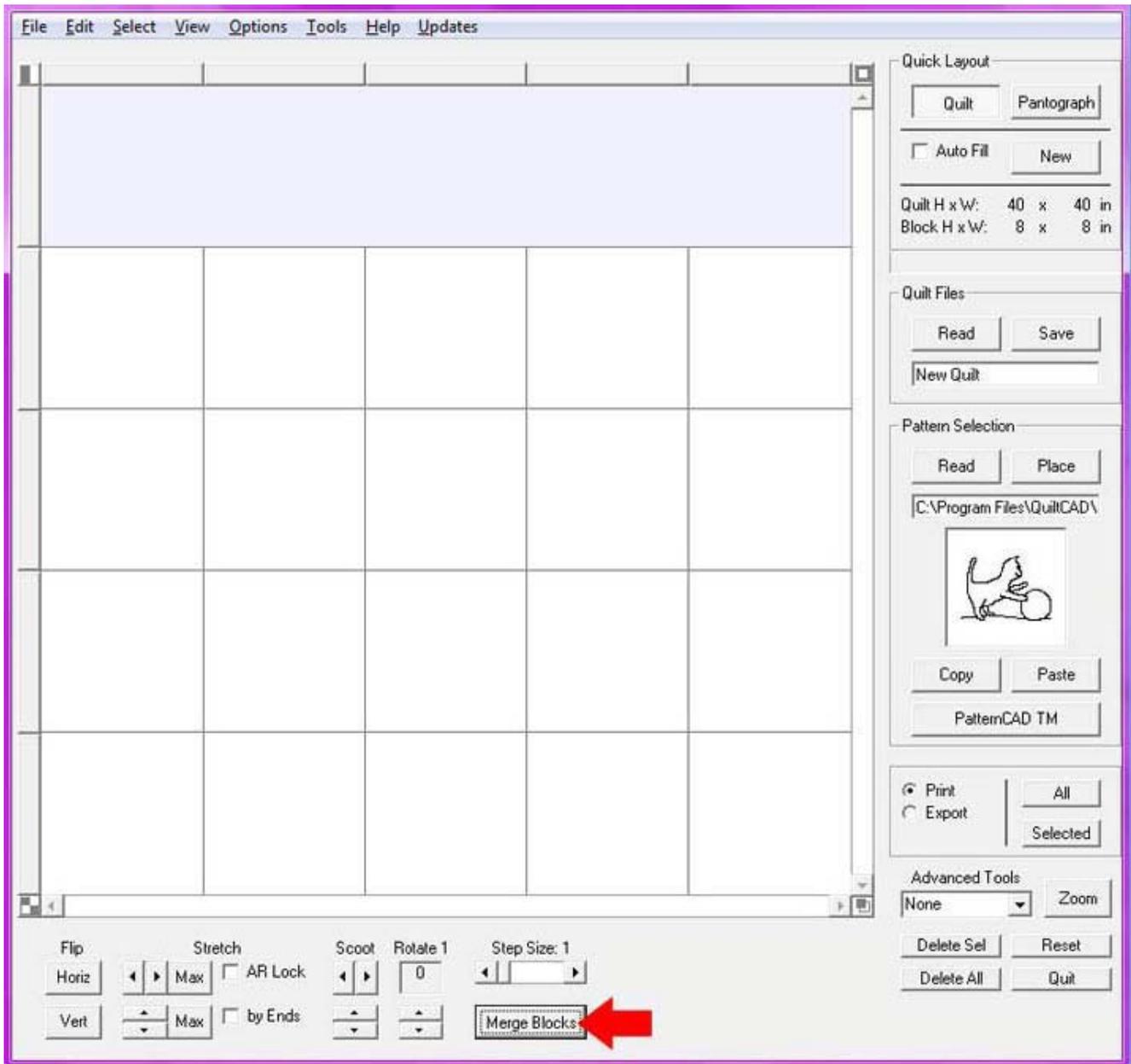
To set this up, drag the mouse cursor (with the left mouse button down) across the entire top row of blocks then release the mouse button. The entire top row of blocks should be selected.

IMPORTANT! To perform a merge, you must select the blocks by dragging the cursor. In other words, selecting blocks with the row and column buttons will not work when setting up the merge!



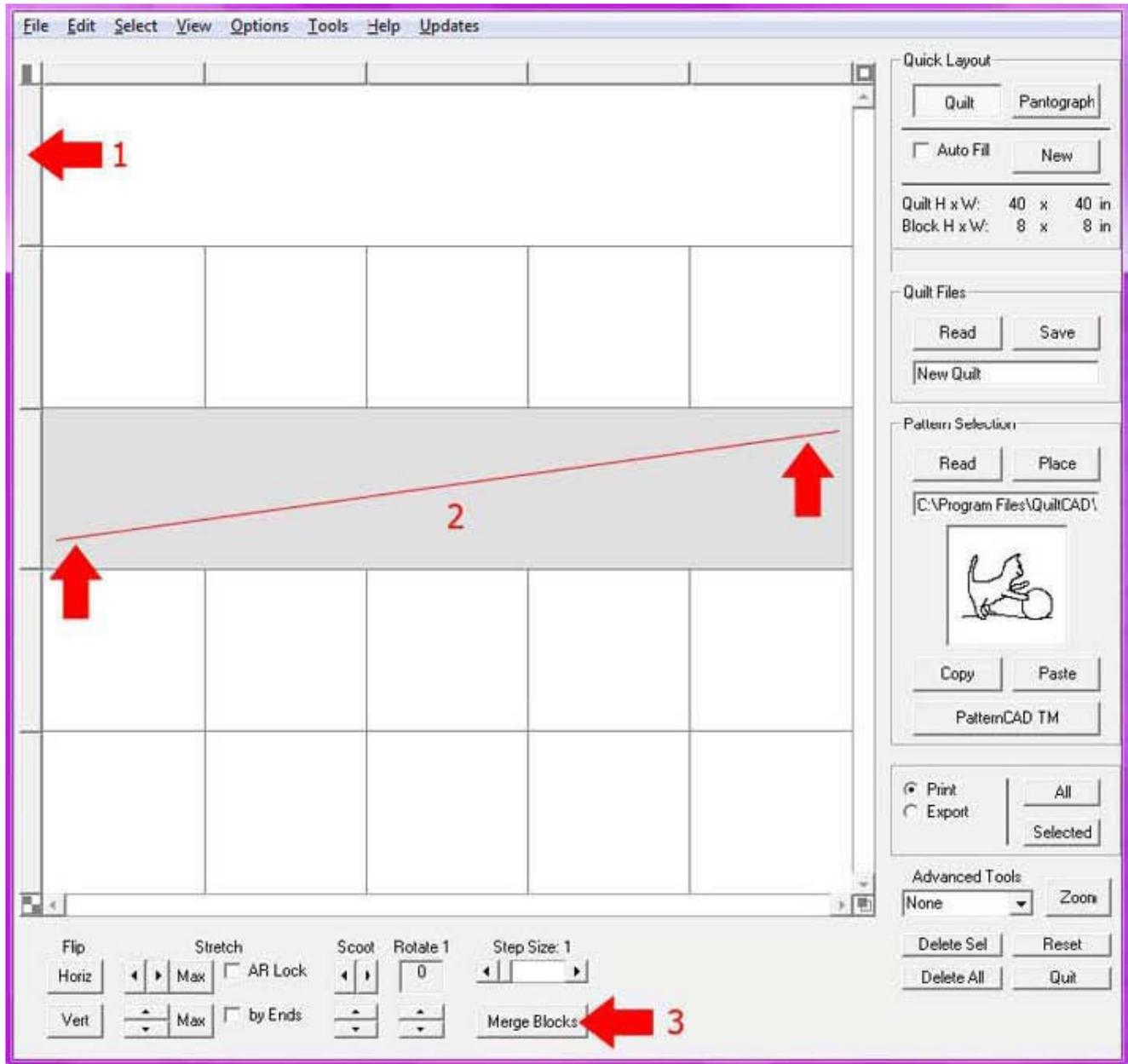
Merge the blocks

This is done by clicking once on the 'Merge Blocks' button. Now your row of selected blocks becomes one single long block.



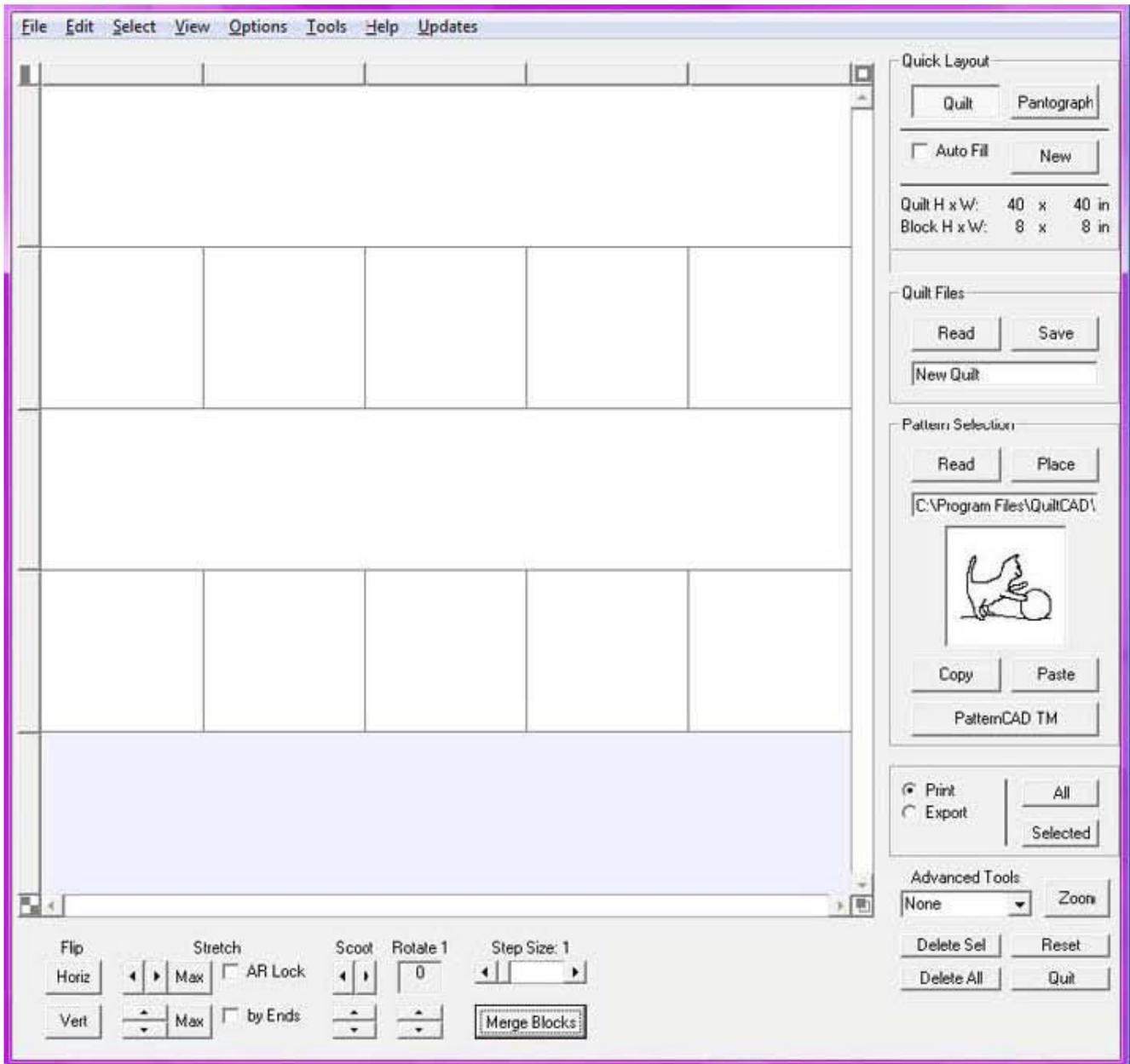
Merge the middle row of blocks

Follow the same procedure, but FIRST, unselect the top row! Drag your mouse cursor across the middle row to select it, and click on the 'Merge Blocks' button. Why unselect the top row first? Because, the 'Merge Blocks' button also un-merges blocks. So make sure only those blocks you want merged are selected.



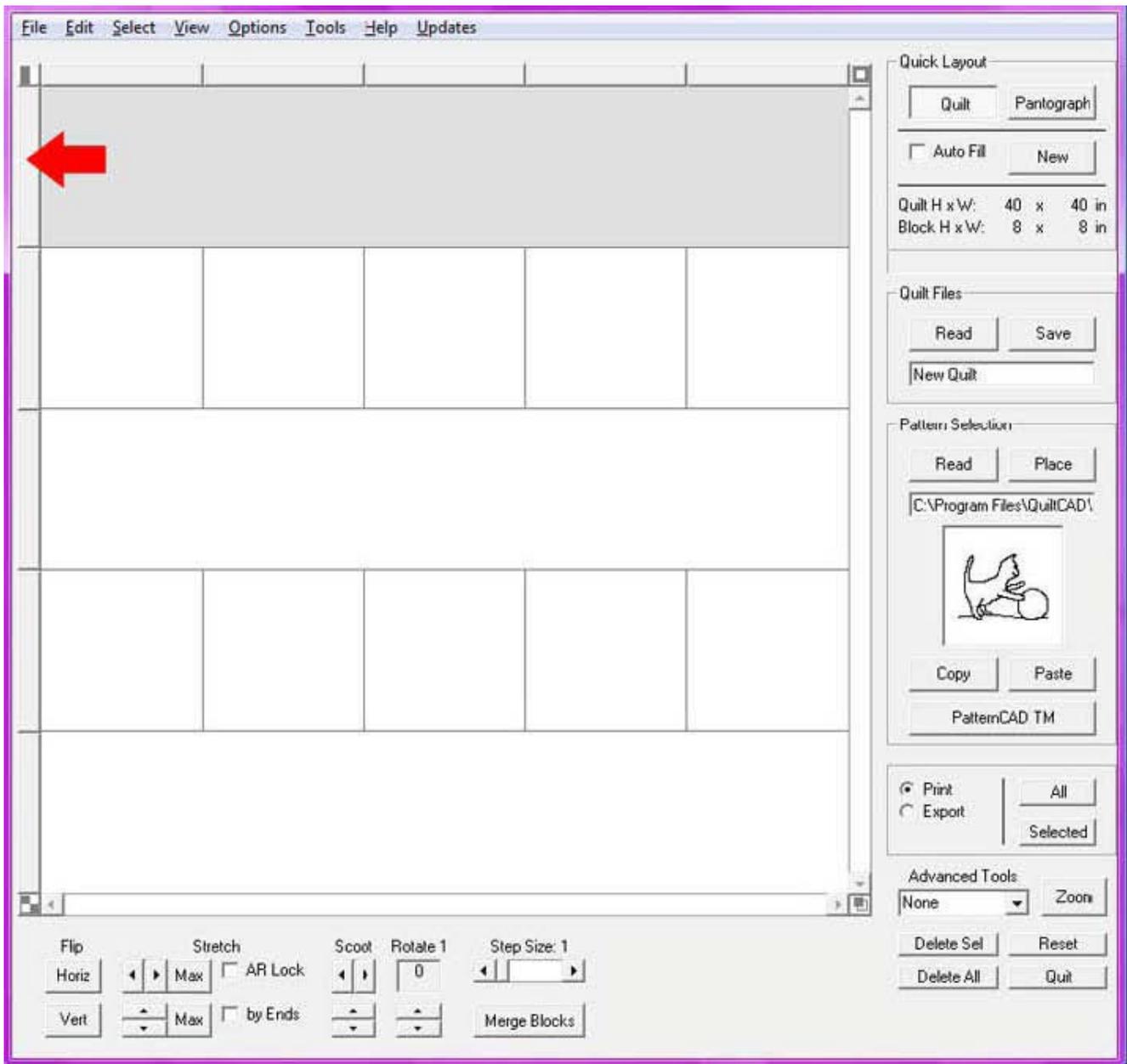
Merge the bottom row of blocks

Merge the bottom row of blocks in the same fashion. Just remember to only have the bottom row selected.



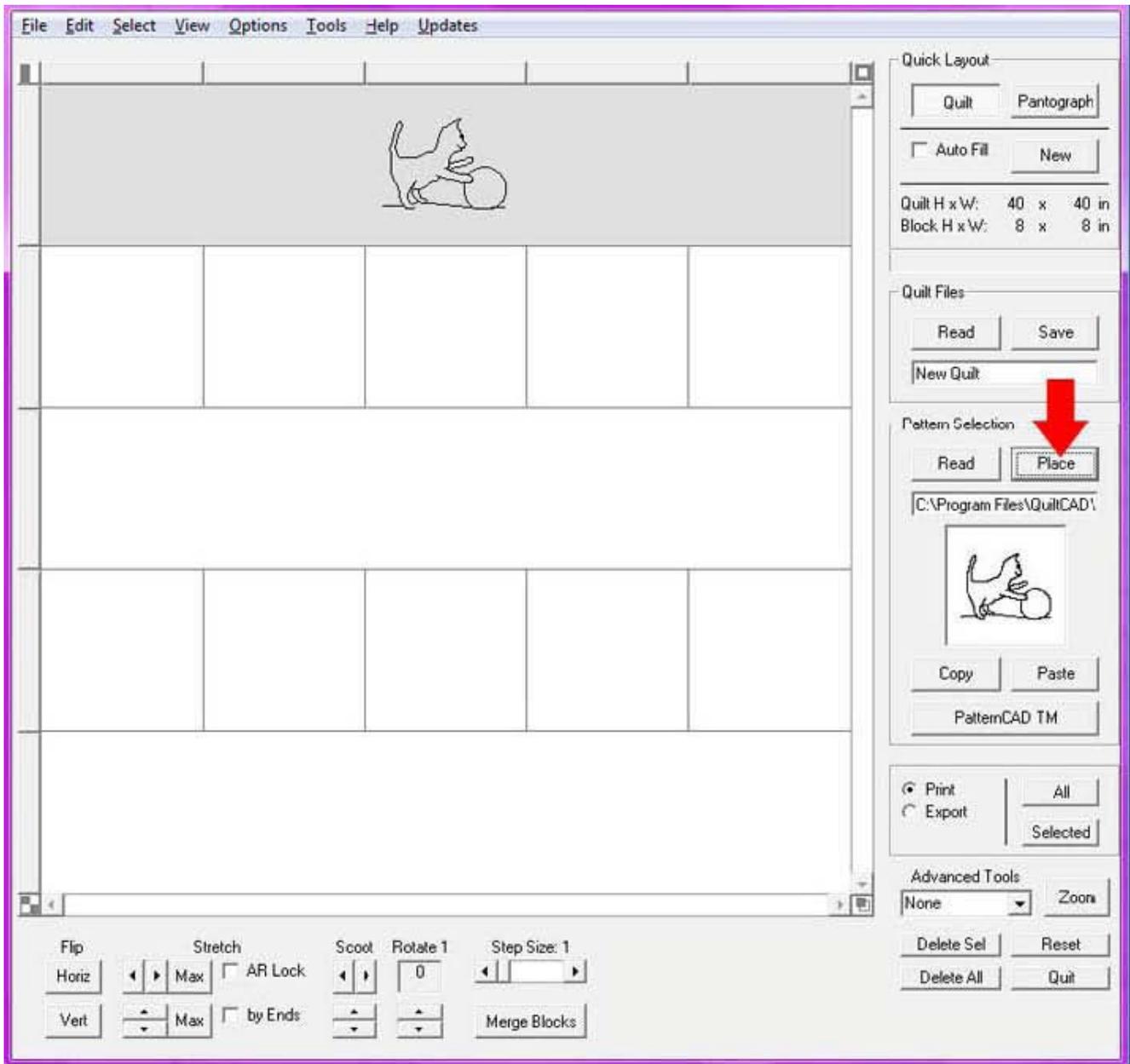
Back to the top row..

Click on the merged blocks until only the top row is selected.



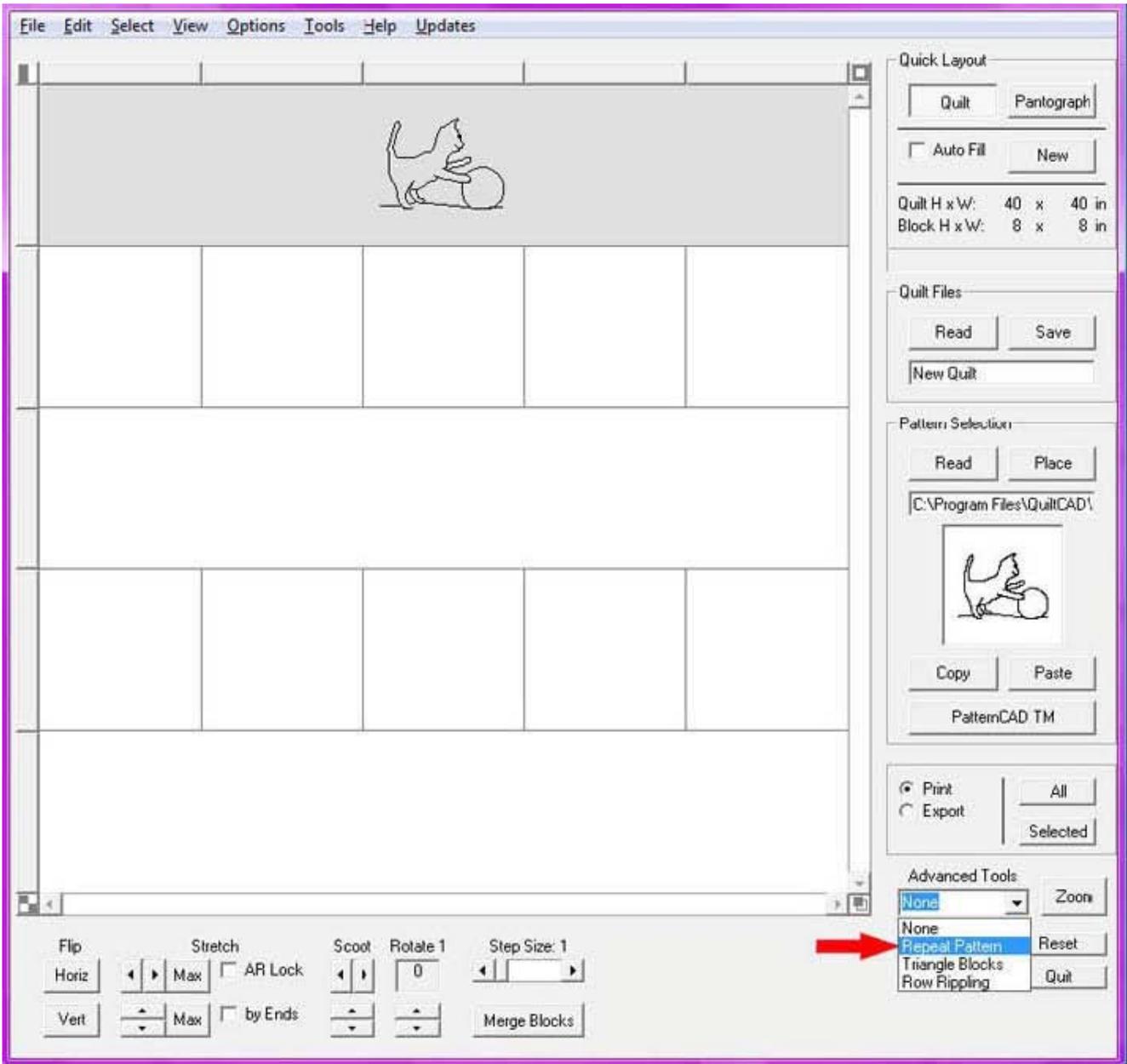
Place the pattern in the block.

Click on the 'Place' button.



Open 'Repeat Pattern' Tool

Click on the 'Advanced Tools' pull-down menu down arrow, then select 'Repeat Pattern.'



'Evenly Space' the pattern

First, select the 'Evenly Spaced' option. Next, click on the up arrow to increase the number of patterns. This tool does quite a few things for you:

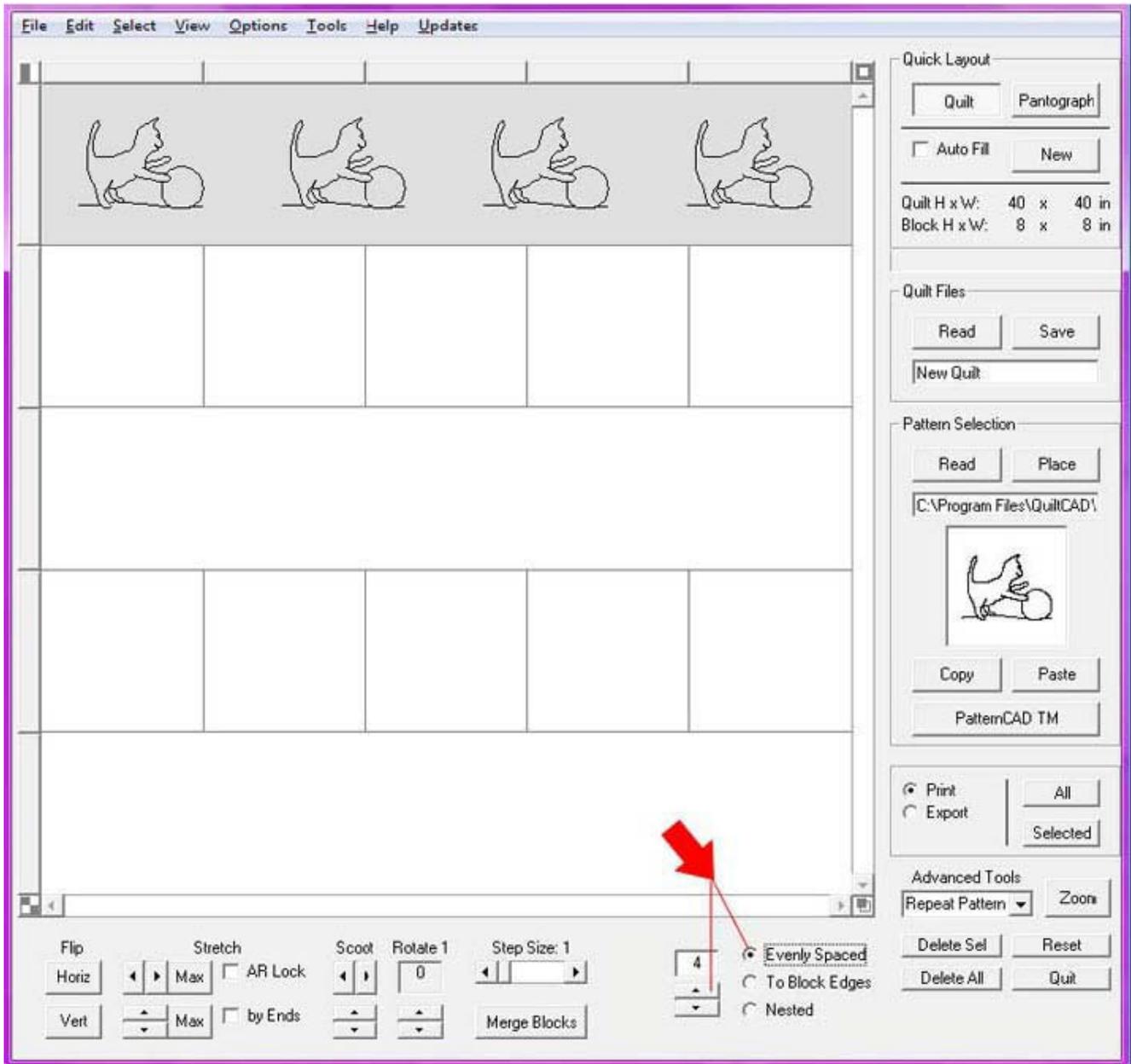
It repeats the pattern within the block the number of copies you specify

The spacing between each pattern is equal

It centers the entire bunch of patterns within the block

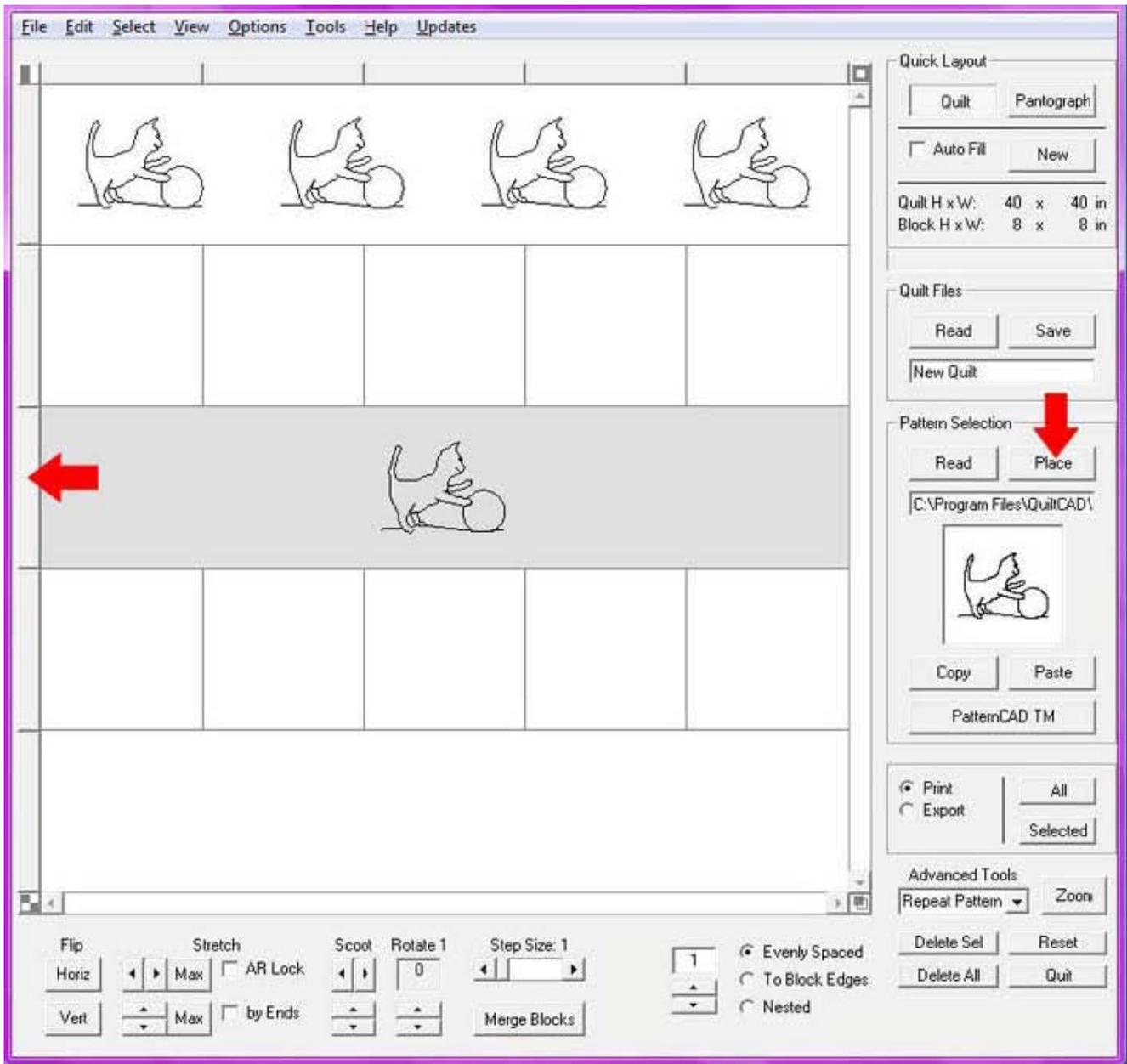
The spaces between the outer edges of the quilt and the patterns are exactly one half the space between each pattern.

Easy, right? Let's go on to the next pattern repeating method.



Place pattern in second row.

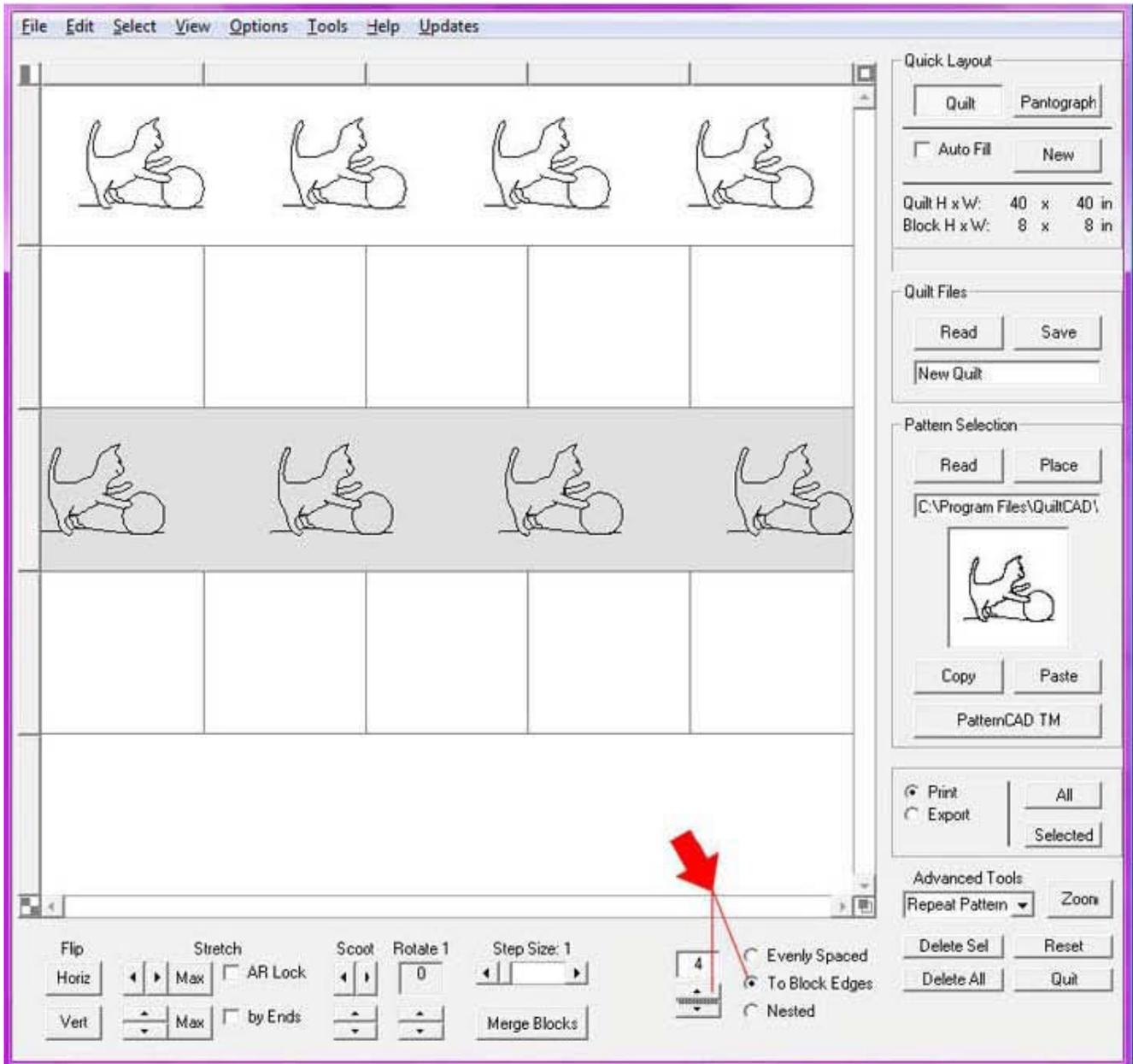
Be sure only the second row is selected, then click on the place button.



