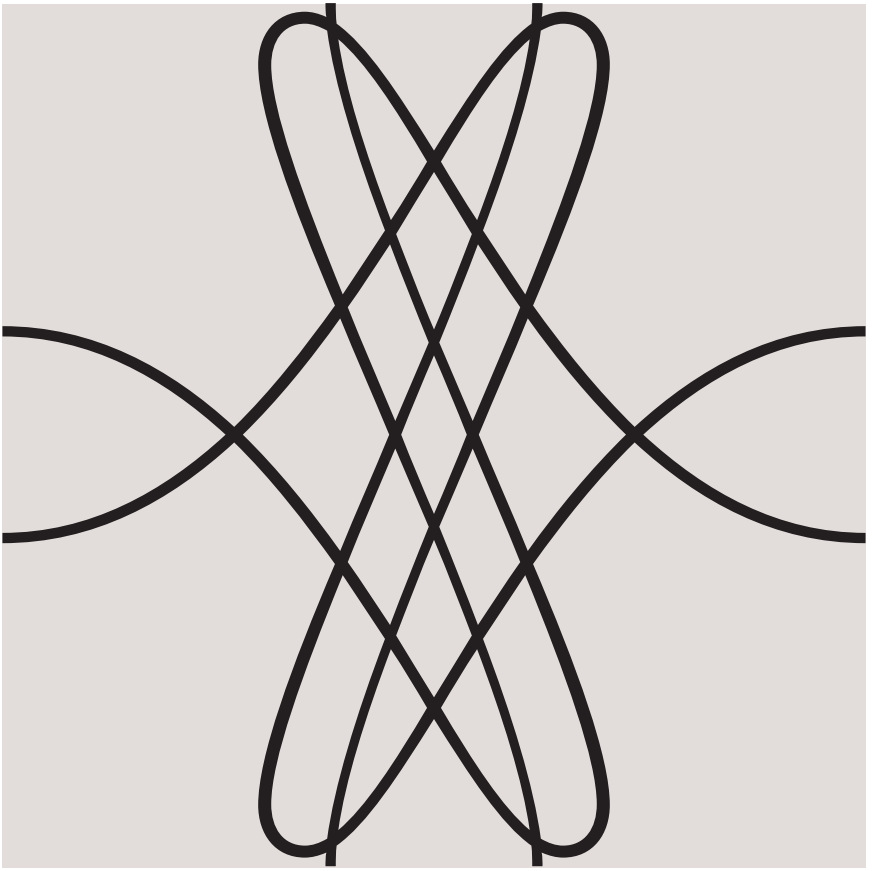
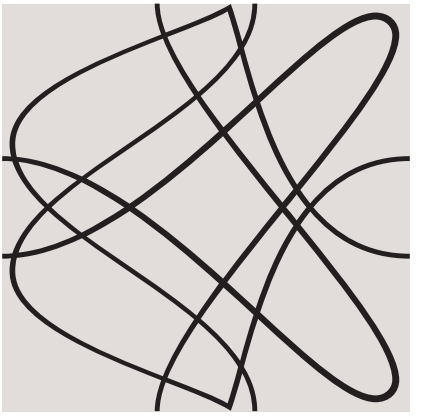
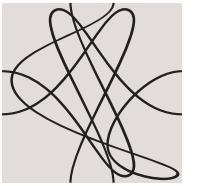
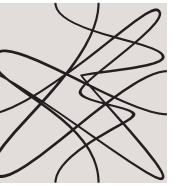
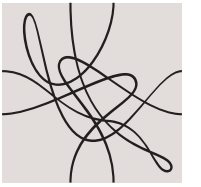
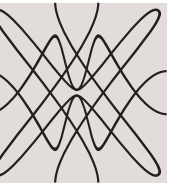


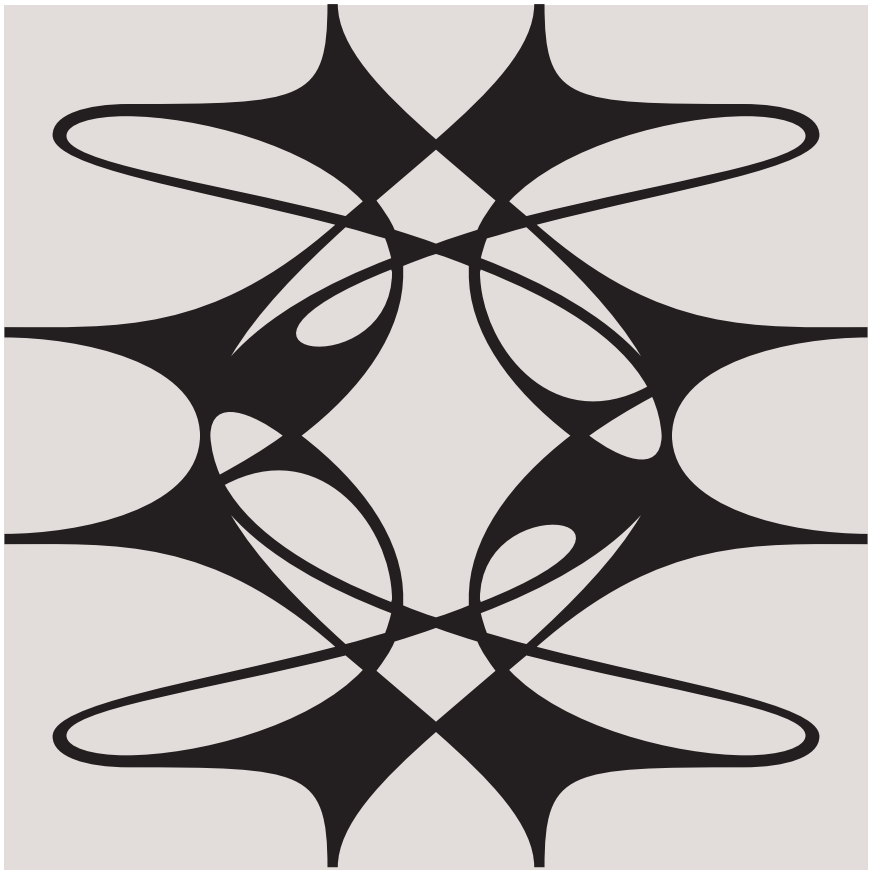


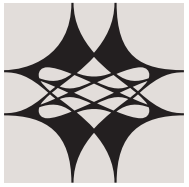


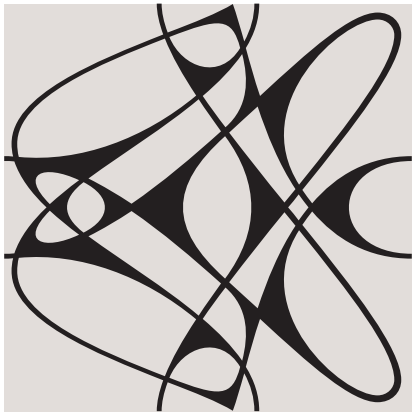












Introduction

By Zuzana Licko

Tangly is an exploration into lines, and how they can be looped and connected into patterns. As children, each of us has probably doodled with a pencil and maybe tried to scribble a drawing with a single line. A more recent and sophisticated inspiration came from a framed drawing that hangs in our dining room. Perhaps subliminally, we chose this setting for the drawing's allusion to thoughts of endless spaghetti. It's a meticulous and exquisite pencil drawing by the Dutch artist Marc Nagtzaam.[1] Over the years, I've spent some time studying it, following the line as it twists, turns and overlaps, trying to figure out if it is a single line.

Thus, I set out to explore how a font could be used for composing patterns that would appear as connecting lines. Each character on the keyboard would be an element, and the elements would connect at specific points, as they would in a connecting script font, except they would connect at all four edges, top and bottom, as well as left and right. I started with one looped line, then rotated that line so the composed element would connect with itself and all other elements (See page 5). The result is a pair of font families "Tangly Lines" and "Tangly Splines." Each group has symmetric, mirrored and asymmetric variants.

The elements in the symmetric fonts are built from a single looped line that's been repeated four times by vertical and horizontal symmetry. In the mirrored fonts, the elements are built from two different looped lines repeated by horizontally mirrored symmetry. And the asymmetric elements have no symmetry, being combined from four different looped lines to create asymmetric compositions. The elements are provided

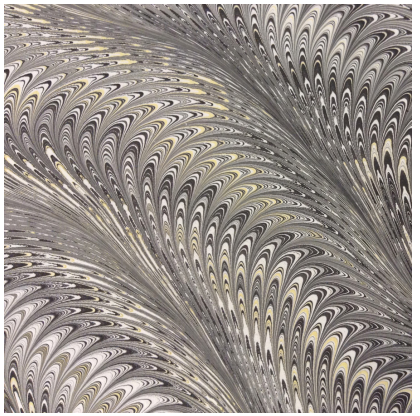
1

in various rotations, each lower case element being a rotated version of it's upper case companion.

The Splines are derived from the Lines, by strategically removing points at some junctures of the crossing lines. This prompted the drawing program, RoboFont,[2] to improvise a curve to fill in the gap, which added both contrast and depth of form to the compositions. These curves in PostScript[3] fonts are created by calculating spline[4] functions, hence the name Splines. As I was working on them, I recognized similar shapes seemingly everywhere. They are reminiscent of the flowing shapes that occur with paper marbling techniques[5], as well as the decorations a skilled barista creates atop cappuccino foam.

