

SQG Grow-a-Quilt Challenge 2021

Step 6 – Circle Blocks

You decide:

- Do you want to use quarter, half, or full circles? A mix?
- Set in circles or appliqué?
- If appliqué then iron-on, rough edge, or needle turn?
- Circles only at the corners?
- Does your quilt need a bit of breathing space? Do you need a blank area before the circle row? Or, as part of the circle row?

Marilyn's hints when making full circles, semi-circles, or, quarter circles

- For a full circle cut the circle 1" bigger than the hole. Cut it ½" bigger for the quarter circle.
- My favourite method is to use the "Cut a Round" Ruler which has slots in ½" increments.
- Make folds at the halfway points and clip. Put one pin or match as you sew.
- I put the circle down and hold the background in my hand while sewing.
- Use the quarter inch foot to sew.
- A note – the quarter circle is a component of the Drunkard's Path quilt block.

Helpful links for set-in circles

- Lorna Shapiro's **Useful Techniques** page (<https://quiltersdreamfabrics.com/useful-techniques/>) gives detailed instructions for setting in circles. If you did the Circles workshop with Lorna in 2015 you will have the directions in the pattern or the instructions.
- From Niki at VMQG – Moda's **Cheeky Quarter Circles** <https://my.modafabrics.com/2019/03/cheeky-circles.html> and Color Girl's **Half Circle Block** <https://colorgirlquilts.com/2020/02/video-how-to-sew-the-mod-shapes-quilt.html> . Scroll down to link to a video.
- We All Sew has instructions for making a **Drunkard's Path** block using a printable template (I would make the background square larger). <https://weallsew.com/drunkards-path-basics/>
- Jenny Doan makes an **Old Mill Path** Quilt using her Drunkard's Path Ruler. This is an interesting video. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1ZUV2sbkRHc> . Jenny sews circle in without pins or just pin in the middle.
- Jenny Doan and friends make **3 Drunkard's Path Projects** https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9_mBXgKKIzQ

Iron-on applique:

- Jenny Doan makes a **Cheerio Quilt** in this video – note the iron-on appliqué circles
- The Crafts Channel - **Perfect Applique Circles** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HAYowsBkljQ> . Instead of the fusible used in this Australian video you can use Steam a Seam 2 lite. There is also a good explanation of hiding the join in topstitching a complete circle.

Needle Turn Applique

- Fons & Porter staff explain needle turn appliqué in this video - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=khZnGx9U5Y4>

Happy Quilting,
Marilyn C