DESIGN BASICS

101

BASICS

By Patricia Simons

4-Arm
Pinwheel

Quilter's Rule™

The 4-arm Pinwheel Design tool is partially nested and made from ⅛" clear acrylic (pictured on left in Illustration 1). The Mini 4-Arm Pinwheel Machine Quilting tool (pictured on right in Illustration 1) is not nested and is made of ¼" clear acrylic. A small size is not available.

Tip: Use painter's tape to hold the nested pieces together. The painter's tape serves two purposes: holds the template together and can be used as a guide for aligning the template.

Illustration 1

SIMPLE BLOCK DESIGN

Create a simple block design using the 4-Arm Pinwheel Design Tool and the Whole Cloth Grid. The technique is "Twist".
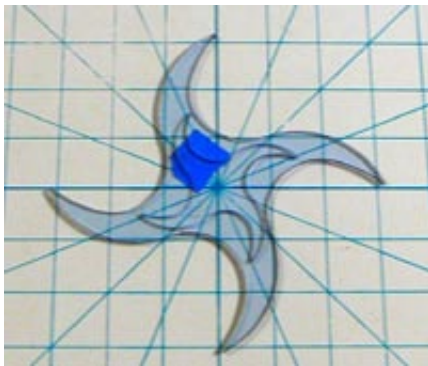
Illustration 2

Center the 4-Arm Pinwheel in the center of the whole cloth grid. Twist the template until the tips of the arms are touching the horizontal and vertical 90° lines as shown in Illustration 2.
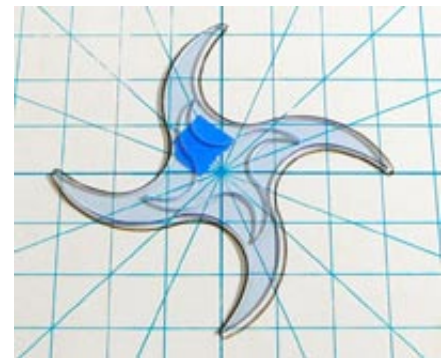
Illustration 3

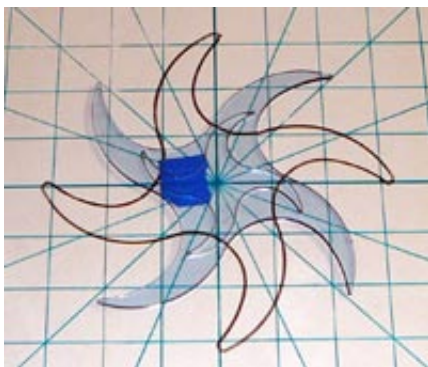Draw completely around the template as shown in Illustration 3.

Illustration 4

Twist the template until the tips of the arms are touching all four (4) 45° lines while keeping the template centered on the whole cloth grid as shown in Illustration 4.
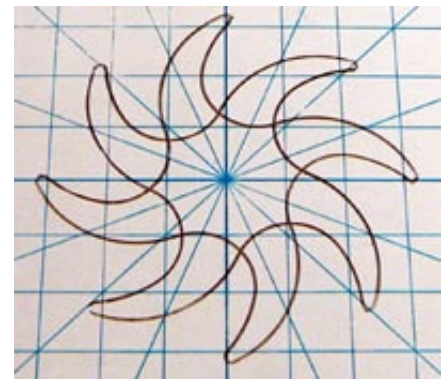
Illustration 5

Draw completely around the template. The completed design is shown in Illustration 5.

Transfer the design to any project by:
1. Tracing design directly onto project.
2. Print or copy design onto Foundation Paper, Stitch-Away-Paper and/or Wash Away paper or film.

SIMPLE BLOCK DESIGN 2

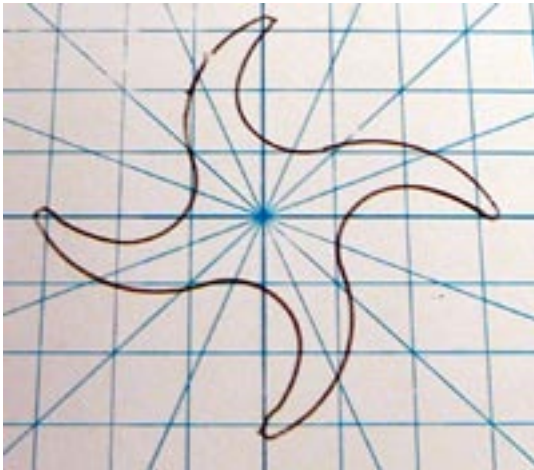The technique is a combination of "Twist" and "Flip".

