

Circle Play

By Michelle Pearson

© 2009

This is an original design by Michelle Pearson. Design is offered in good faith and all designs, illustrations and instructions are under copyright to Raggedy Stitches, and may not be reproduced in any form. Got a question about this pattern? Email me personally at michelle@raggedystitches.com

***** PLEASE READ ALL INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY BEFORE STARTING! *****

Finished Size: 44 x 22 inch

Requirements:

Quantity	Item
45cm	Light Fabric for Circles
1.3m	Feature Fabric & Binding
65cm	1.2m Wide Wadding
65cm	1.2m Wide Backing Fabric
50cm	Vliesofix
2.5m	Medium Tearaway Stabiliser
	Assorted Decorative Threads for Stitching (Metallic and/or Rayon)
	Construction & Quilting Threads
	Bobbinfil (fine 80 or 100 weight thread for bobbin)
	Chalk Marker or other removable Fabric Marker/Pen (optional)
	General Sewing Tools & Accessories
	Cutting Mat, Ruler & Rotary Cutter
	Circular Attachment (Optional)
	Decorative Stitching Feet : ie Candlewicking (optional)
	Walking Foot with Guide
	8inch Circle Template (optional – you can use template shape attached)
	Template Plastic (not needed if you already have an 8inch circle template)

Terms:

Term	Definition
Basting	Securing two or more layers of fabric or other materials together with long stitches, safety pins or basting spray in preparation for final sewing. In quilt making, basting readies the quilt sandwich for hand or machine quilting.
Bias	The diagonal grain of the fabric which has considerable stretch.
Binding	The fabric that covers and protects the outer edges of the quilt sandwich. Binding can be assembled and sewn to the quilt or fashioned from the quilt top or backing.
Blind Stitch	Often used in sewing appliqué or Binding in place by hand...leaves only a tiny bit of thread showing on front of the quilt; stitches should be no more than 1/8" apart.
Couching	To embroider, by hand or machine, by laying thread or yarn flat on a surface and fastening it with stitches at regular intervals – ie with zig zag machine stitch
Triple Stitch	A tri-motion reinforced straight stitch. Great for heavier quilting lines. Looks like two dotted lines side by side on sewing machine stitch menus.
Ditch Stitching	A method of Quilting that is sewn exactly on the seams so that it "disappears" into the quilt and is not really visible from the front.

Free-Motion Quilting	Machine quilting that is done with the feed dogs lowered and the quilt is moved in any direction (without turning it)...uses a darning type foot on the sewing machine.
Seam Allowance	The width of the fabric between a seam and the unfinished edge. In this pattern, the seam allowance is always ¼ inch, unless otherwise stated.
Walking Foot	A foot attachment that feeds both layers of fabric evenly through the feed dogs, usually used for straight line quilting.
WOF	Width Of Fabric – The measurement that runs from selvedge to selvedge.

General Advice

- Pre-wash all fabrics to remove any sizing in the fabric.
- Trim all threads
- Tie off and sink threads after quilting.

Cutting Instructions: WOF = Width of Fabric

Fabric	Main Cuts		✓
<i>Feature Fabric</i>	Cut THREE 12 ½in x WOF Strips	Cross cut - SEVEN 12 ½ inch squares - FOUR 6inch squares	
	Cut FOUR 2 ¼ inch WOF strips for BINDING		
<i>Tearaway</i>	Cut SEVEN 12in x 12in Squares		

PREPARATION

1. Press the Vliesofix to the wrong side of the fabric you have chosen for your circles. If you have an 8 inch circle template, then you can proceed and cut out SEVEN circles, using the template, from the vliesofixed fabric.
2. If you do not own an 8 inch circle template, then trace the attached circle onto template plastic and cut out very accurately. From there, proceed by cutting the SEVEN circles from the fabric.
3. Fold each circle in half, and in half again to find the centre point. Do the same for the SEVEN 12inch squares cut from the feature fabric.
4. Doing one block at a time, remove the paper backing from a circle and place fusible side down on top of a 12 inch square, aligning the centre points. When centred, press circles in place. Repeat for remaining blocks. After pressing the appliqué circles to the squares you will need to fold the block in half and half again to determine the centre point.
5. Place a block on top of each of the tearaway squares. If you do not use tearaway you will find that the fabric will bunch and ripple when sewing and will need trimming to lay flat, reducing the overall size of each block.