I began the design process in 2014, and returned to it sporadically over the next four years. During this time, I had various types of fabrics printed, and had jacquard fabrics woven to see how these patterns could be applied. I sewed many of these fabric samples into pillows, which I sometimes make available at Etsy.[6] Many of my patterns can also be ordered as custom printed yardage, on a variety of fabrics, at Spoonflower.[7] And, these fabrics can be sewn to order into pillows and other housewares at Roostery.[8]

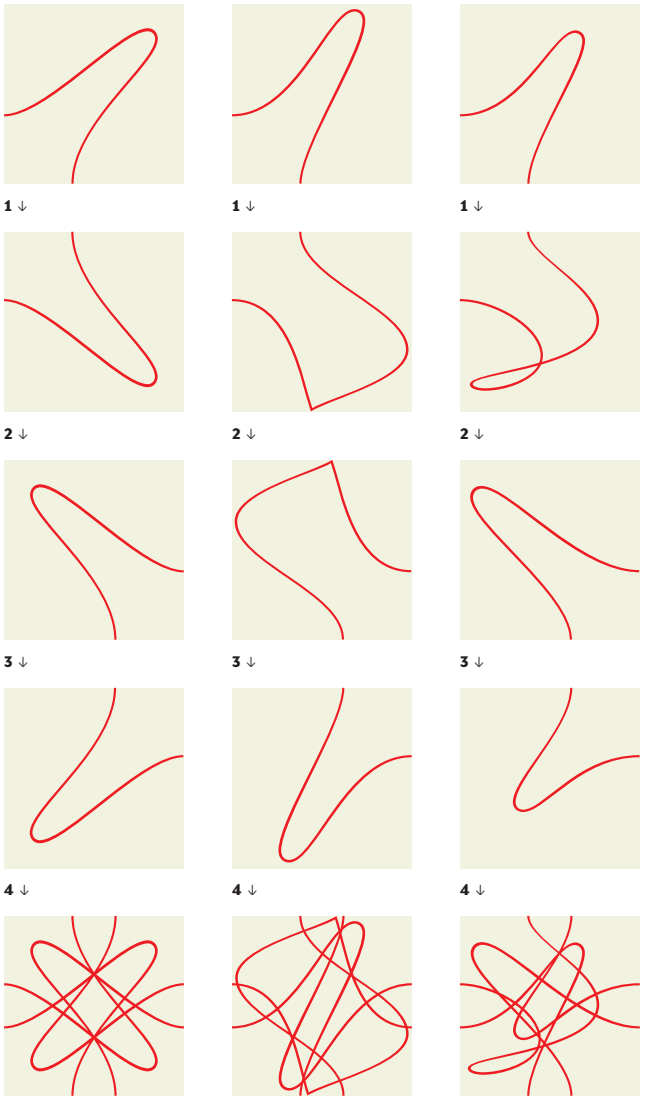
These are just a few examples of how Tangly can be used. The number of patterns, combinations and applications is nearly infinite. This booklet shows some examples, but only scratches the surface of what's possible.



5

8

1. Marc Nagtzaam:
www.marcnagtzaam.info/
2. RoboFont:
robofont.com/
3. PostScript:
en.wikipedia.org/wiki/PostScript
4. Splines:
en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spline_(mathematics)
5. Paper marbling:
Steve Pittelkow
6. Pillows at Etsy:
emigre.com/etsy
7. Fabrics printed to order at Spoonflower:
emigre.com/fabrics
8. Pillows printed and sewn to order at Roostery:
emigre.com/pillows



Symmetric

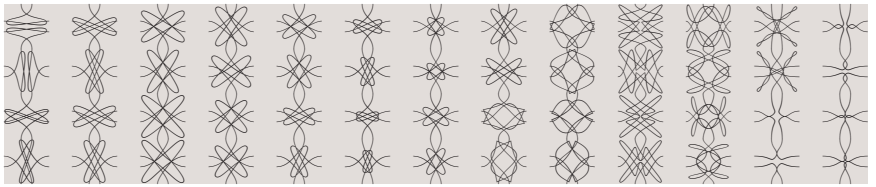
The Symmetric elements are built from a single looped line that's been repeated four times by vertical and horizontal symmetry.

Mirrored

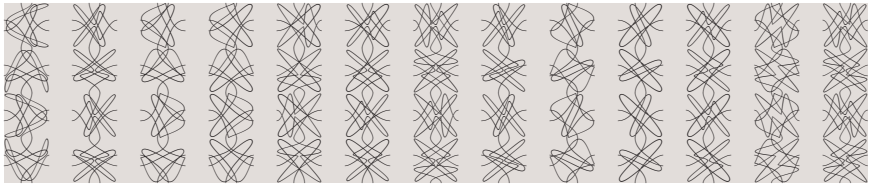
The Mirrored elements are built from two different looped lines repeated by horizontally mirrored symmetry.

Asymmetric

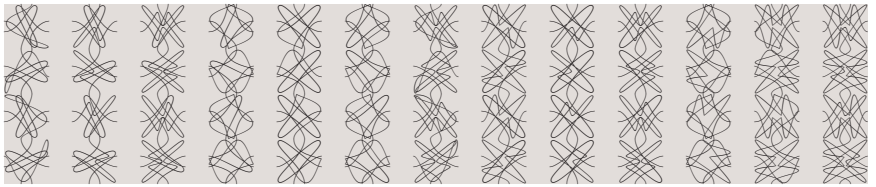
The Asymmetric elements are built from four different looped lines randomly combined and have no symmetry.



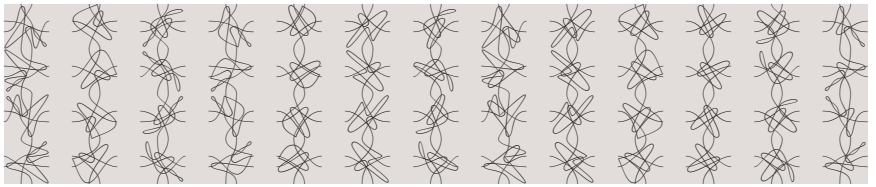
Tangly Lines Symmetric



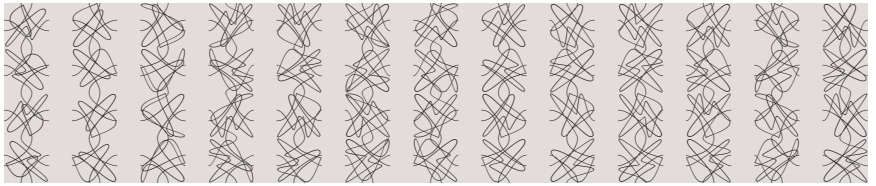
Tangly Lines Mirrored



Tangly Lines Asymmetric 1



Tangly Lines Asymmetric 2



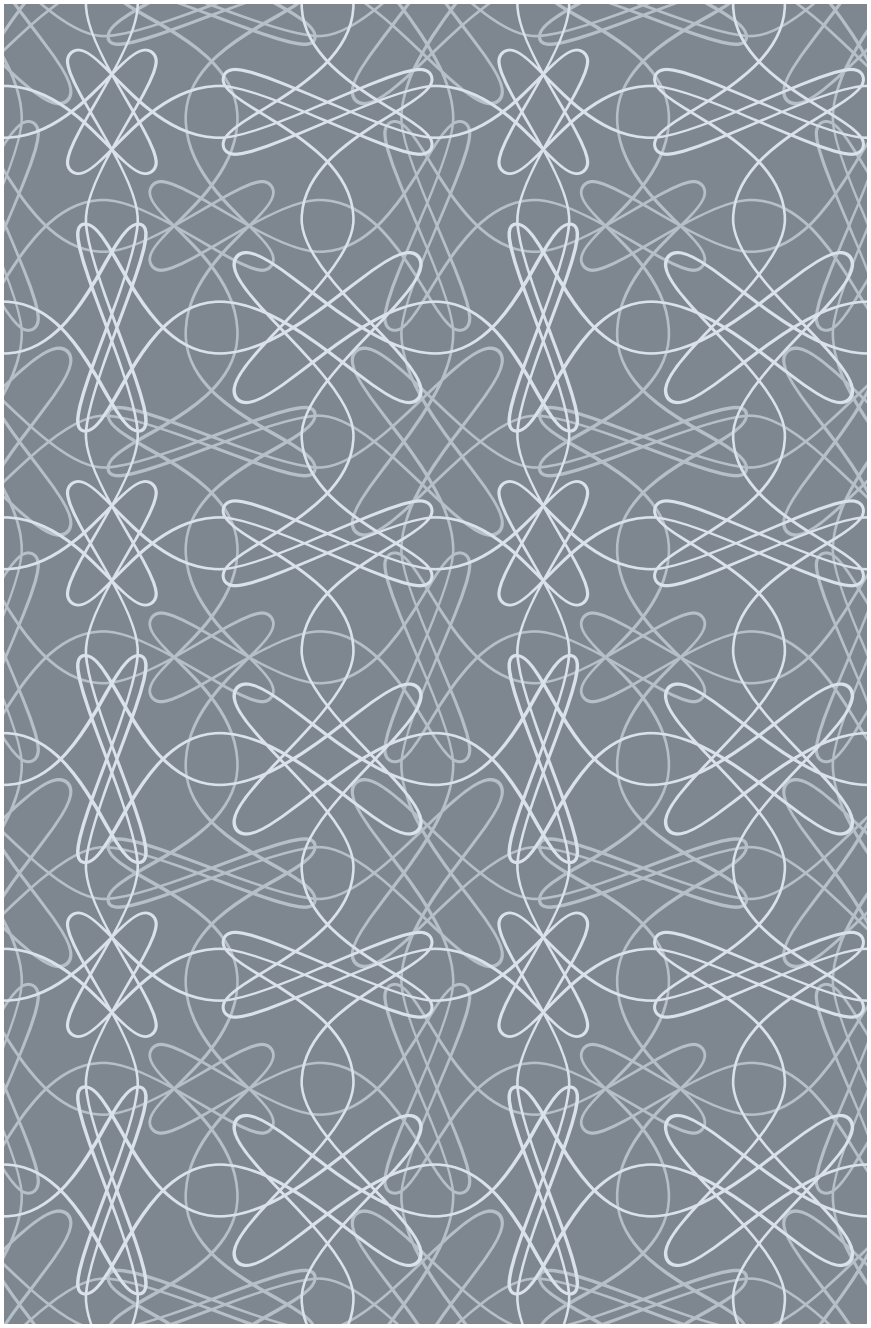
Tangly Lines Asymmetric 3

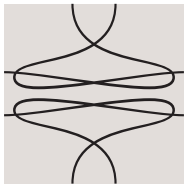
A C E G I K M O Q S U W Y

a c e g i k m o q s u w y

B D F H J L N P R T V X Z

b d f h j l n p r t v x z





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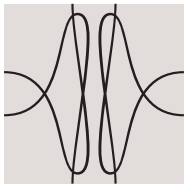