Illustration 6

Illustration 7

Center the 4-Arm Pinwheel in the center of the whole cloth grid. Twist the template until the tips of the arms are touching the horizontal and vertical 90° lines. Draw completely around the template as shown in Illustration 6.
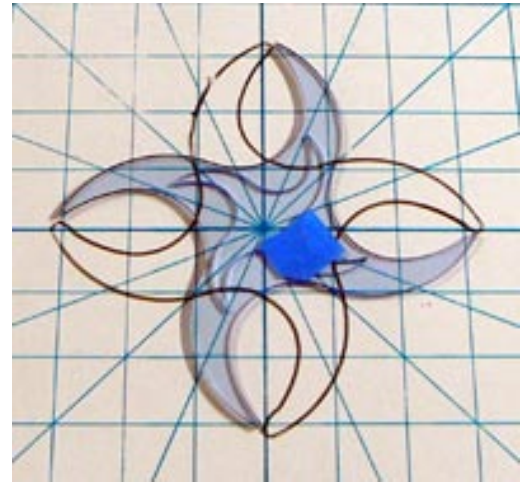
Flip the template, center it on the whole cloth grid, and twist the template until the tips of the arms are touching the horizontal and vertical 90° lines as shown in Illustration 7.
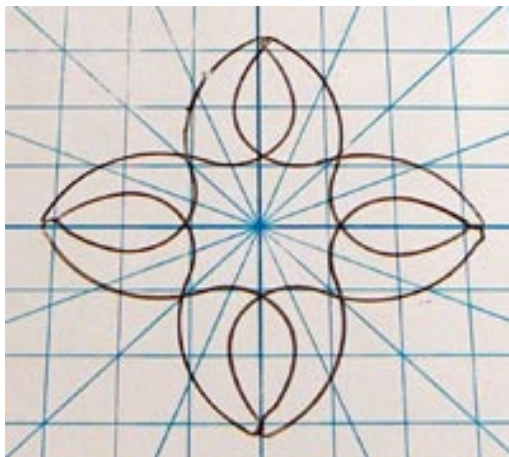

Illustration 8

Illustration 9

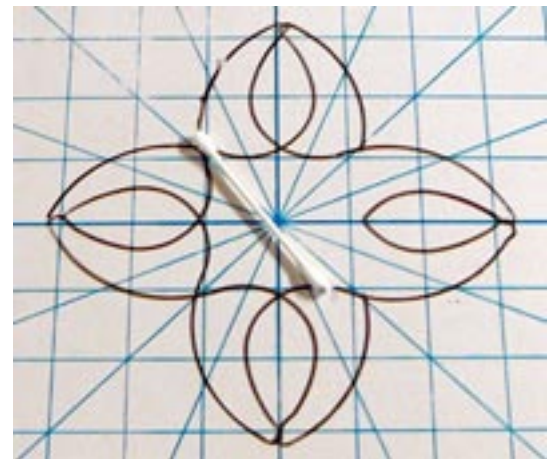Draw completely around the template. The completed design is shown in Illustration 8.

Try using a Q-Tip to remove the center lines as shown in Illustration 9 for a different look. The completed design is shown on the next page in Illustration 10.

Note: If you would prefer to quilt directly on the quilt without marking, use our 1/4" machine quilting tools. When using the machine quilting template allow a 1/4" of space to accommodate the hopping foot when placing the template.

Transfer design using your favorite transfer method.

