

# FRESH DESIGNS

designs and ideas  
for quilters and other fabric artists

(c)1981 - 2006 by aisling d'art  
[www.fabric-artist.com](http://www.fabric-artist.com)



hello ! this is YOUR book. whether you are a beginner or an advanced quiltmaker, you will find designs & ideas here that you can use.

in creating this book, i've tried to give you lots of choices. after all, it is your quilt, and you're going to want ideas to make your quilt unique & very special.

so here they are — fresh designs and new ideas for you. use them freely, change them to suit your projects, and - above all - have fun!

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I wrote those words over 20 years ago, and they're still true: I want you to have fun with these designs!

As I scanned a 1983 copy of this book in its original format, I was amazed at how much things have changed... and how little.

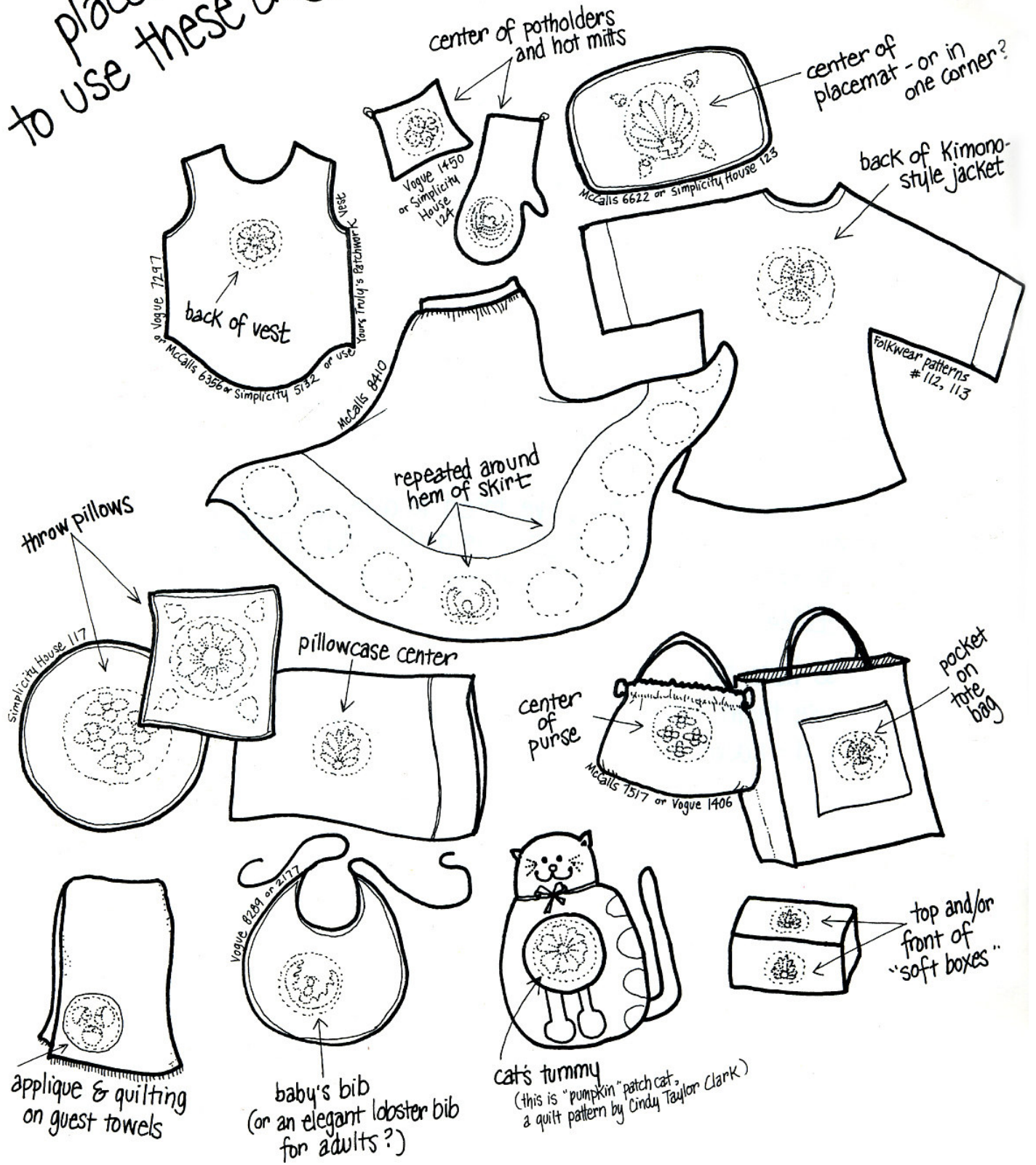
When I wrote "Fresh Designs", I drew all of the pictures by hand. The dotted lines were freehand, and the text was my own handwriting, sometimes written with guidelines... and sometimes not. Today, I'd probably create the graphics on my computer, and they'd be far more perfect and precise.