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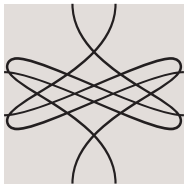

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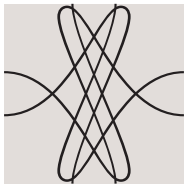

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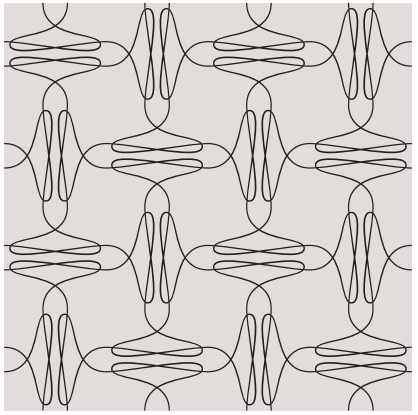

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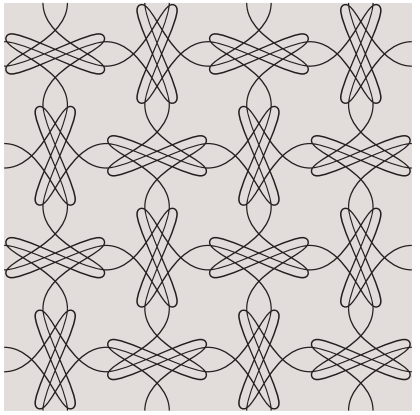

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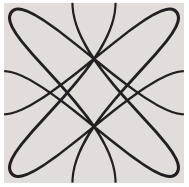

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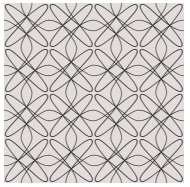

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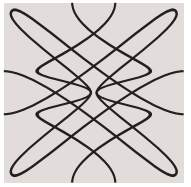

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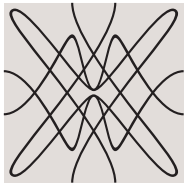

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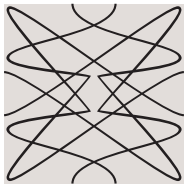

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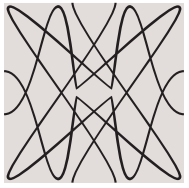

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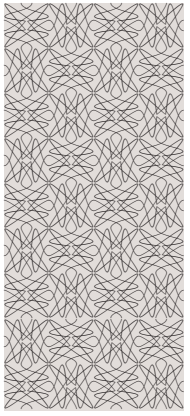
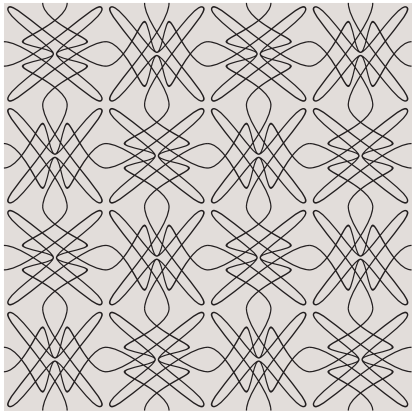
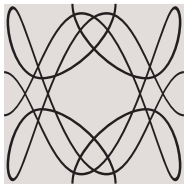


SsSs | sSsS | ...



TtTt | tTtT | ...



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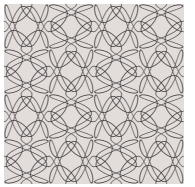
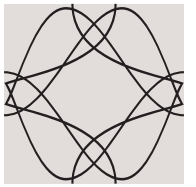


UuUu | uUuU | ...



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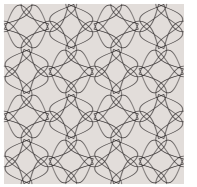

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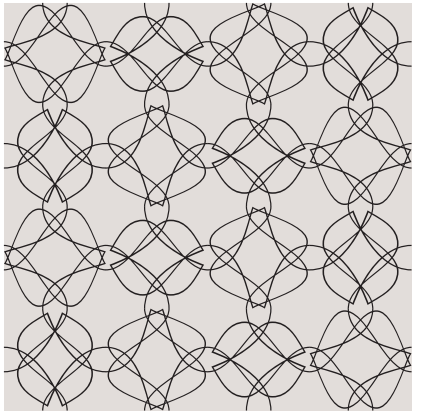

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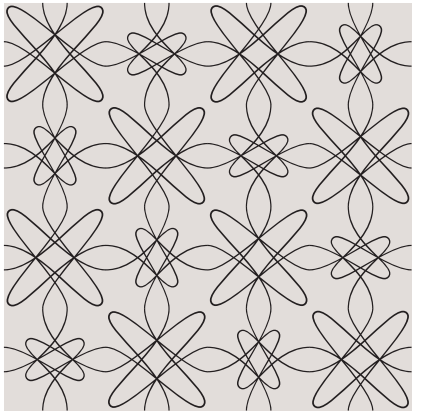

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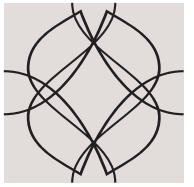

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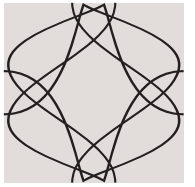

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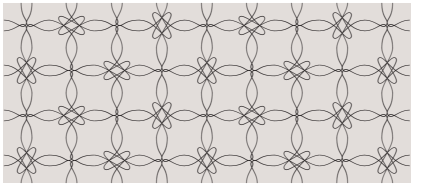
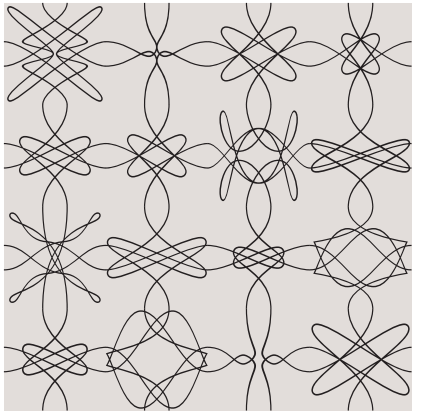
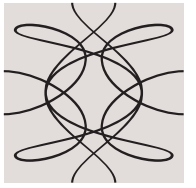


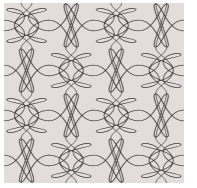
ZNzn ... | nzNZ ... | ...



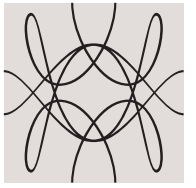
TZIM | JNVB | WCLP | KQYE



v



vbvb | bvbv | ...



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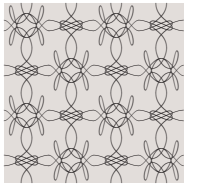
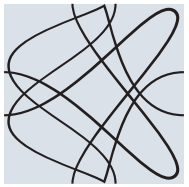


VLVL | LVLV | ...



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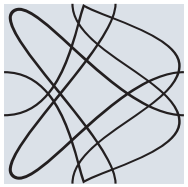

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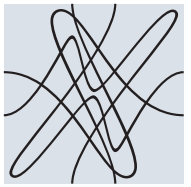

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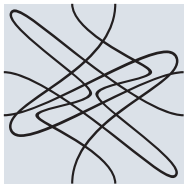

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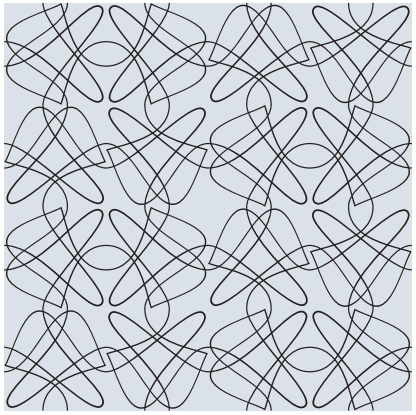

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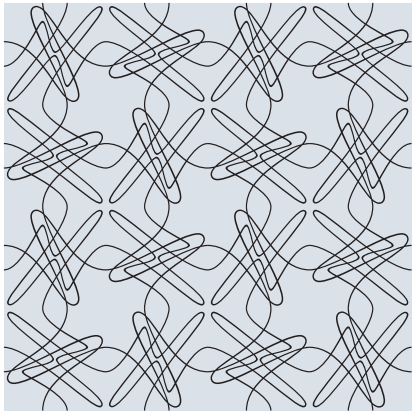

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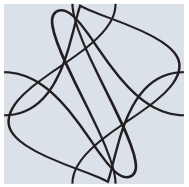