BLOCK DESIGN VARIATIONS

If you desire a design with less quilting in the center, take a Q-Tip and erase the lines in the center (see Illustration 10). This design is still continuous line. If you remove the line at the tips, as shown in Illustration 11, it will not be continuous line. However this design will give you the opportunity for a faux trapunto look if you heavily quilt all but the open loop design as shown in Illustration 12.
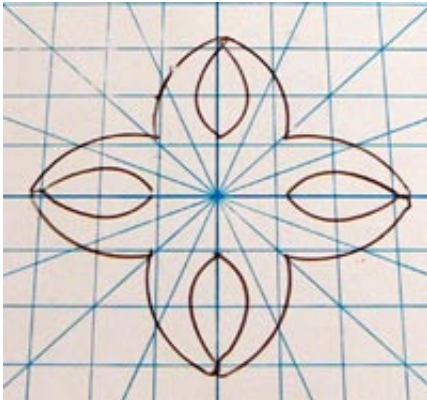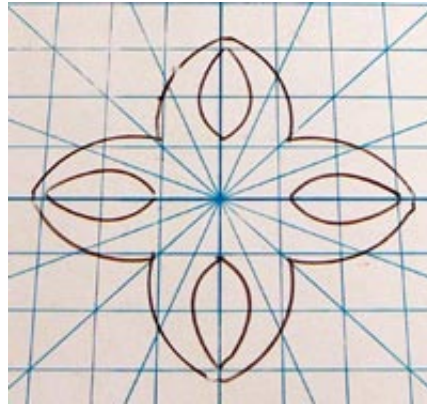

Illustration 10

Illustration 11

Illustration 12

BORDER DESIGN

Create a simple border design using the 4-Arm Pinwheel Design Tool and the Border Grid. The technique is a combination of "Slide" and "Flip".
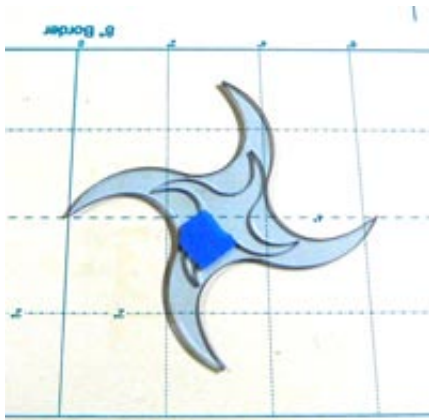

Illustration 13

Line the 4-Arm Pinwheel on your border with one arm touching the horizontal and vertical center of your border. The opposite arm should be touching the horizontal border as shown in Illustration 13.

Illustration 14

Draw from the right side to the left side of the template going around the BOTTOM only as shown in Illustration 14.
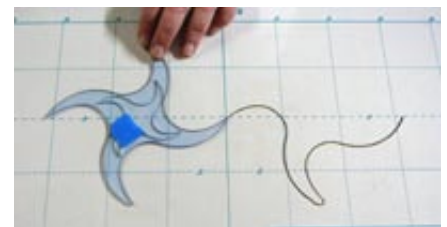

Illustration 15

Slide the template to the left lining up the same as before as shown in Illustration 15. Draw from the right side to the left side of the template going around the TOP only as shown in Illustration 16.
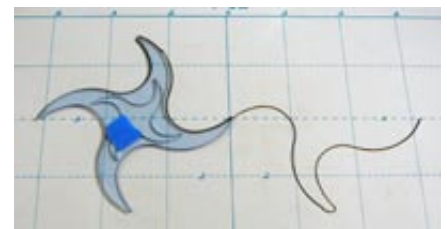

Illustration 16

Note: If you would prefer to quilt directly on the quilt without marking, use our 1/4" machine quilting tools. When using the machine quilting template allow a 1/4" of space to accommodate the hopping foot when placing the template.

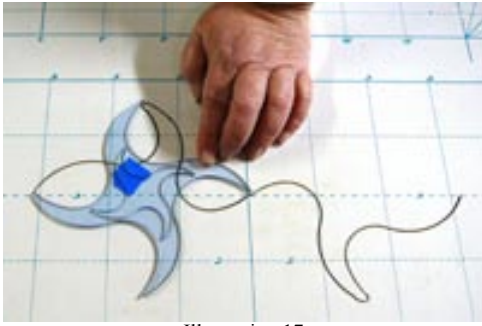Transfer design using your favorite transfer method.

Illustration 17

Flip the template across the center line as shown in Illustration 17.