Would that detract from their charm? I'm not sure. The energy would certainly be different.

I believe that these designs are still useful today, for the same kinds of projects that I outlined on pages two and three, in addition to their use with quilts.

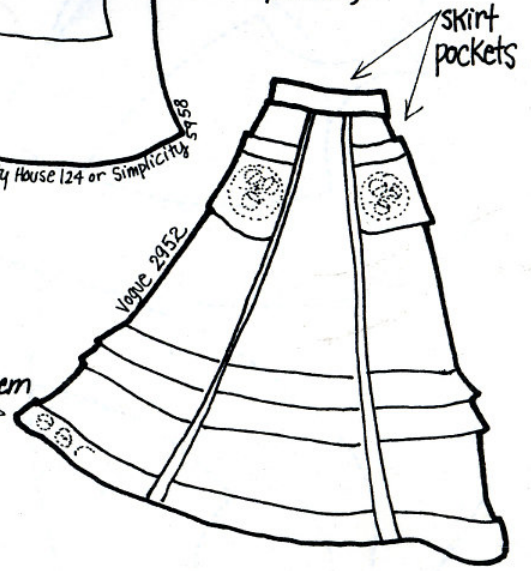
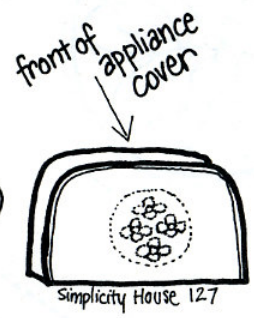
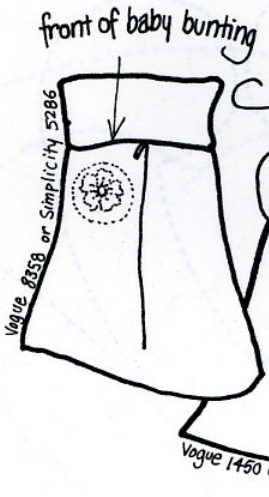
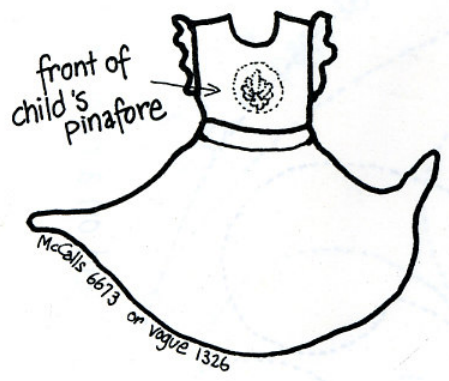
As I said in the early 1980s, have fun with these designs! (See the last page for copyright info.)