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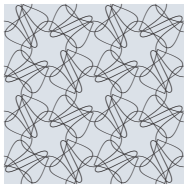

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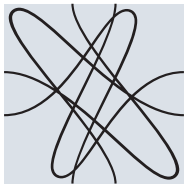

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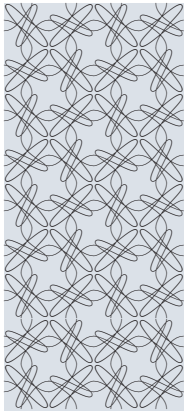

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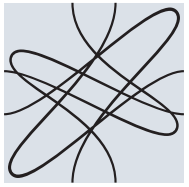

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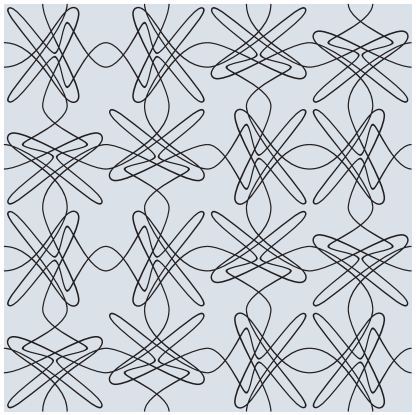

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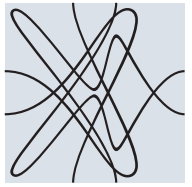

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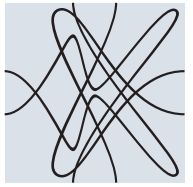

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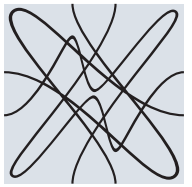

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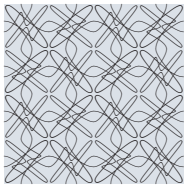

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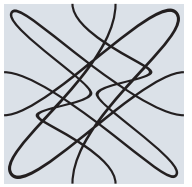

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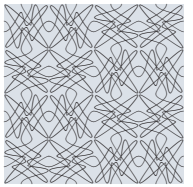

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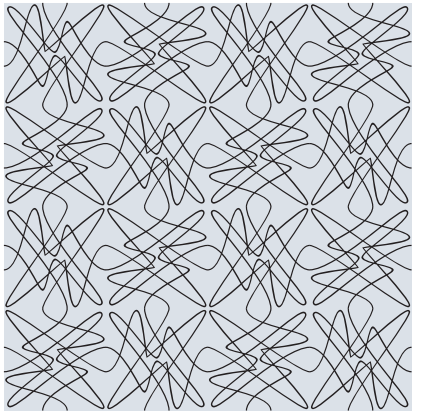

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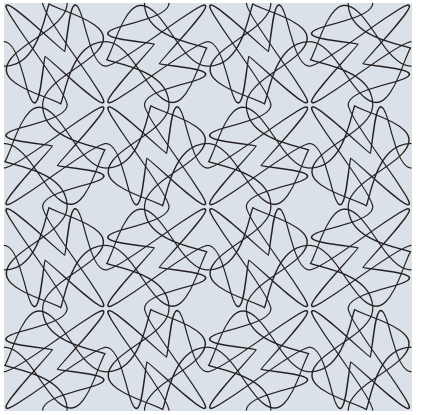

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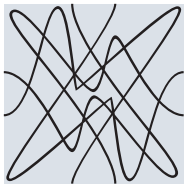

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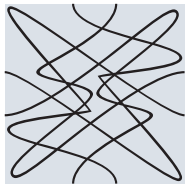

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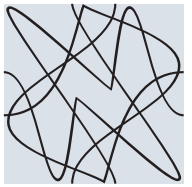
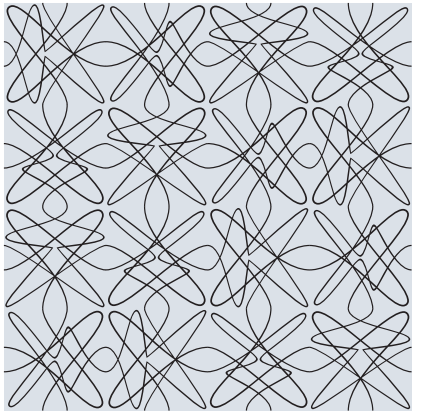


X

x



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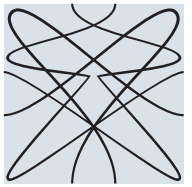

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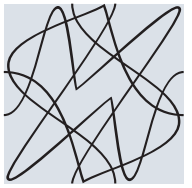

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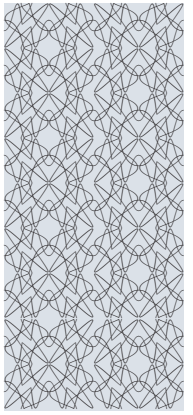

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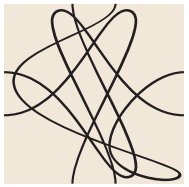

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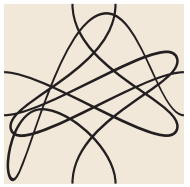

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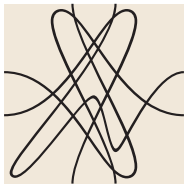

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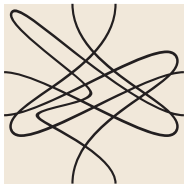

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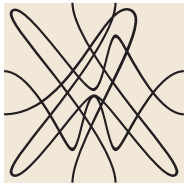
CcCc | cCcC | ...



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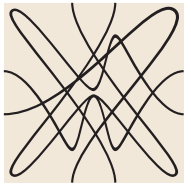

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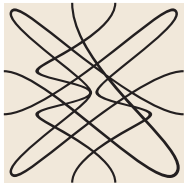

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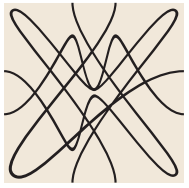

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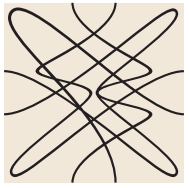

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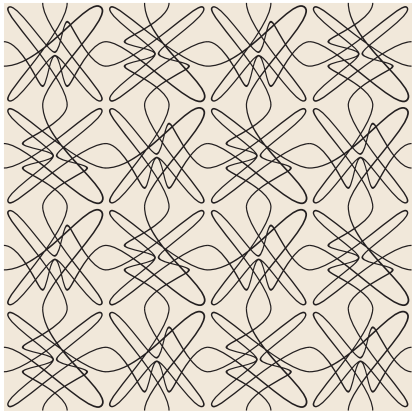

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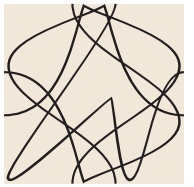

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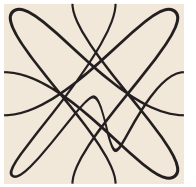

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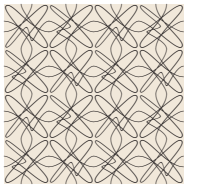

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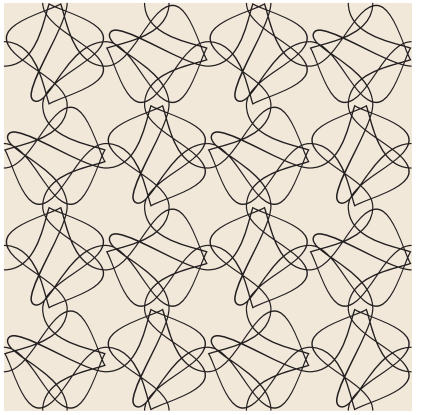

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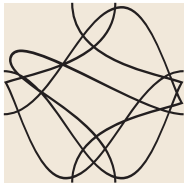

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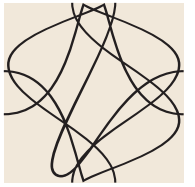

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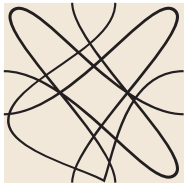

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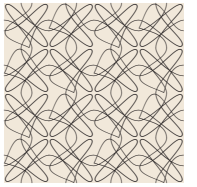

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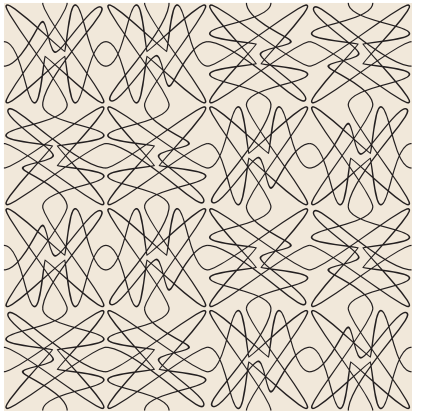

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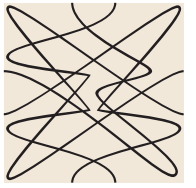

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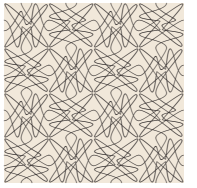

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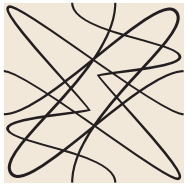

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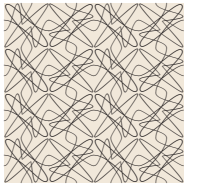

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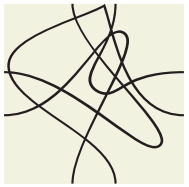

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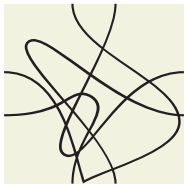

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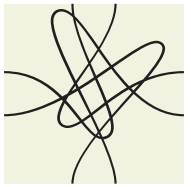