Space pattern to 'Block Edges'

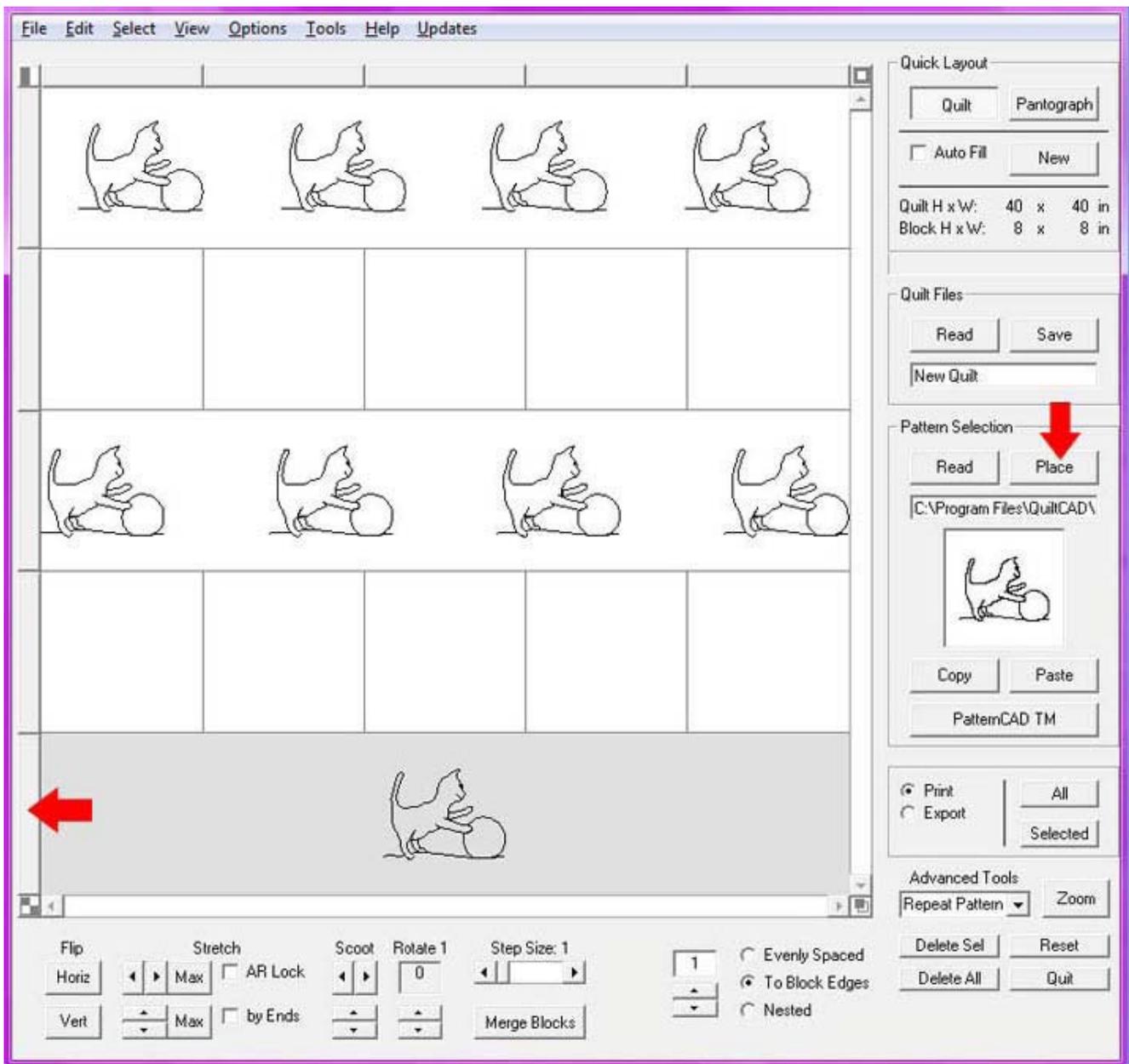
Select the 'To Block Edges' option'. Increase the copy count to 4 again. This is very similar to being evenly spaced except.

The block is filled edge to edge with the evenly spaced repeating pattern. Piece of cake. Ok, now onto 'Nesting' or end-to-end pattern placement.



Place pattern in bottom row

Don't forget to have only the bottom row selected before clicking on 'Place'!

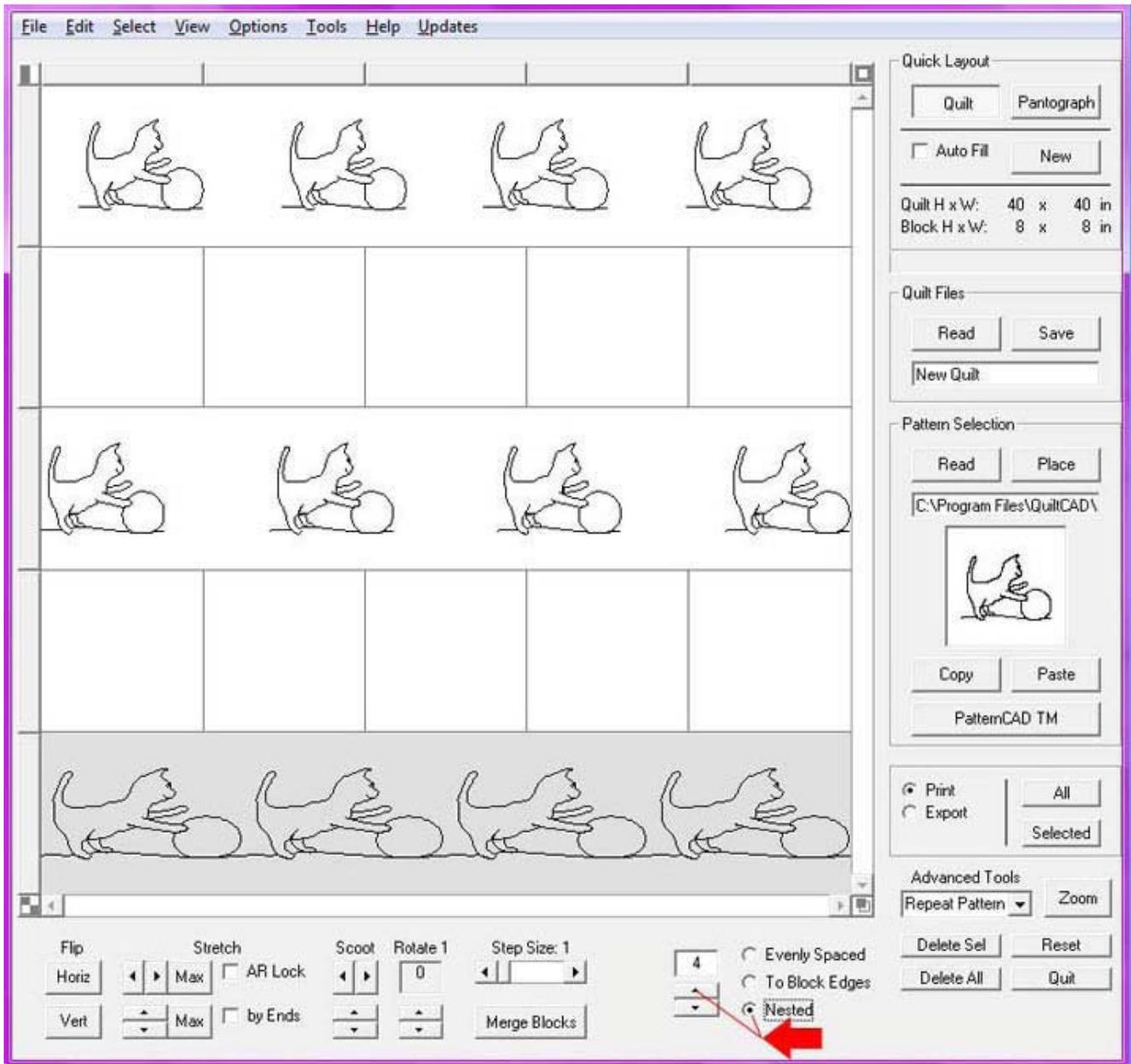


'Nest' the pattern

This time, select the 'Nested' option.

The first thing you'll notice is the pattern stretches from one end of the block to the other. No worries..

Just start incrementing the counter, and the patterns completely fill the block while connecting to each other end-to-end. This is a very quick and simple way to create your pantographs. The more copies you make, the more the patterns will squish together as they connect and multiply. Maybe we should have used a rabbit for the pattern.



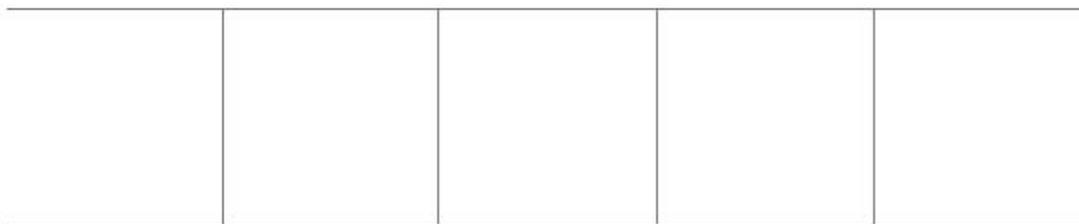
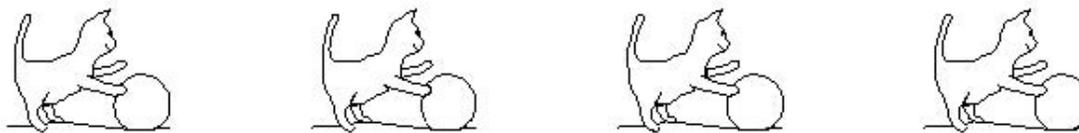
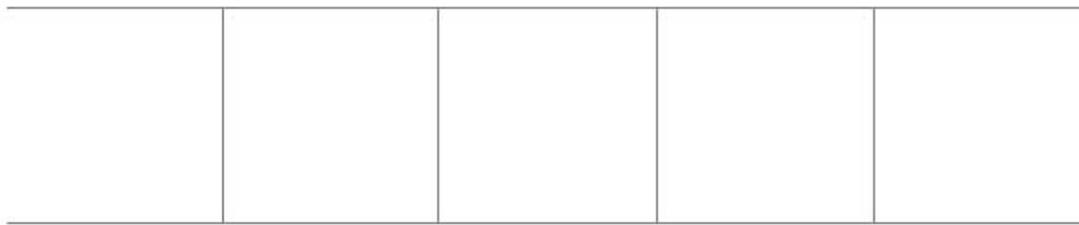
A few final words..

You need to be aware of a few things.. Nesting does not work with patterns whose starting and ending points are the same. The copies just lay on top of each other so it looks like one copy stretching across the block.

Also, you may need to stretch the pattern vertically a bit to maintain good proportions when nesting. When using 'Evenly Spaced' or 'To Block Edges', if you make too many copies, the patterns will overlap. There's nothing wrong with that, if that is what you want.

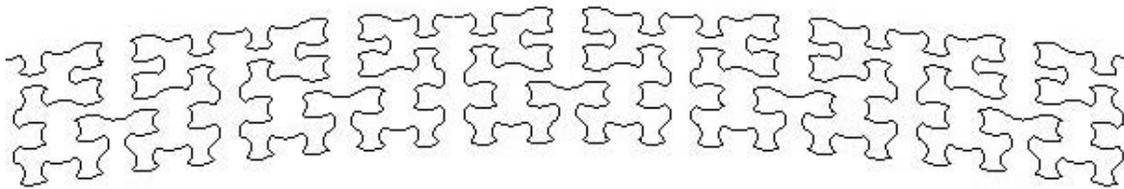
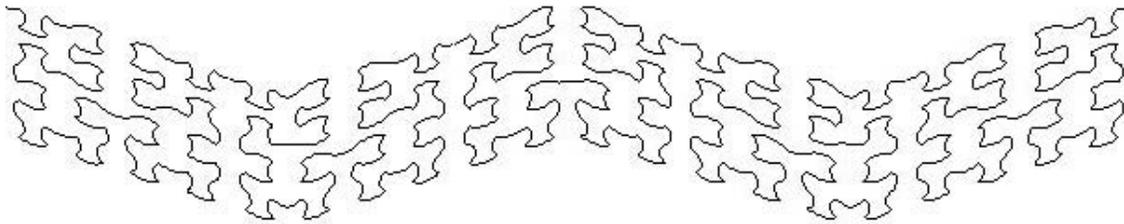
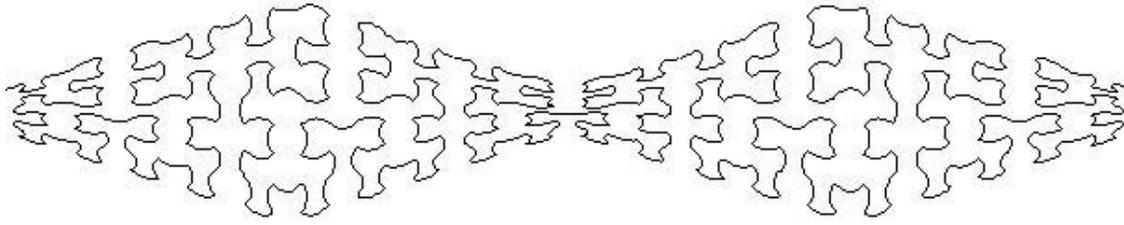
Depending on what repeat mode you're using, rotating and horizontal stretching may not give you the results you'd expect. Flipping and vertical stretching will always work as expected.

Lastly, sometimes the repeat tool might say a block is 'Nesting' (for example), but it's really not. The menu does not always update properly. Just unselect and re-select the option of your choice and you'll be back on track.



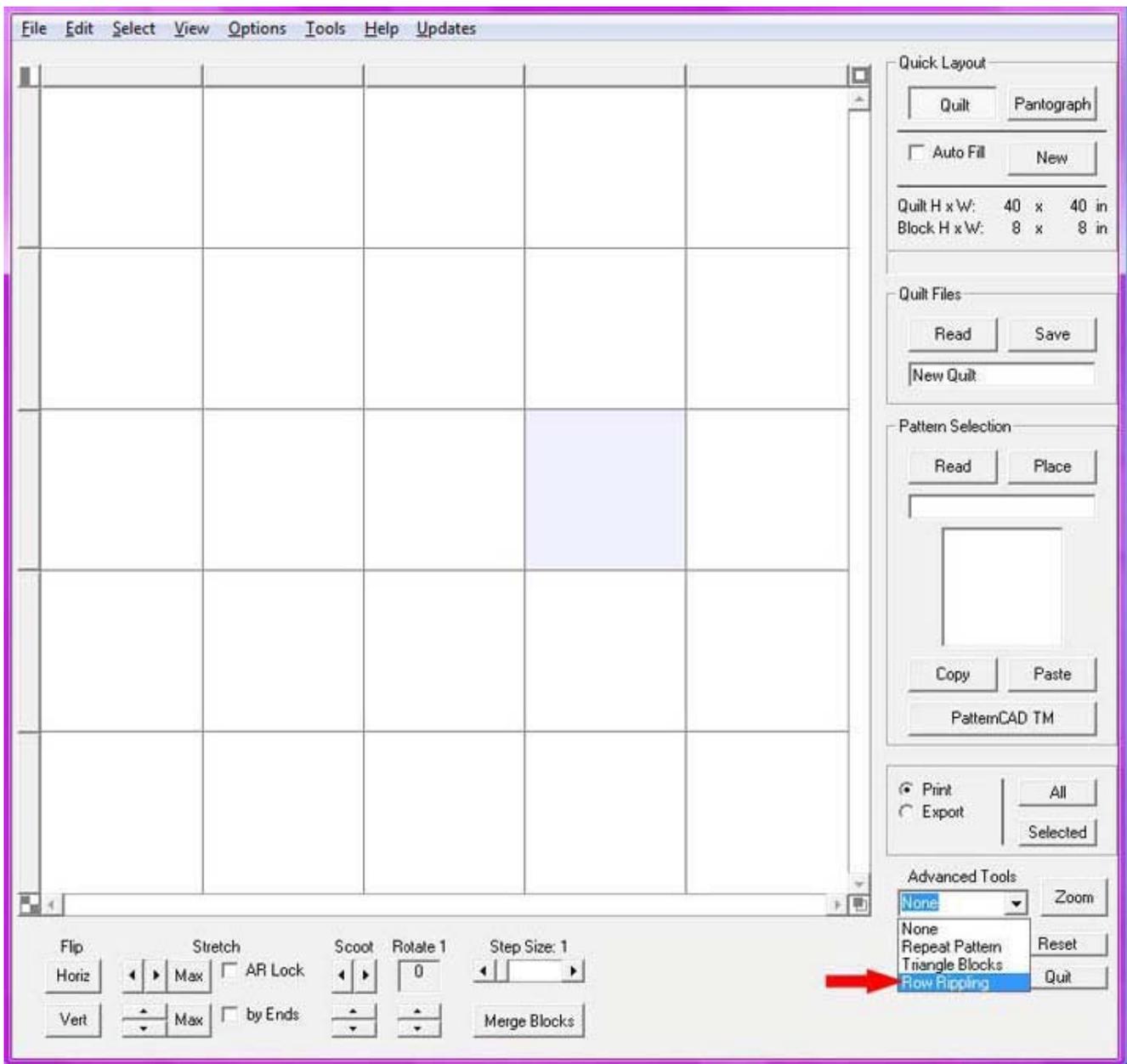
Row Rippling

Row Rippling lets you add some rather astounding effects to your quilt's patterns. Our instructions will show you the basics of Rippling, then it's up to you to experiment and see what fancy designs you can come up with.



Select the 'Row Rippling' Tool

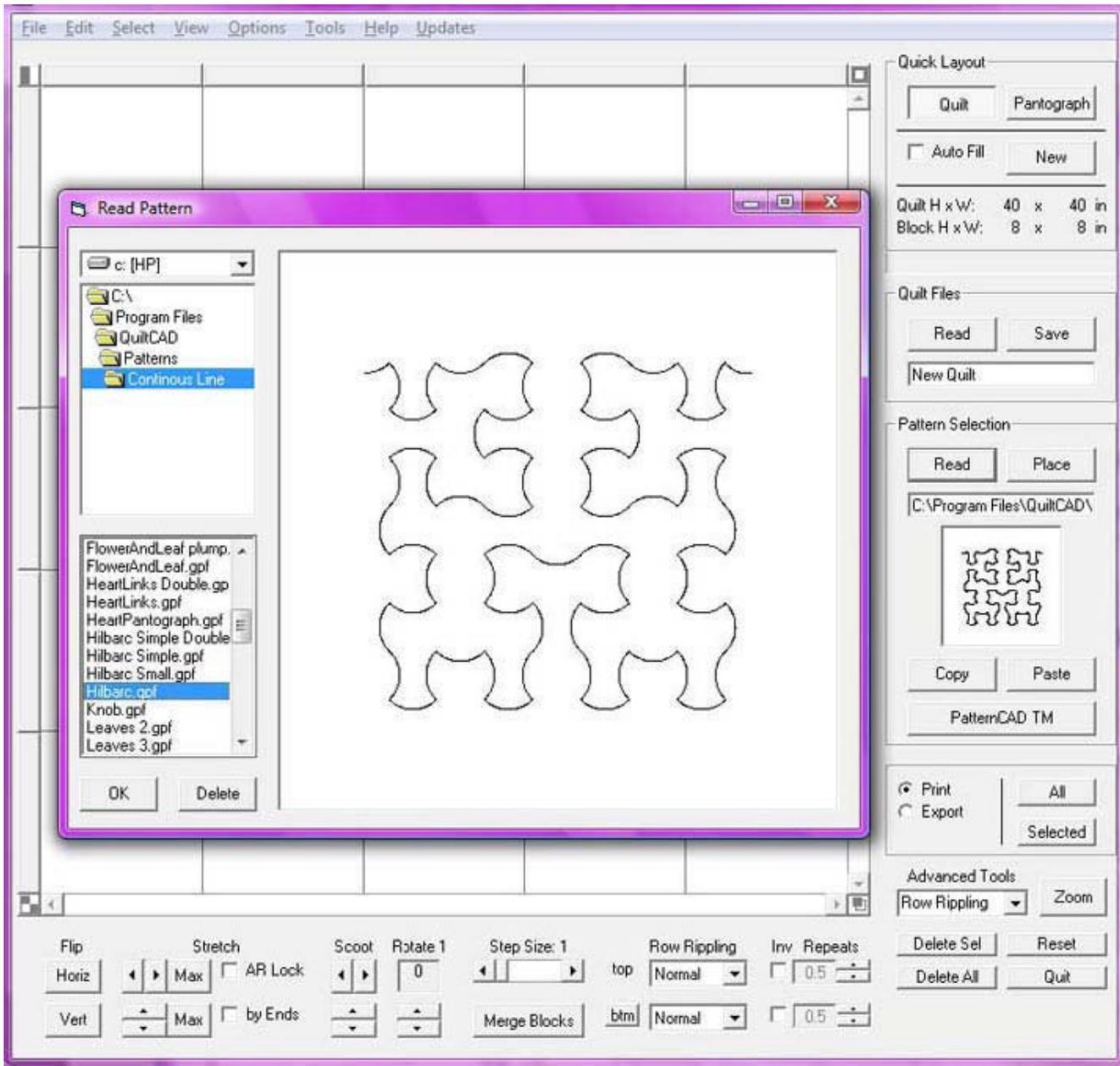
Let's start off with opening up the Row Rippling tool in the 'Advanced Tools' pull-down menu.



Select the 'Hilbarc' pattern

Next we'll use the 'hilbarc' pattern, so open it using the usual pattern reading method.

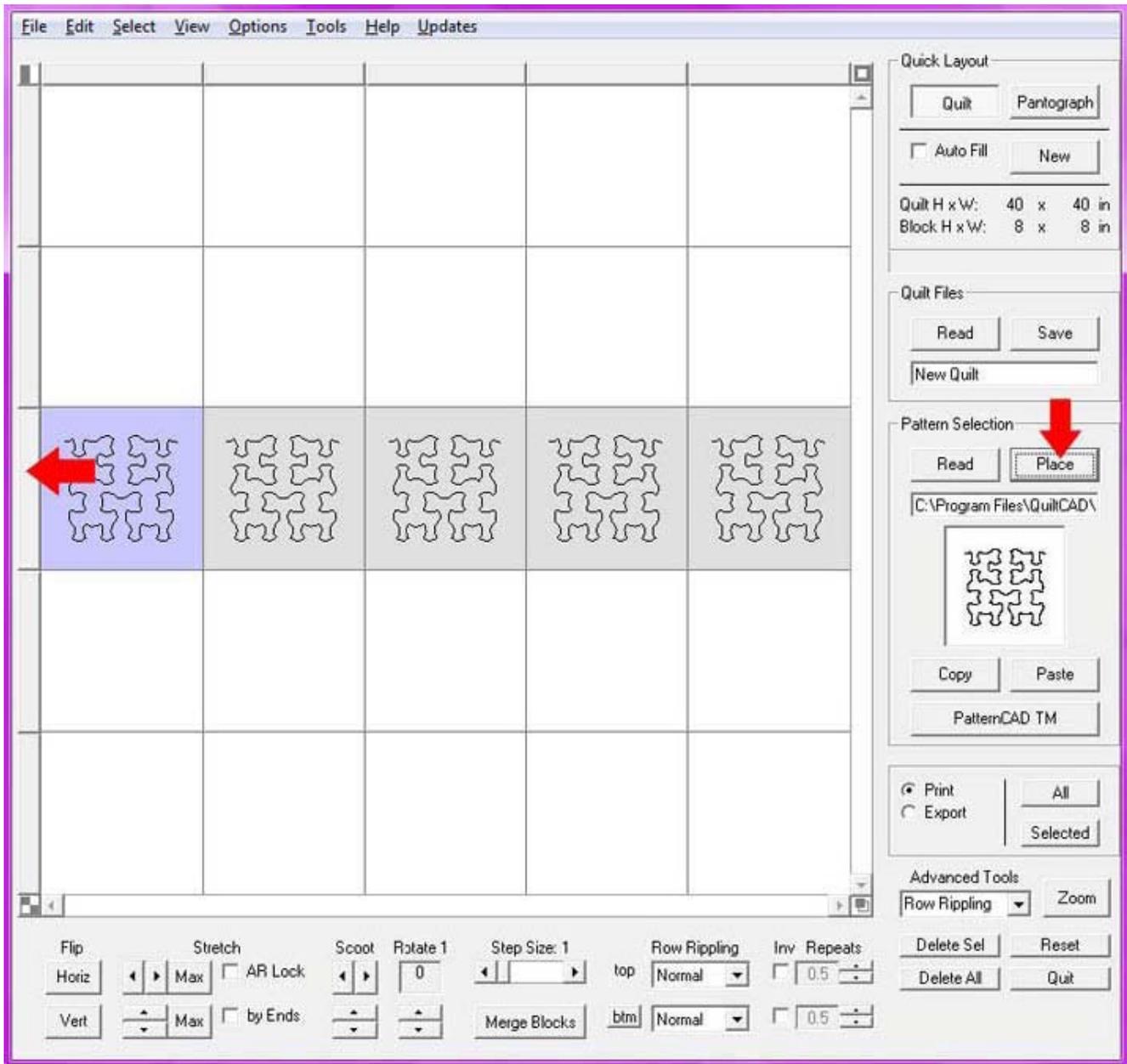
By the way, this pattern, (as with all patterns in QuiltCAD help) is made with the companion pattern editor PatternCAD. You'll be surprised how easy it is to create patterns such as these.



Select a row and place the pattern

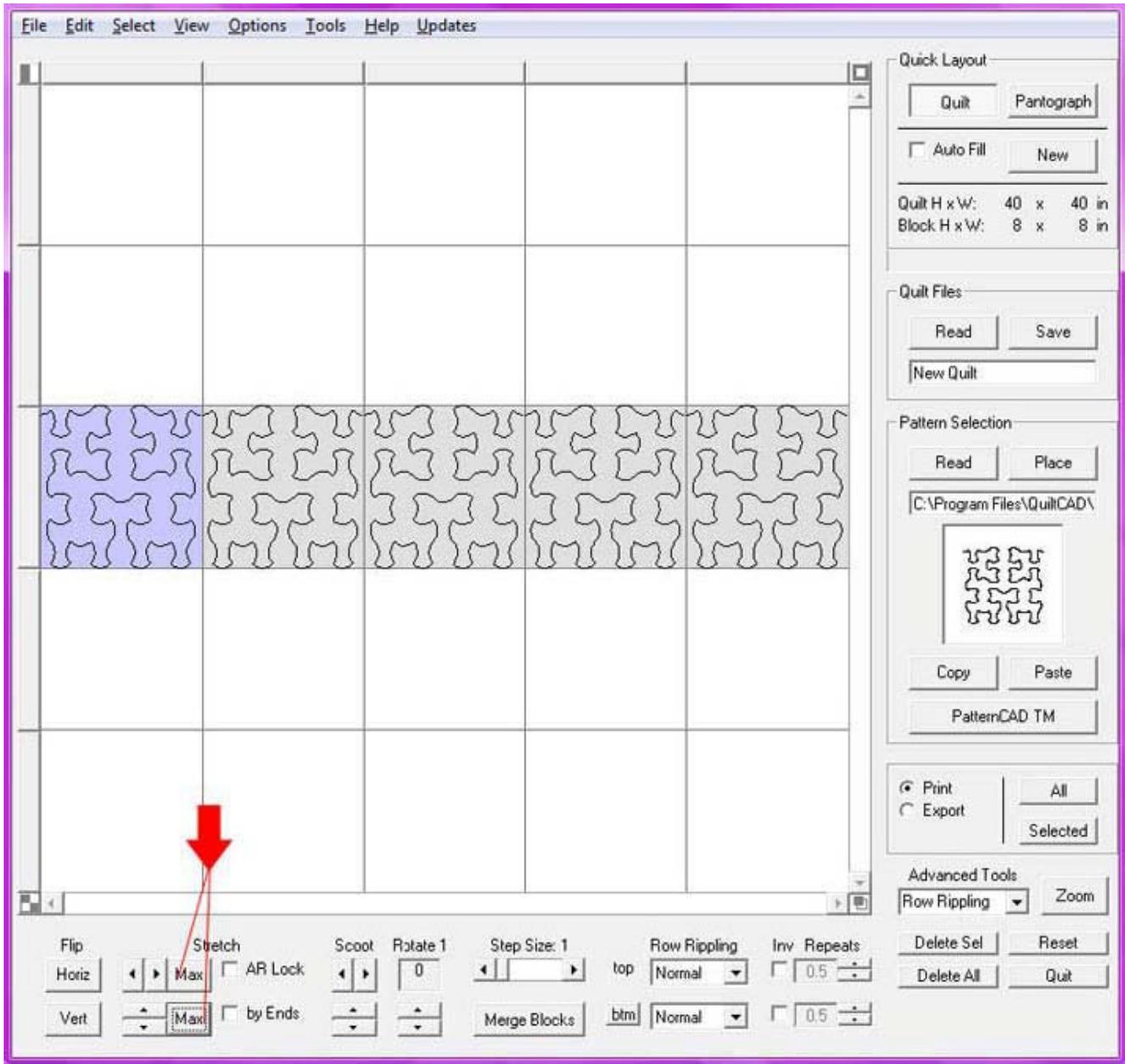
You can select any row you want, just select one using a row select button, or by dragging the mouse cursor across an entire row of blocks.

Then, of course, 'Place' the pattern into the blocks.



Stretch the pattern

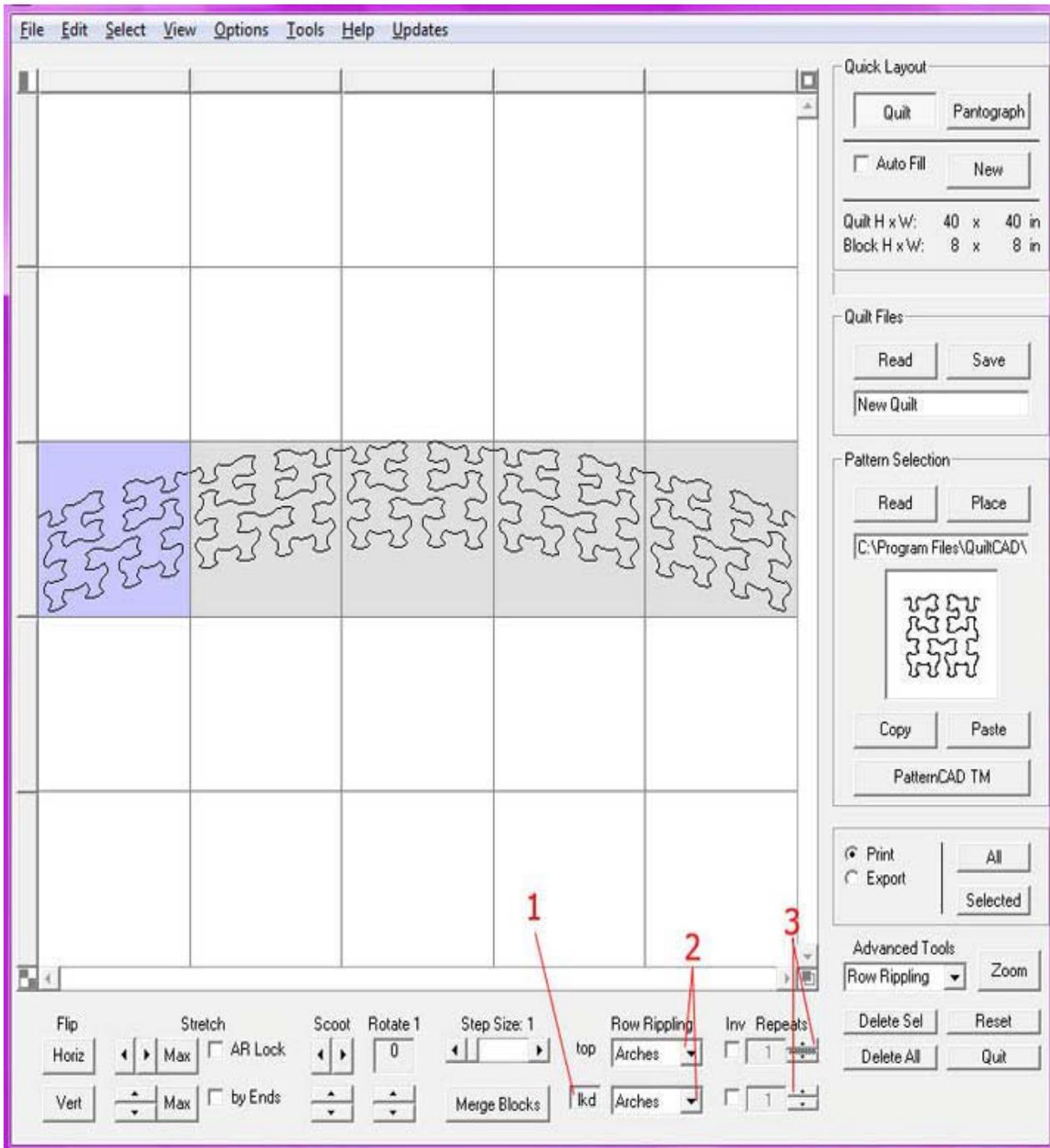
We want to entirely fill the blocks with the pattern, so click on the two Max buttons under the 'Stretch' label. Remember you can also use the By Ends or AR Lock stretch as well. Instantly, you have now completely stippled an entire row, with a continuous line.