# places to use these designs...

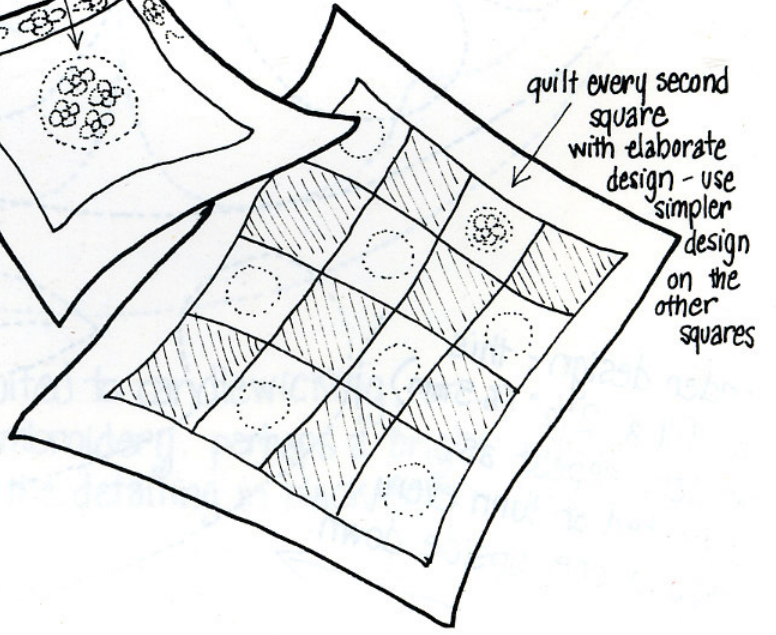
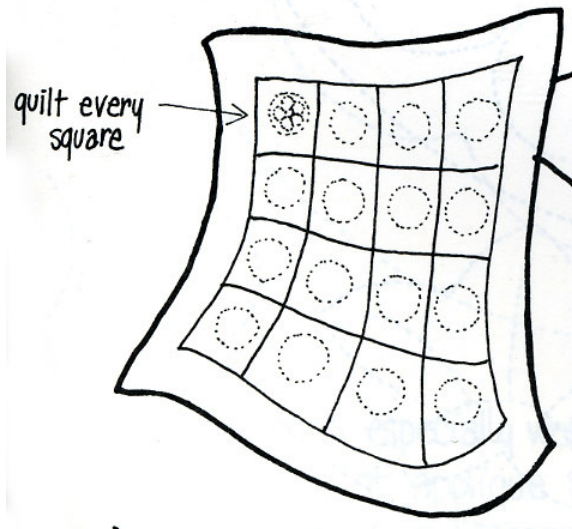




more places to use these designs...

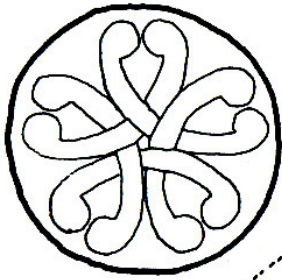


and (of course!) on your quilts...