Illustration 18

Draw from the left side to the right side of the template going around the BOTTOM only as shown in Illustration 18.
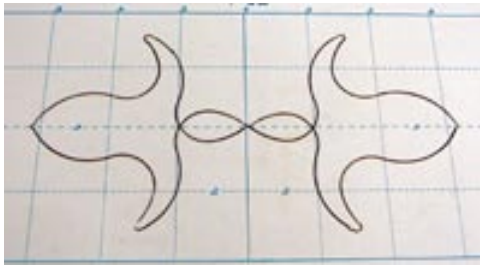

Illustration 19

Slide the template to the right lining up the template as before. Draw from the left side to the right side of the template going around the TOP only. Your completed border design is shown in Illustration 19.
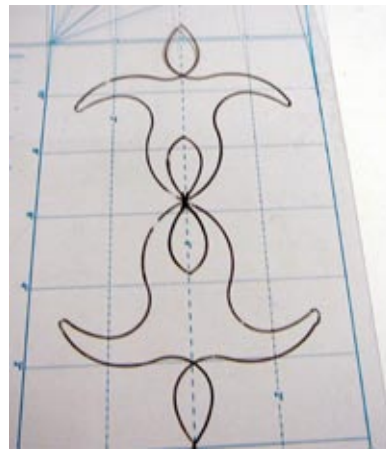

Illustration 20

Create a variation to this design by including more of one arm of the template. The variation is shown in Illustration 20. Illustration 21 shows both border options.
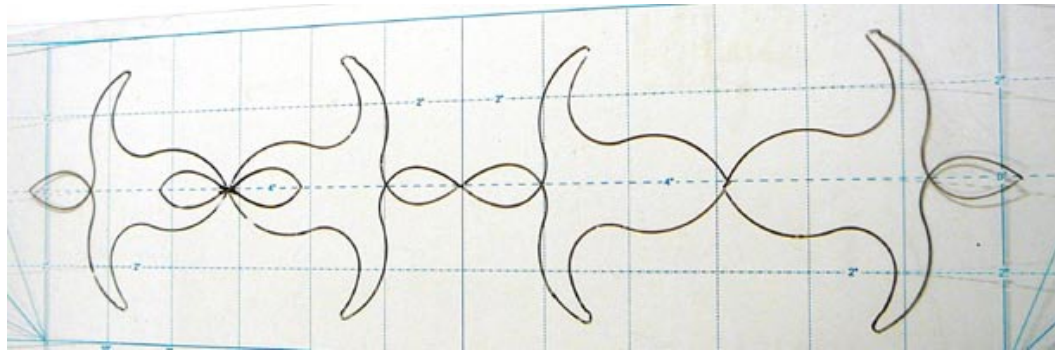

Illustration 21

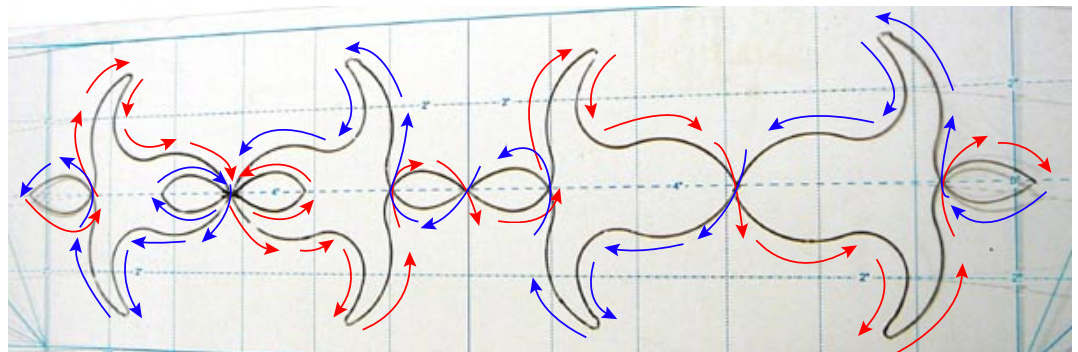A stitching path example is shown in Illustration 22.