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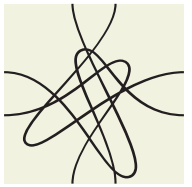

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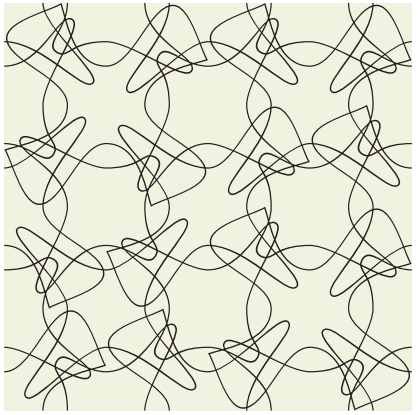

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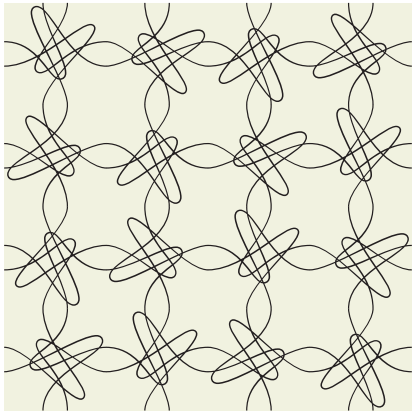
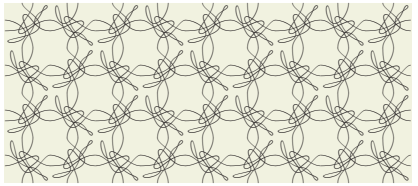
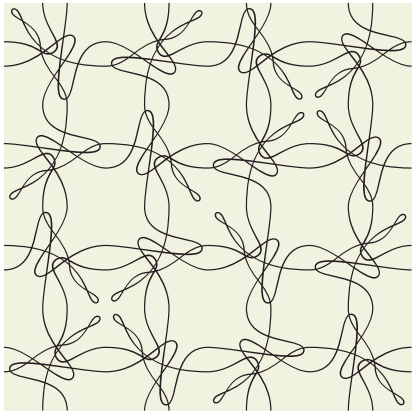


UuVv | vVuU | VvUu | uUvV



FfFf ... | fFfF ... | ...



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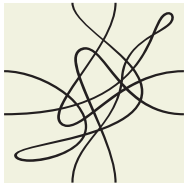

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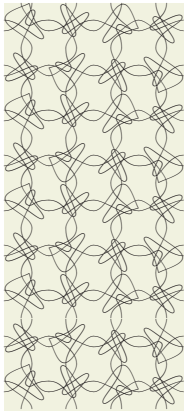
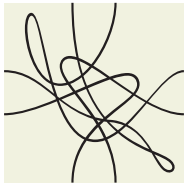


CUcu | vdVD | ...



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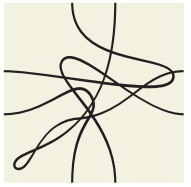
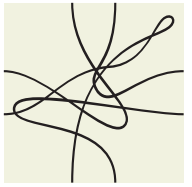


y



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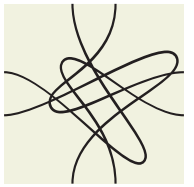
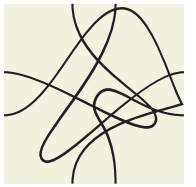


U

UuUu | uUuU | ...



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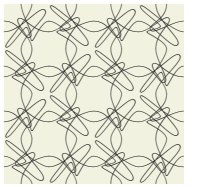
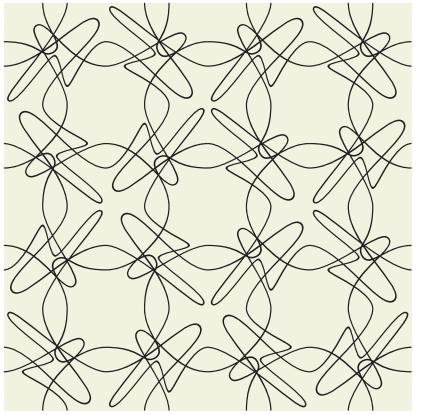
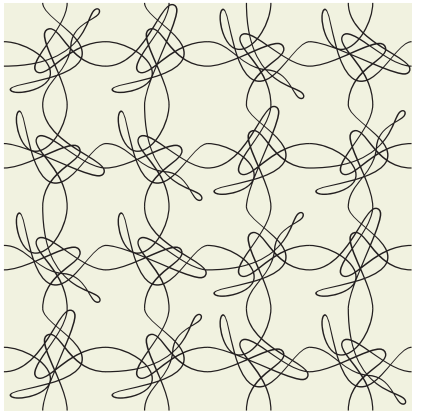


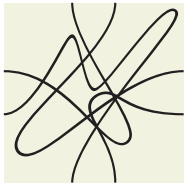
QqQq | qQqQ | ...



KkKk | lLkK | LlKk | kKlL



FNfn| nfNF | fnFN | NFnf



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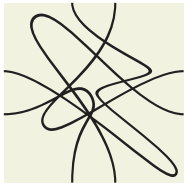

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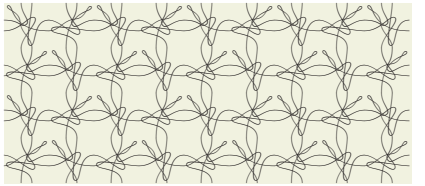

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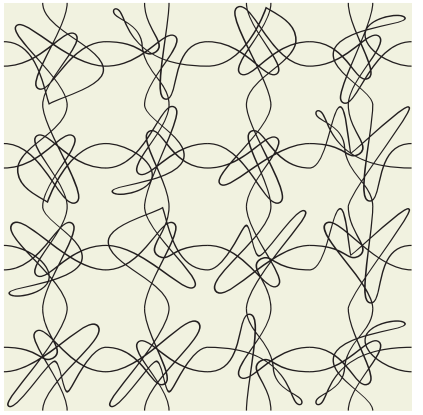
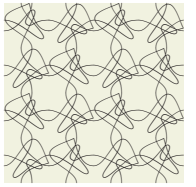


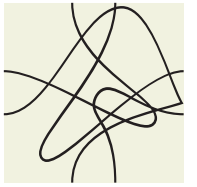
TZIM | JNVB | WCLP | MQYE

AaAa | aAaA | ...

a



CcCc | cCcC | ...



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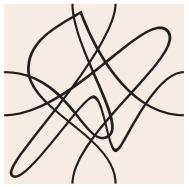

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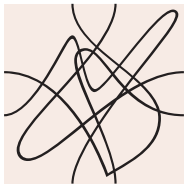

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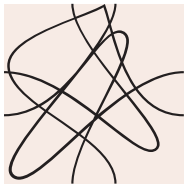

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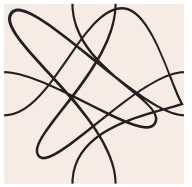

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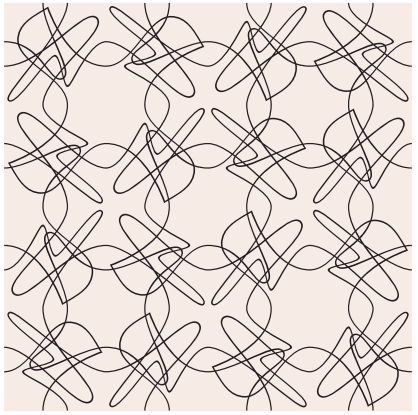

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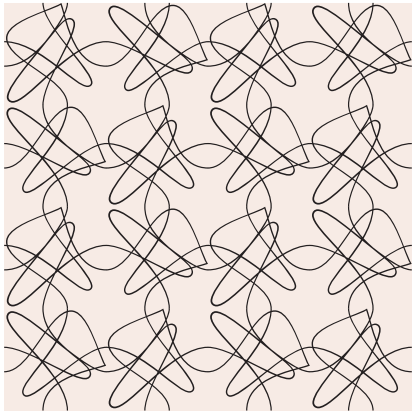
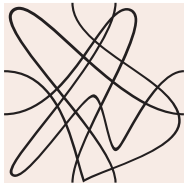


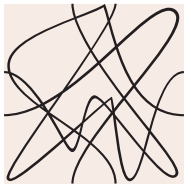
CcCc | cCcC | ...

FfFf | fFfF | ...



P

PMPM | MPMP| ...



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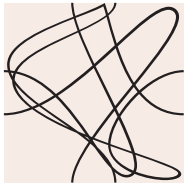

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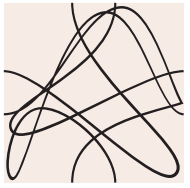

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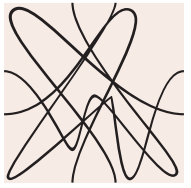

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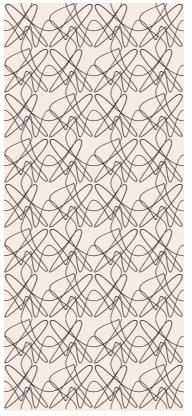
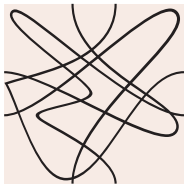


YUYU | UYUY | ...



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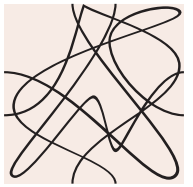

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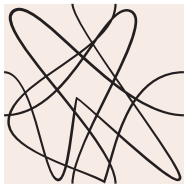
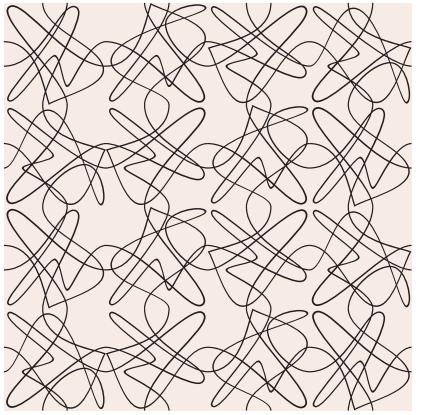


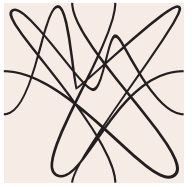
Q

QQQQ | QQQQ | ...