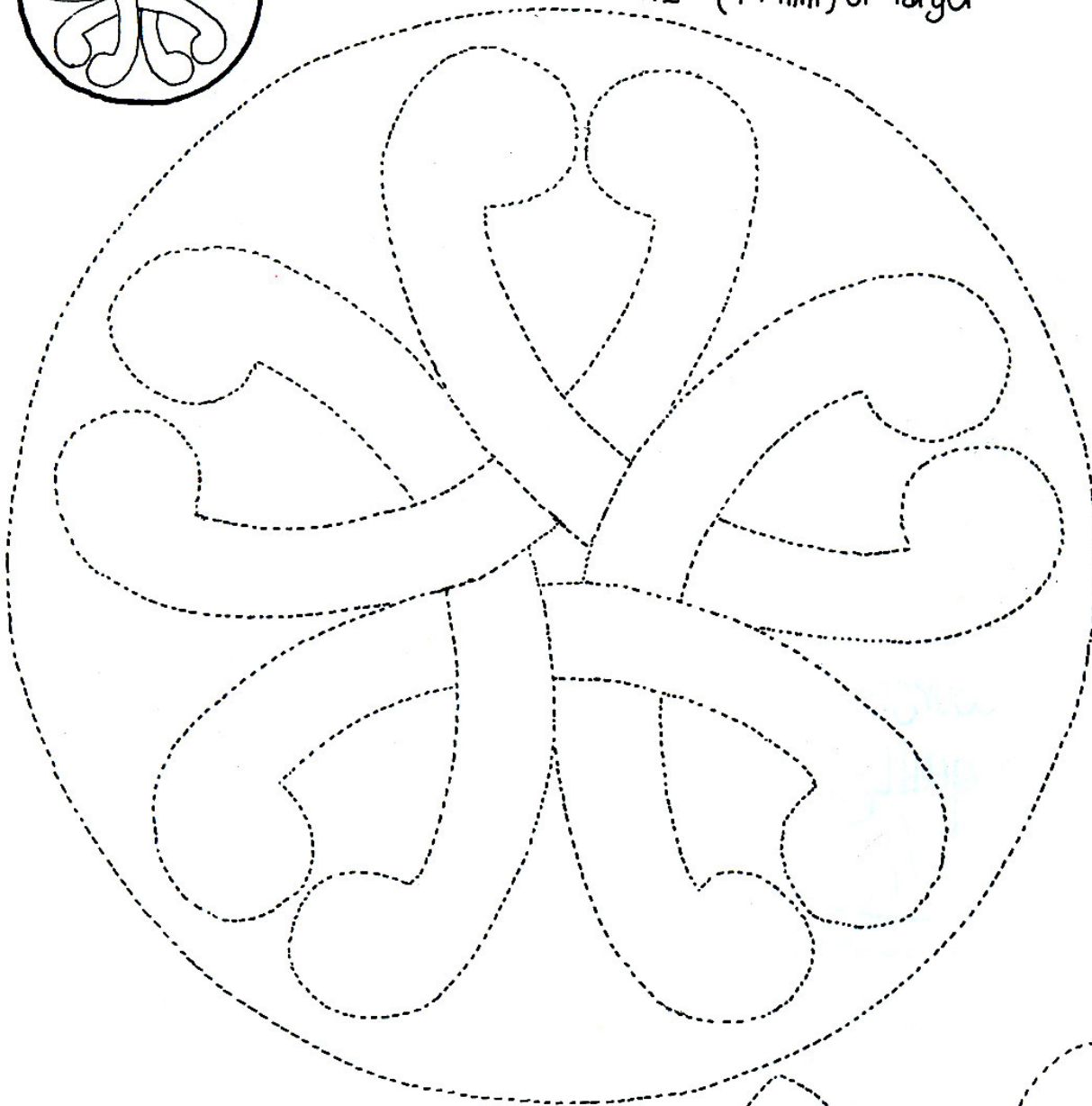


improvise... use your imagination!

4.

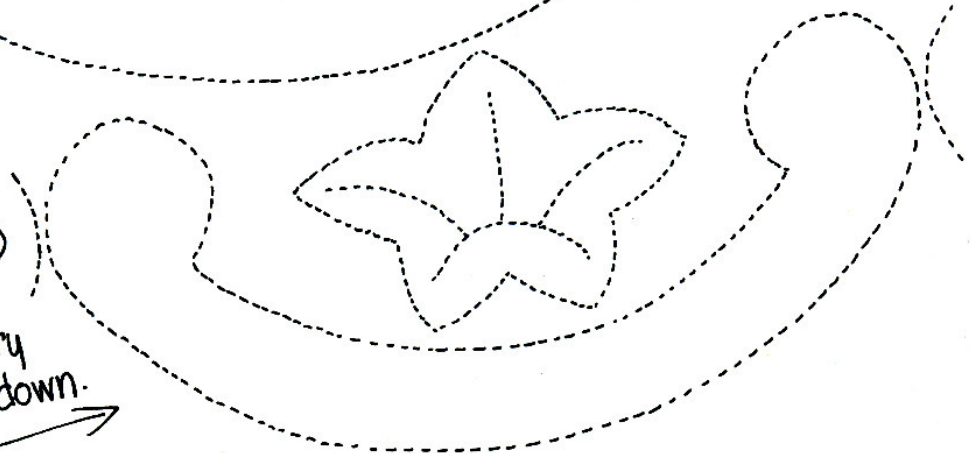


scroll design - this design fits blocks  
7 1/2" (19 mm) or larger



crewel idea - use gold or other metallic thread on a black, red, blue,  
or white background (elegant pillows?)