Ripple the row

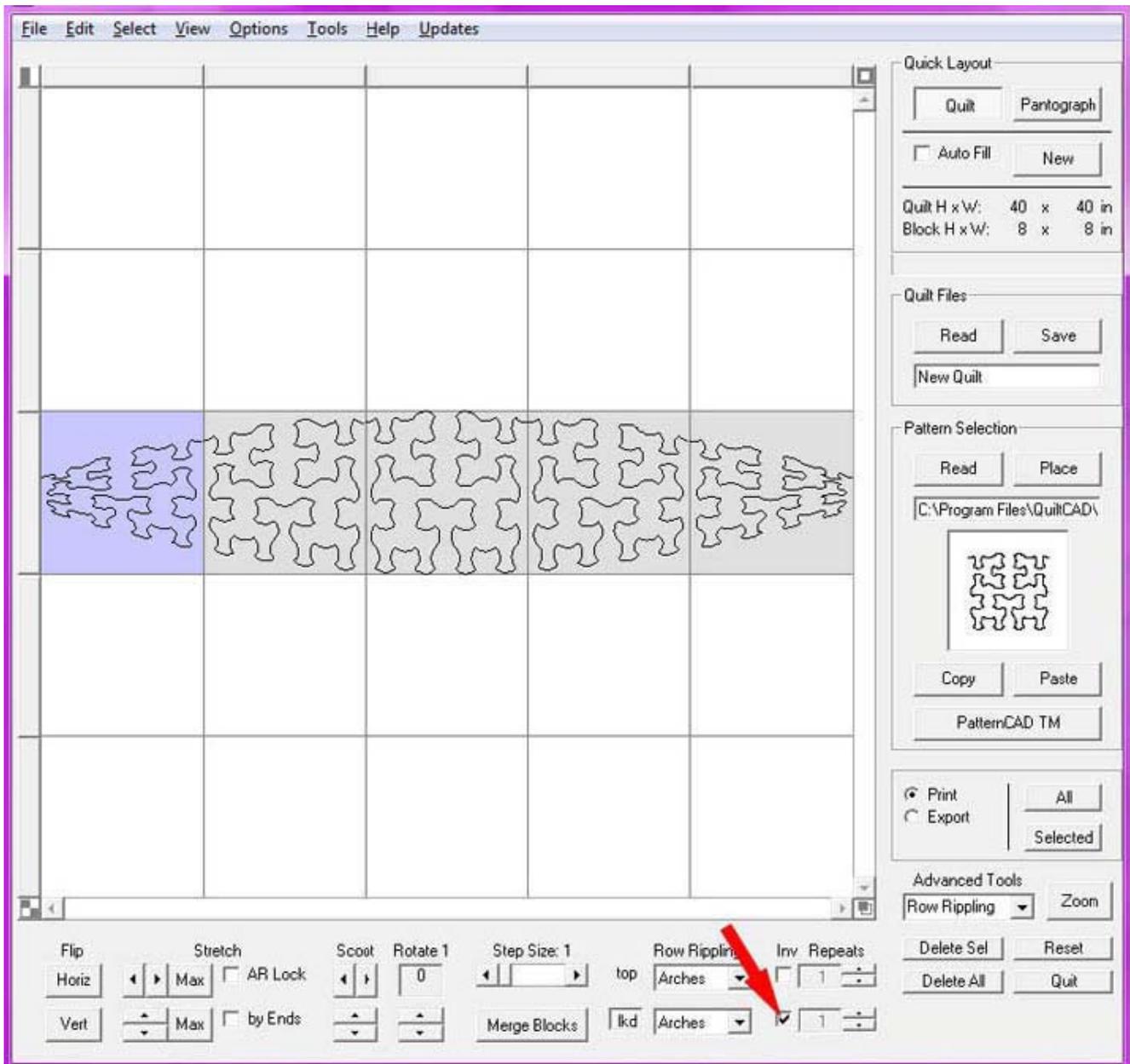
The Rippling begins. There are several tools to achieve the rippling effects. We'll explain each of them.

1. This is the 'btm' / 'lkd' button. When it is depressed, it forces the bottom edge Repeat count to follow the top edge Repeat count (more on these counts to follow.)
2. The Ripple Menus: These allow you to select what type of ripple you want to impose on the top and bottom edges of the row. Right now, we've selected 'Arches' for both edges. Also available are 'Zig Zags', 'Hills', 'Valleys' and 'Normal' (or none). You can select any combination of ripples you want.
3. The 'Repeat' count. This allows you to choose how many ripples will span the row. For this example, we have a span of a single arc across the top and bottom edges. Again, if the 'btm' button is 'lkd' (locked), the bottom count will be locked onto the top count. That, for the most part, is how you ripple a row of patterns. We're going to show you a few more examples of rippling, and explain one more feature in the ripple tools.



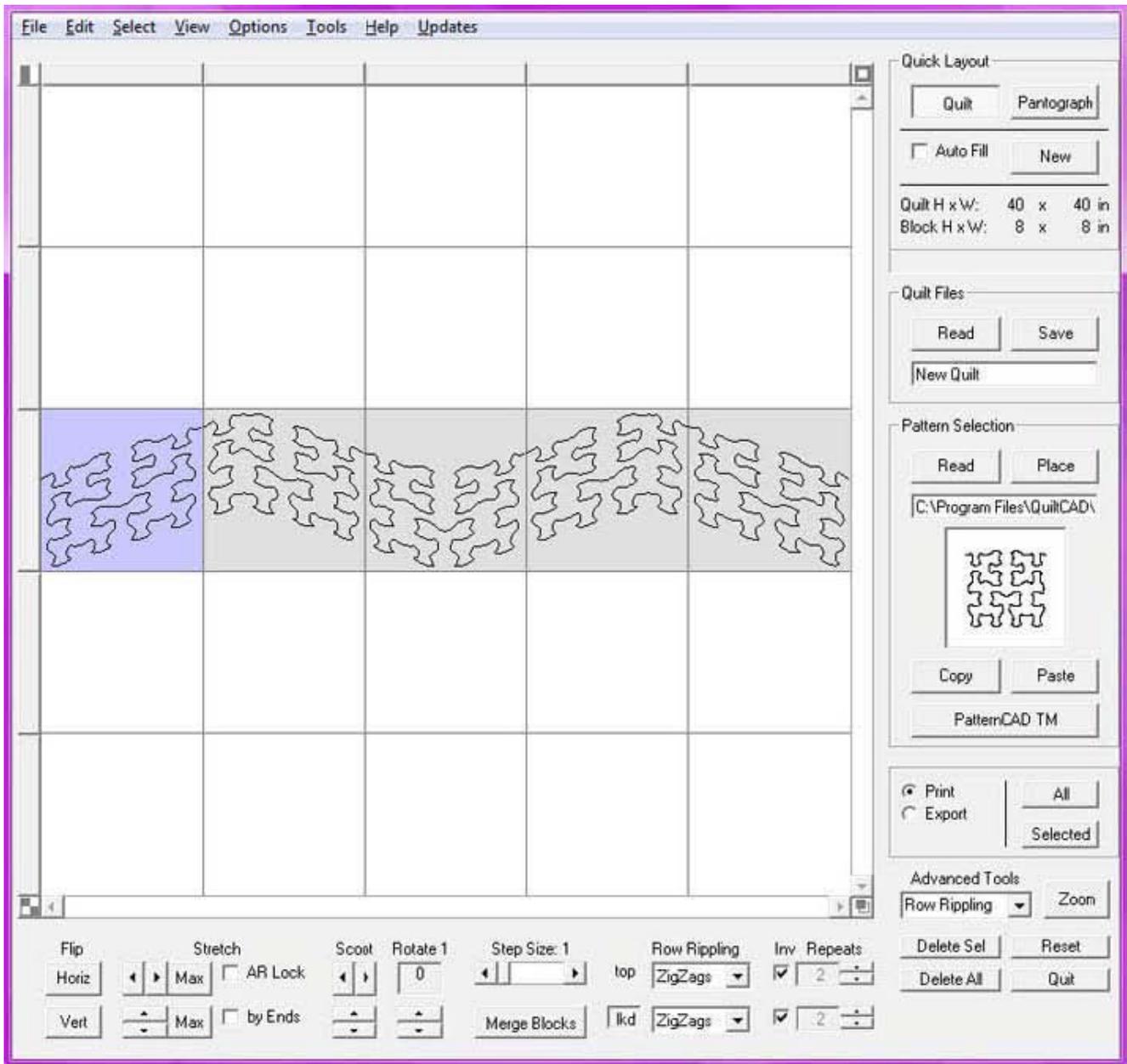
Invert the bottom edge ripple

The 'Inv' check boxes allow you to invert the ripple on either the top or bottom edges (or both). Go ahead and experiment with the Rippling tools and enjoy the variations you come up with. We'll show you a few more examples.



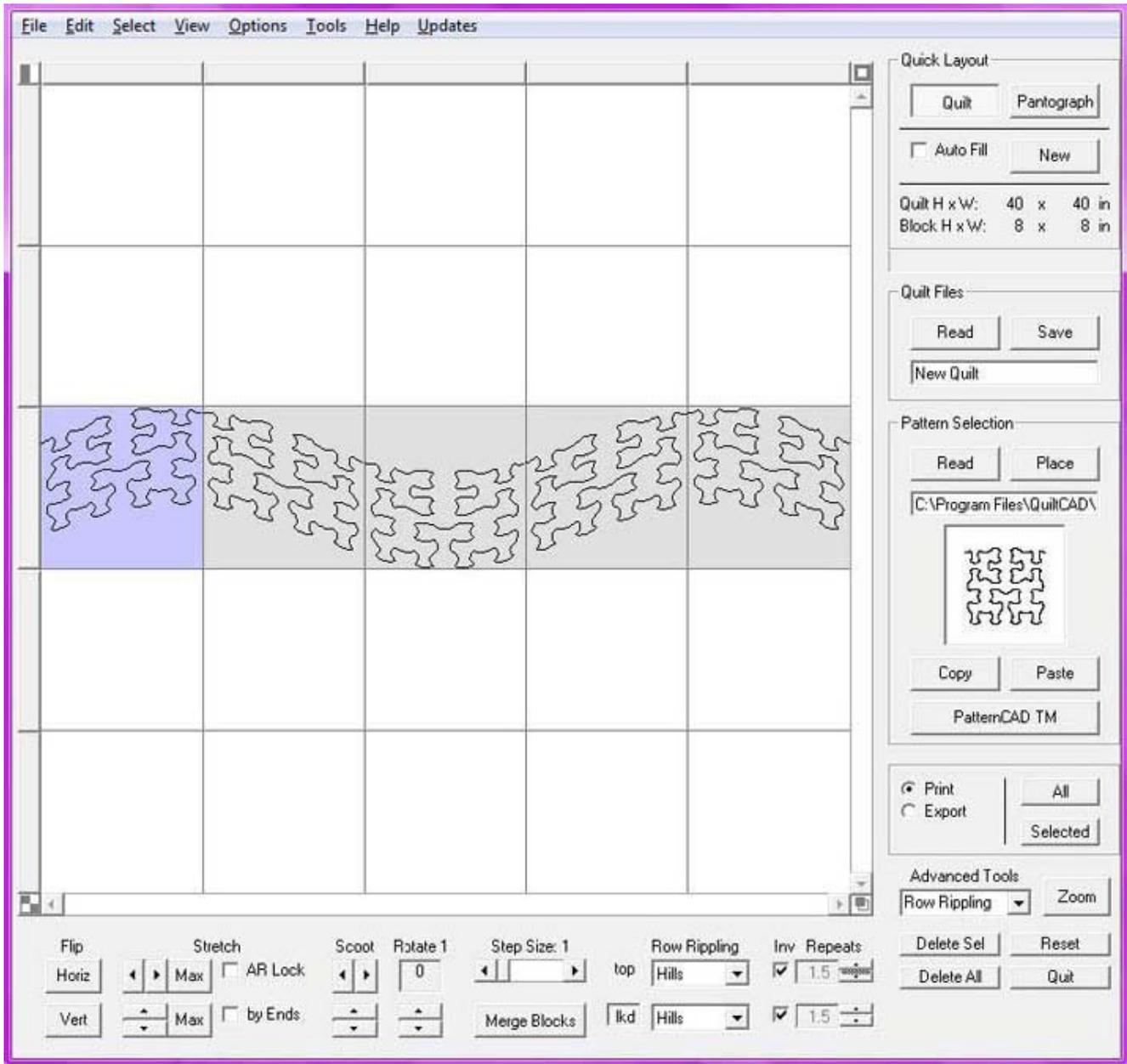
'Zig-Zag' the row

Here is an example of two zig-zags, with both inverted.



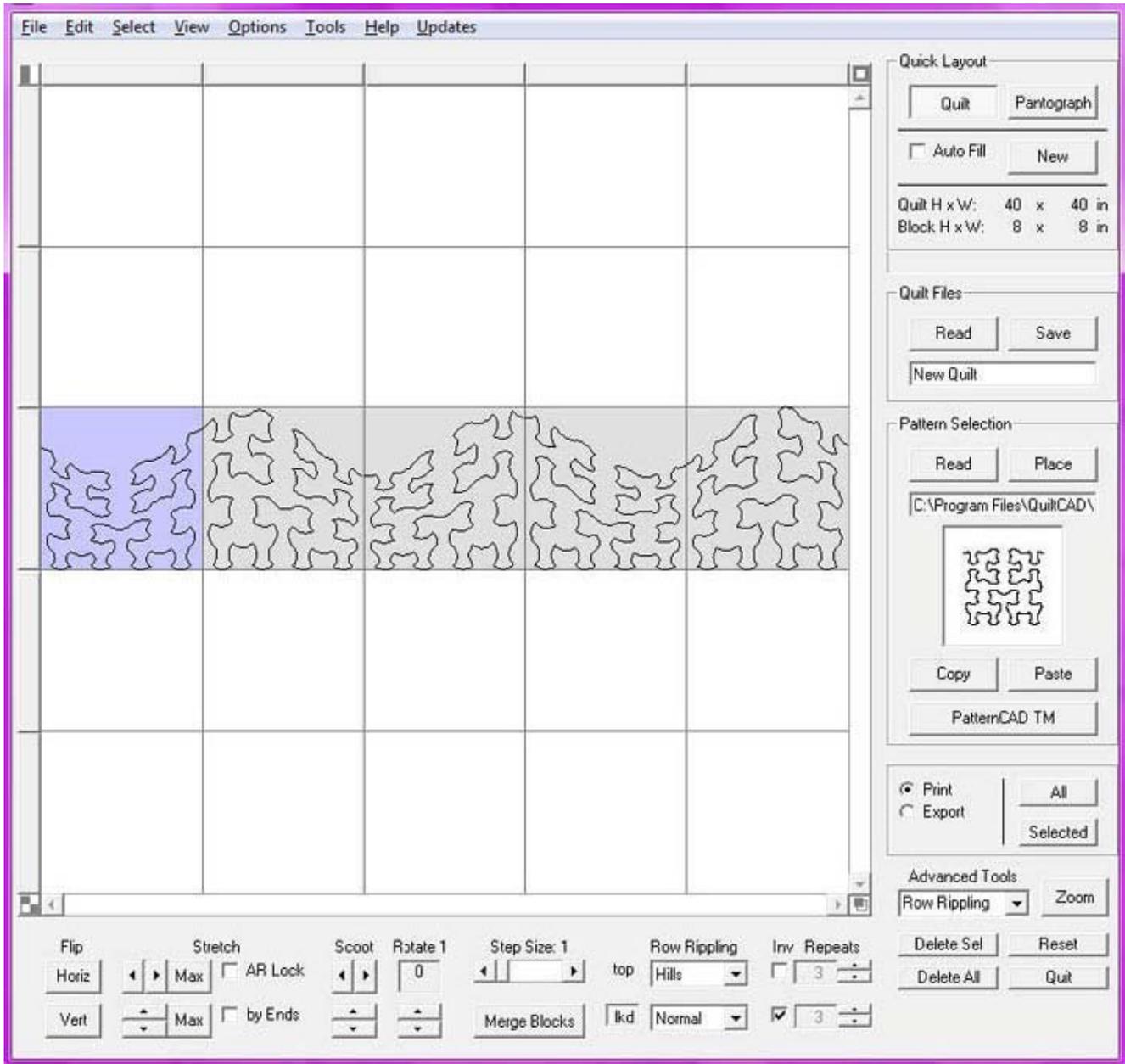
'Hill' ripple the row

Hills are smooth, wavy ripples. Notice that the Repeat count is at 1.5, to achieve symmetry. Again, both edges are inverted.



Half ripple the row

This example shows you how you can ripple only half the row, in this case the top half, while the bottom half is 'Normal'. Of course, you can set the top to 'Normal' and ripple the bottom if you want. Our Repeat count is 3.5 for the top. When 'Normal' is selected, the ripple count is ignored.



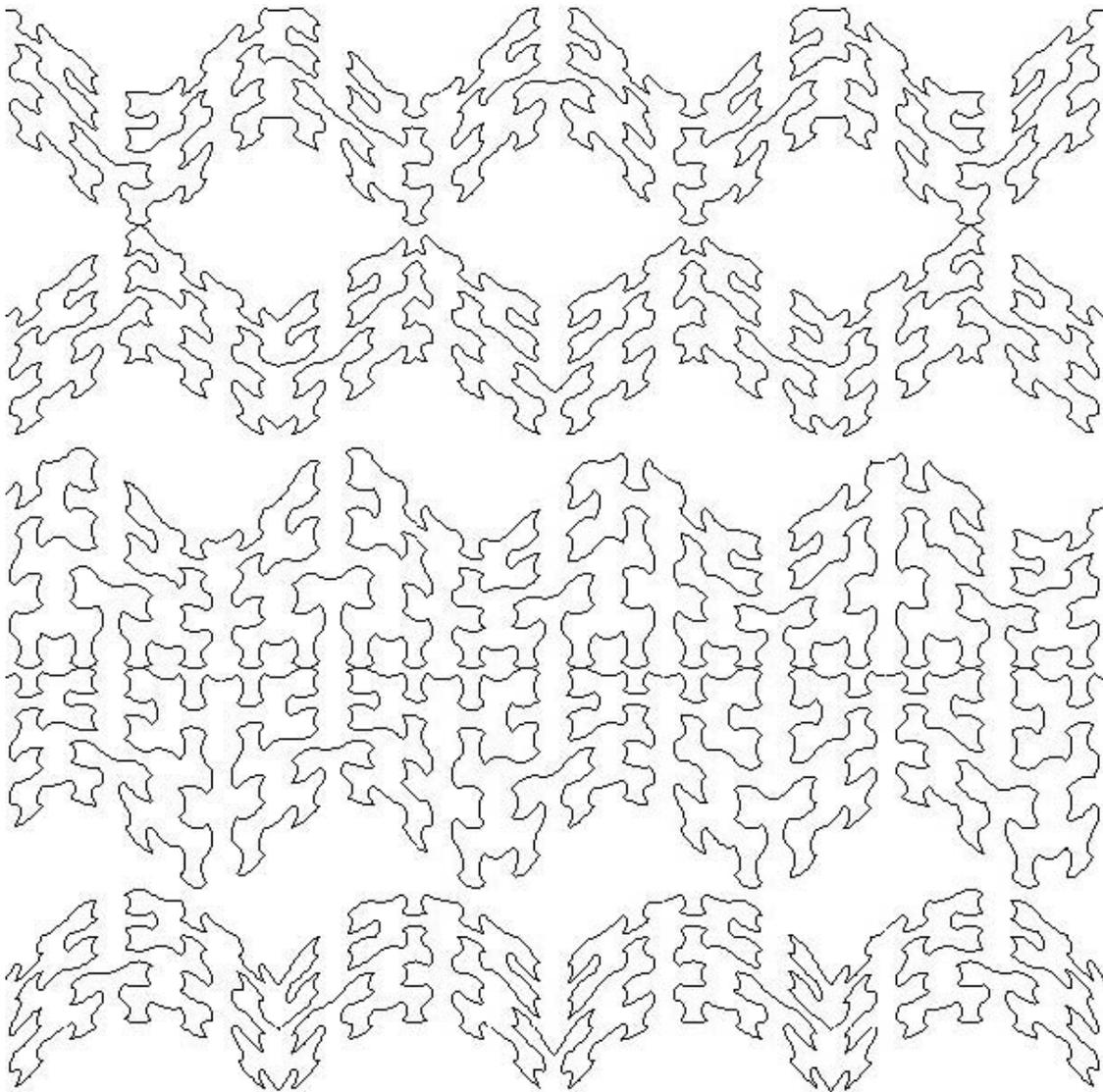
A few final words..

Like we said, you can easily get some spectacular results with Row Rippling. Check out some of our gallery examples. Better yet, see what you can come up using Row Rippling! A note on copying.. If you copy a rippled block and paste it in some other column, the result won't necessarily look the same. That is because, the ripple is fixed across the rows.

So, if you paste a rippled pattern somewhere else on the quilt, the pattern will be shaped to what the ripple is in the destination column.

Also, as with some of the other tools, the Ripple tools sometimes do not update properly to reflect what the Ripples' settings truly are. You may have to select the tools again to get them back on track.

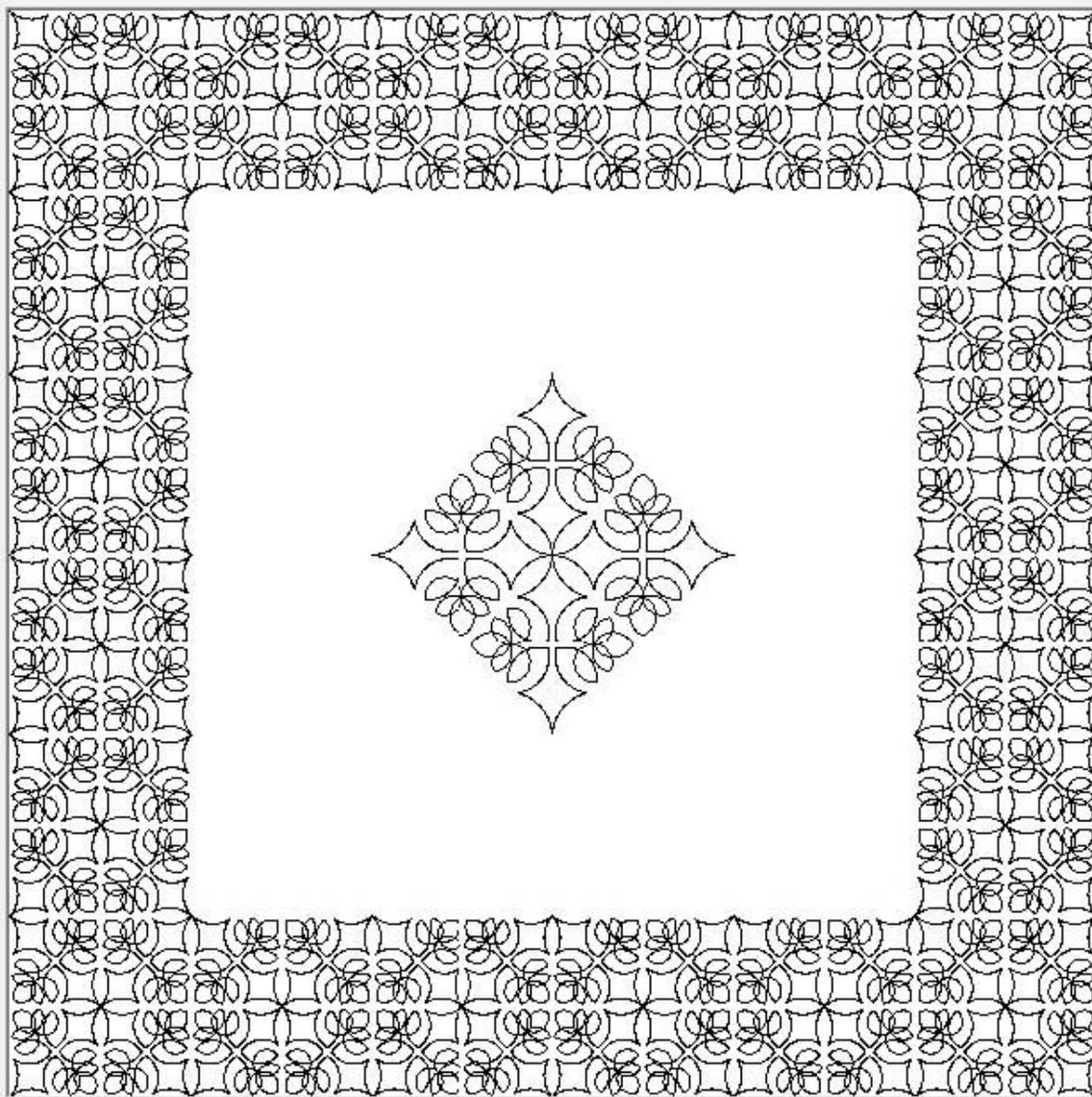
And.. (this is IMPORTANT), be sure the active (blue) block is selected among the blocks you're rippling.



Advanced Tools - Triangles

QuiltCAD's 'Triangle Blocks' Advanced Tool enables you to create intricate repeating patterns that will make your stitching nothing short of spectacular.

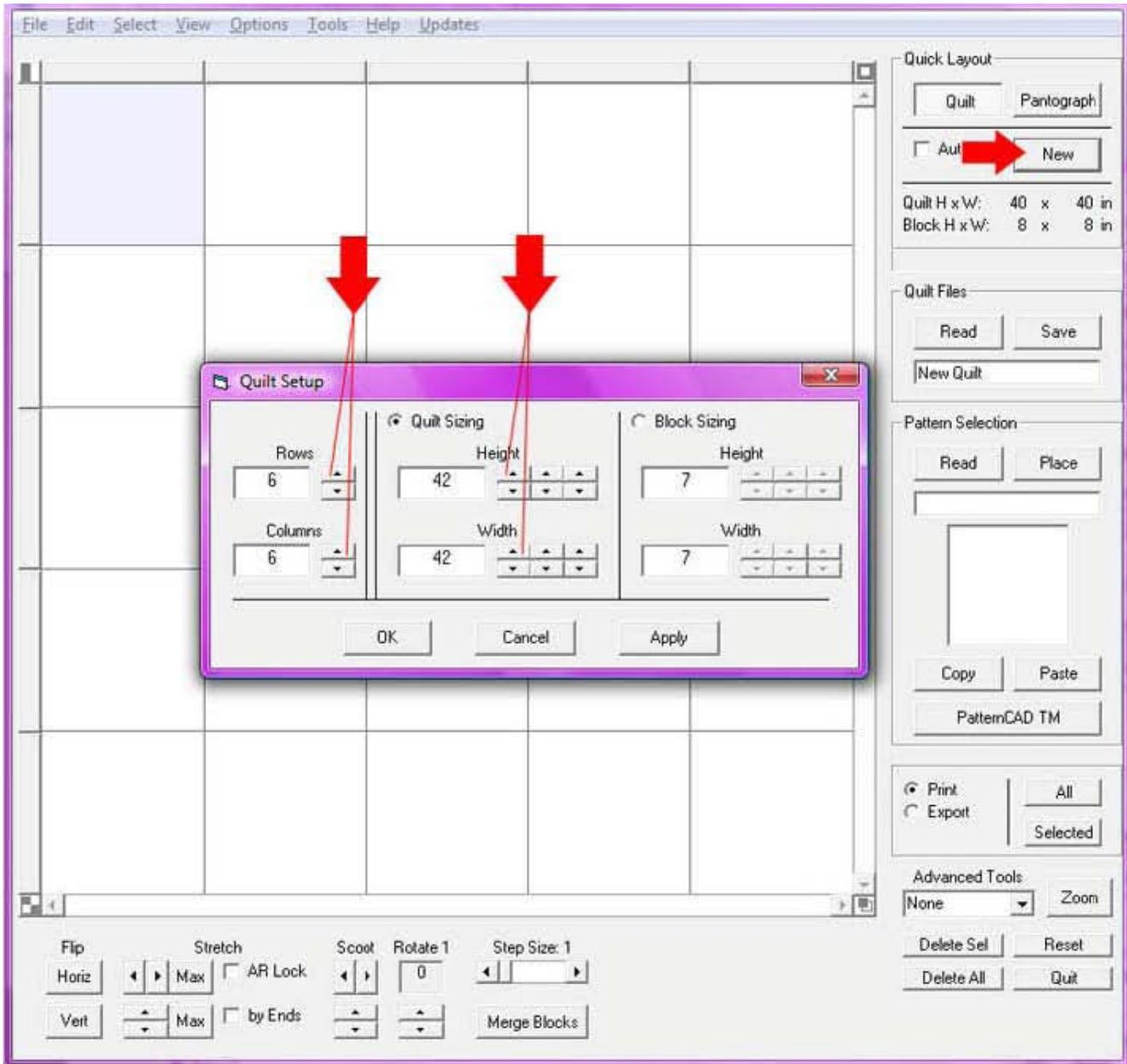
We'll walk you through the exact steps to recreate the quilts shown below.



Resize the Quilt

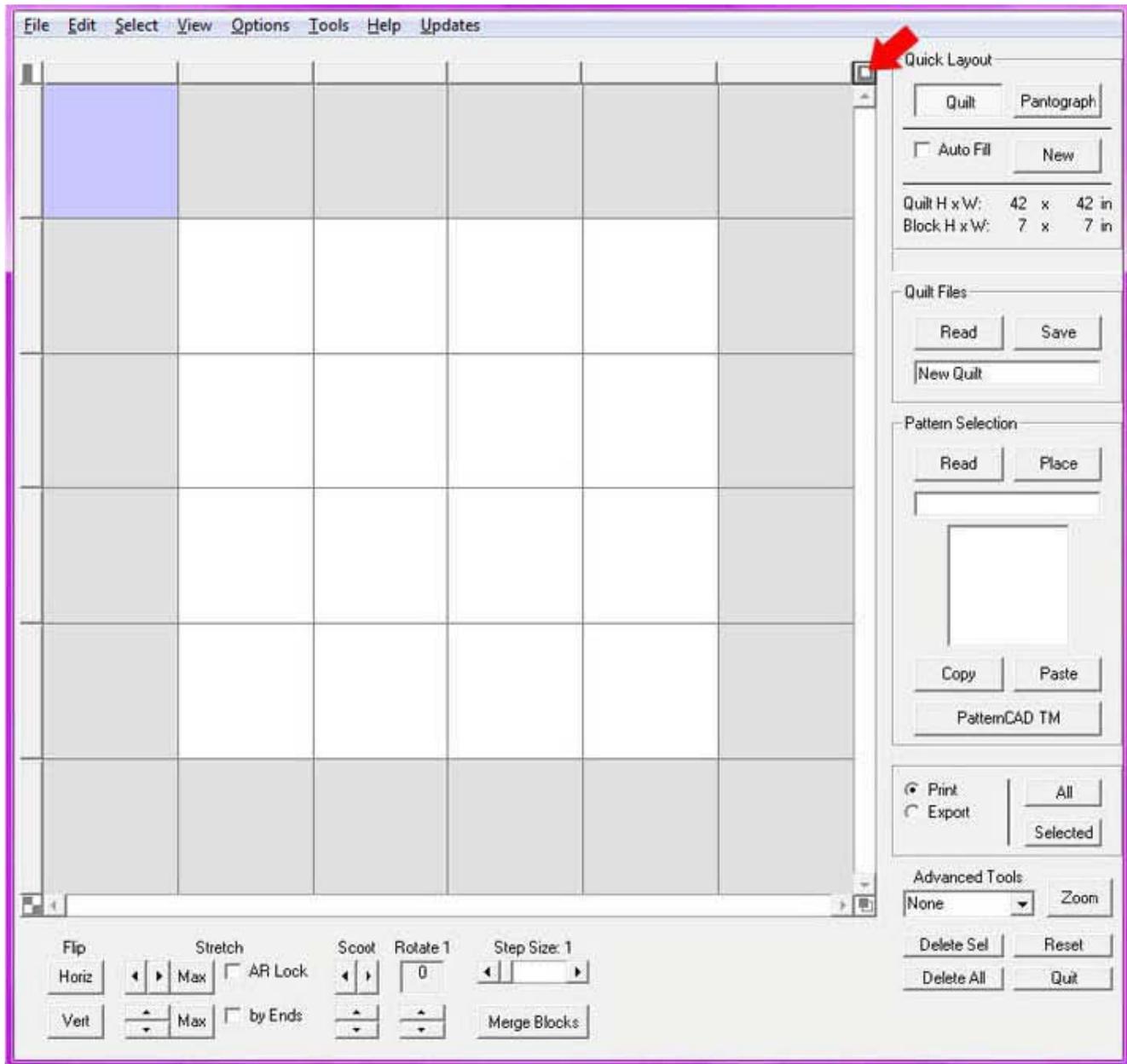
We're going to use a 6 x 6 block layout for the quilt. Open up the 'New' 'Quilt Setup' box and set the rows and columns each to 6.

You can re-size the blocks, too, if you wish. We will change the Quilt Size to 42 x 42.



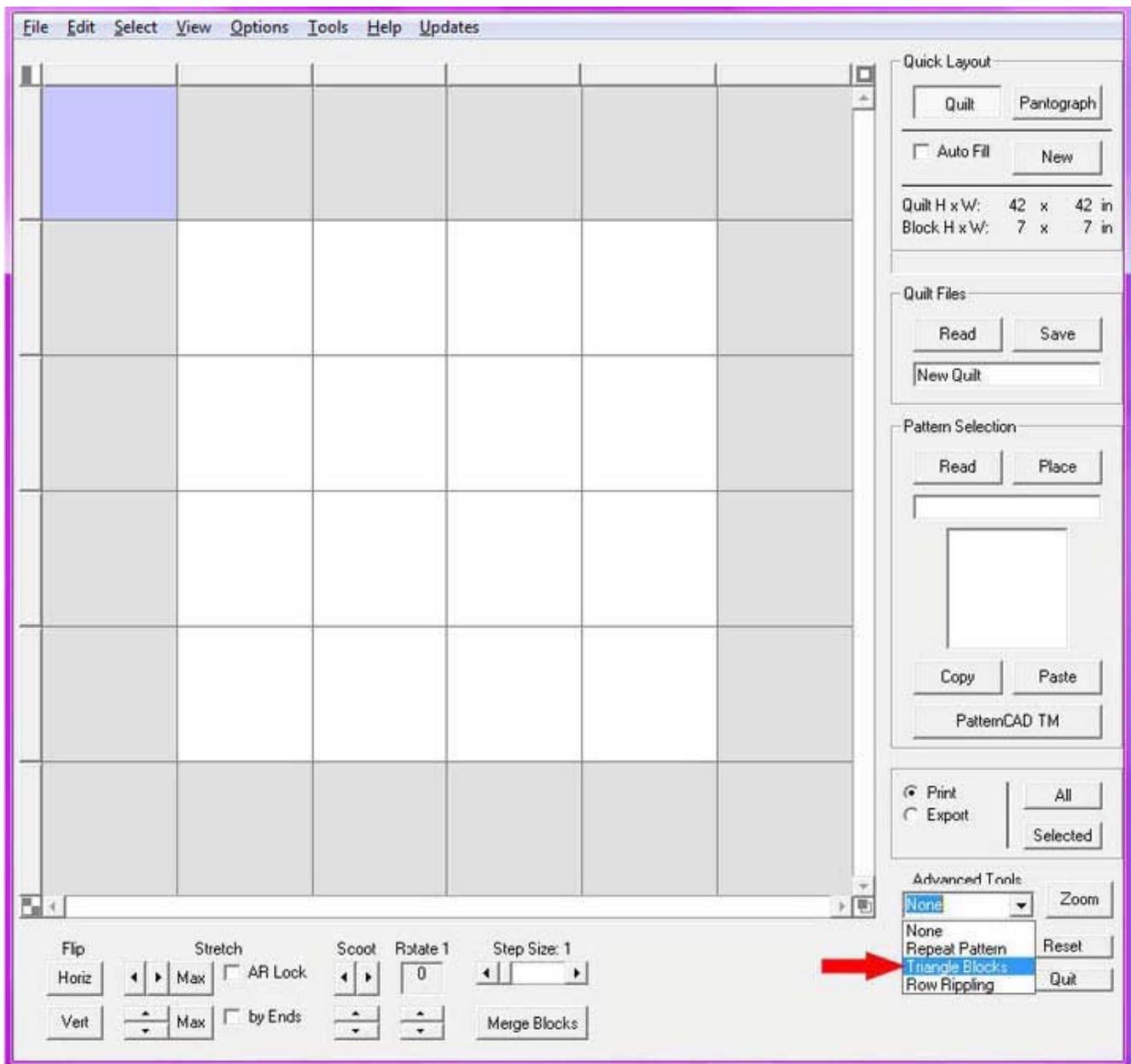
Select the border blocks

Click on the border button in the top right corner of the quilt layout.