PMpm | mpMP | ...

QRqr | rqRQ | ...



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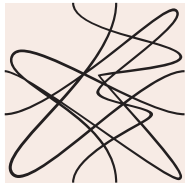
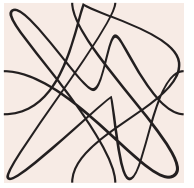


z

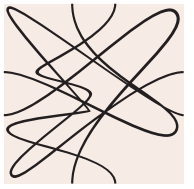
ZzZz ... | zZzZ ... | ...

hIsV | TuGj | gJtU | SvHi



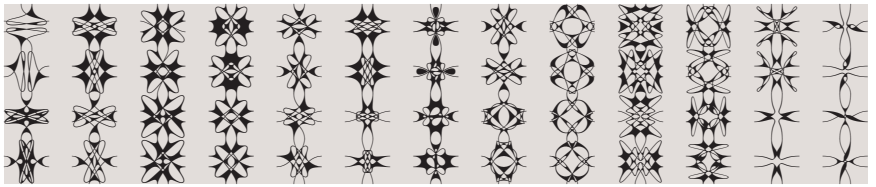
T

TFtf | ftFT | ...

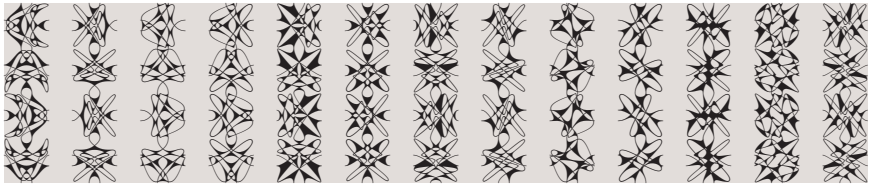


y

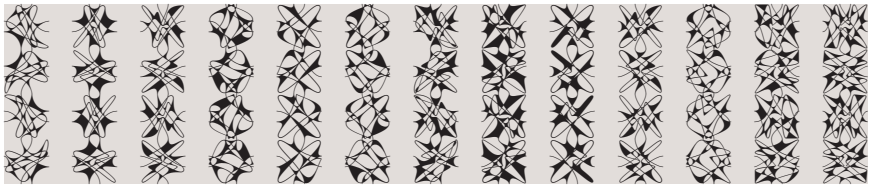
YUyu | uyUY | ...



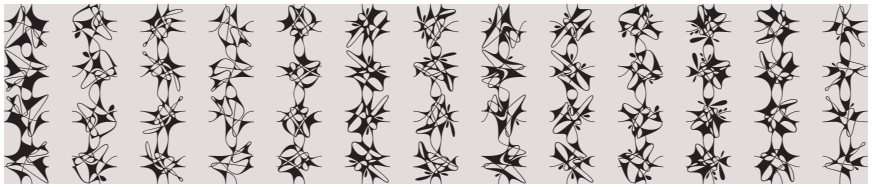
Tangly Splines Symmetric



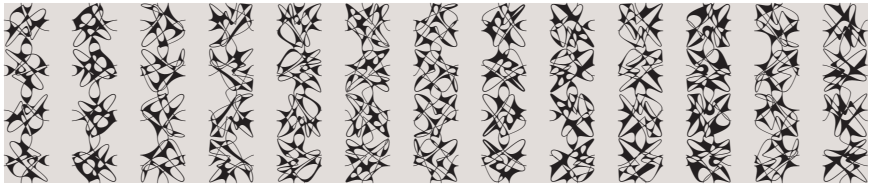
Tangly Splines Mirrored



Tangly Splines Asymmetric 1

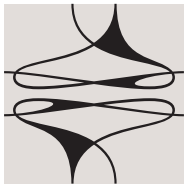


Tangly Splines Asymmetric 2

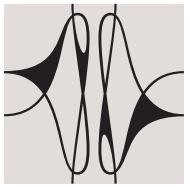


Tangly Splines Asymmetric 3

A	C	E	G	I	K	M	O	Q	S	U	W	Y
a	c	e	g	i	k	m	o	q	s	u	w	y
B	D	F	H	J	L	N	P	R	T	V	X	Z
b	d	f	h	j	l	n	p	r	t	v	x	z



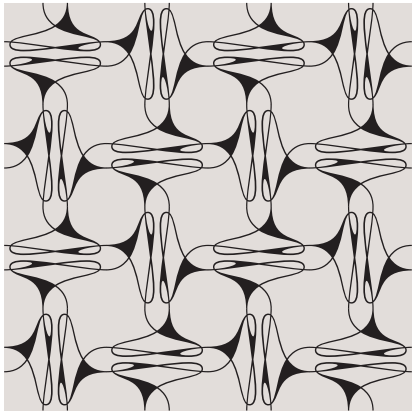
A



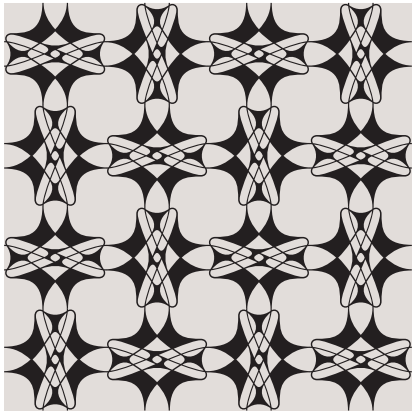
a

C

c

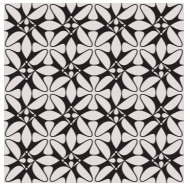


AaAa | aAaA | ...

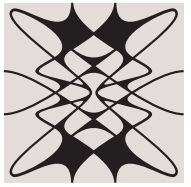


CcCc | cCcC | ...

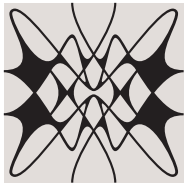
F



FfFf | fFfF | ...



T



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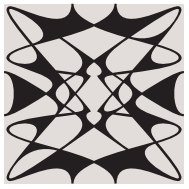
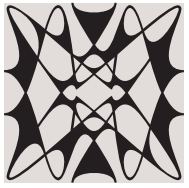
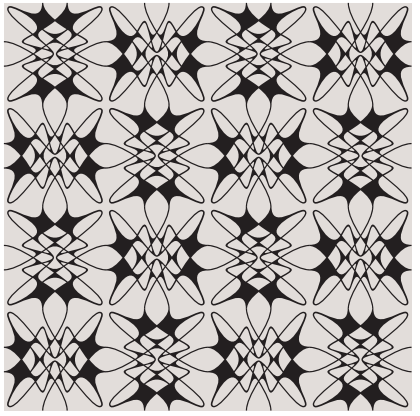


S

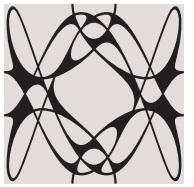


s

SsSs | sSsS | ...



TtTt | tTtT | ...



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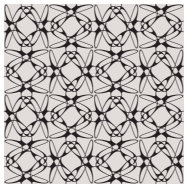
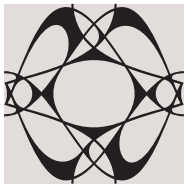


UuUu | uUuU | ...



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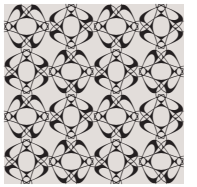
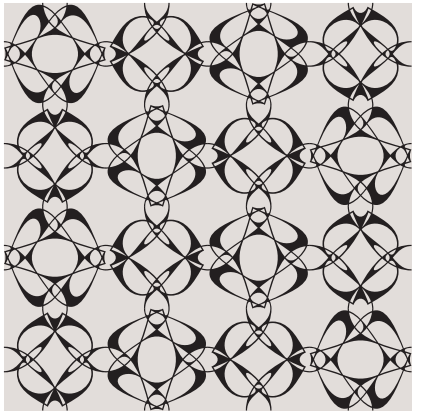
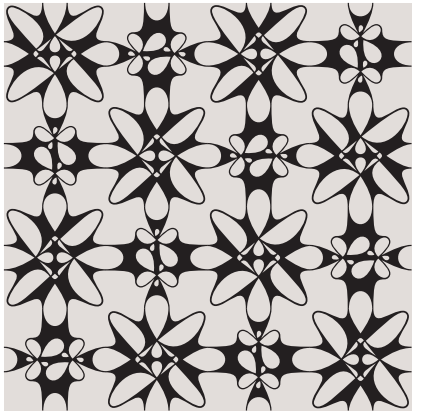


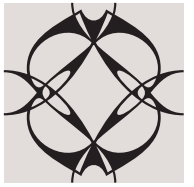
QqQq | qQqQ | ...



QRqr |rqRQ | ...