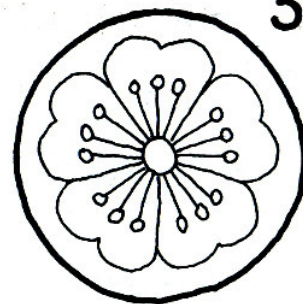
border design - this  
will fill a 2 1/2" (6.5mm)  
border. repeat as  
indicated or turn every  
second one upside down.



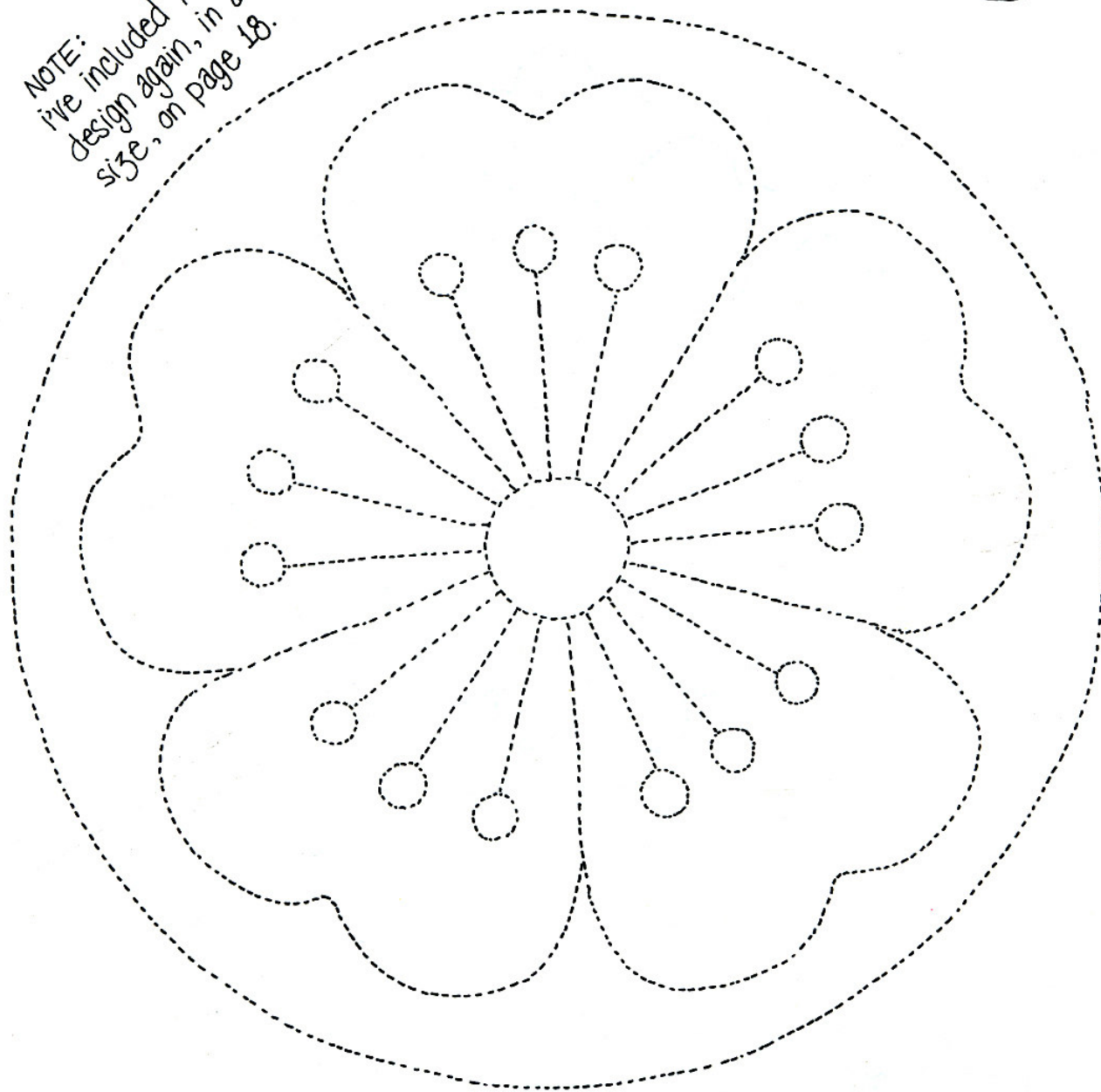


5.

poppy design - this is for blocks that are  
7½" (19 mm) or larger

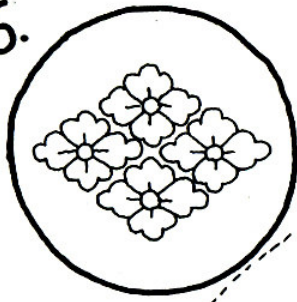


NOTE:  
I've included this  
design again, in a smaller  
size, on page 18.