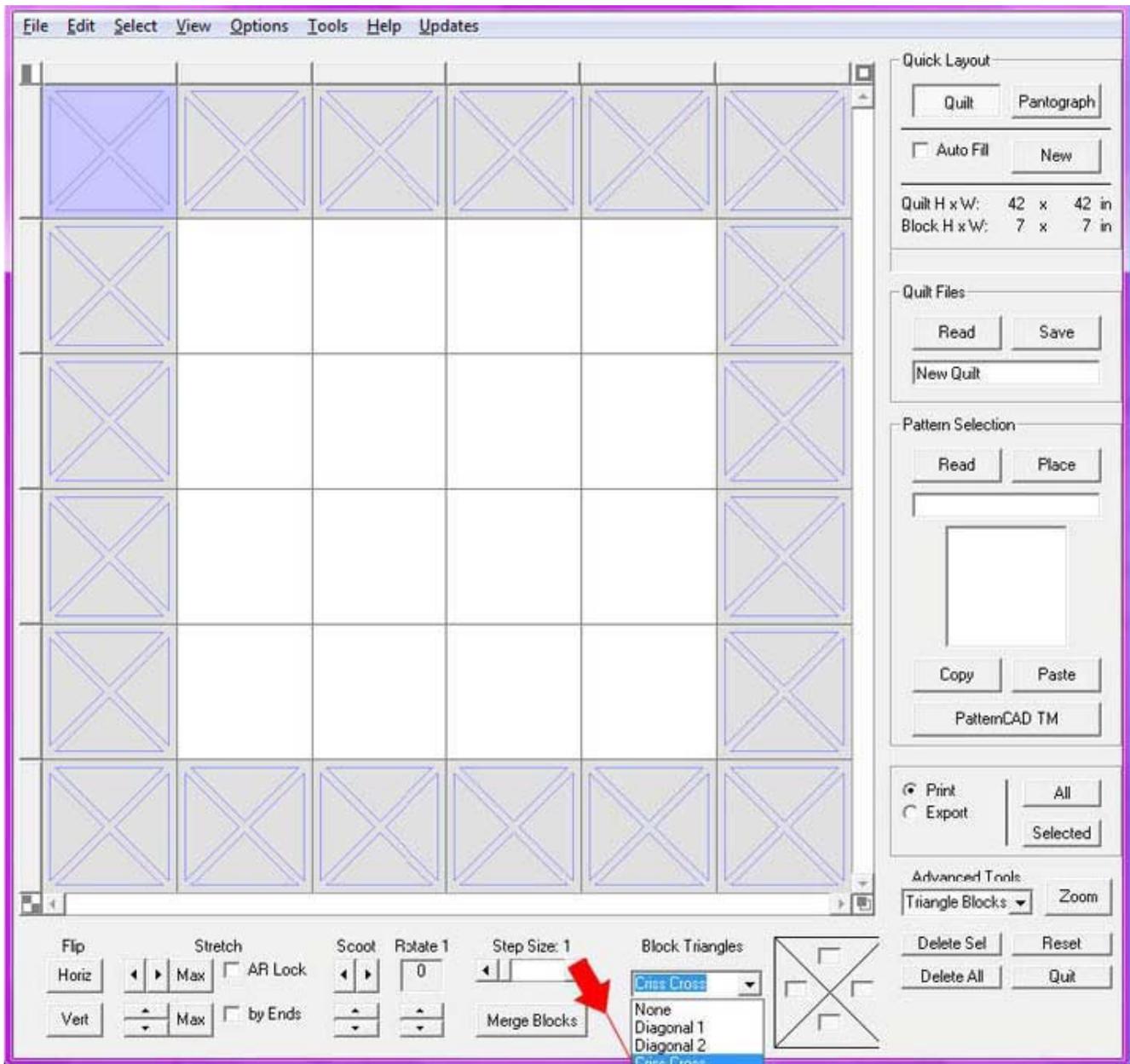
Open the 'Triangle Blocks' Tool

Click on the Advanced Tools drop-down menu arrow, then select 'Triangle Blocks'.



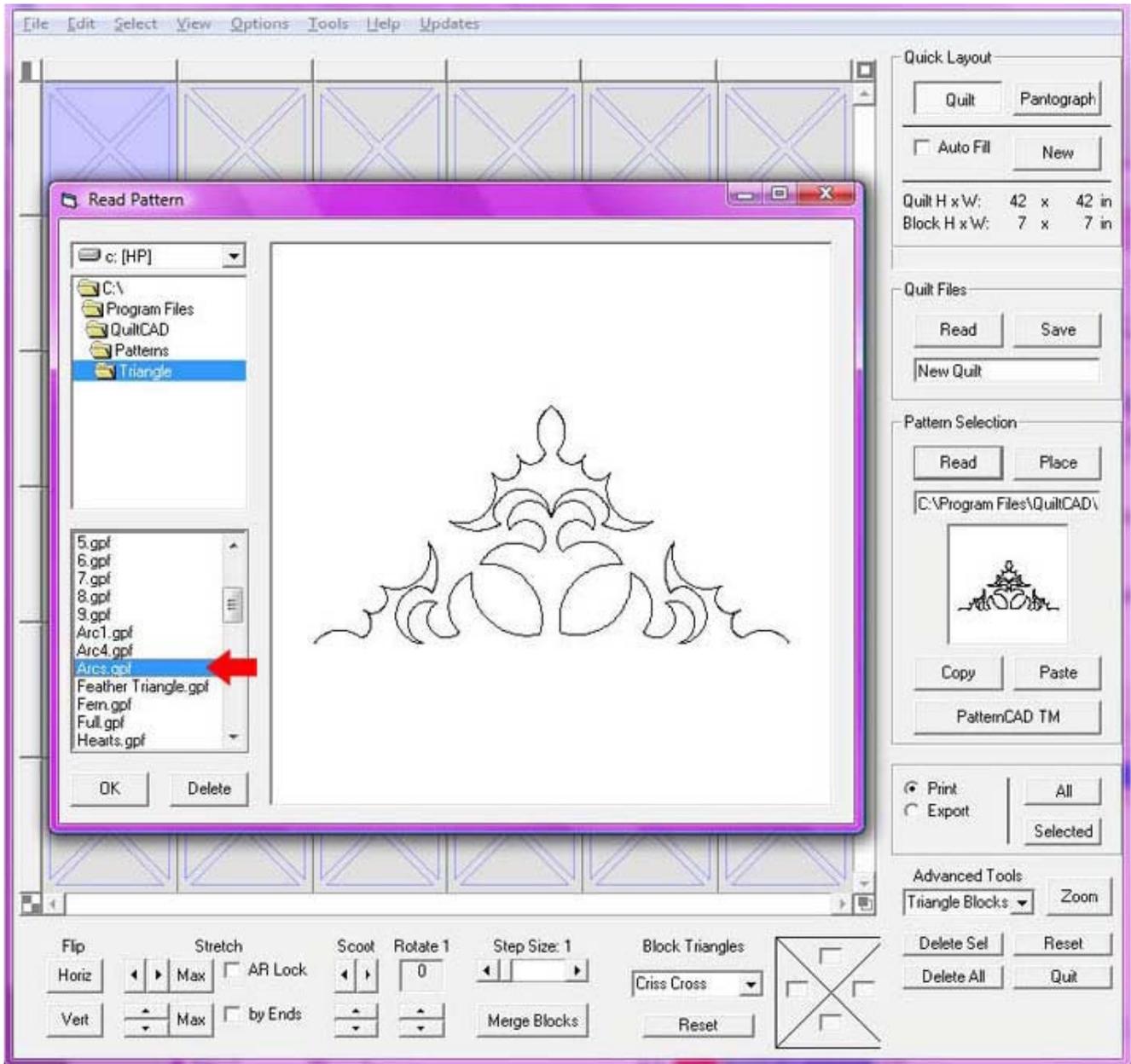
Select the Criss Cross Triangle

In the Block Triangles tools' dropdown menu, select 'Criss Cross'. This puts four blue triangles in each selected block. Think of these triangles as new blocks. So, when you place a single pattern, four will actually get placed in each square block.



Open up a triangle pattern

We're going to use the 'Arcs.gpf' pattern for this design. Open it up using the usual method to read in a pattern file. In order to make these triangle blocks work, triangle patterns must be used. Our pattern editor, PatternCAD, provides templates for you to quickly and accurately create correctly formatted triangle patterns. As a warning, if you place non-triangle patterns in the triangle blocks, you may get some funny looking results. On the other hand, you may discover a new pattern type that works beautifully in the triangles. But, we digress, back to the instructions..

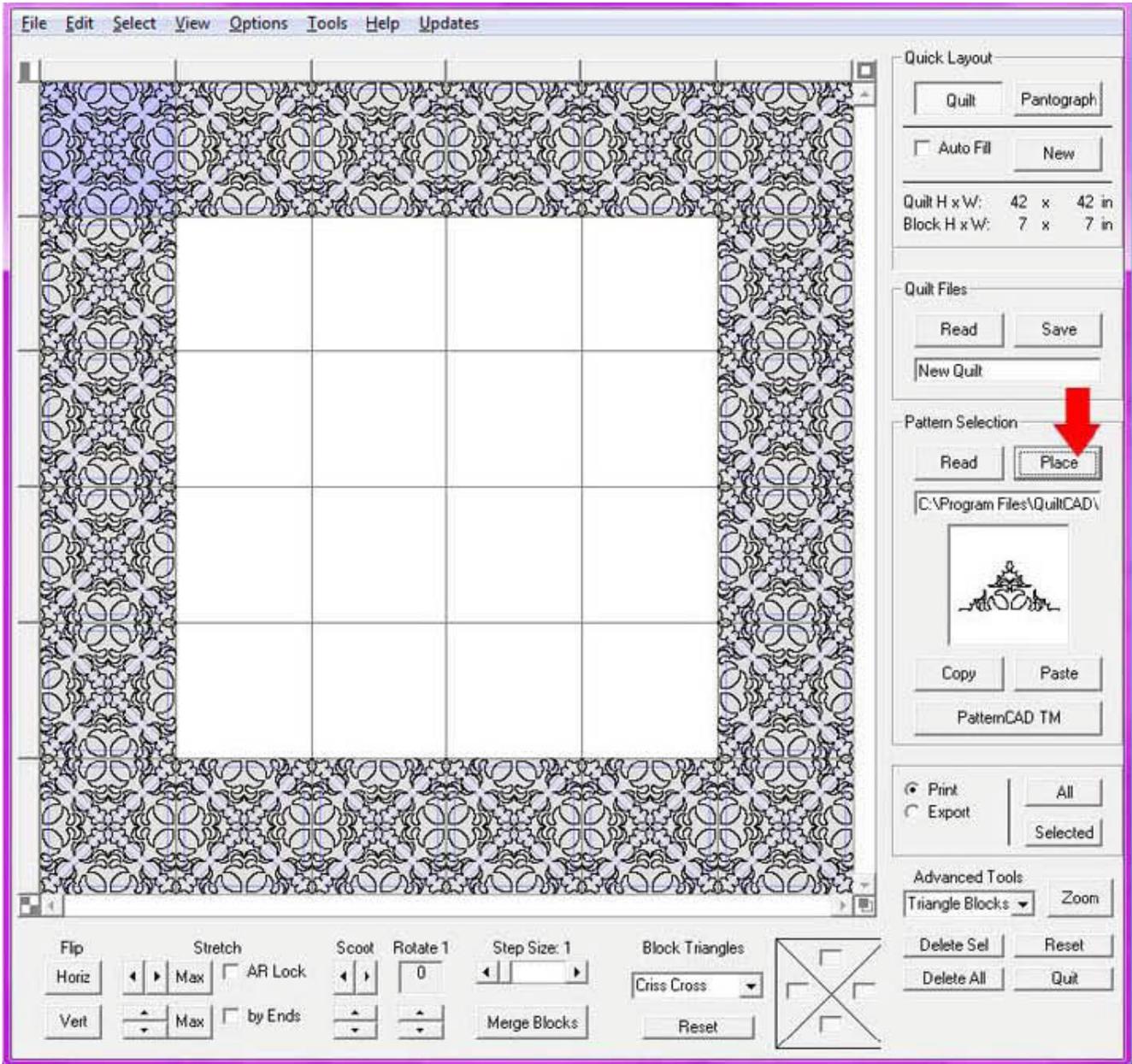


Place the pattern

Select the Place button.

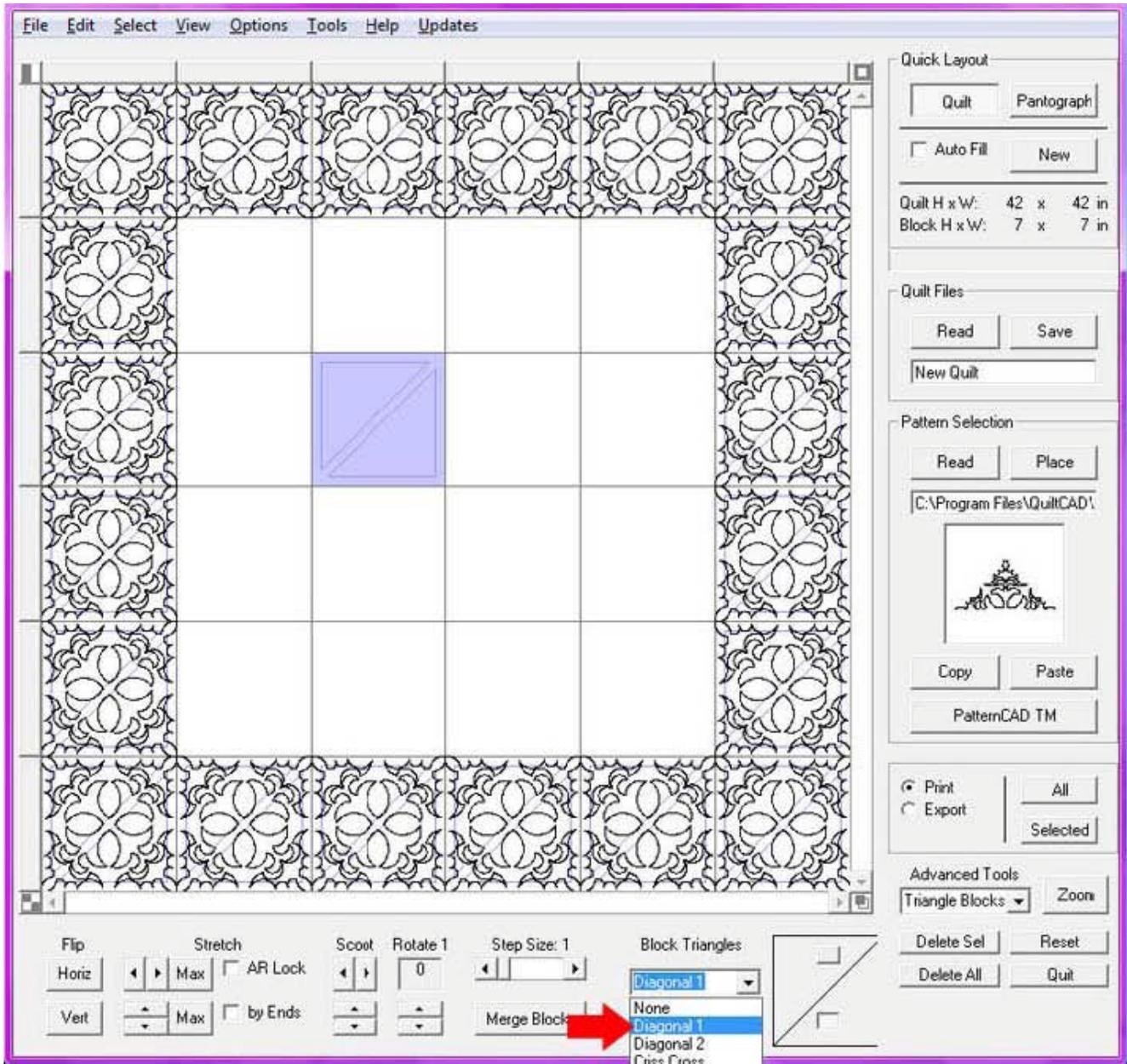
Just like that, you have a gorgeous border created with a simple but elegant triangle pattern.

Next, we're going to get a little advanced, and create a single large diamond, using the other Triangle Block options.



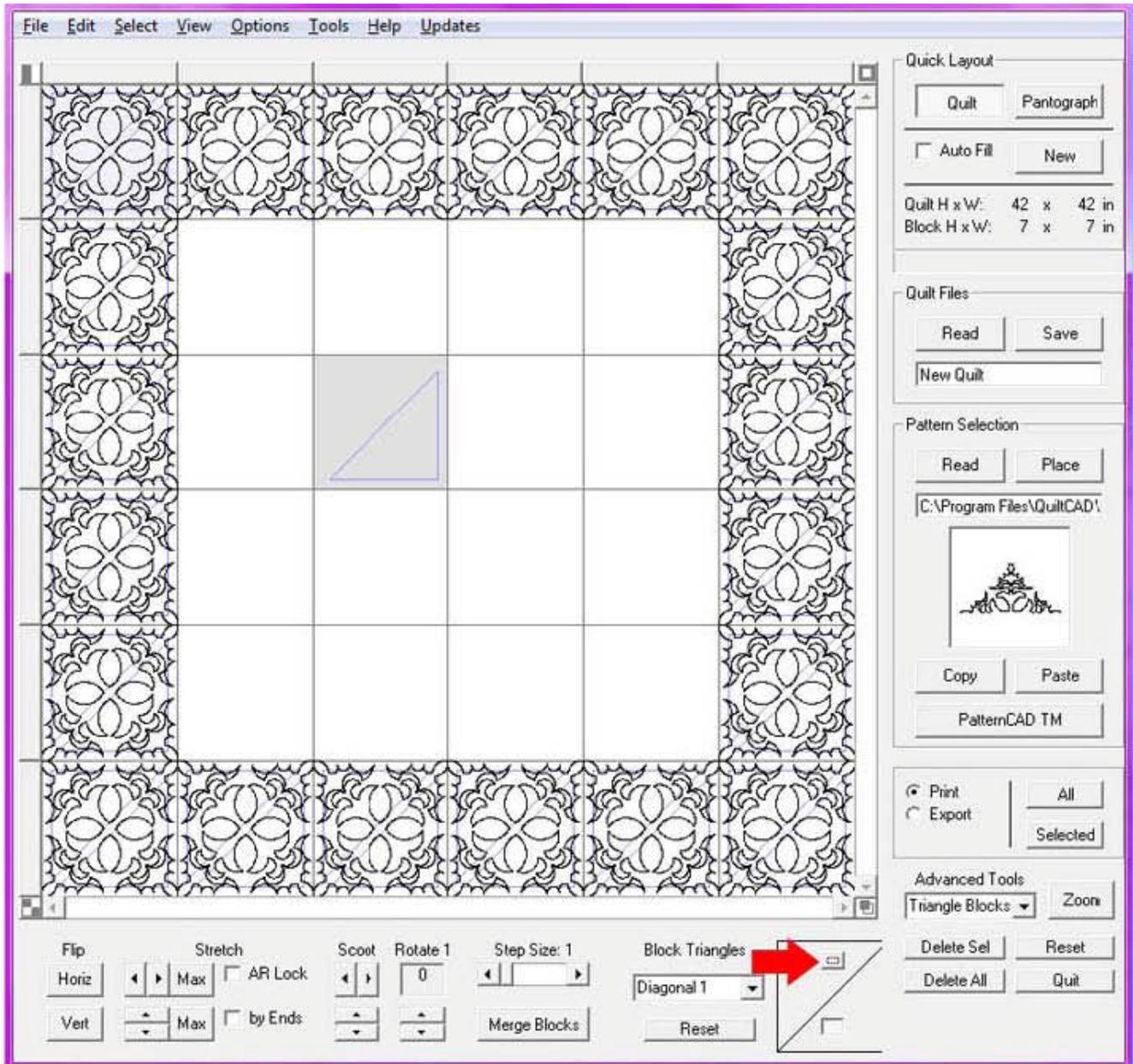
Set a center block to Diagonal 1

First, select ONLY the top-left center block. Next, in the Block Triangles pull-down menu, select 'Diagonal 1'.



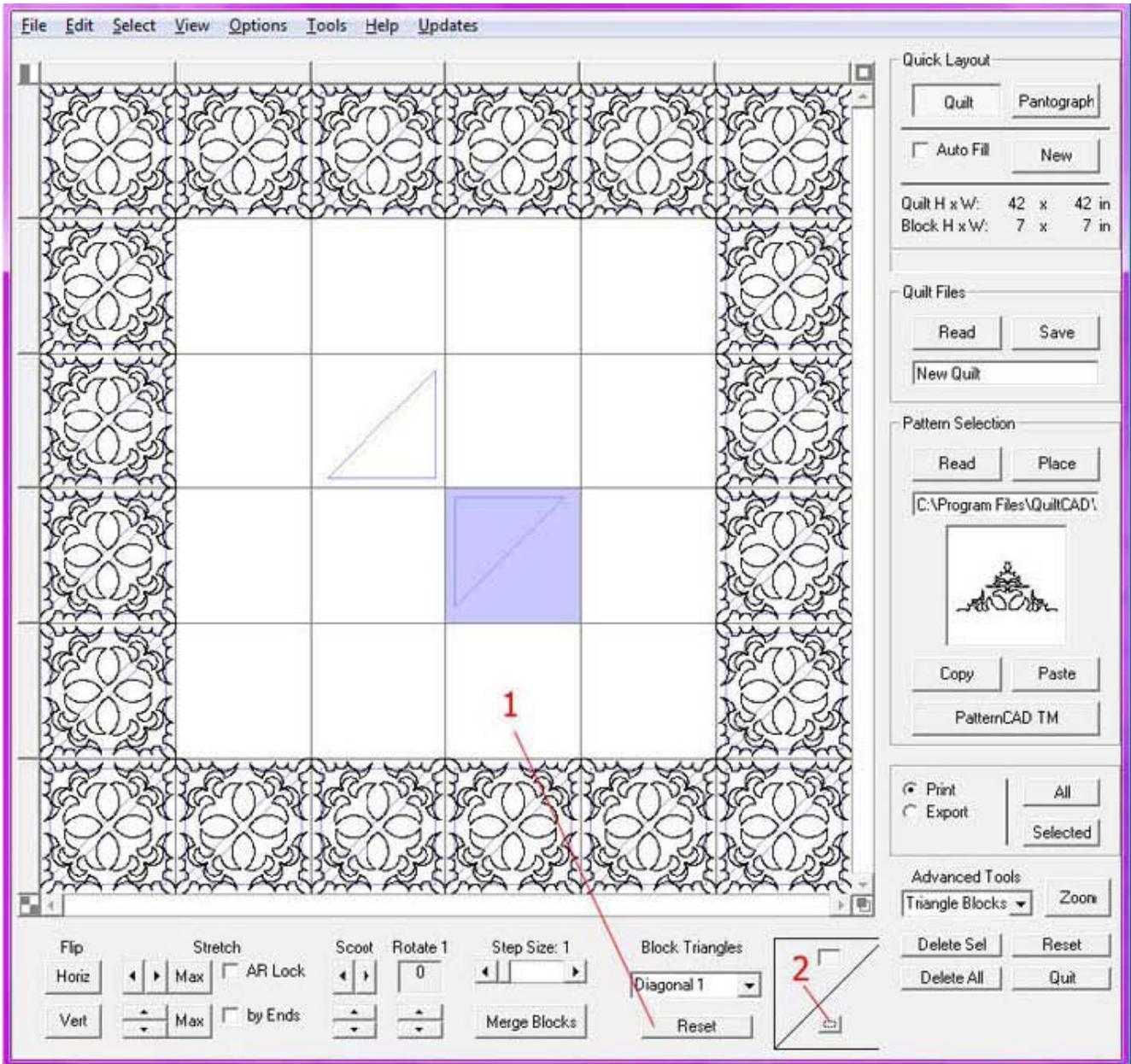
"Turn off" the upper triangle.

Have you wondered what those little buttons are for? They turn on and off the triangle blocks. In our example, we have 'turned off' the upper triangle. Now, when you place the pattern, only the lower triangle will be filled.



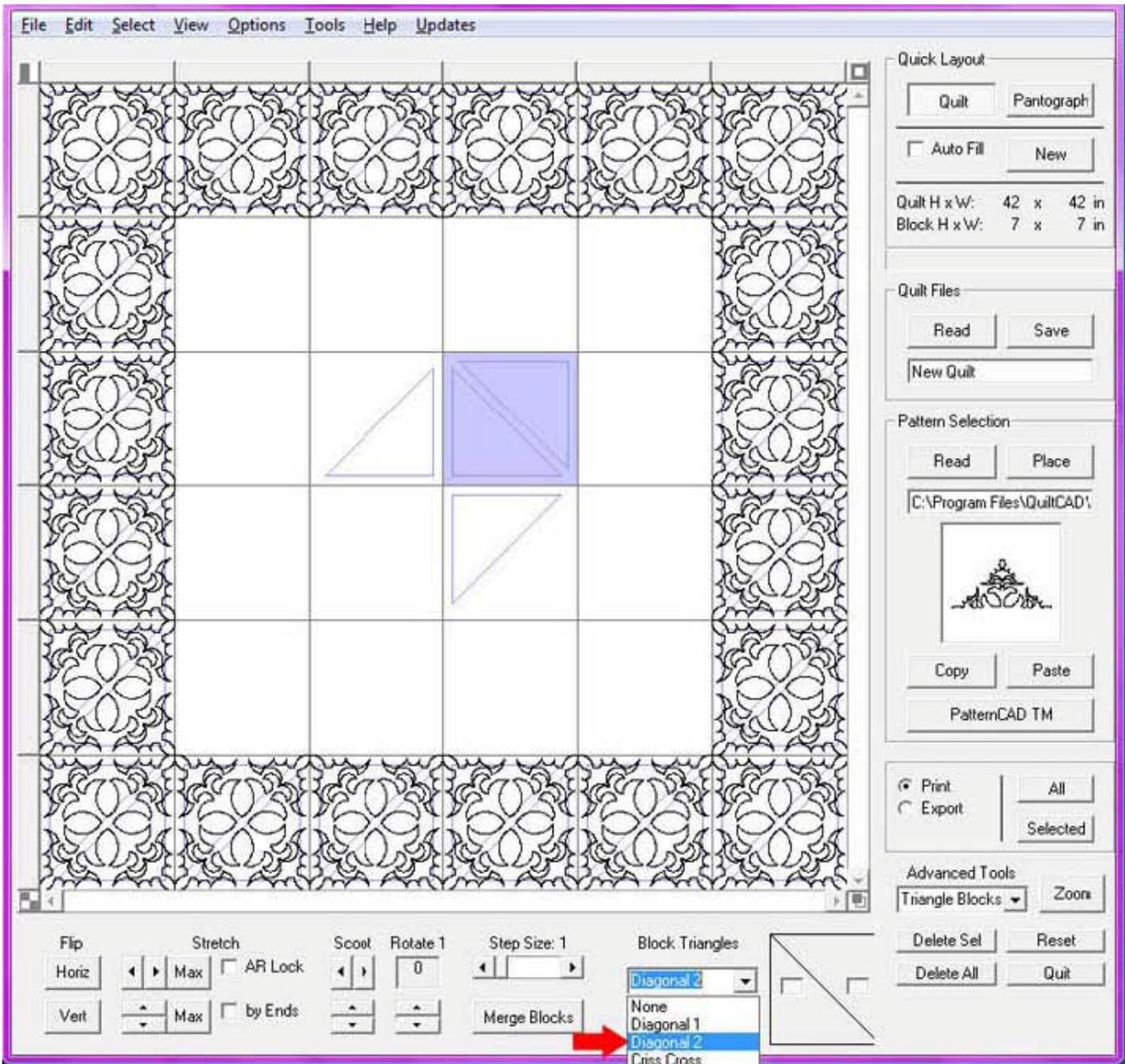
Set a center block to Diagonal 1

First, select ONLY the lower-right center block. Next, click on the 'Block Triangles' Reset button. This will set the selected block to what is in the pull-down menu, in this case 'Diagonal 1'. Now, turn off the lower triangle using the lower button in the box.



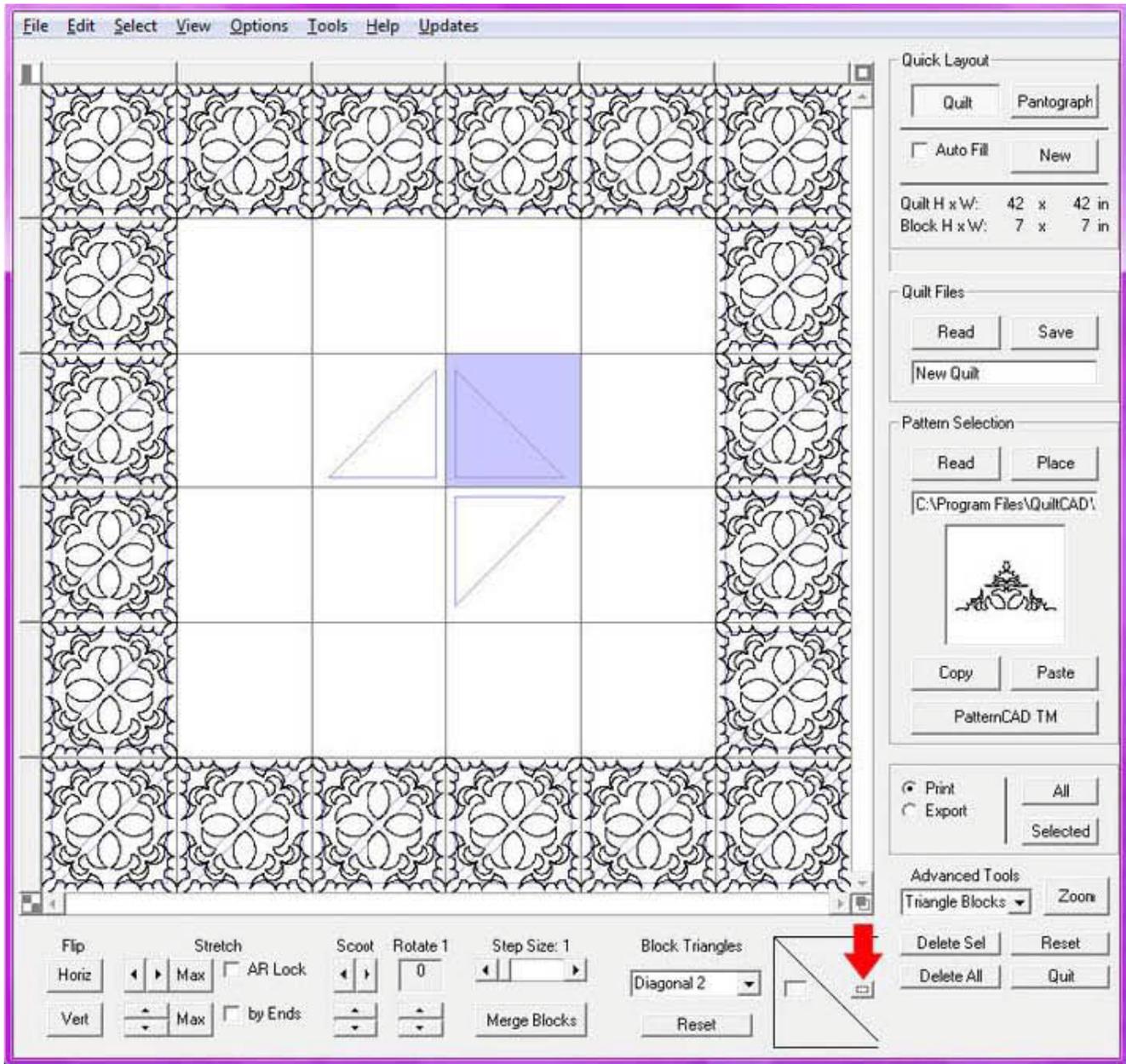
Set a block to Diagonal 2

Select ONLY the upper-right center block. Select 'Diagonal 2' from the pull-down menu.



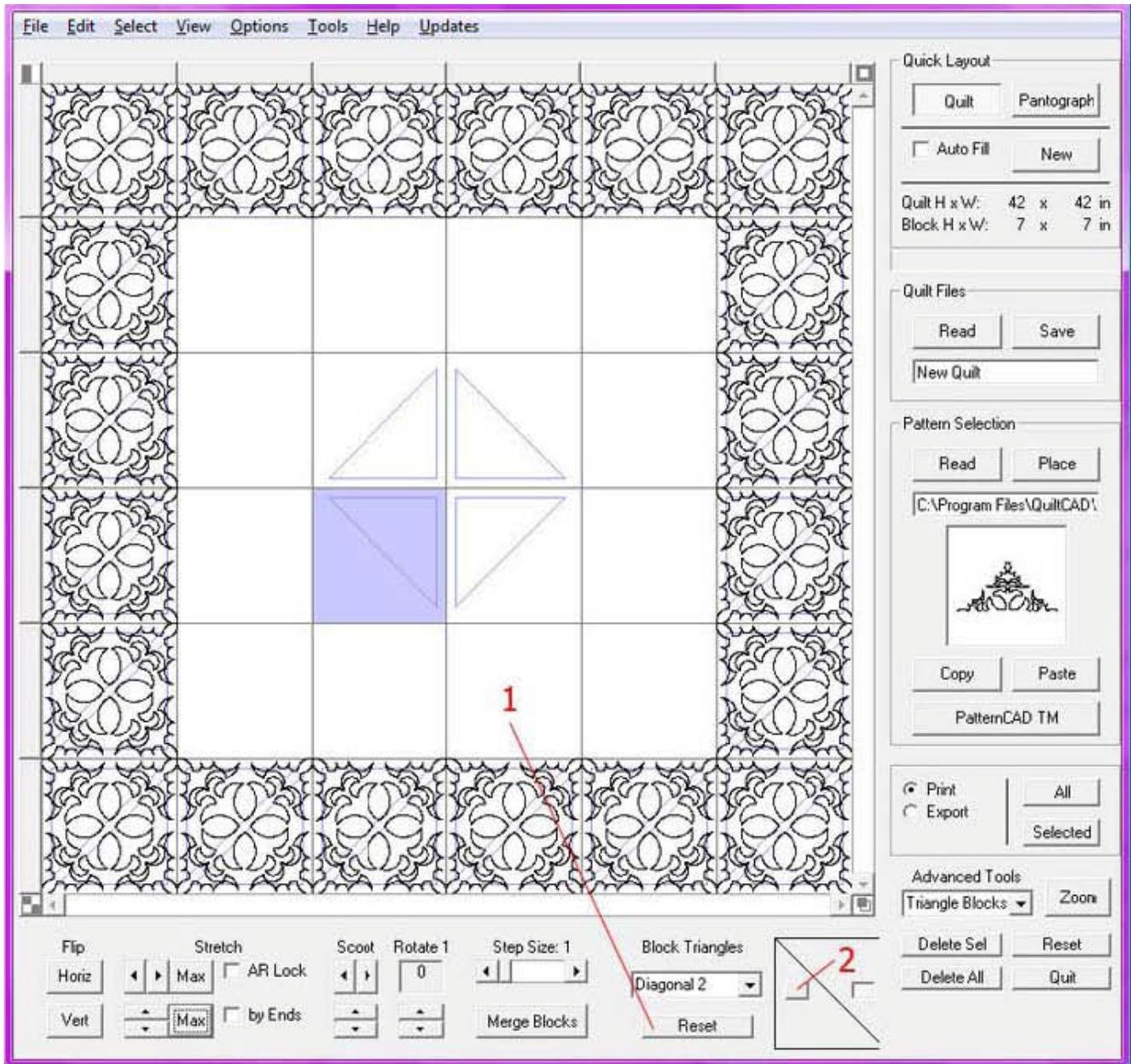
'Turn-off' the upper triangle

Click on the right button in the box to turn-off the upper block.