FNfn| nfNF | fnFN | NFnf



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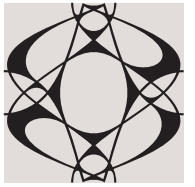

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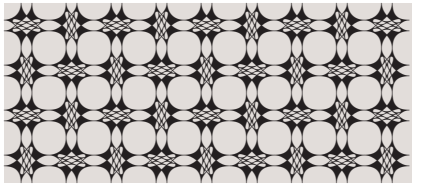
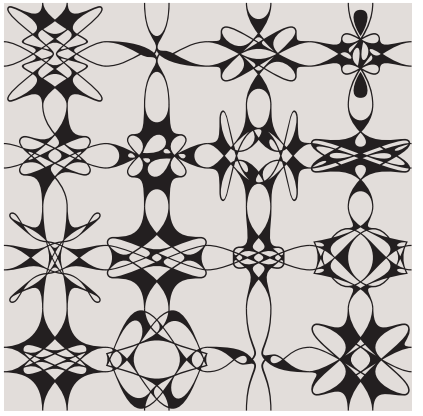
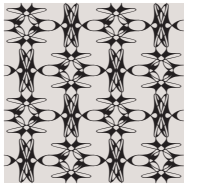


KkKk ... | kKkK ... | ...



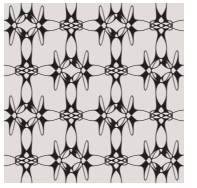
TZIM | JNVB | WCLP | KQYE

v



vbvb | bvbv | ...

V



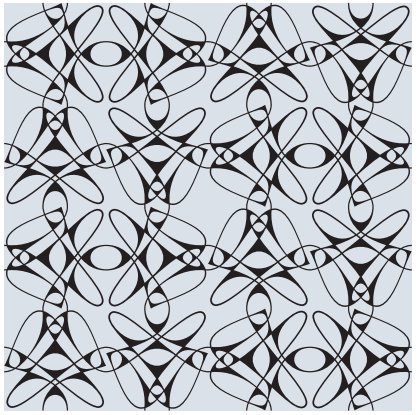
VLVL | LVLV | ...

G

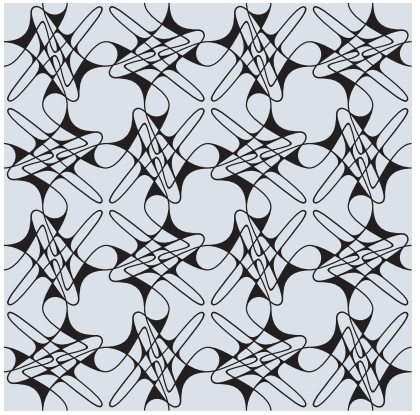
H

O

o

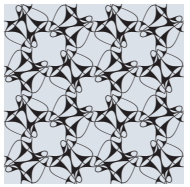


GHgh | ghGH | ...



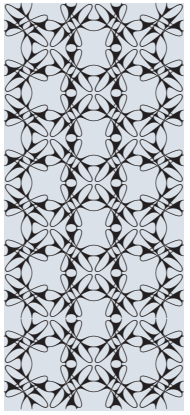
OoOo | oOoO | ...

Q

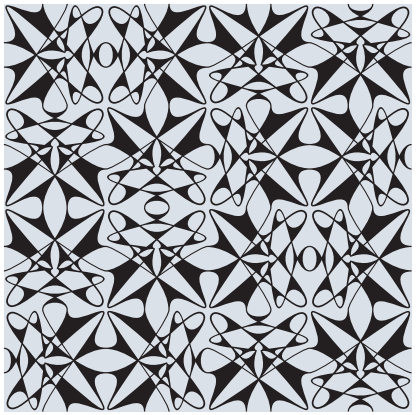


QqQq | qQqQ | ...

T



sSTt | tTSs | ...



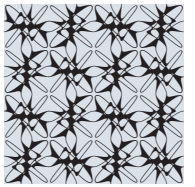
IJij | jiJI | jiJI | JIji

S

I

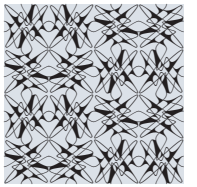
J

U

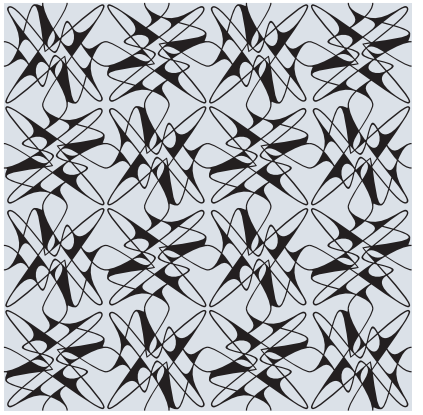


UuUu | uUuU | ...

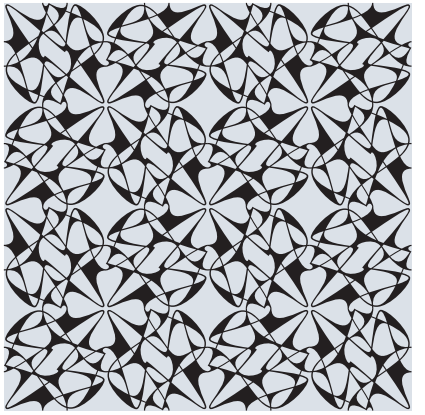
u



YZyz | yzYZ | ...



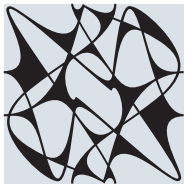
ZzZz | zZzZ | ...



XxXx | xXxX | ...

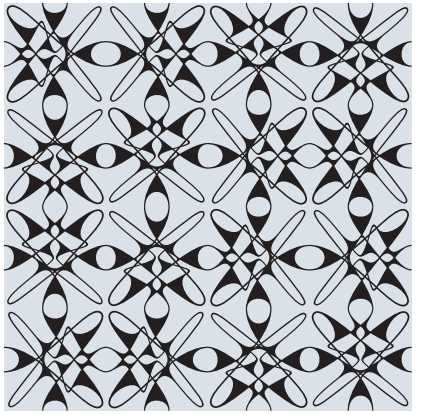
Z

z



X

x



LKlk | klKL | lkLK | KLkl

K

W

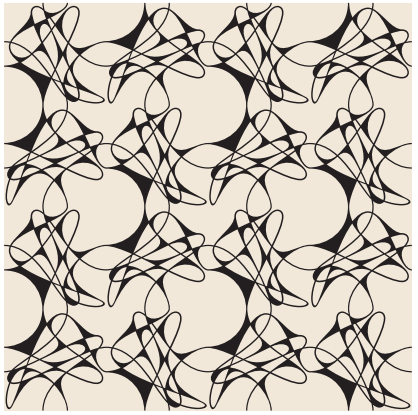
WXXW | XWWX | ...

A

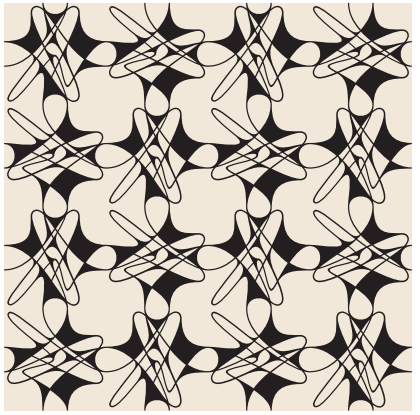
a

C

c



AaAa | aAaA | ...



CcCc | cCcC | ...

F

FfFf | fFfF | ...

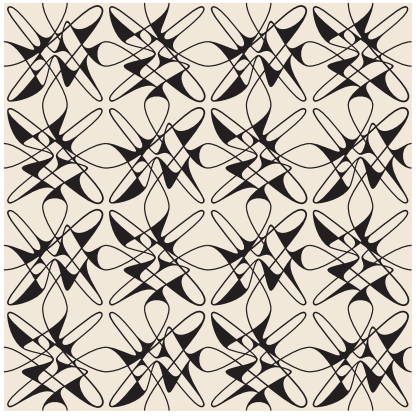
T

t

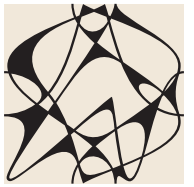
S

s

SsSs | sSsS | ...



TtTt | tTtT | ...

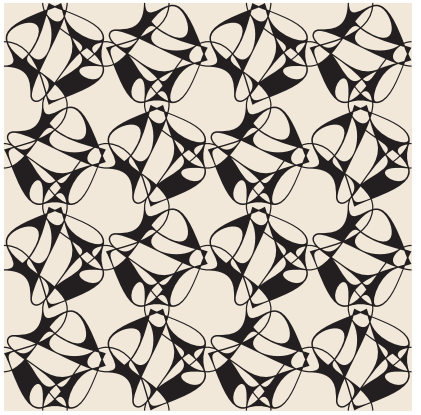


U

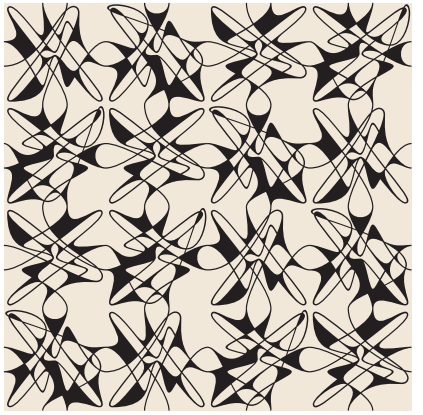
UuUu | uUuU | ...

Q

QqQq | qQqQ | ...



GgGg | gGgG | ...



FNfn| nfNF | fnFN | NFnf

g

G

I

IiIi | iIiI | ...

ZYzy | yzYZ | ...

z

p

ZzZz | zZzZ | ...

OpOp | OpOp | ...

C

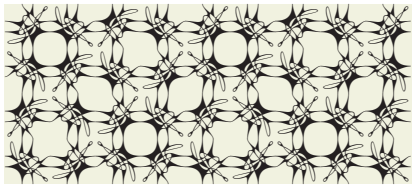
D

U

V

CcDd | dDcC | DdCc | cCdD

UuVv | vVuU | VvUu | uUvV



FfEf ... | eEfF ... | EeFf ... | fFeE ...