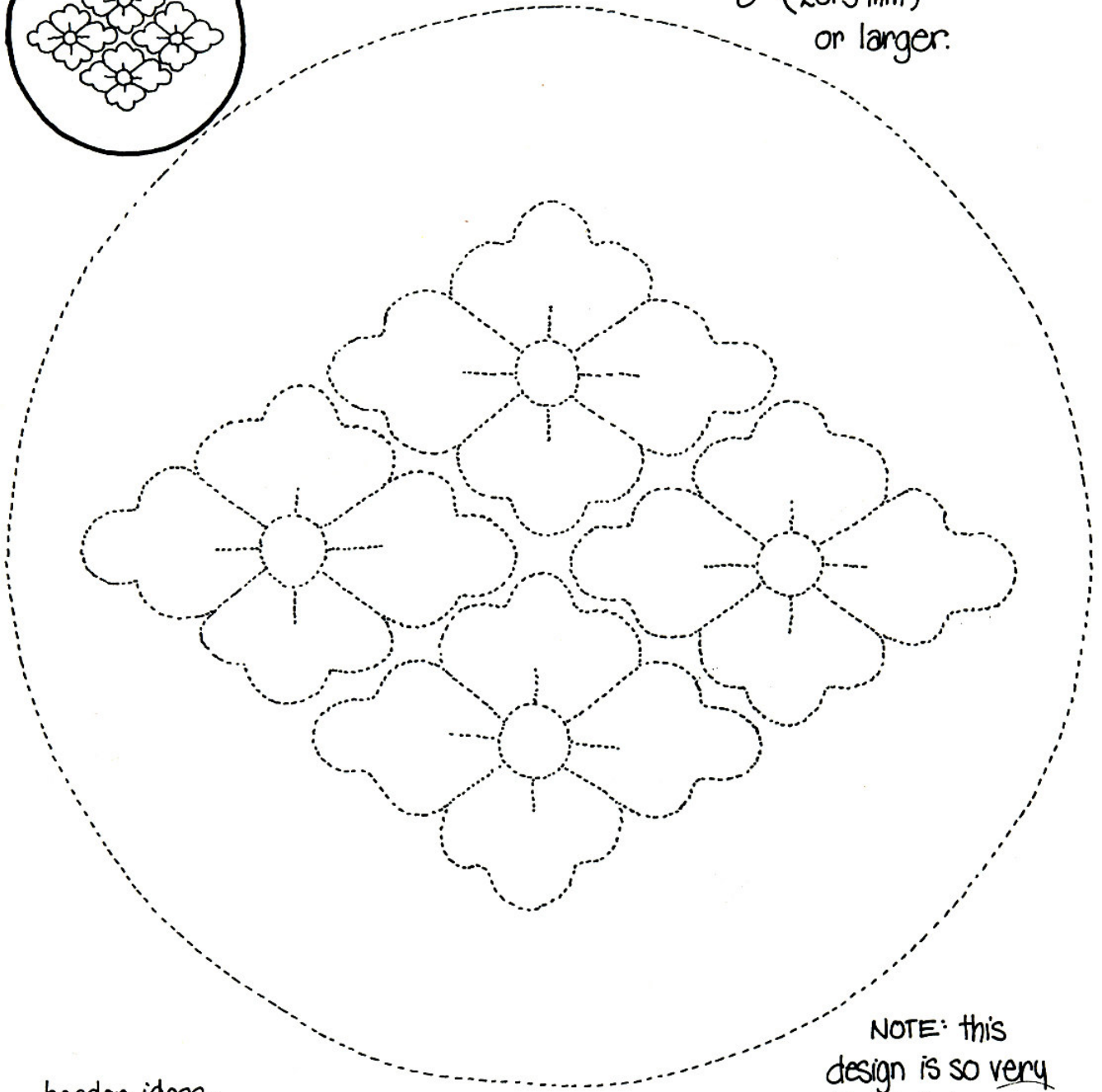


this design is especially well suited to candlewicking, or a combination of applique & embroidery. perhaps a bright orange applique for the petals, with the detailing in black embroidery?

6.



diamond flower design - this is for blocks  
8" (20.5 mm)  