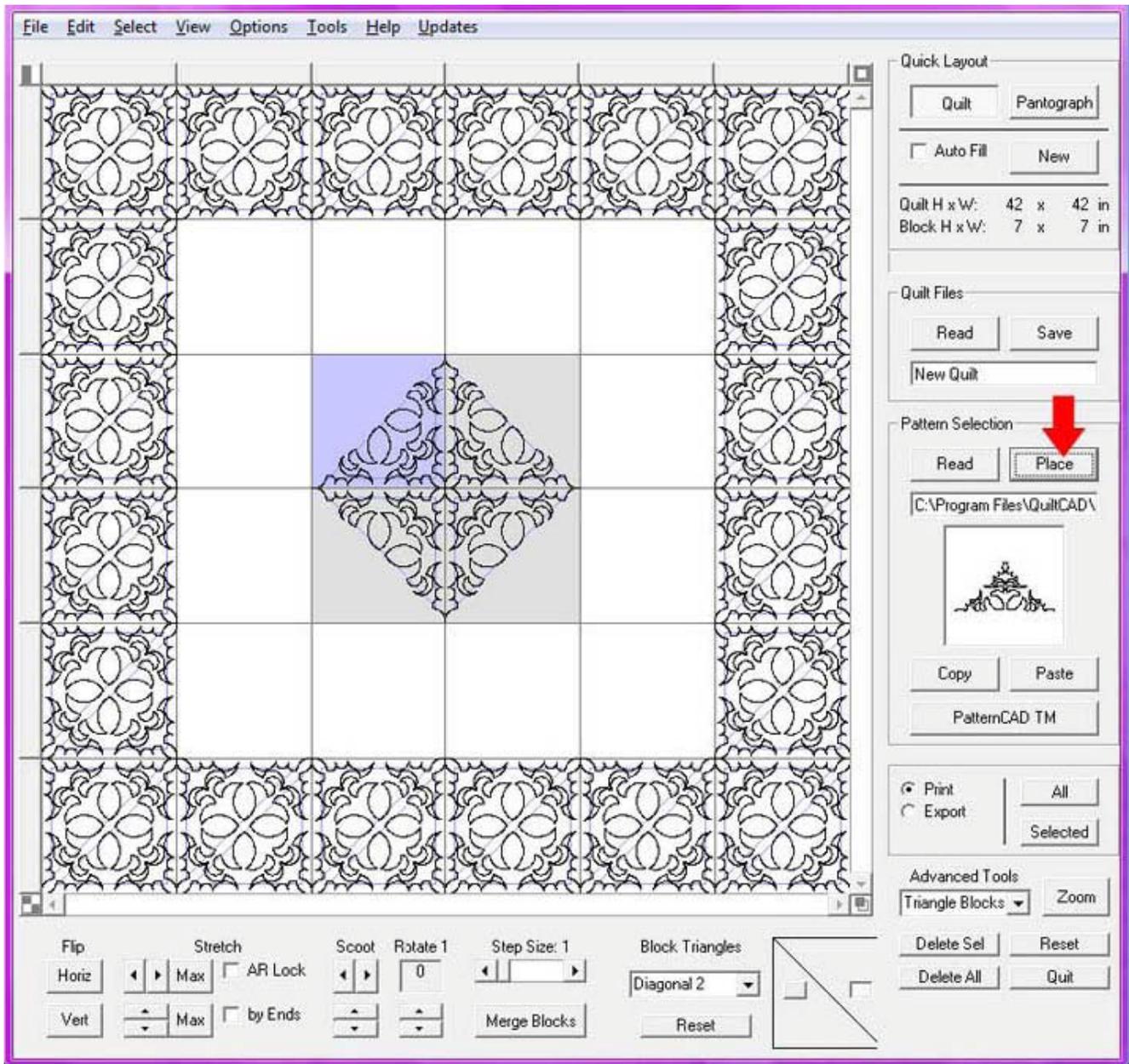
Set a block to Diagonal 2

You're probably getting the picture by now, aren't you? First, select ONLY the lower-left center block. Next, click on the 'Block Triangles' Reset button to set the block to 'Diagonal 2'. Now, turn off the lower triangle using the left button in the box. You can clearly see the inner diamond on the quilt, all that remains is to place the pattern.



Place the pattern..

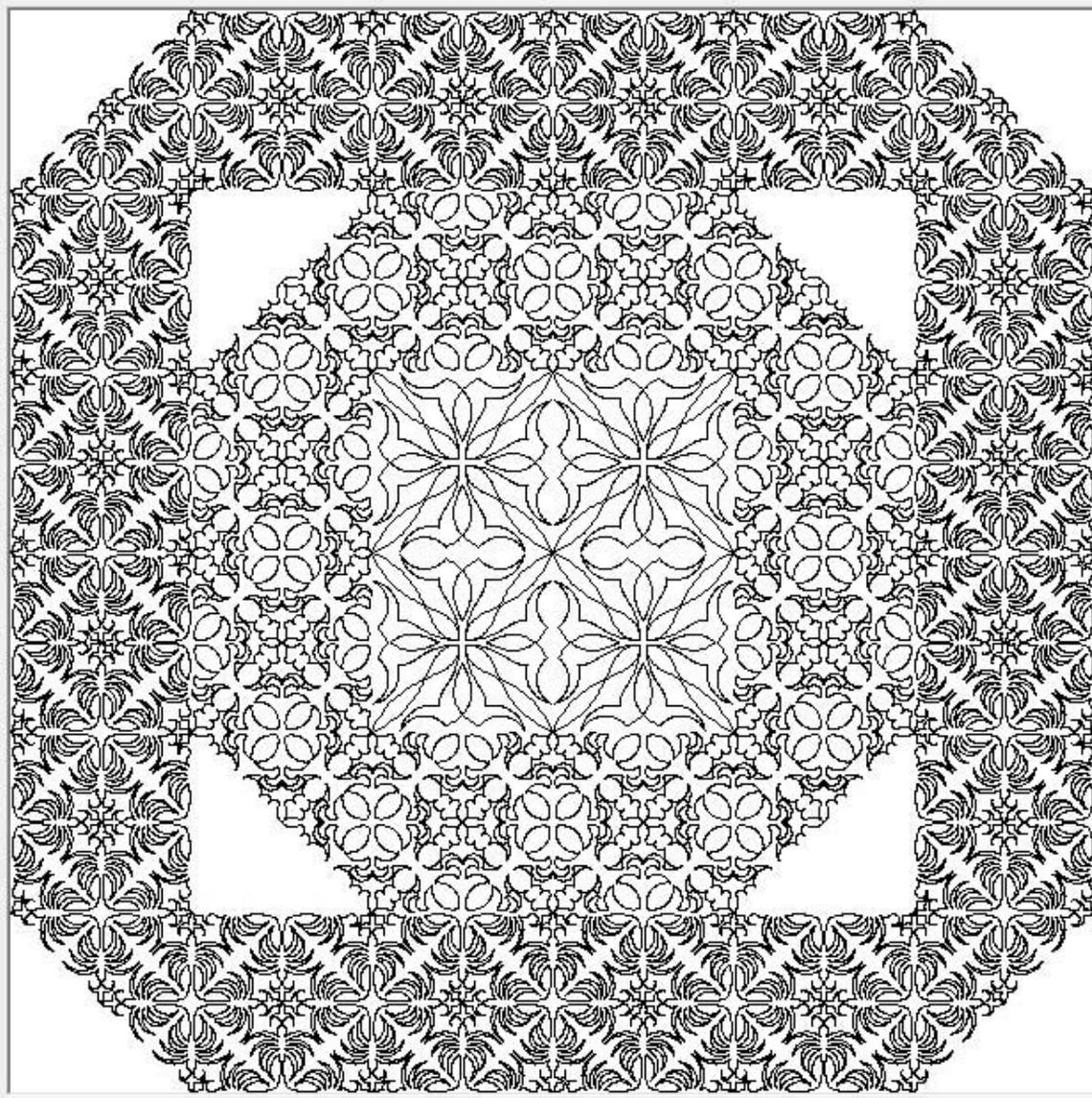
.. by selecting the inner four blocks and clicking on 'Place', And there you have it. Amazing, isn't it?



A few final words..

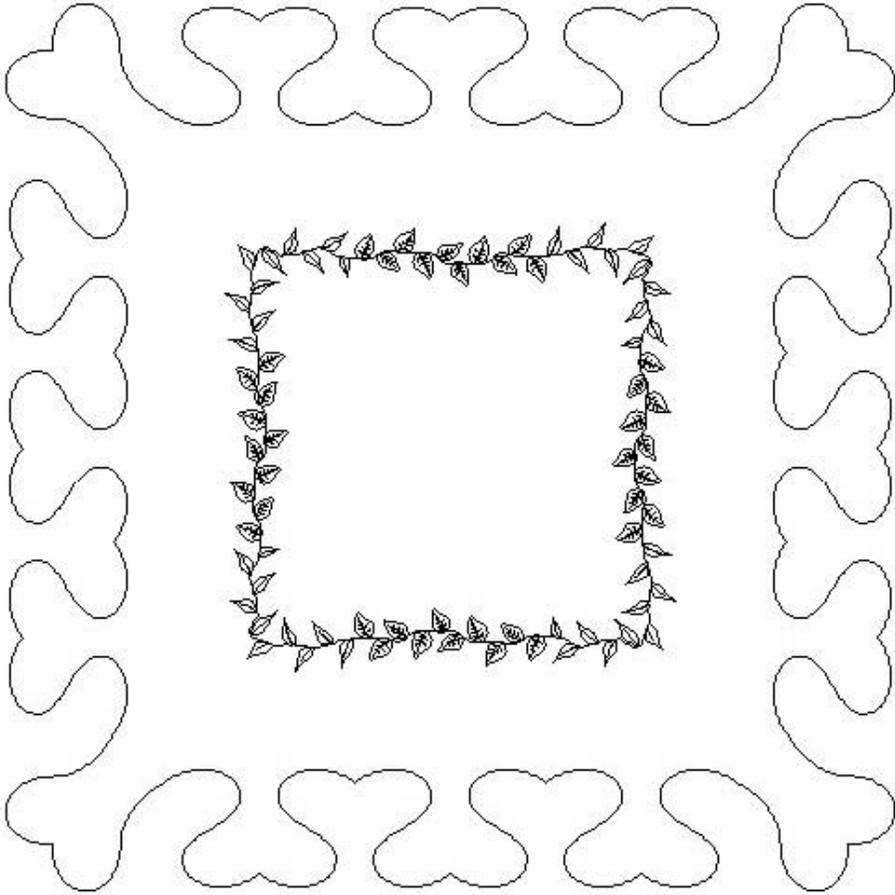
There are so many things you can do to create elegant designs with QuiltCAD's Triangle Blocks. You can fill the entire quilt with a single pattern, or by mixing and matching patterns, using the three different triangle block layouts, and turning triangle blocks on and off, you can create your own spectacular, professional, and beautiful stitch designs, all based off the simple triangle pattern concept.

Be sure and visit our gallery to see more samples of the types of quilts you can design with QuiltCAD!



Borders

QuiltCAD provides you with the tools to make border creation almost automatic. We don't provide "canned" borders, but give you the building blocks to create your own borders with ease. Let's draw a border!

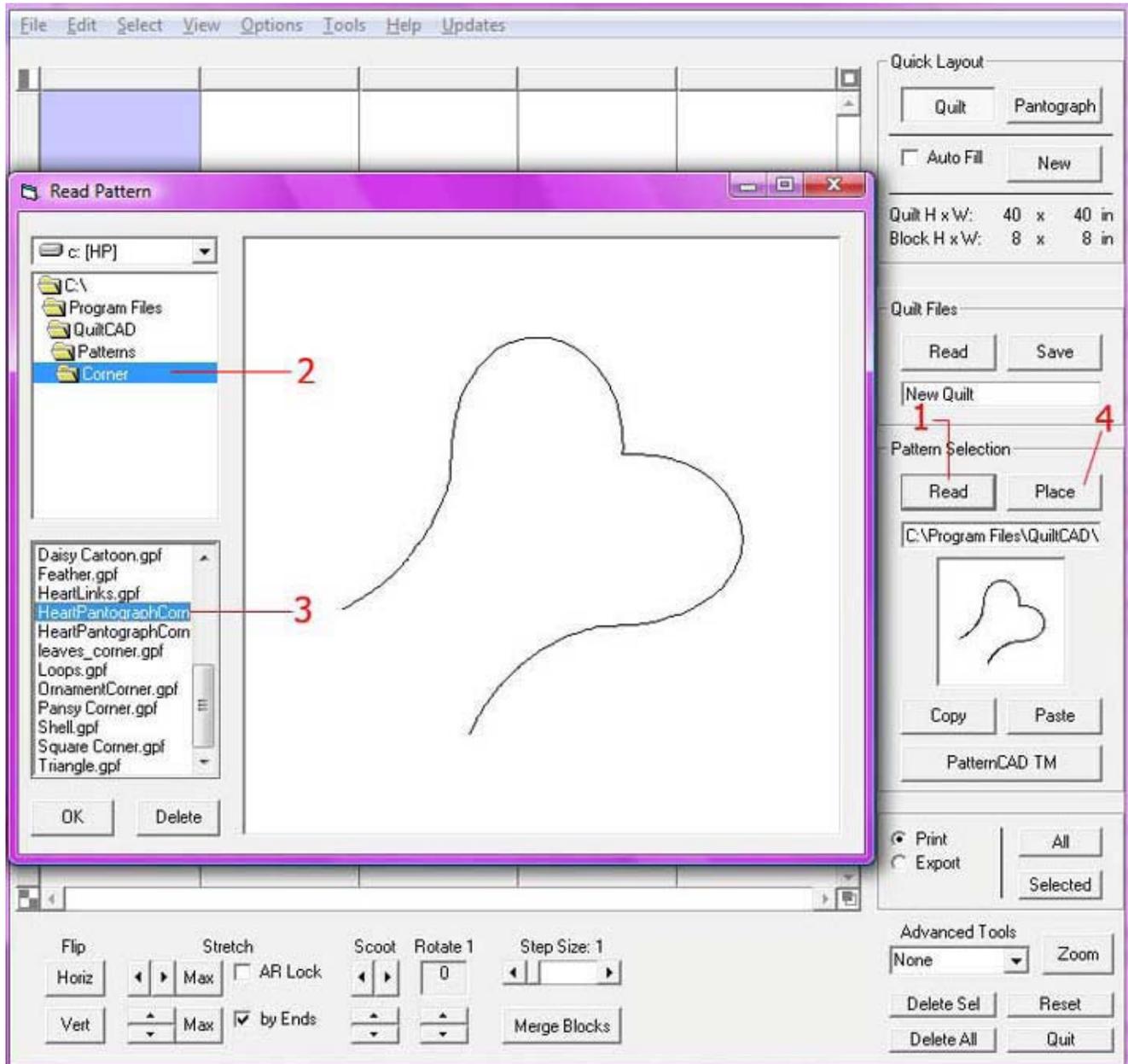


Quick Border

To quickly create a border you simply need to find and place two patterns, one corner pattern and one continuous line pattern.

First you will want to click on any one of the four corners. Then you will need to click on Read(1), just below the quilt size. Next you will want to click on the file named Corner(2).

Now you will need to pick a corner pattern that you like, for example HeartPantographCorner (3), and click OK. Then you will click on Place(4), next to read.

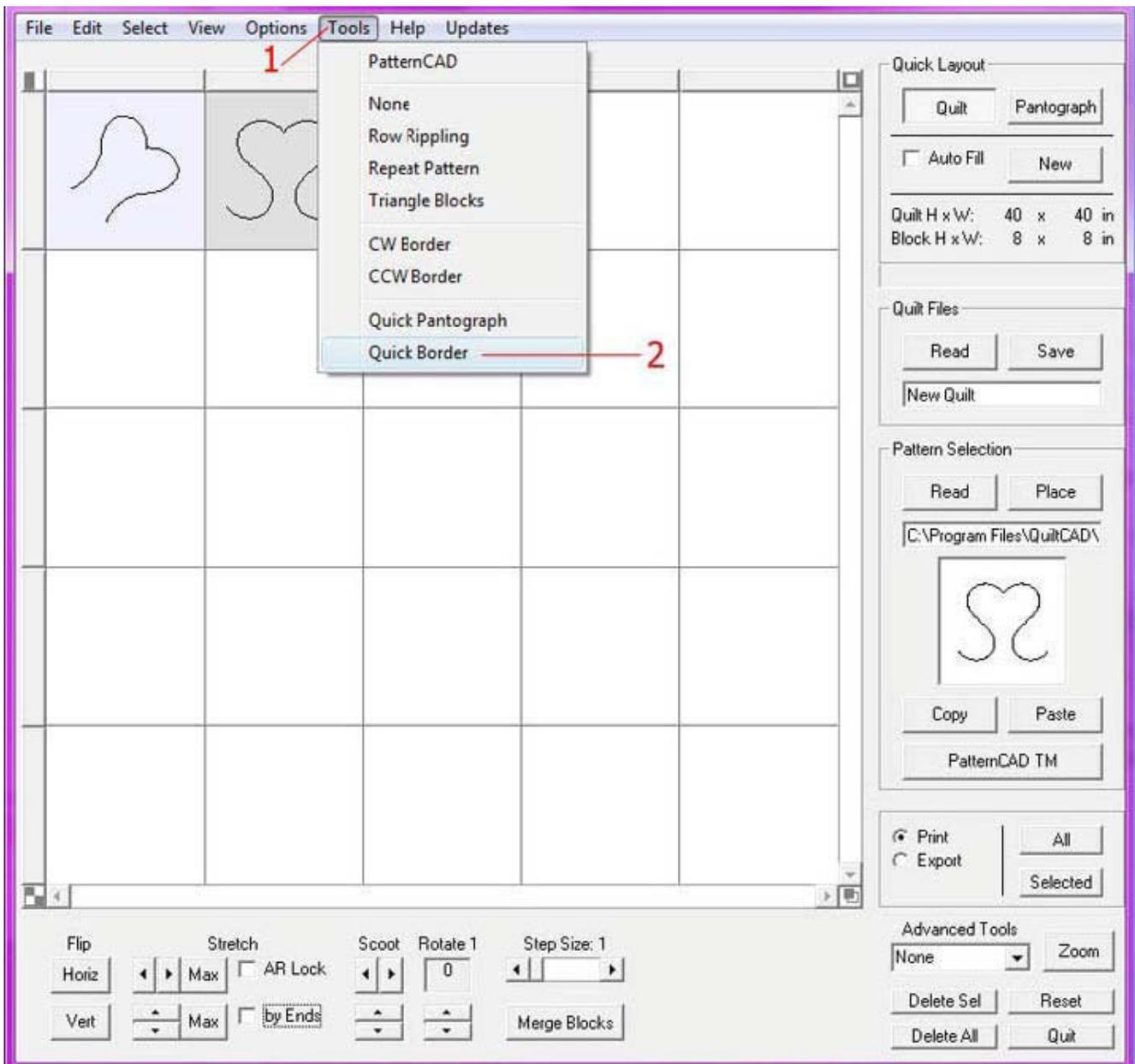


Quick Border Continued

IMPORTANT: When you are creating a border you want to make sure your corner matches your continuous line pattern.

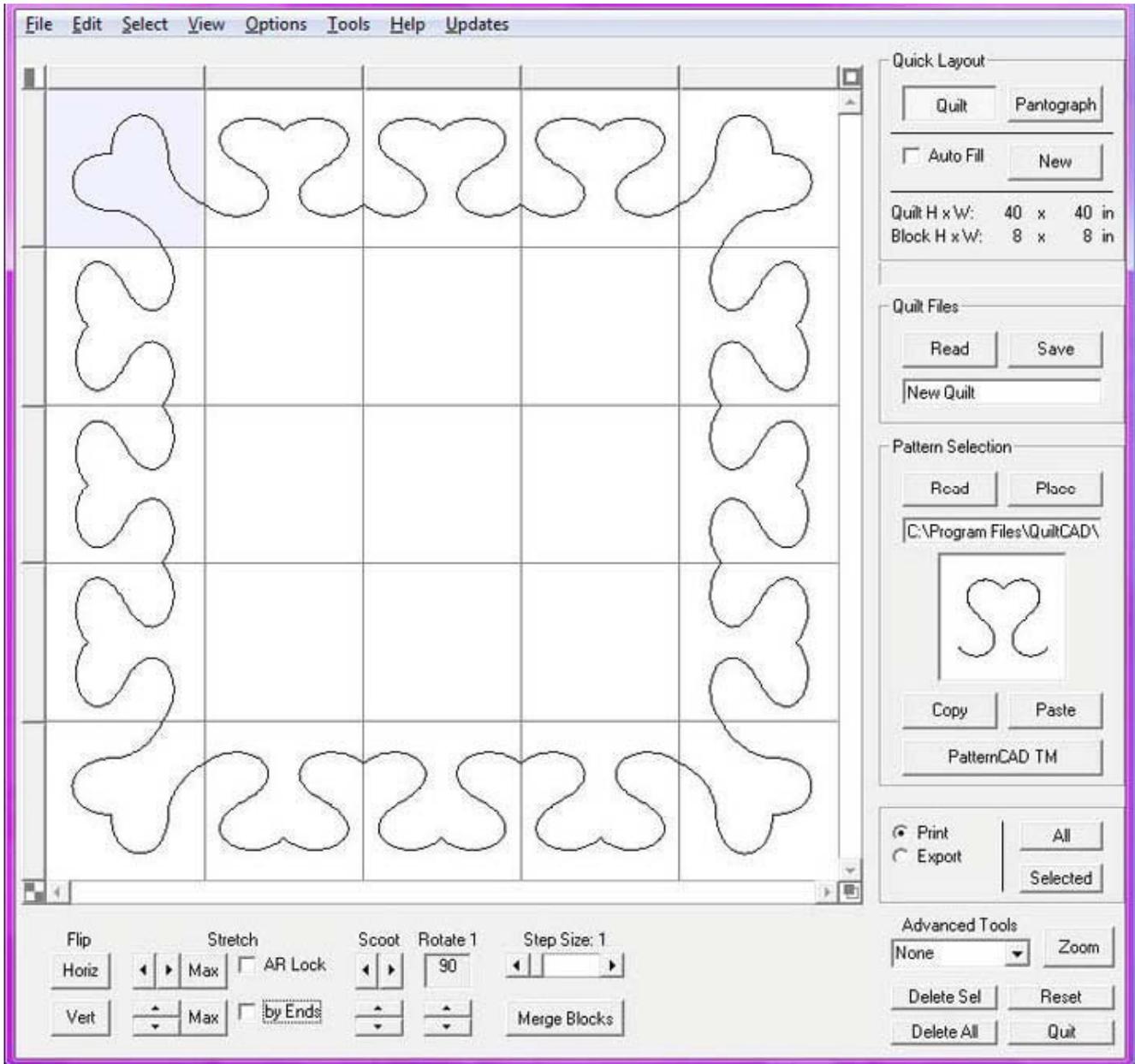
Now that you have your corner border placed you will need to read another pattern, but this time it is going to be a continuous line pattern, and we want to choose HeartPantograph to place to the right of the corner pattern.

Once you have your corner and continuous line patterns placed you click on the Tool menu(1) and then click on Quick Border(2).



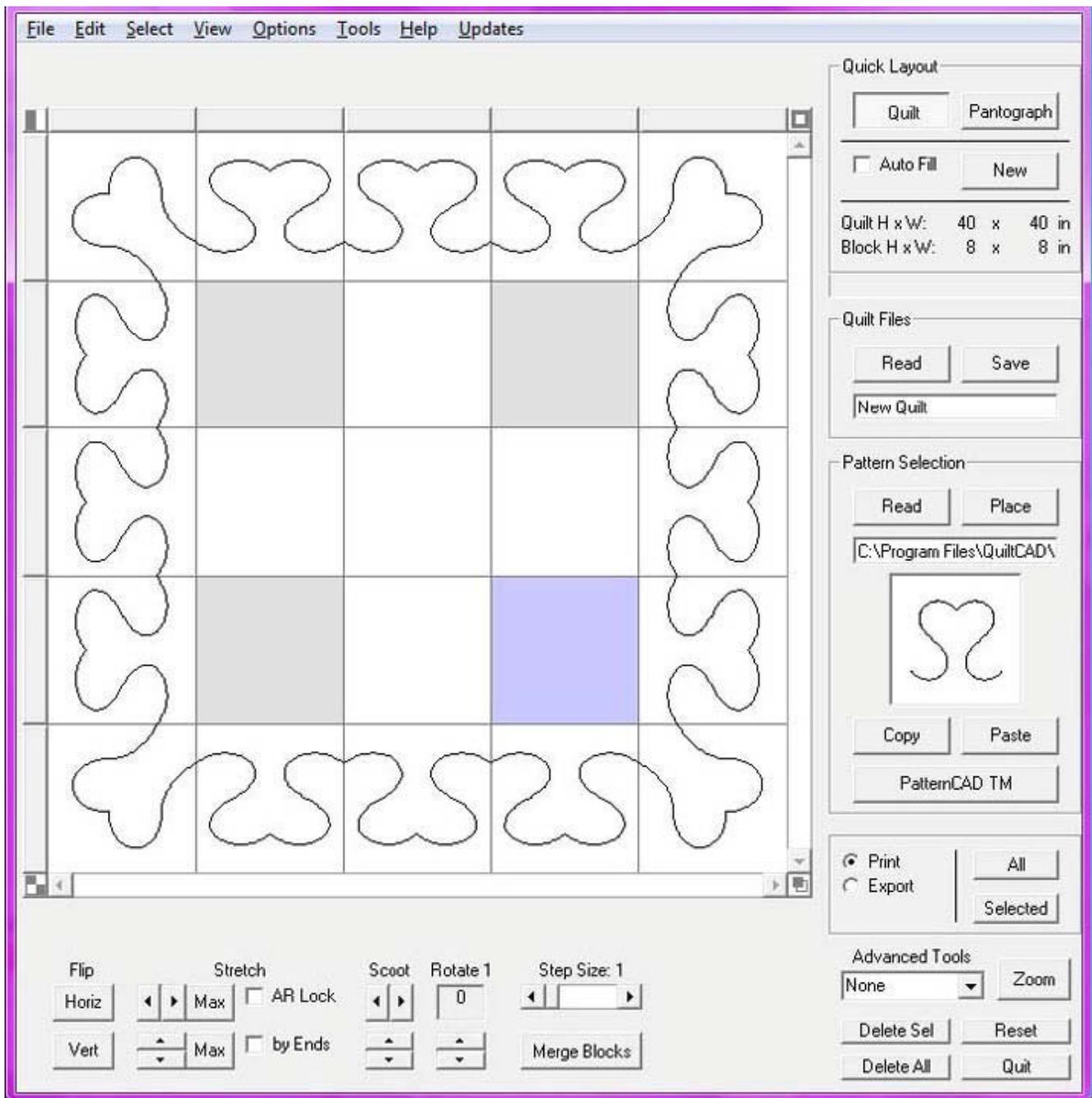
Quick Border Final

Once you clicked on Quick Border everything should have aligned properly and given you the quilt as shown below.



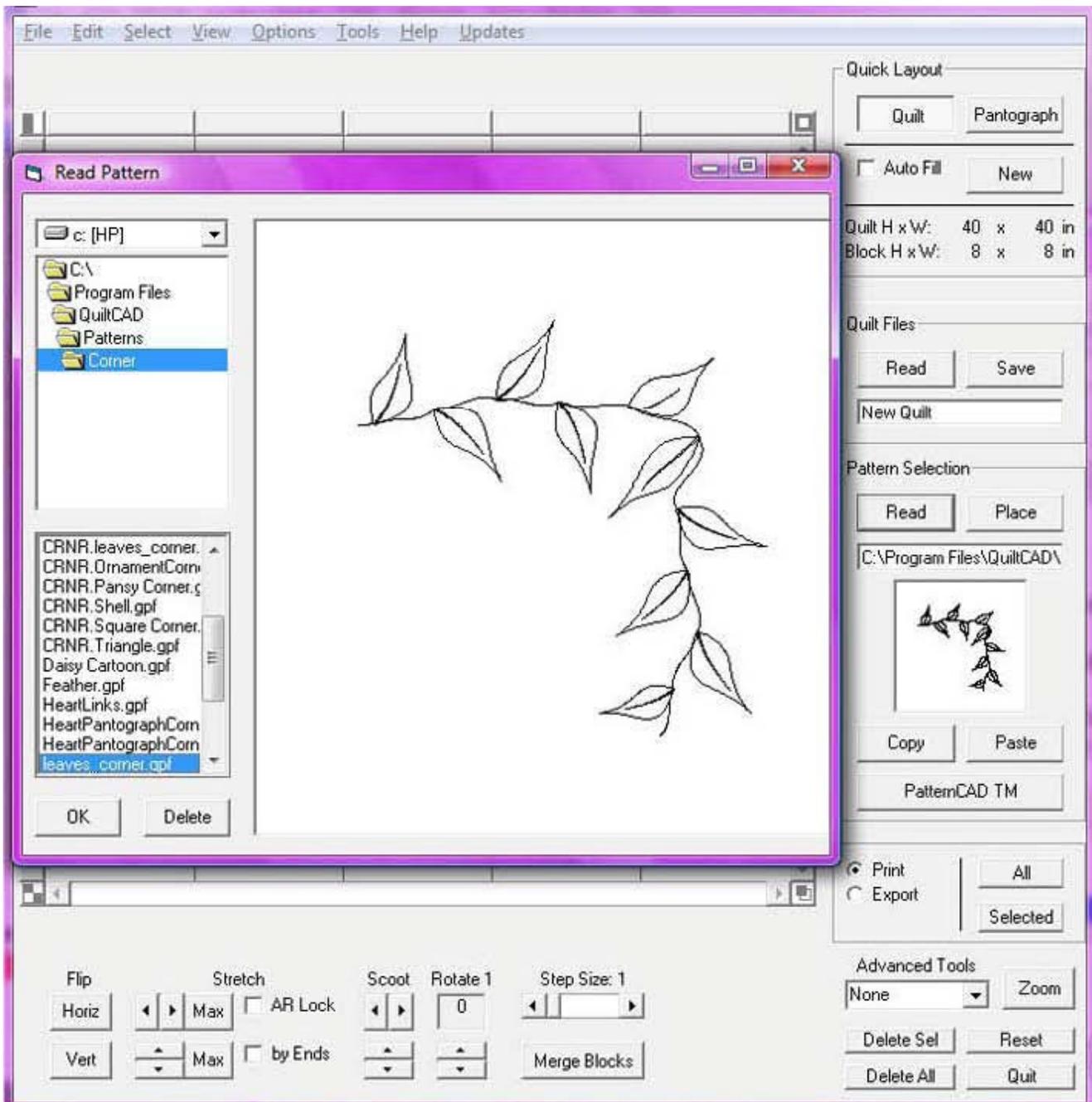
Select the Corners (Inside Border)

Begin by selecting only the corner blocks. To do this you will need to click on each corner block.



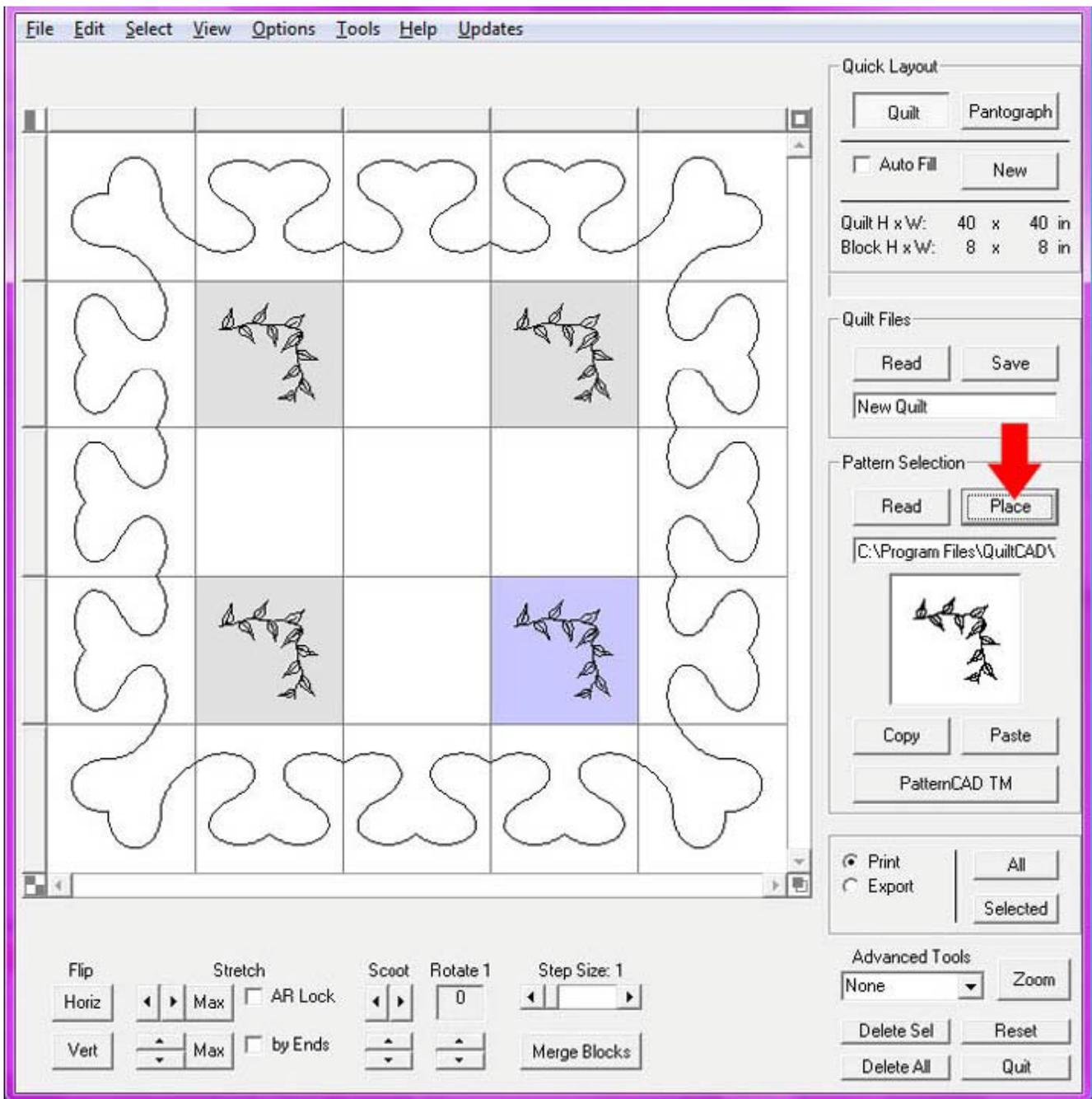
Read in a Corner Pattern

We'll use the "leaves_corner" pattern. Read it in using the usual Read Pattern method. The line of corner patterns must flow from left-top to right-bottom. So it roughly traces the path of a '7'. If it does not, the Border Tool will not work right.