Illustration 22

NOTE: Please note the different effect created when drawing around the point of a template vs. stitching around the template. The template on the left uses a Tube Template Tester to simulate the effect of your foot on a mid- or long-arm machine on the stitching. Notice the more rounded effect achieved when compared to the right template's drawn line. Both templates are identical. The round foot of mid- and long-arm machines will "round" out any point.
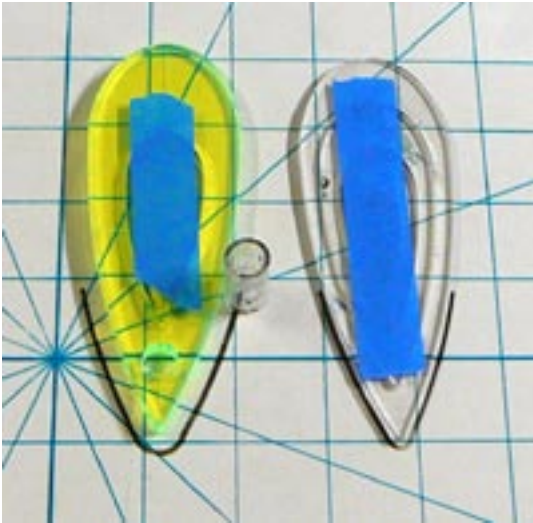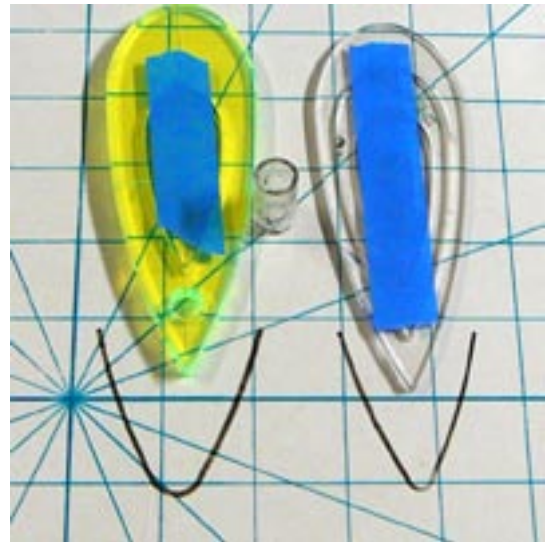

Illustration 23

Illustration 24

PRODUCTS USED FOR CREATING YOUR OWN DESIGNS
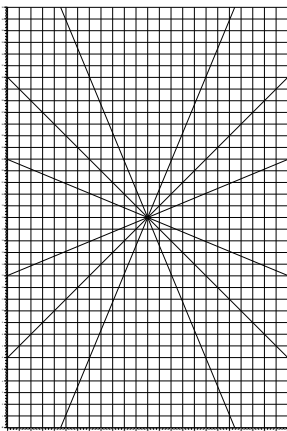## 4-ARM PINWHEEL TEMPLATE

Dry or wet erase pens can be used on all of our printed vinyl templates to test your quilt designs. Once you complete your design simply transfer onto the Stitch-Away-Paper or use what ever transfer technique with which you are comfortable.
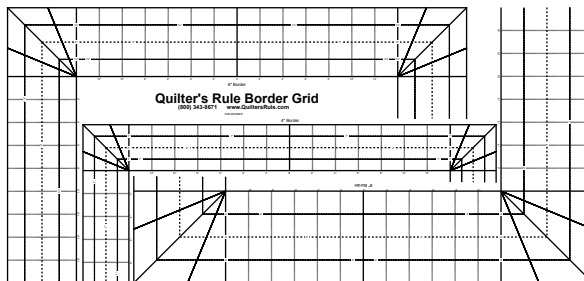

SF-DT08
Set of 4 Templates
1/8" thick acrylic
Sizes: 1 1/2" x 1 1/2" , 3" x 3" , 4" x 4",
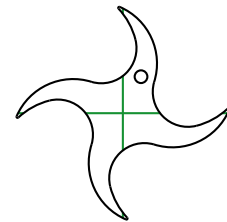and 5 1/4" x 5 1/4"

REUSABLE DESIGN GRIDS

Whole Cloth Grid
Overall Size - 25" x 38"
Grid Size - 24" x 36"
Measurement - 1" grid with 1/8"
increments on side
Guide Line: 22½°, 45°, & 90°

Quilter's Rule Border Grid
(800) 343-8671 www.QuiltersRule.com

• 4", 6", and 8" wide border layouts with two corners
• Layouts are marked with a center line as well as two additional lines to center floating designs
• The center of each border layout is marked for working on center motifs
• Each corner has the 45° angle marked as well as two more angles for help in turning corners
• Overall template size is 25" x 52"

MQT-MN08
1/4" thick acrylic
Perfect for quilting directly on your quilt.
Sizes: MQT-MN08: 5" x 5"

STITCH-AWAY-PAPER
Stitch-Away-Paper can be used for tracing patterns/ designs onto your project or for foundation piecing.

Use alone or with the Whole Cloth and Block Grids. Available in two sizes: 25" x 36" and 8½" x 11"