or larger.

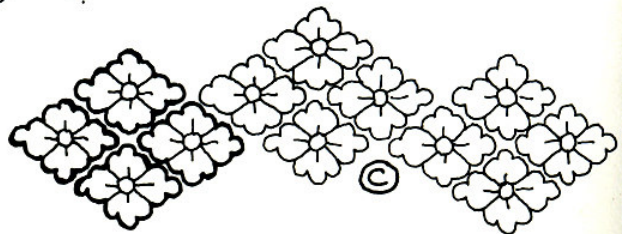
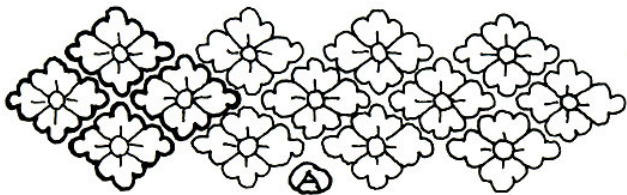


border ideas -

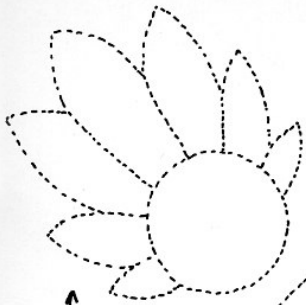
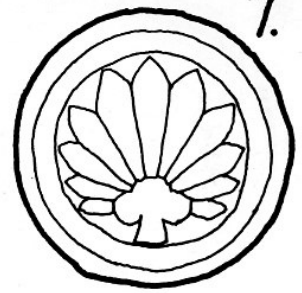
- (A) repeat, with an overlap in the design
- (B) use single flowers, across
- (C) repeat, staggered