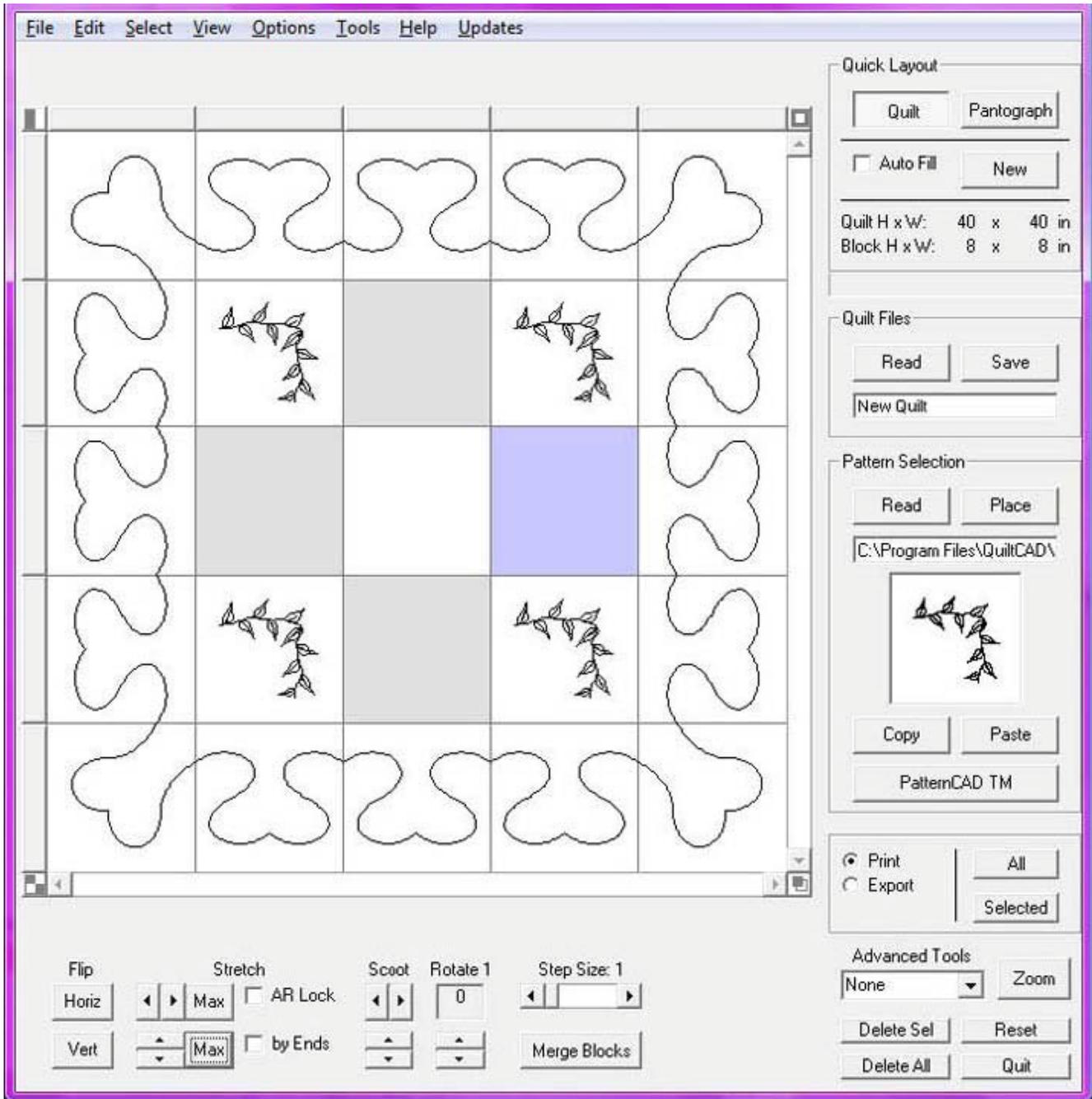
Place the Corner Pattern

Click on the 'Place' button to put the pattern in the corners.



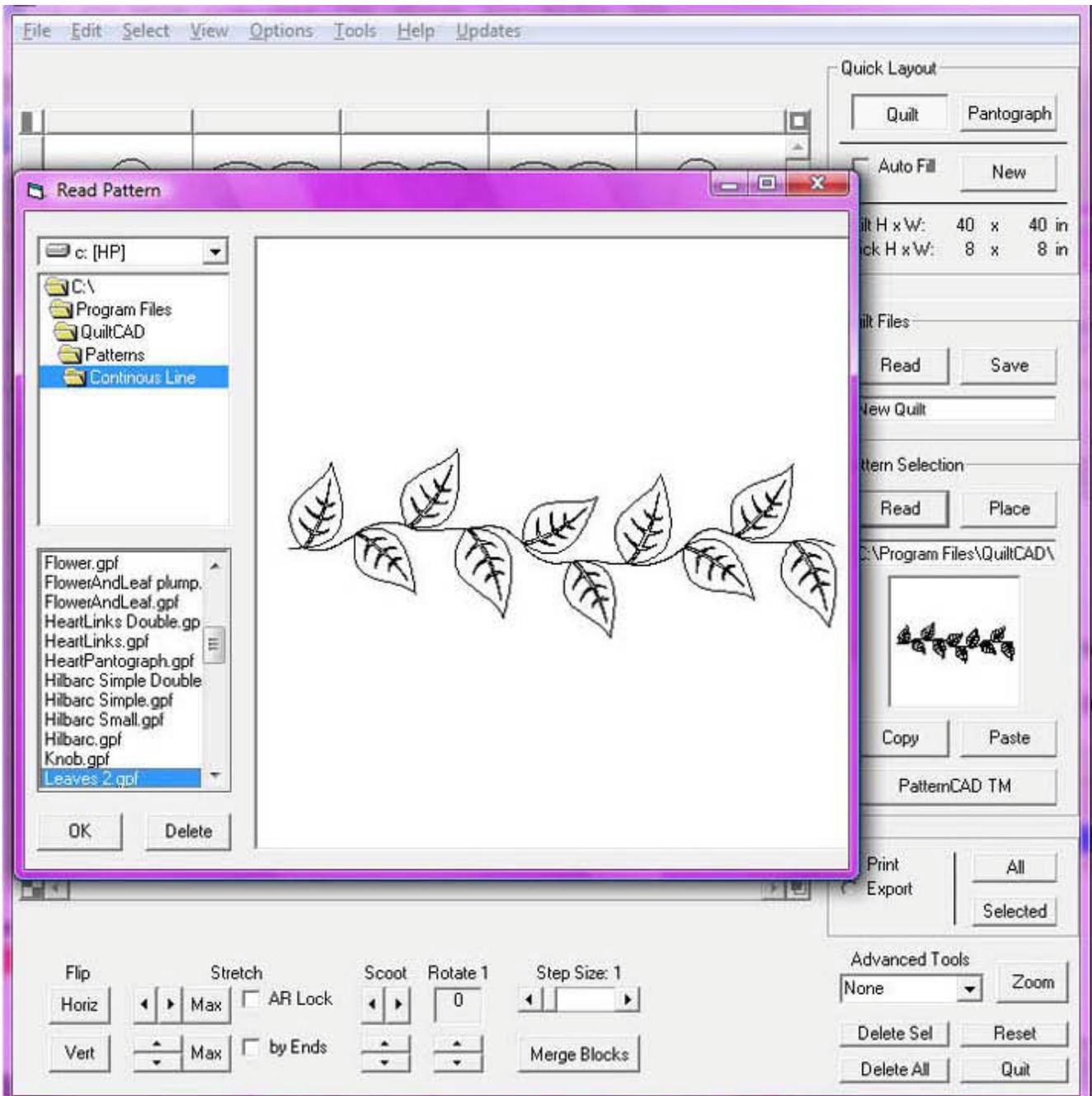
Select Non-corner Blocks

Again, click on each of the corners to make them inactive and click on all the non-corner blocks to select them.



Read in a Border Pattern

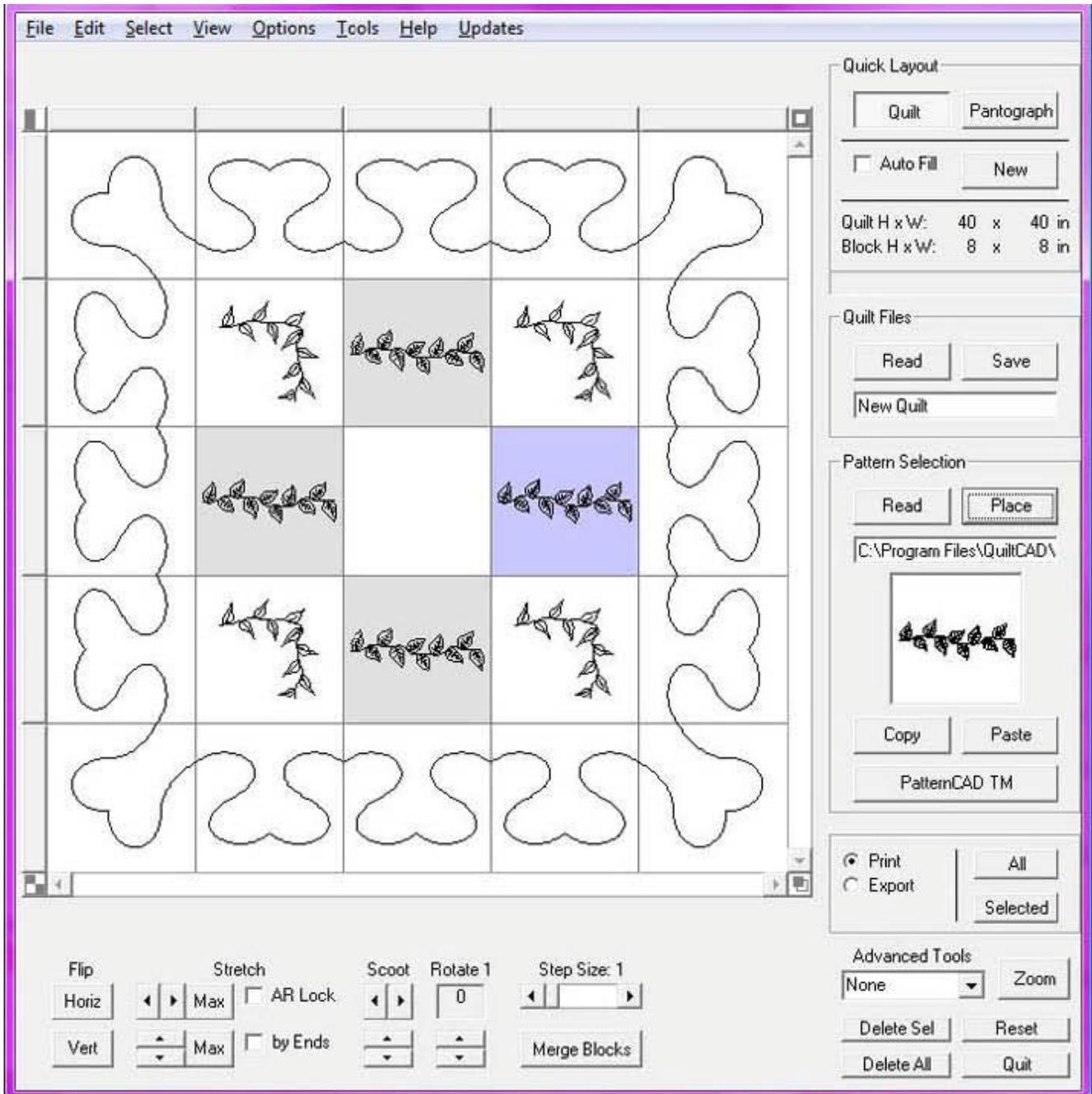
Let's use the 'leaves' pattern. It is important to select a pattern whose starting and ending points are on opposite sides. Like corner patterns, the line of a border pattern must flow properly, in this case, from left to right.



Place the Border Pattern

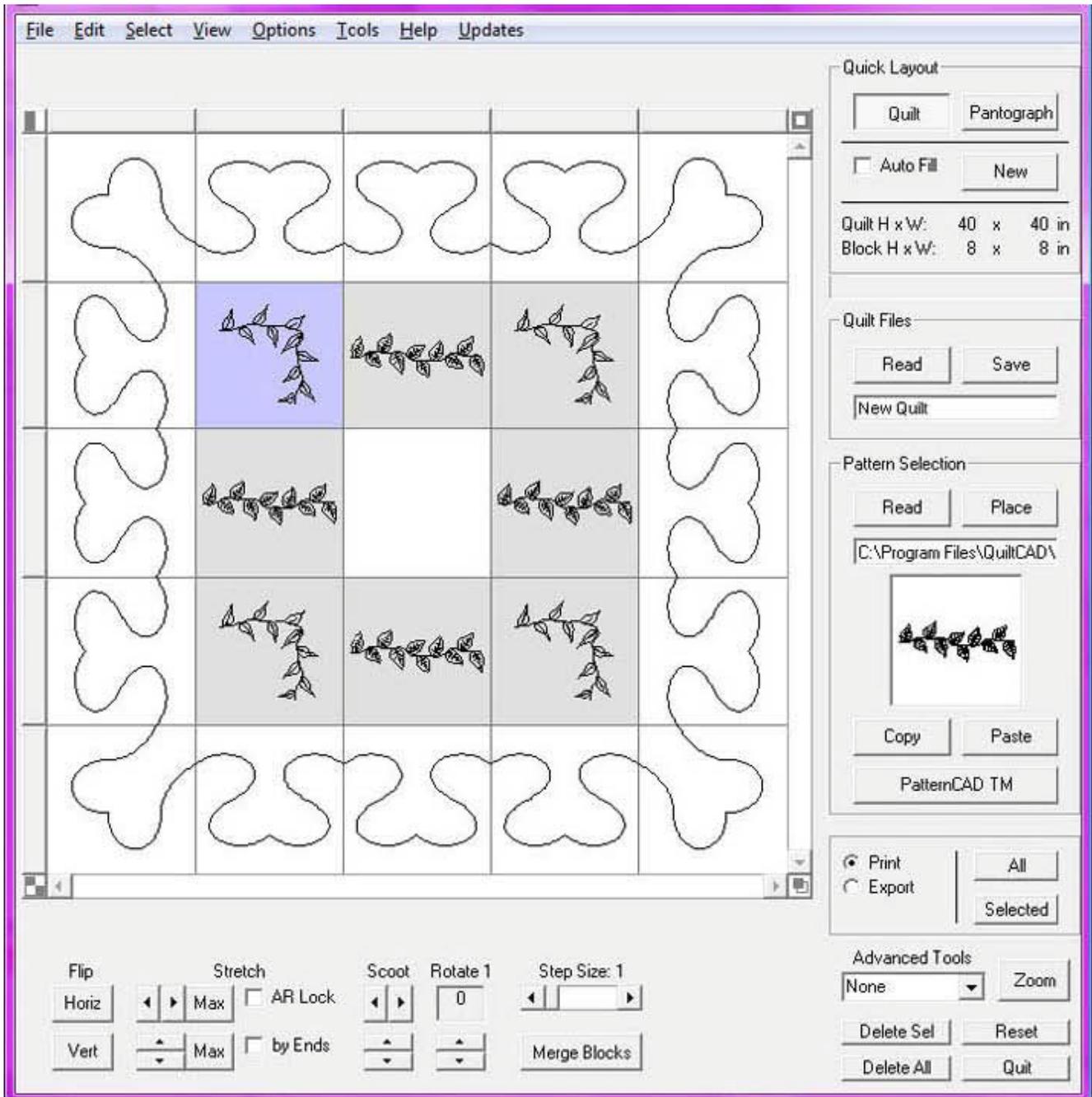
Use the 'Place' button. Now, stop and think about what you must do to make this into a border. You could do it by Flips, Stretches and Scoots, but, that is very tedious.

Especially at the corners, where they must be rotated properly, then stretched and scooted both horizontally and vertically. However, QuiltCAD gets the job done in a two-step snap!



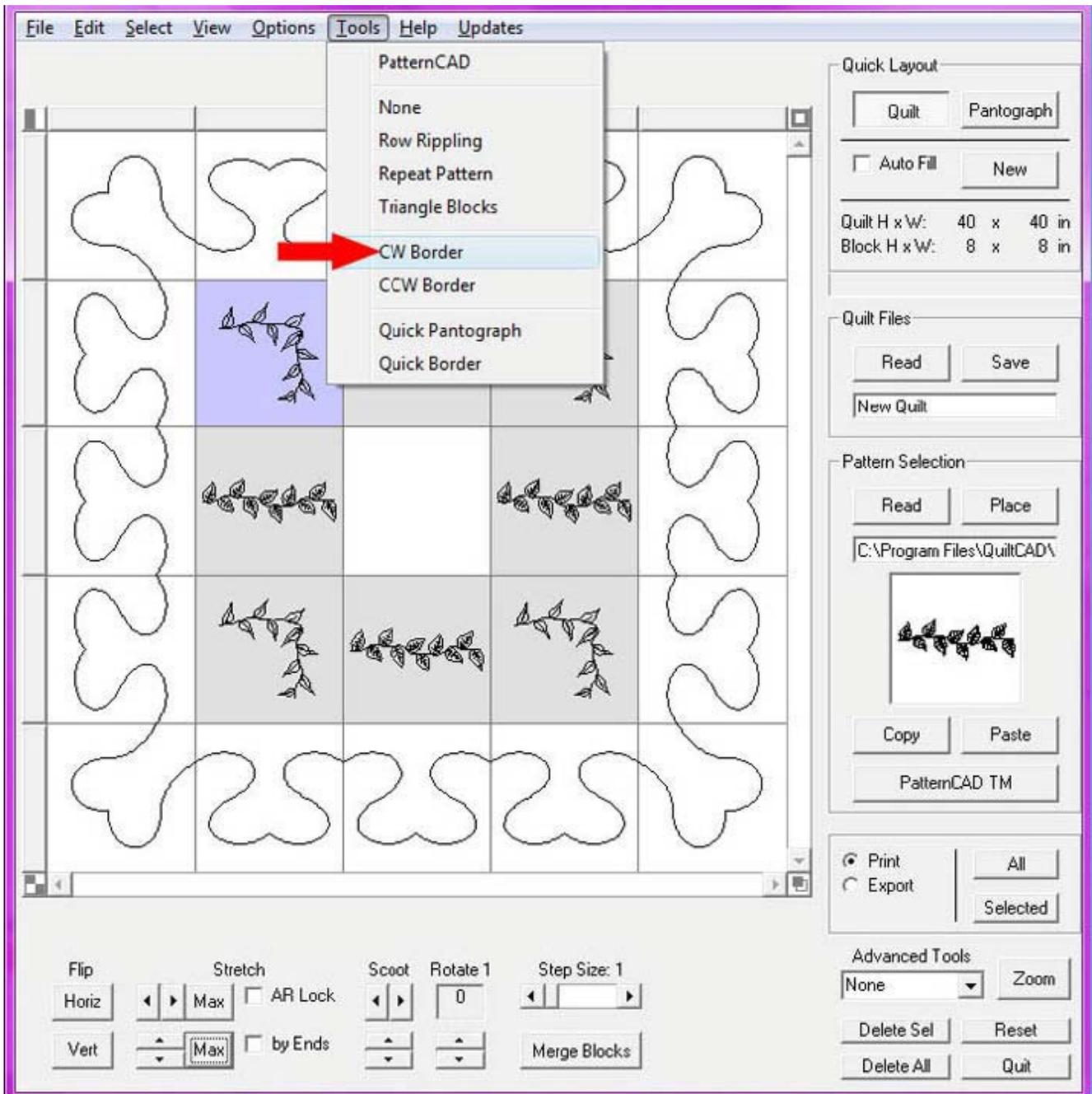
Select the Entire Border

Click on the corners now and your entire border should be selected.



Start the CW Border Tool

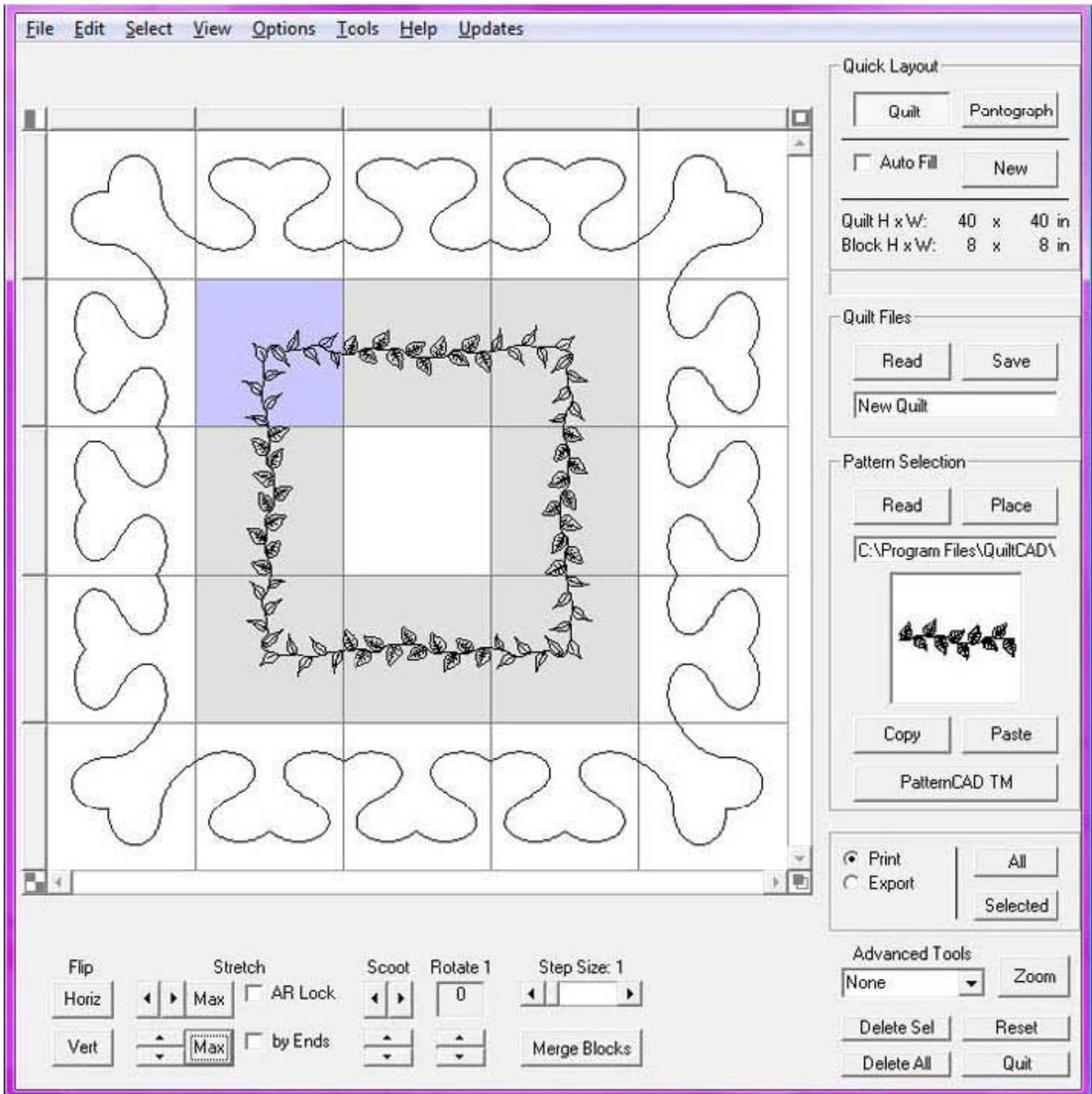
From the Main Menu, select Tools -> CW Border. This will kick-off the process to turn your patterns into a nice, clean border.



Your First Inside Border

Congratulations!

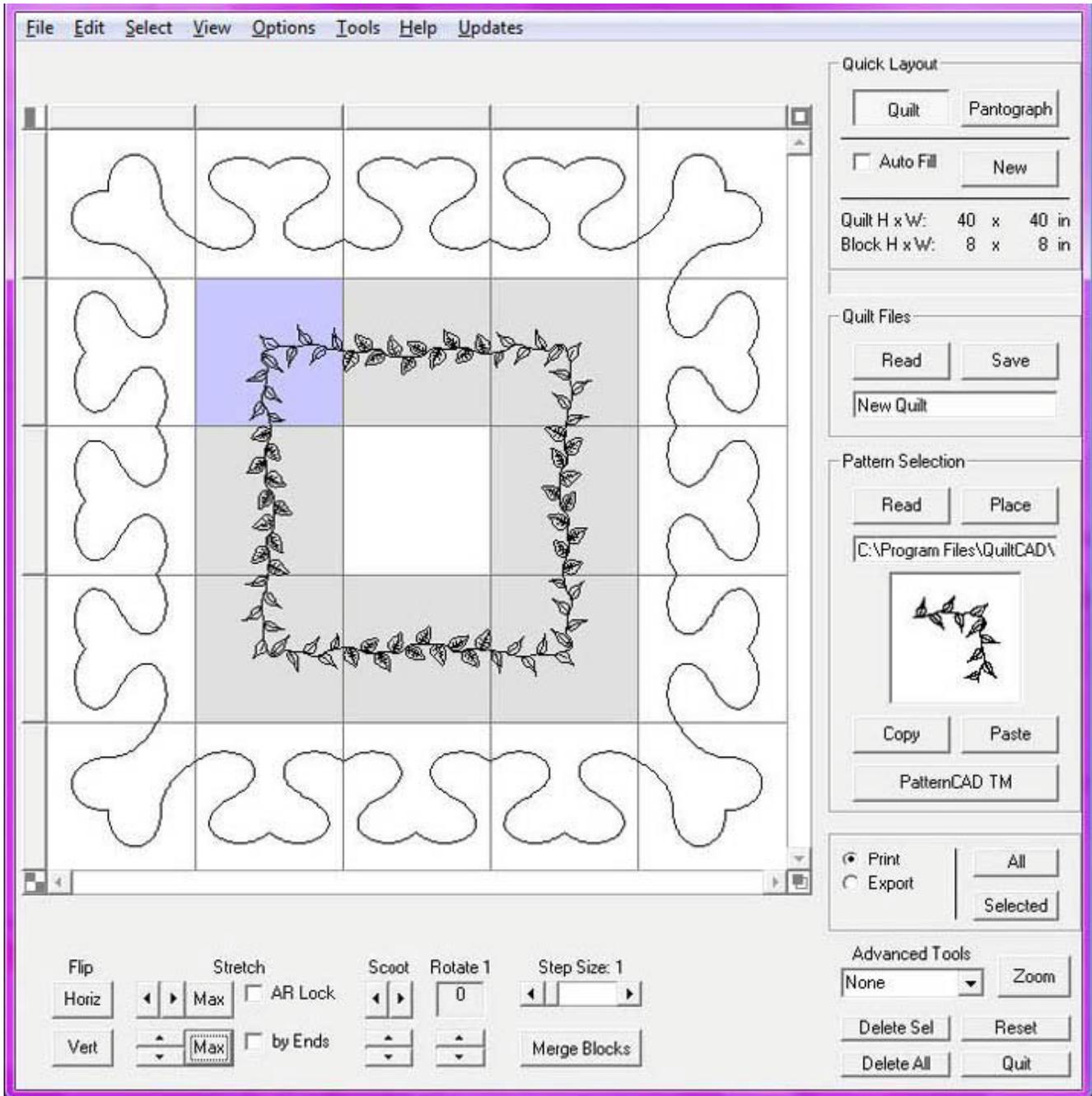
QuiltCAD automatically did all the Stretching, Flipping, and Rotating for you to create a perfect border from your two patterns. We made a clock-wise running border. (At least it's clockwise with respect to the way the leaves are pointing). The next step shows you the border running counter clock-wise and tells you how to do it.



A Counter-Clockwise Border

Go back to the Main Menu and select Tools -> CCW Border.

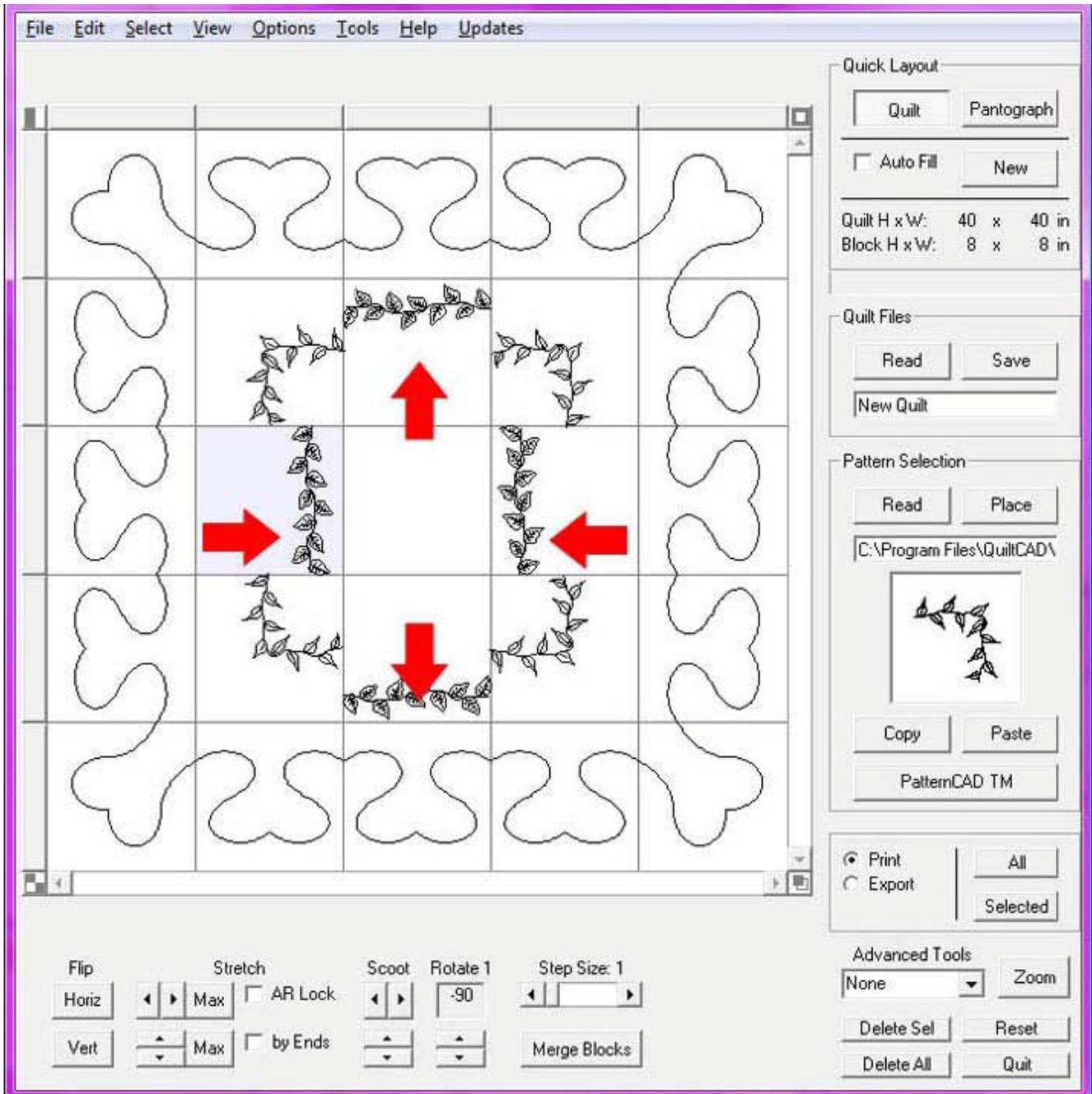
QuiltCAD will re-do all the proper pattern shaping and fitting to create a counter-clockwise border.



Tweaking the Borders

The purpose of these next few steps is to show how you can adjust borders, and still use the Border Tools to re-connect the corners.

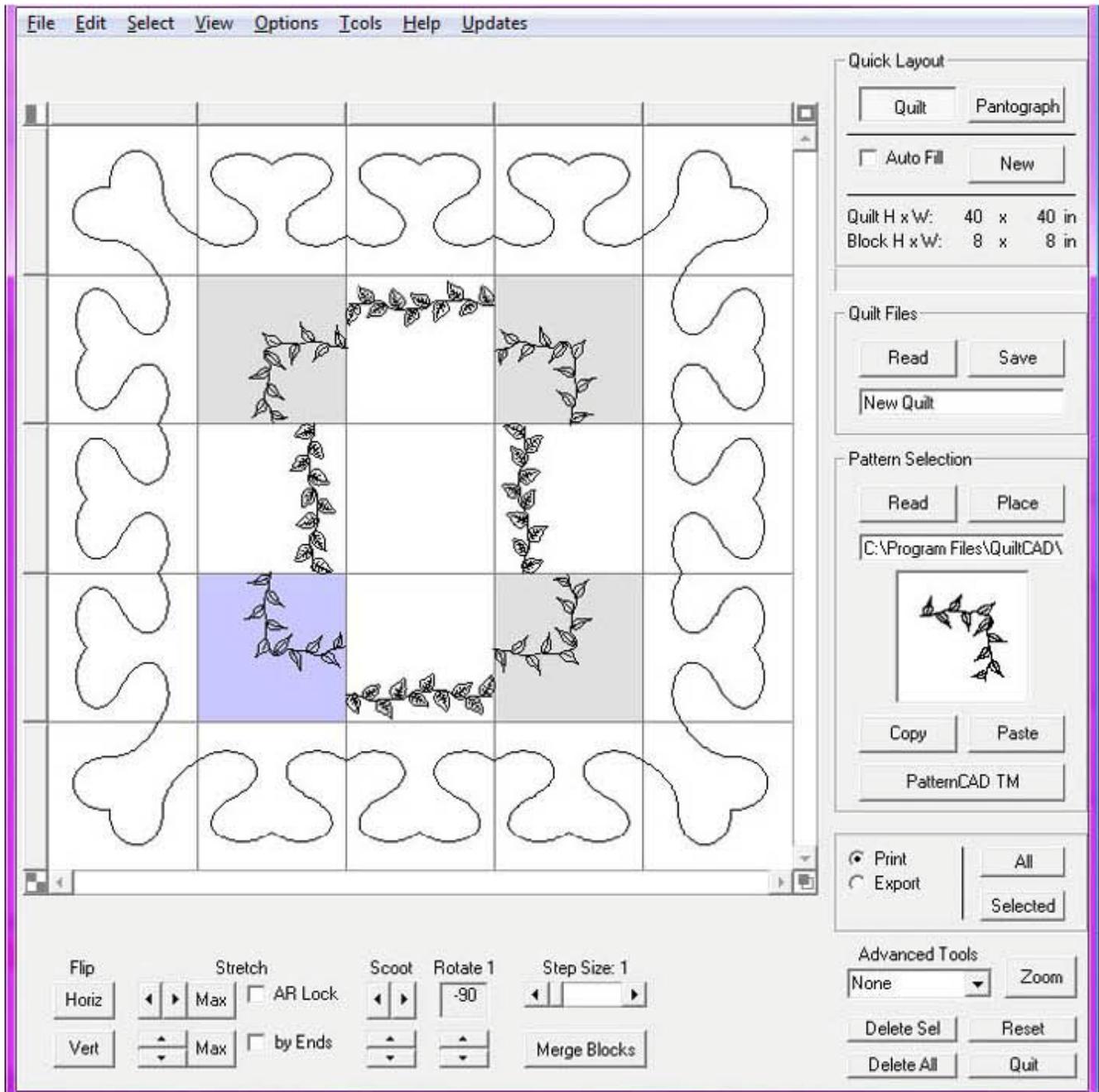
This picture illustrates the border after the patterns in the non-corner border blocks were selected and then scooted.