CIRCLE CONSTRUCTION

6. Using the circular attachment, place the pivoting pin through the central point of the block. Adjust the attachment so that the centre of the presser foot is following the edge of the circle. Turn the block all the way around under the foot so that you can see that the centre of the foot follows the edge of the circle. If it does not, then it means that your pivoting pin is not central in the circle.
7. *NOTE: Try to start stitches on a center fold line. If the stitches do not join up nicely when stitching around the circle, the join will be on a cut line and then ultimately hidden in a seam. Choose a decorative appliqué stitch and sew around the outside edge of the circle. Note any adjustments that you make to the stitch properties, just in case you don't finish all your circles in one sitting.*

8. You may like to sew the same stitch on each of the blocks, reducing the amount of thread changes that you will have to do. If you have a thread spool holder (single or multi) with a telescopic stand, I advise using it as it will make sewing stitches with decorative threads easier.
9. When the appliqué stitching is completed on the first or all of the blocks, adjust the attachment to measure 1 inch in from the outside edge of the circle.
10. Choose another decorative stitch and change thread. Start stitching around the circle again, always taking care that the thread doesn't break or that the attachment is secured tight enough so that the stitches remain aligned as it is going around the circle.
11. Try sewing a decorative stitch between two straight stitch lines for extra effect. When the second row of stitching is complete, adjust the circular attachment again, moving 1 inch inwards towards the centre.
12. Change thread and decorative stitch and continue sewing the third row of stitching. Remember to note any changes that you make to the stitches. Metallic threads look great but are difficult to sew with, suffering thread breakages, and making lining up stitch lines harder. You may have to reduce tension on some stitches. It is a good idea to practice on scrap fabrics to get tensions right before sewing on your actual project fabric.
13. When the third row of stitching is complete, adjust the attachment 1 inch inwards again. Select another stitch and change thread and continue to sew the last row of stitches on your circles.
14. When all decorative stitching is finished, remove tearaway from the back of each block, careful not to stretch or fray the fabric. Press well and trim blocks to measure 12 inch square.

CONSTRUCTION

15. Cut each block into four equal squares, measuring 6 inches. It is important you are accurate. Arrange the ¼ circle blocks and the FOUR plain feature 6inch blocks as you see in the pattern photo.
16. Sew the blocks together in rows and the join the rows together. Take care to match seams and also circles. Press seams *open* to reduce bulk. Use a small stitch length of 2. When the top is sewn, press well.

QUILTING

17. Layer the top onto wadding and backing. Baste using your preferred method.
18. Quilt as desired. The runner in the photo was quilted with a walking foot with echo quilting ½ inch apart around the curves.
19. When all quilting is complete, press well and square up runner with a rotary cutter.

BINDING

20. Prepare the 2¼ inch binding strips by joining them end to end with a mitred seam and finger press the binding strip in half, wrong side together, lengthwise.
21. Start pinning the binding approximately half way down one side of the runner, mitring the corners as you go. To reduce bulk, avoid having any binding joins fall at the mitred corners. When you arrive at the binding start, overlap the remaining binding strip by 2¼ inch and trim.
22. Bring the two open ends, right sides together, and join with a mitred seam. Trim excess fabric away from seam, fold in half and finger press, pin to quilt. The binding will now fit snugly along that side of the runner. Sew binding to runner using a ¼ inch seam.
23. To finish the binding, fold over the binding to the back of the runner, and using matching thread, blind stitch the binding to the backing, taking care that your stitches do not go through to the front.

Congratulations you have finished your runner. Don't forget to label your quilt.