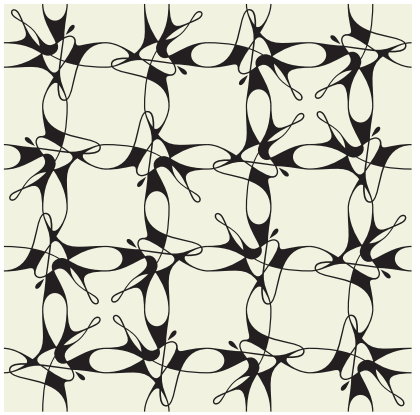
F

ZzZz | zZzZ | ...

f

y

z



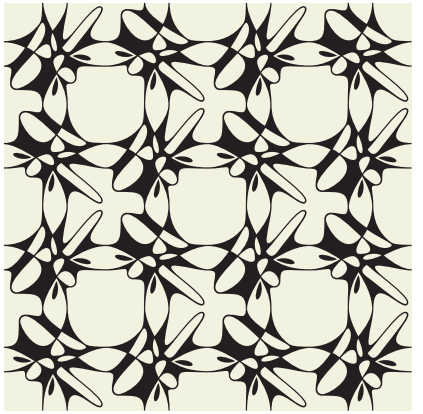
ZzYy | yYzZ | YyZz | zZyY

U

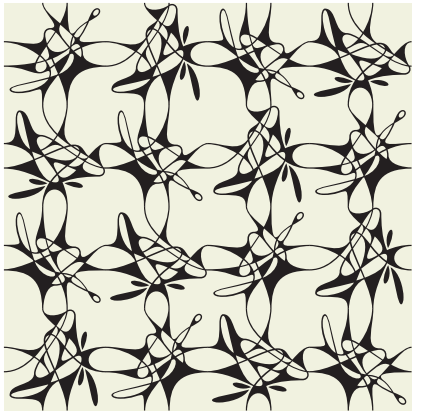
UuUu | uUuU | ...

Q

QqQq | qQqQ | ...



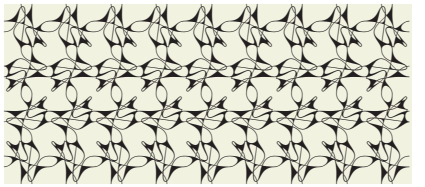
LlLl | lLlL | ...



FNfn| nfNF | fnFN | NFnf

L

l



GGGG ... | gggg ... | hhhh ... | HHHH ...

TZIM | JNVB | WCLP | KQYE

AaAa | aAaA | ...

a

CcCc | cCcC | ...

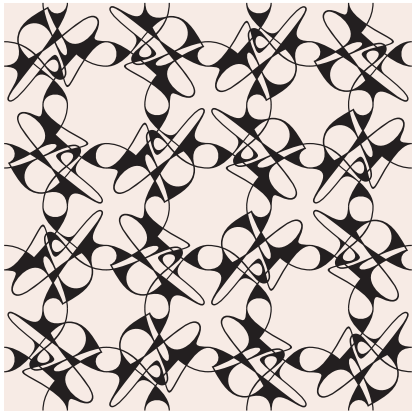
c

A

B

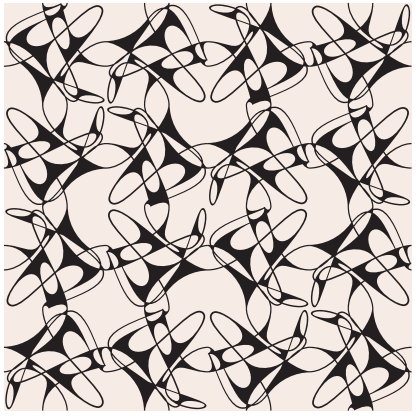
s

t



AaBb | bBaA | BbAa | aAbB

sSTt | tTSs | ...



FfEe | eEfF | EeFf | fFeE

P

PMPM | MPMP| ...

U

YUyu | uyUY | ...

F

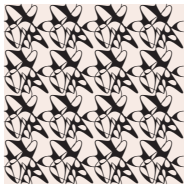
f

Y

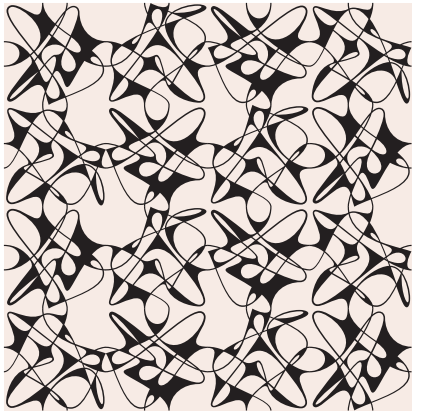
p

M

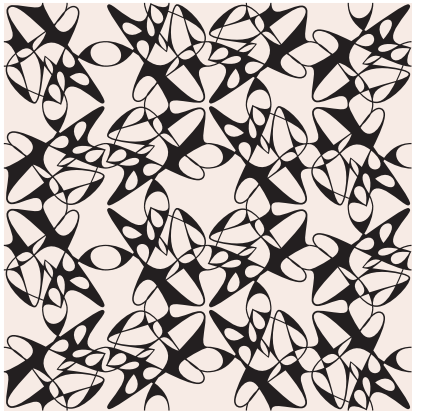
Q



QQQQ | QQQQ | ...



PMpm | mpMP | PMpm | mpMP



QRqr | rqRQ | ...

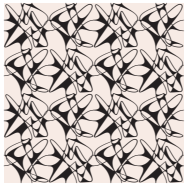
Z

z

ZzZz ... | zZzZ ... | ...

hIsV | TuGj | gJtU | SvHi

T



TFTF | FTFT | ...

V

UVVU | VUUV | ...

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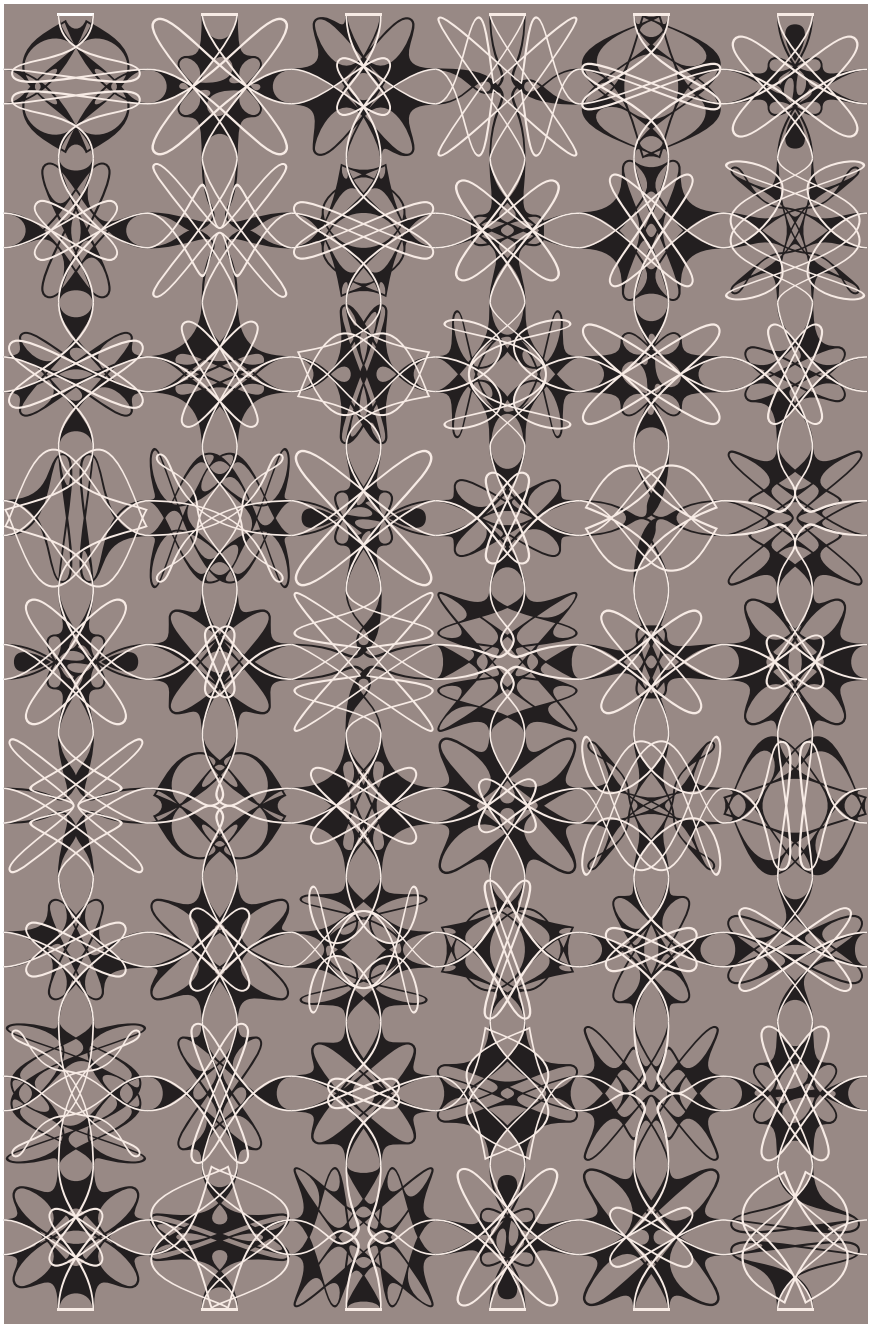

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