Select the Corners

Now, we're going to click on just the corners. We don't want to change the non-corner blocks. Once the corners are selected, start the Border Tool from the Main Menu, again:

Tools -> CCW Border Go to the next step to see the newly adjusted border.



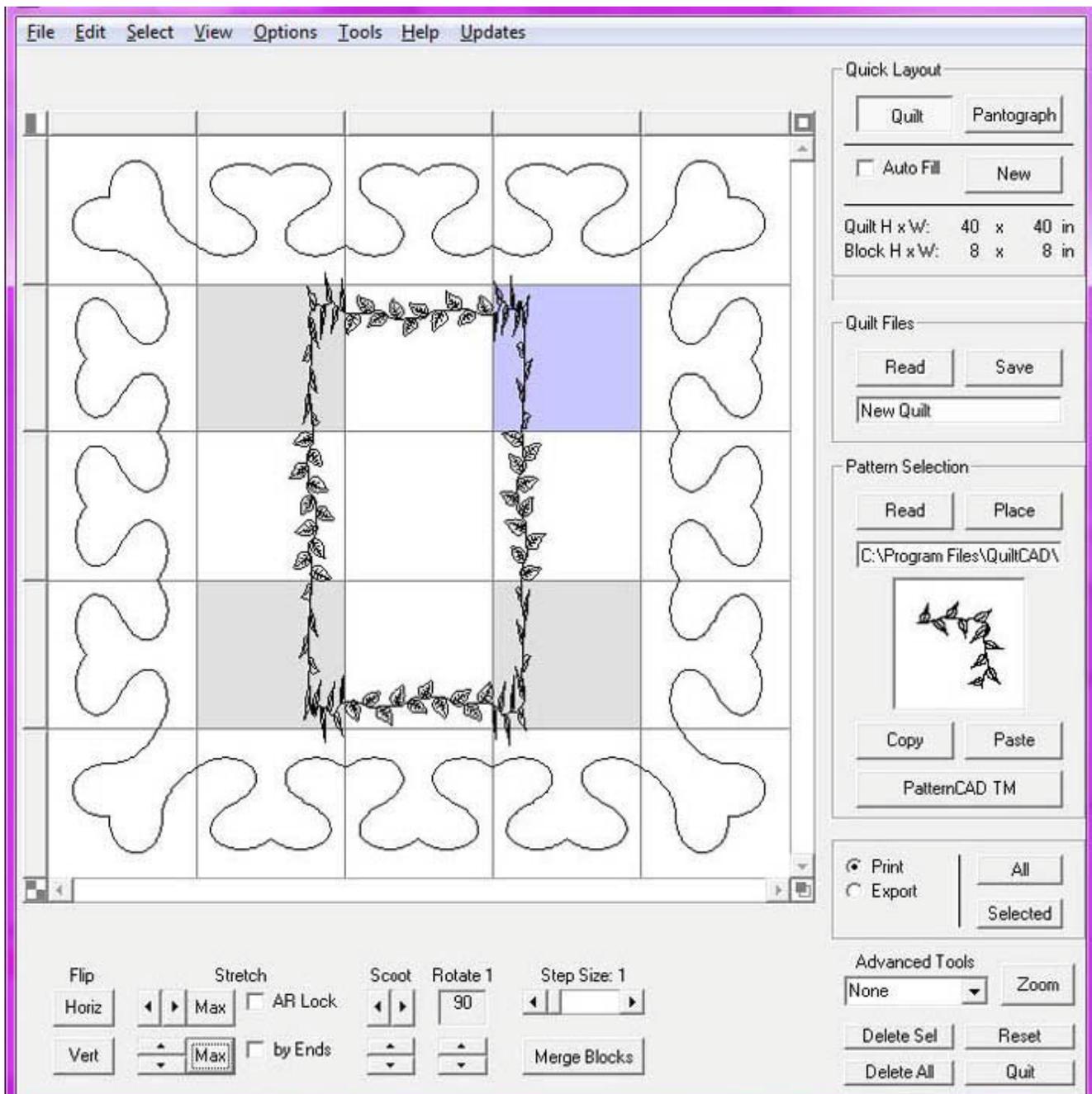
View Your Adjusted Border.

So, once again, QuiltCAD made it easy for you by fitting the corners to the borders.

There are a few things you must consider here. The corners are ALWAYS made to fit the non-corners. QuiltCAD will shrink and stretch the corners; however, it must to make them fit. Sometimes this looks distorted (as in this case), but, nonetheless, you have one continuous border. Why did we choose the 'CCW Border' tool for the corners, and not 'CW Border'? Because the non-corner patterns were already CCW, from earlier in our example. Had you selected 'CW Border', QuiltCAD would have become lost trying to match up clockwise corners with counter-clockwise borders.

The complete process in forming 'non-standard' borders is:

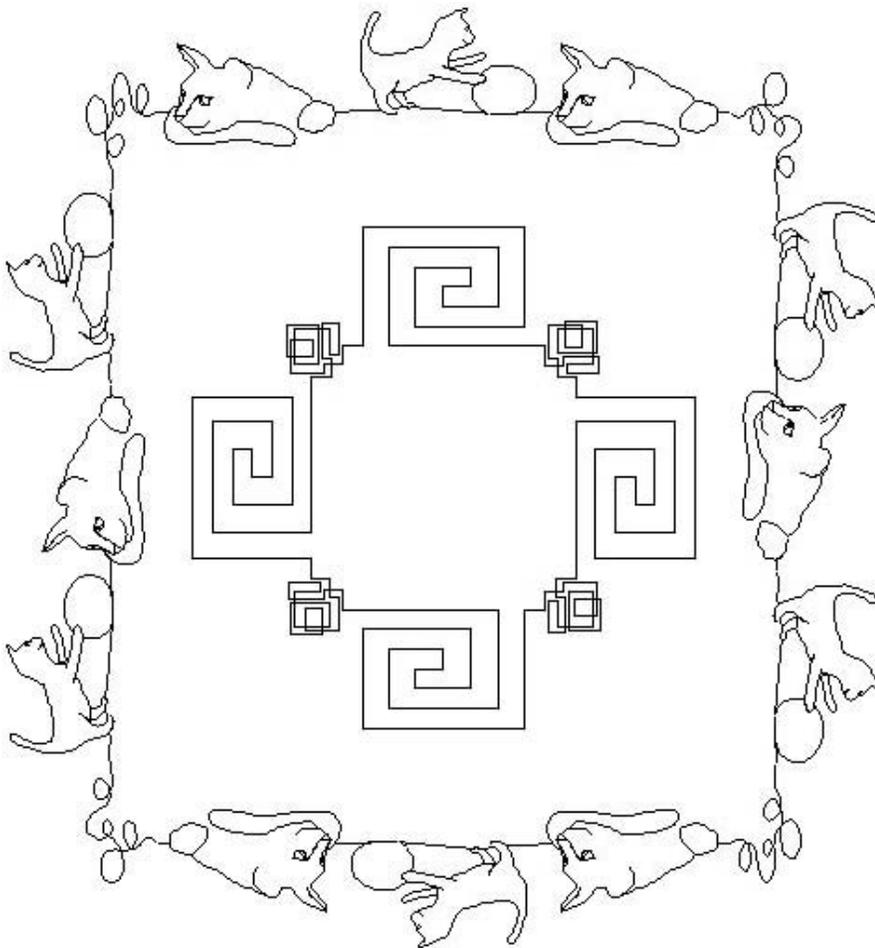
- Create your basic border around the entire quilt.
- Vertically stretch the non-corners if you want to adjust their proportions.
- Scoot your non-corner border patterns to where you want them to align.
- Use the Border Tool on the Corners only, and do it in the same direction (i.e. CCW or CW) as you did in 'a'.
- After your newly adjusted border is done, you may then flip patterns as needed, to get them facing which way you want.



A few final words..

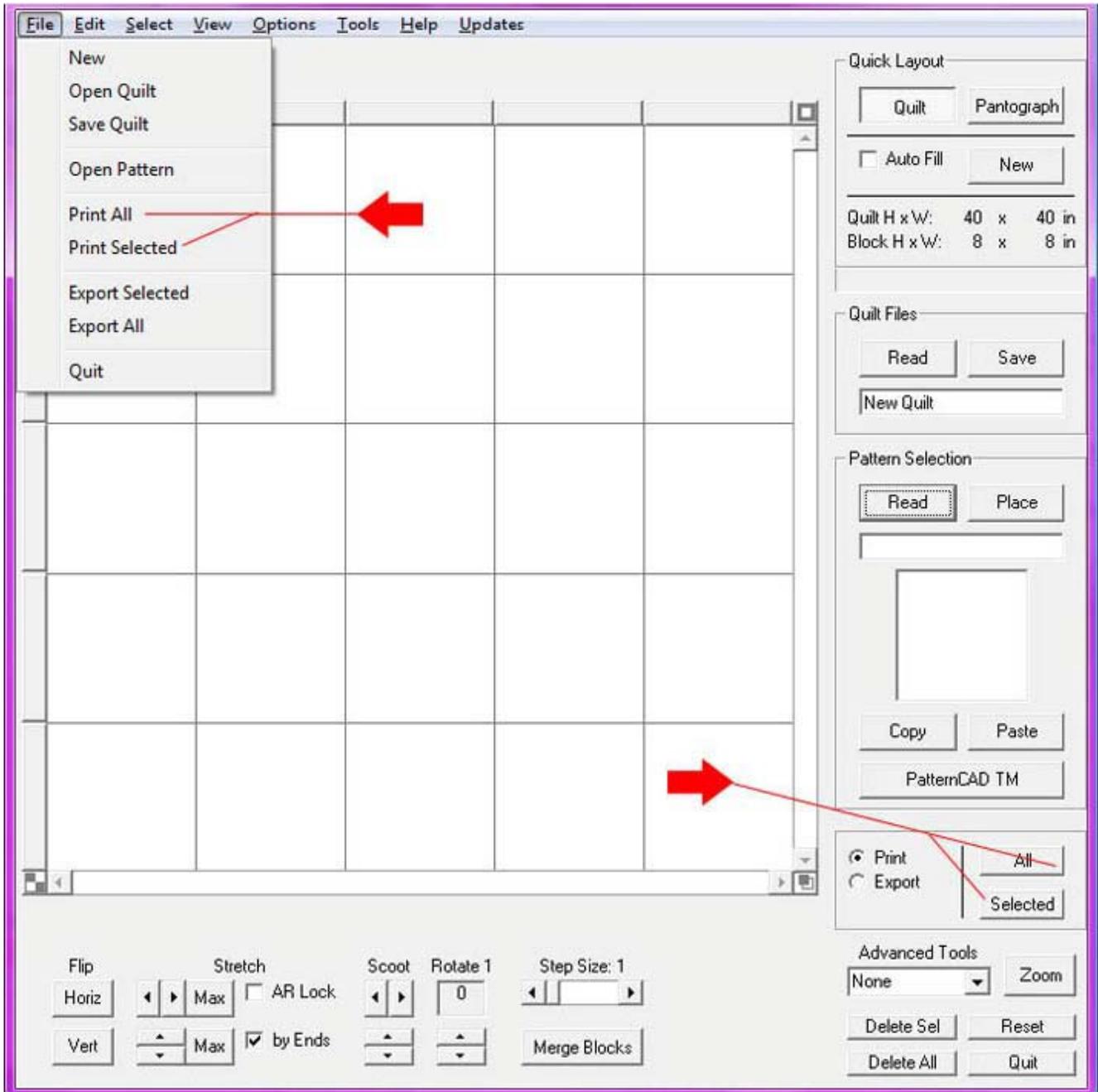
We're sure you appreciate how the QuiltCAD Border tool greatly simplifies the border creation process, especially if you've tried to do it without the tool. Even so, care must be taken to follow the right steps and to use the right types of patterns. Otherwise, you may end up with some very interesting results!

The example shown here illustrates that you can use different patterns in creating your borders. In this example, we first created the basic border with the patterns shown, so everything was facing in a single clockwise direction. We stretched the cats vertically, to improve their proportions. We then scooted the cats so their end points aligned at the block edges, because mixed patterns normally do not align. Next, we used the Border Tool on the corners only, to connect it all up again. And finally, we did some horizontal and vertical flipping to get the outer cats on the rows and columns to face inwards. Follow the process, and you'll be a border-creating expert in no time!



Print Preview

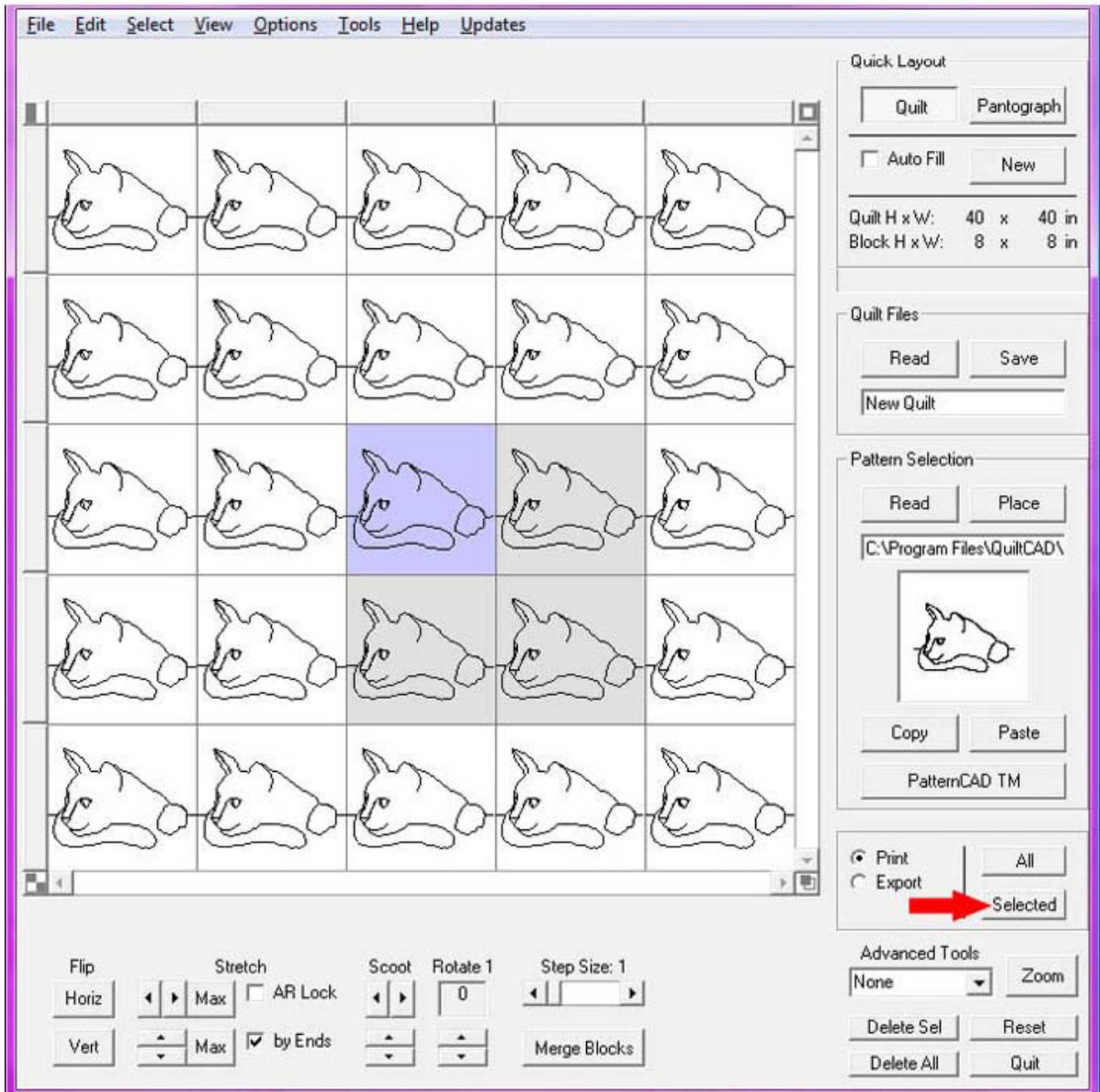
With Print Preview, you can both look at your designs, without the block lines, and output your designs to your printer. There are two ways to get to the Print Previewer: the Main Menu, or the two Preview buttons. The 'Print All' option displays your entire design. The 'Print Selected' option displays only those blocks that are selected.



Starting the Print Previewer

We're going to populate our quilt with cats, but only select four of them, to illustrate how the Print Selected works.

Click on the 'Selected' button to bring-up the Previewer.

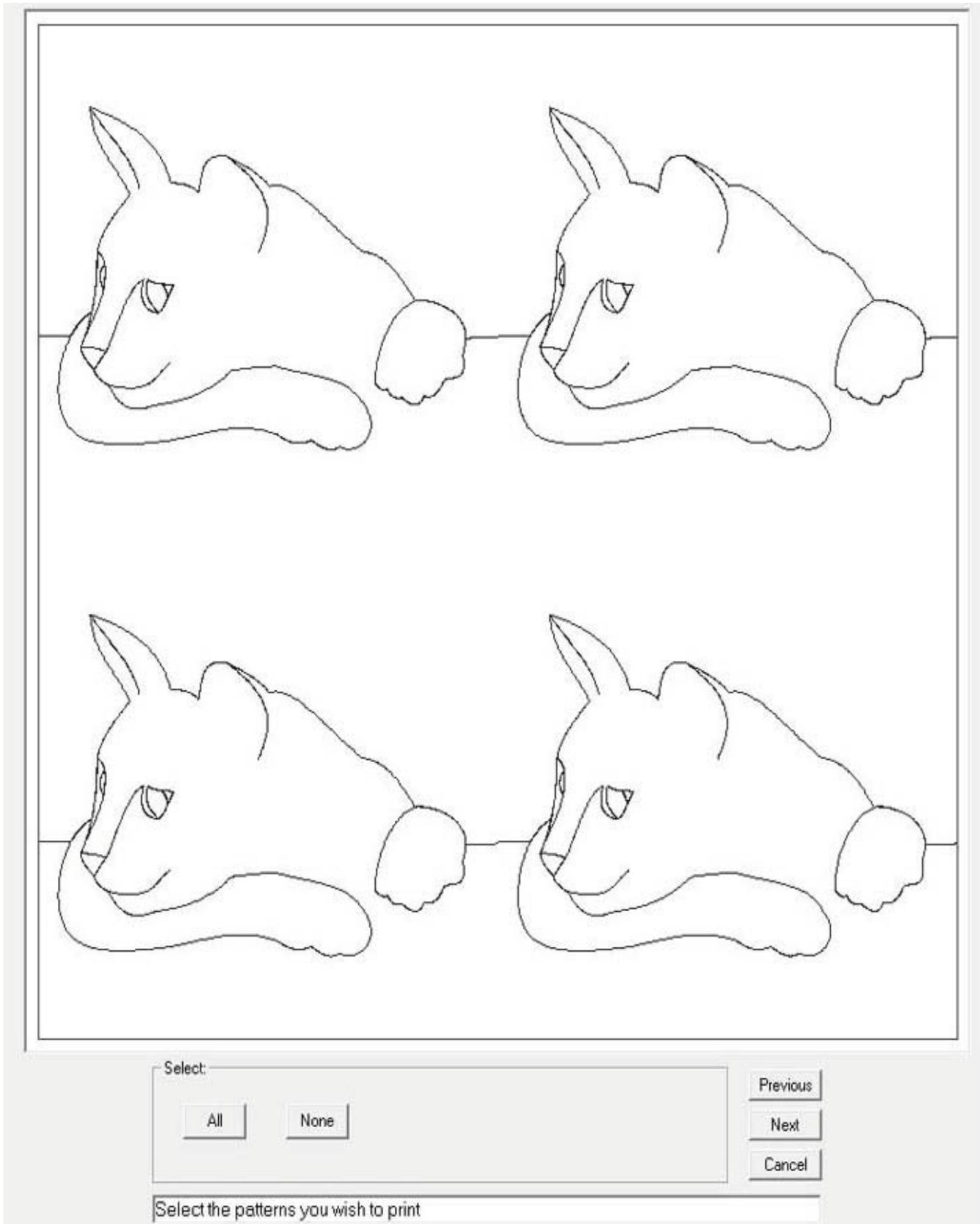


See the Cats

Now we have a nice clear view of the four selected cats. This, by the way, is a great way to zoom-in on selected blocks.

Since our quilt has blocks that are 12 inches square, we are looking at a 2 foot by 2 foot section of the quilt.

So how do we fit that on paper? The next help item will explain that and a lot more.



The Features

Again, we've designed this previewer with you, the quilter in mind. We're going to now explain each of the features of the Print Preview window.

Show Map: This shows how your design will come out on paper. Currently, only paper sizes of 8.5 x 11 are supported. We will expand to other non-standard sizes eventually. Note that the blue lines cover an area that is slightly less than the full sheet of paper. This is so you have overlap when you tape the sheets together.

Print Map Sheet: Prints the entire map to a single sheet of paper, so you have a guide when you assemble the full-size printouts.

Print Quilt Sheets: Starts the process of printing your full-size design.

Setup: Brings up a printer setup dialog box that allows you to do standard printer setups that include changing the orientation of your paper. Again, currently we only support 8.5 x 11 paper.

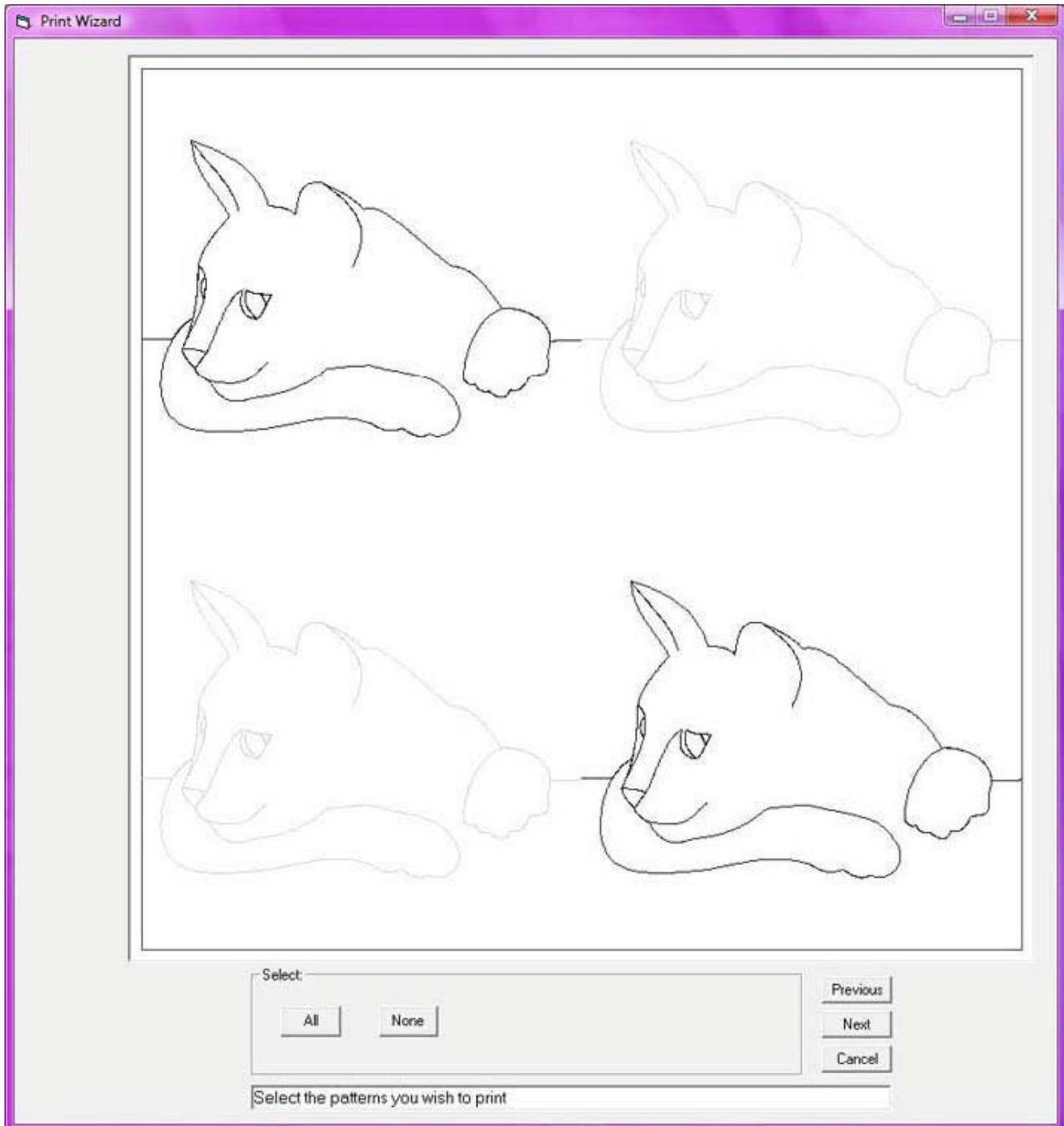
Range: You may print portions of your design by selecting the range of pages to print.

Caption: This is a text area for you to enter a caption that will appear at the bottom of each sheet. You may wish to include items such as title, author, and a copyright notice.

Select Patterns to Print

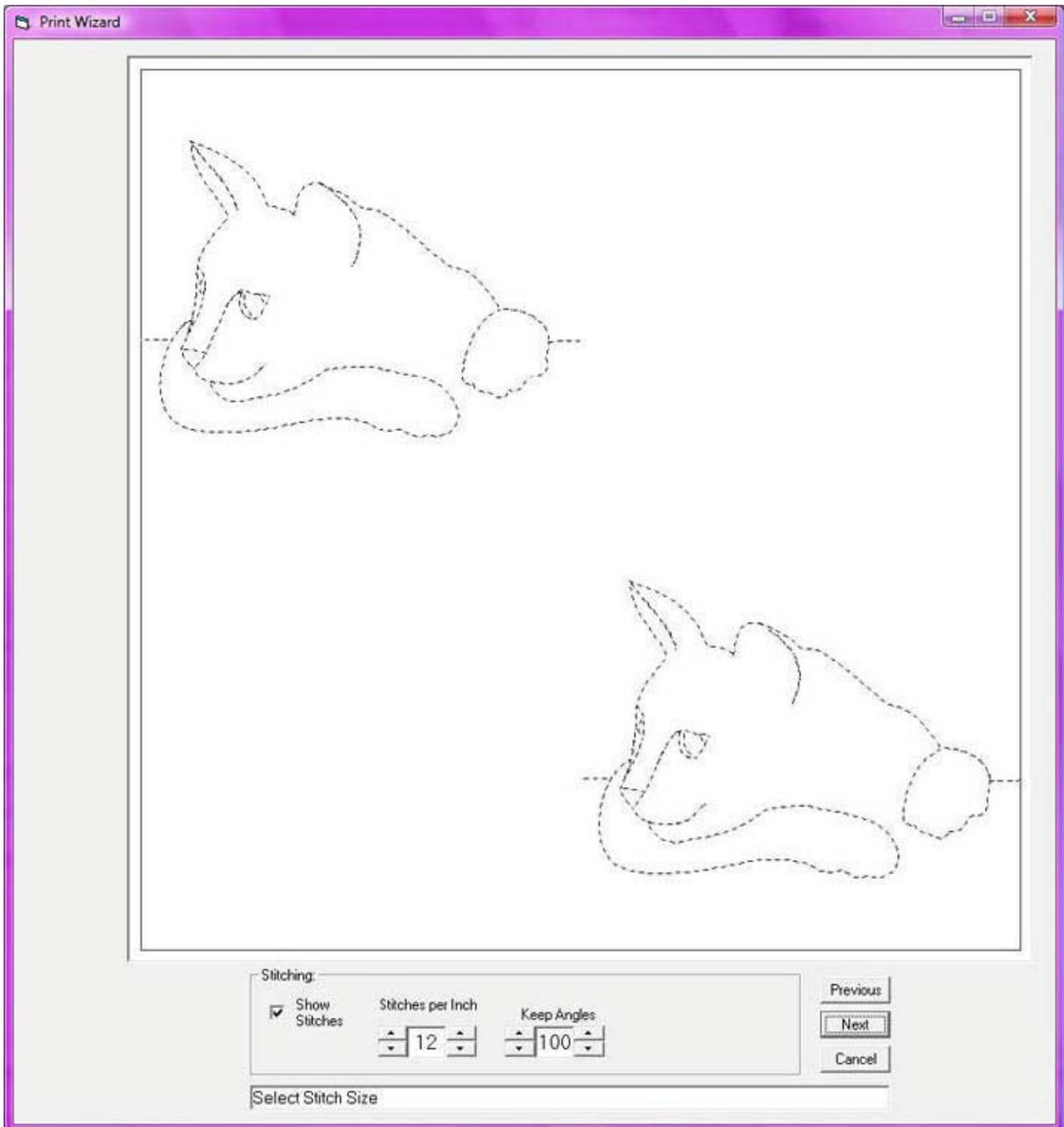
You can select the patterns you want to print by just clicking on them and they will be grayed out, as you can see below.

You can also click all or none below if you want all the patterns printed and then click Next.



Show Stitching

Once you have selected the patterns you want to print and clicked the next button it show the stitch lines. You can change the Stitch per Inch and Keep Angle, but the recommended settings are the default settings. You can also uncheck the Show Stitching and just have a solid black line. You can also uncheck the Show Stitching and just have a solid black line.

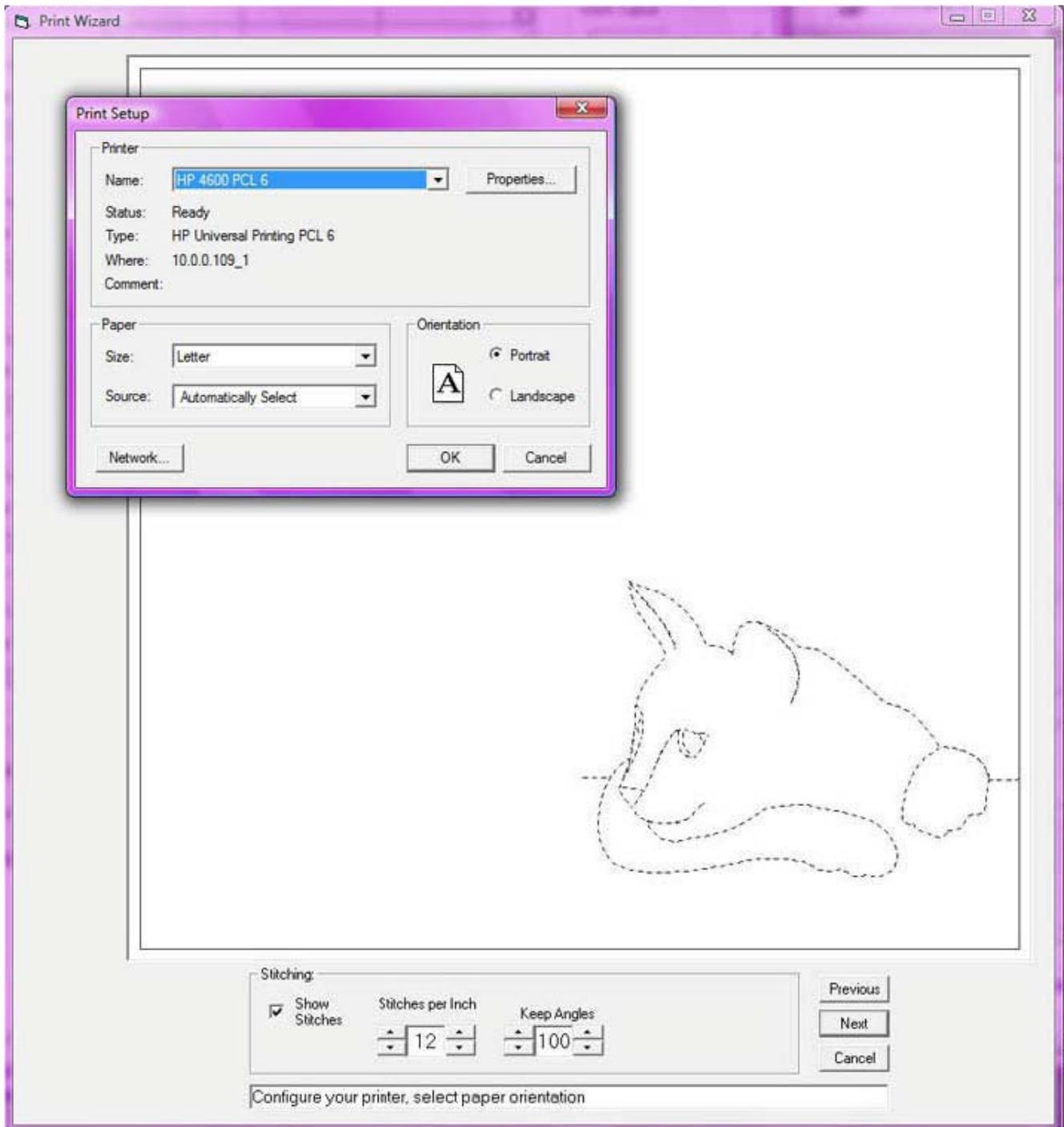


A Landscape Layout

This view is to simply illustrate the Print Setup Box, and what the map looks when the landscape option is selected.

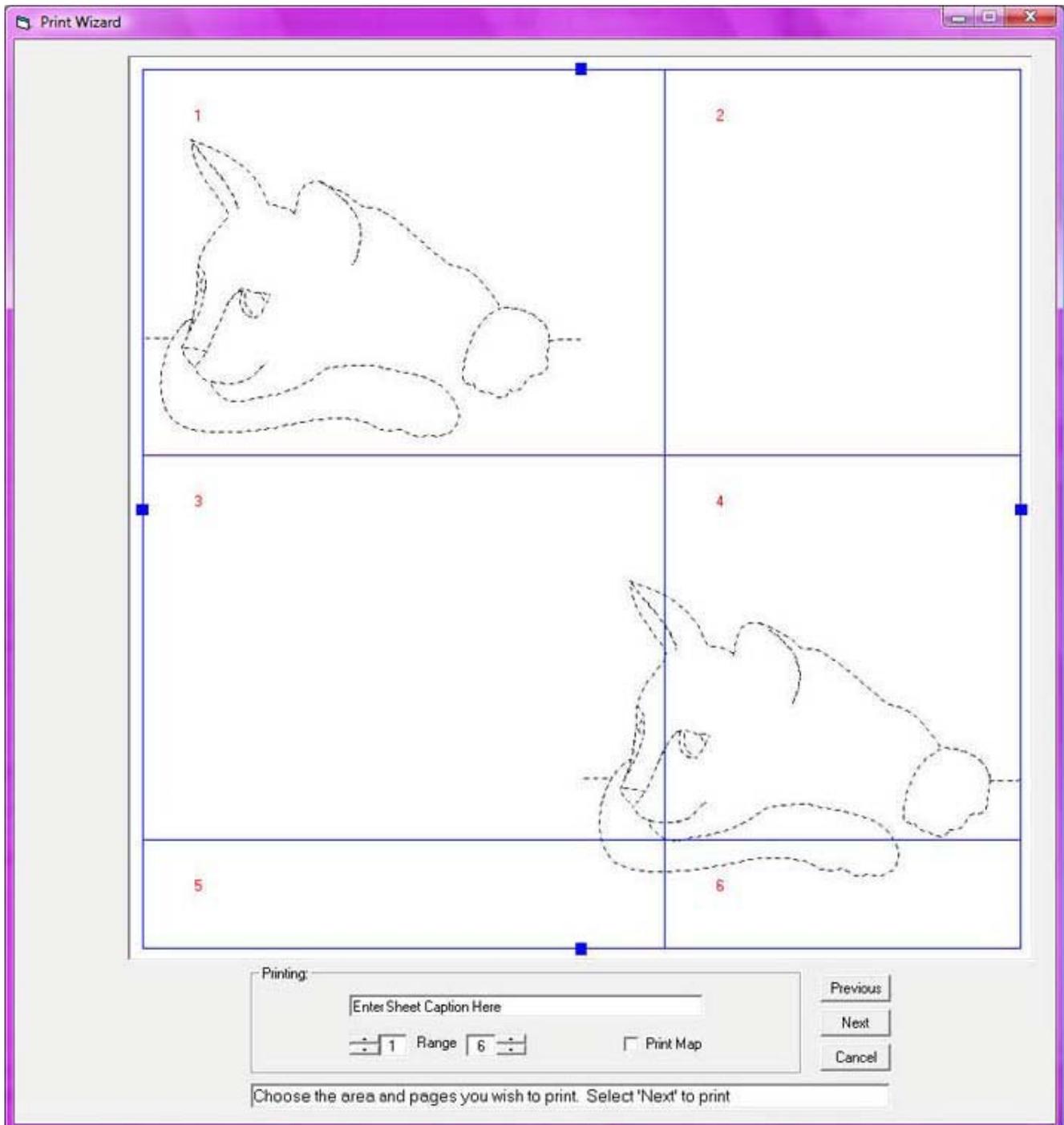
That is it for printing. Pretty basic stuff, isn't it?

And, that is also it for the QuiltCAD help section. Visit our galleries, or the PatternCAD help section for more QuiltCAD information.



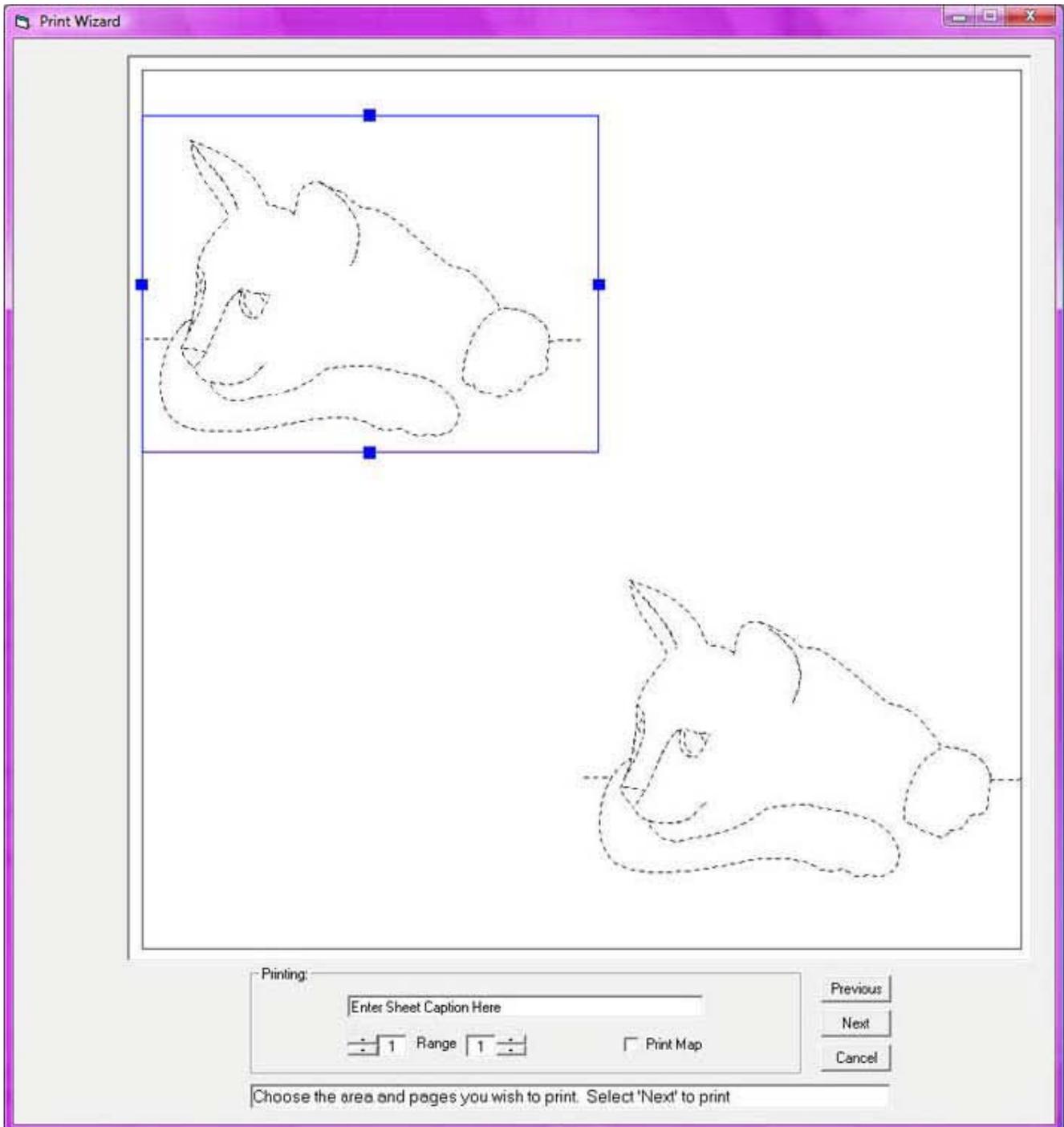
Pages to Print

Once you have chosen either Landscape or Portrait you will see a blue box outline comes up with the red numbers that show you what is going to be on each page.



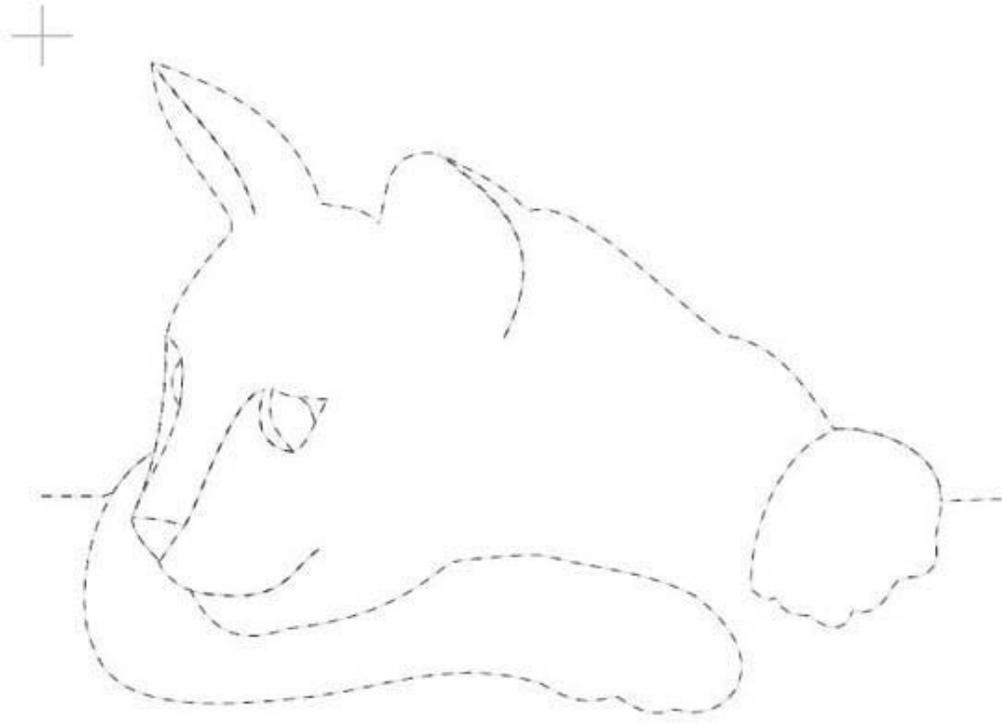
Change Pages Printed

You can adjust what is printed by just clicking and holding while you move the blue box in. Once you have chosen what you are going to print you will click next and it will print your pattern.



Printed Pattern

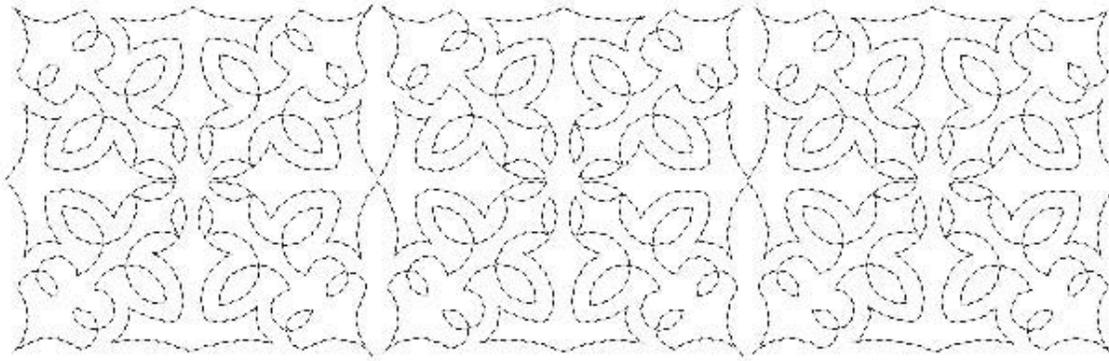
Here is an example of what a page would look like once it is printed out.



Sheet 1: Enter Sheet Caption Here

Export Module

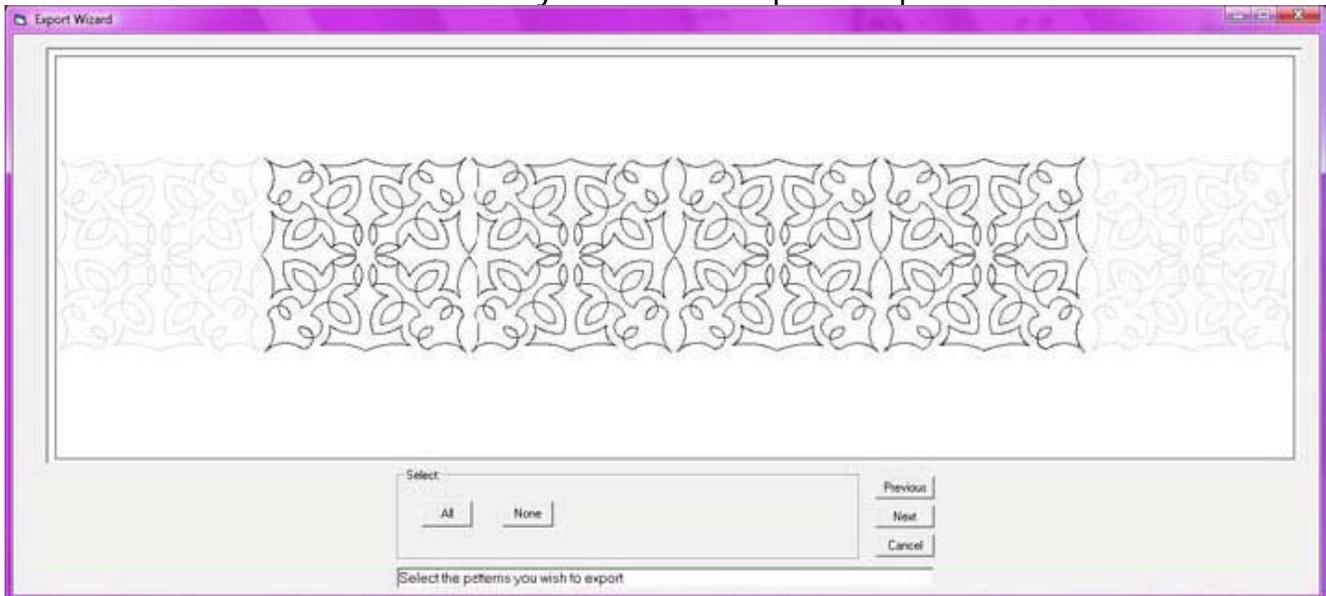
With the export module you can export your patterns to different file types. We recommend that you export a line or two at a time, so that it will be easier for you in the end.



Select Patterns to Export

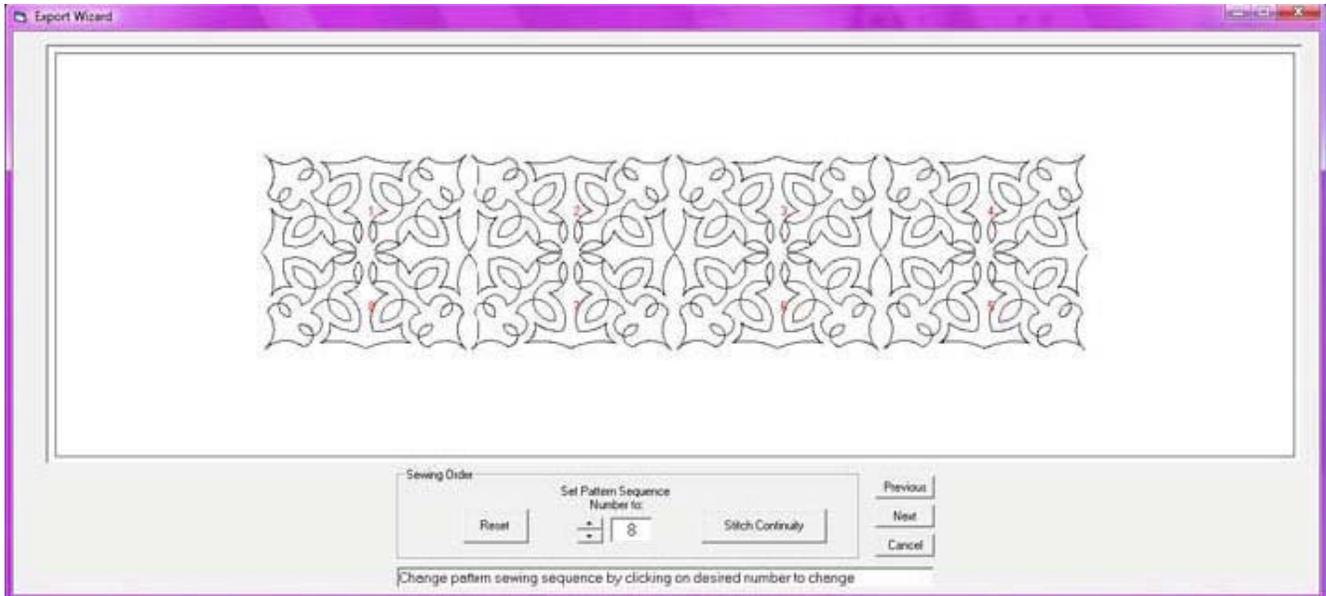
You can select the patterns you want to print by just clicking on them and they will be grayed out, as you can see below.

You can also click all or none below if you want all the patterns printed and then click Next.



Sewing Pattern Order

You can change the order in which the pattern would be quilted in by changing the number below to the number you want to change. For example if you wanted to start the pattern where the 4 is and go around counter-clockwise you will want the number below to be 1 and then click on the red 4 and it changes to 1. Then you can continue around the pattern till you have the setup you want. Once everything is set up the way you want it you can click next.

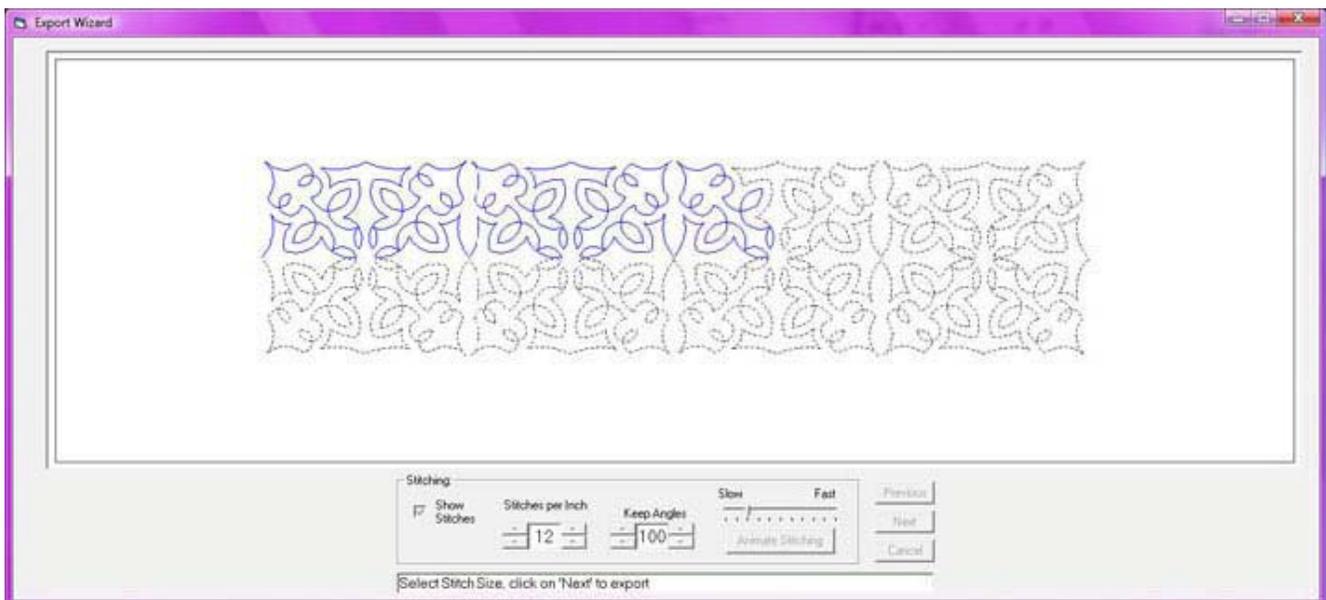


Animated Stitching

You can animate the stitching to make sure it is going to correct way. If you see any problems you can go back and fix the problem by clicking previous.

You can also change the stitches per inch and the angles; however, the default of 12 stitches per inch and 100 angles will work just fine.

Once everything looks great to you go ahead and click next.

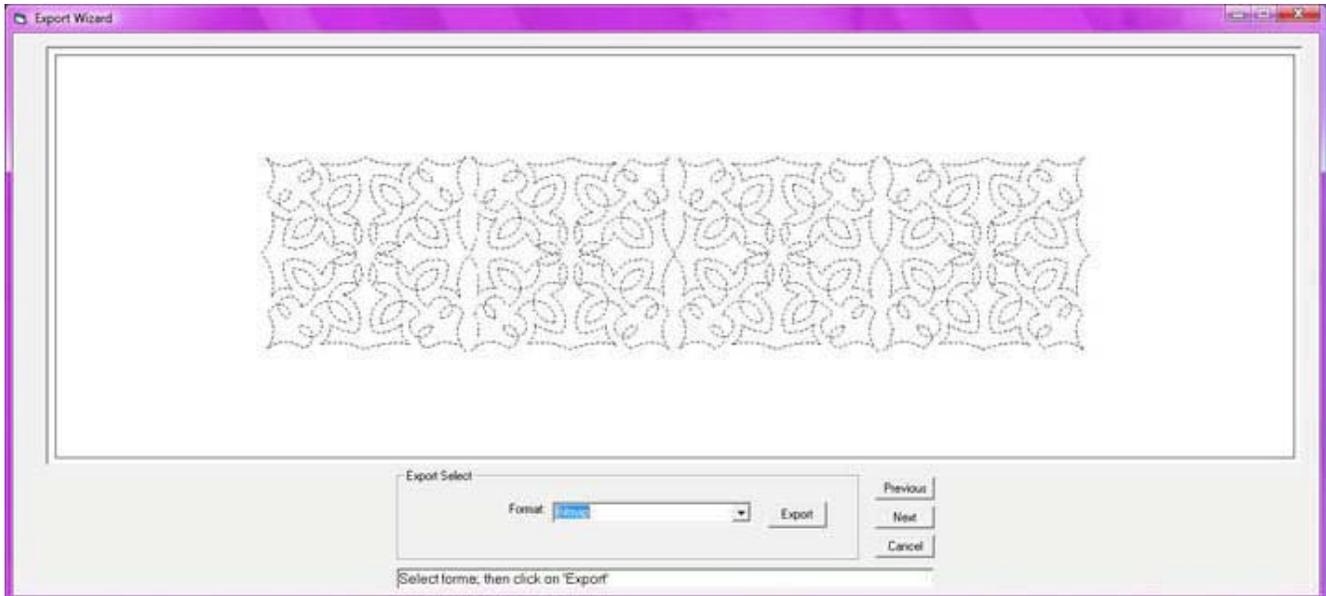


Export Selection

Now you are ready to export your file. The following formats are available:

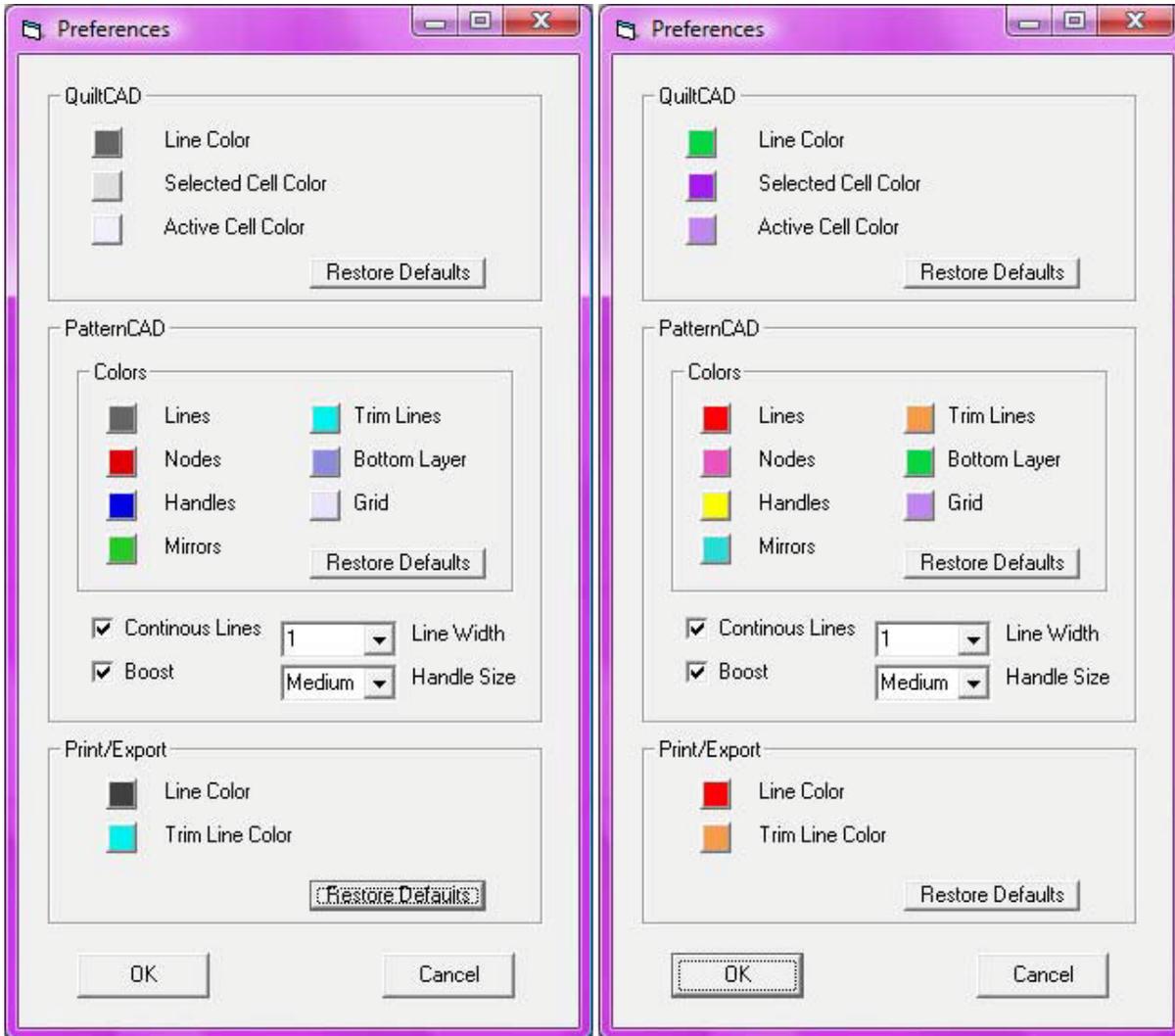
Handi Quilter PatternCAD 4DQ Bitmap CSV DXF X-Y

Once you have chosen the format you want just click export and it will ask you to name the pattern and choose the file to save it in.



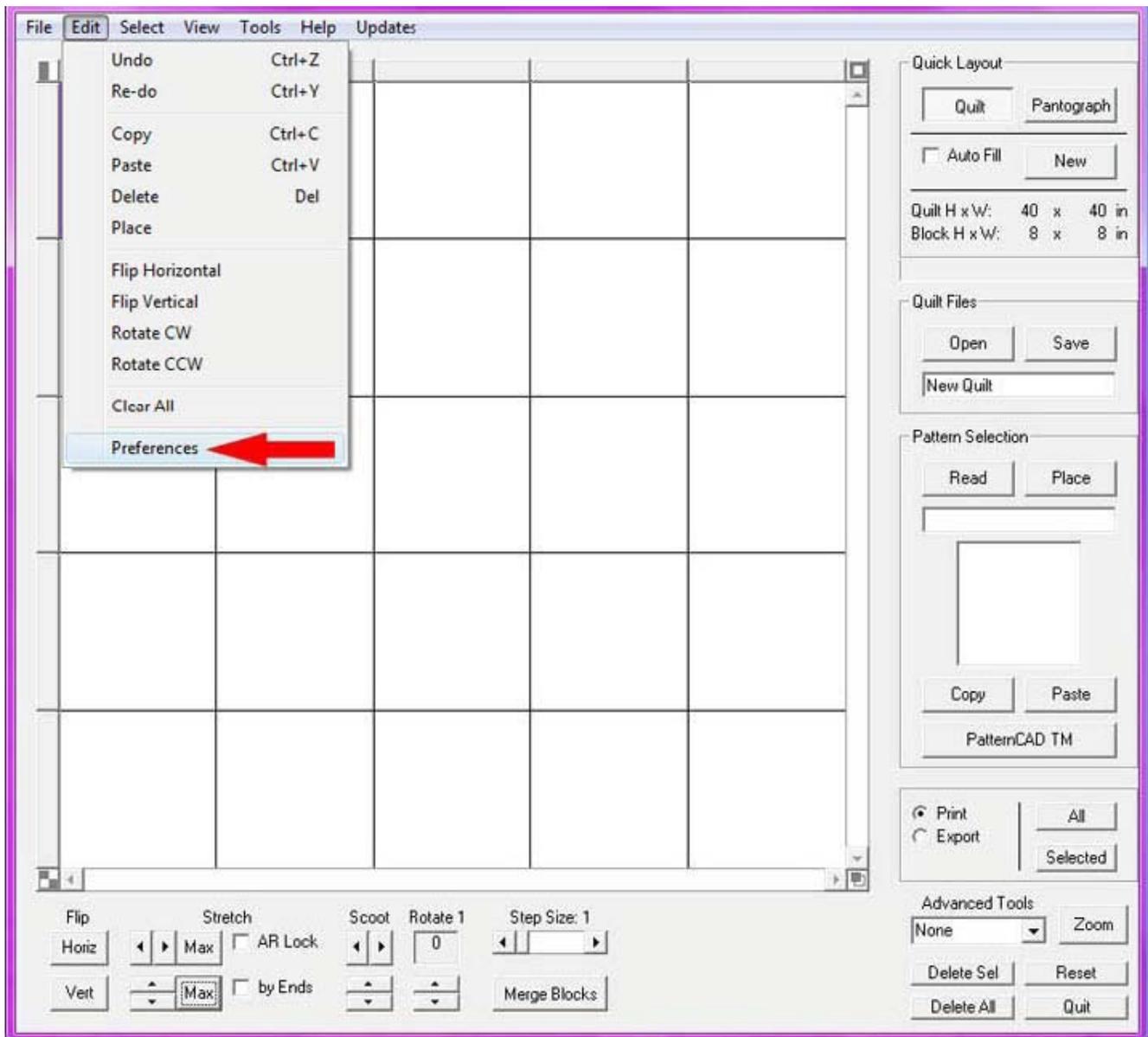
Preferences

With QuiltCAD it allows you to customize different colors of items within the program. The image on the left shows the Default preferences, and the right image shows a customized set of preferences.



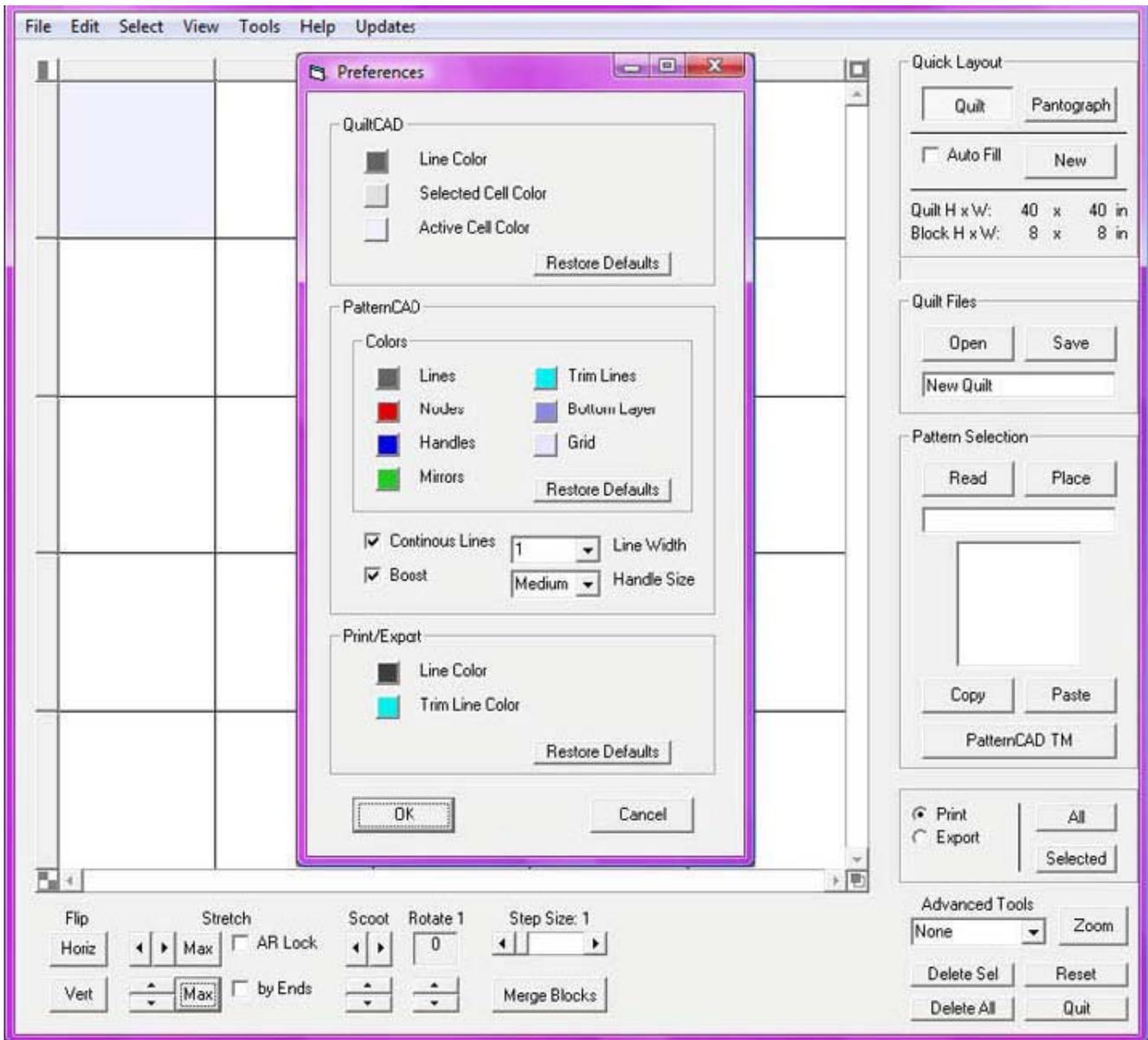
Locate Preferences

To locate the Preferences you will need to click on the Edit menu and the Preferences, as shown below.



Changing Preferences

You can easily change the colors of the different items by simply clicking on the colored box to the left of the words. You can then either choose a color that is already there or you can create your own color.



Colors

You would simply click on any basic color, or you can move the black cross hairs on the right to the color you want and then you will click "Add to Custom Colors." Once you click okay it will change the color you have selected. You can also go back to the default settings by simply clicking "Restore Default" on the main preference screen.