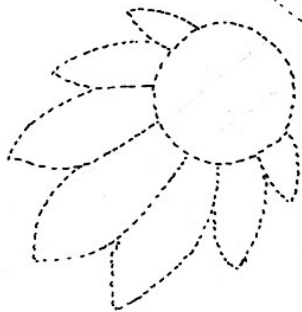
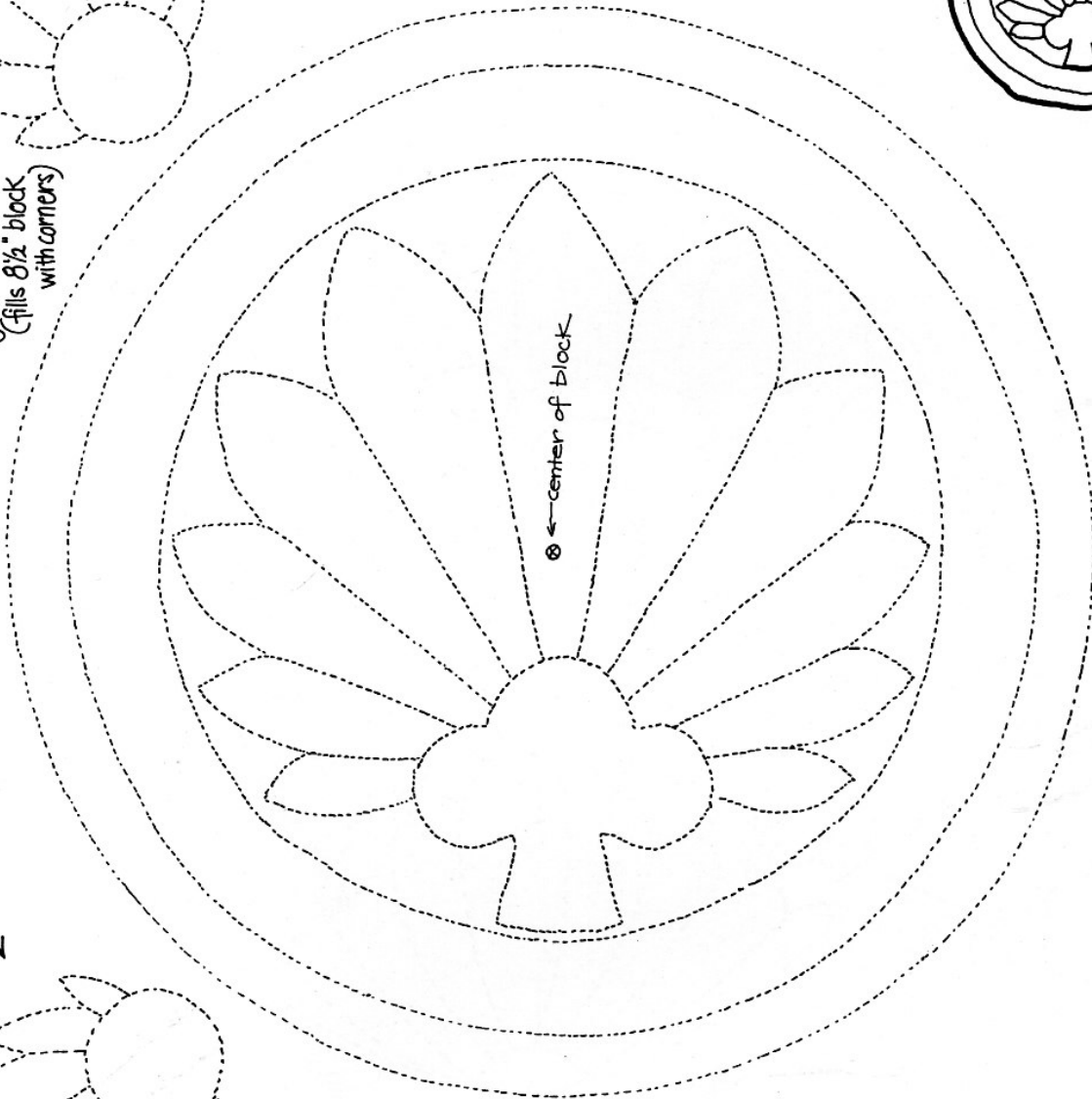
NOTE: this design is so very versatile that i've included it in other sizes on pages 16 & 18.



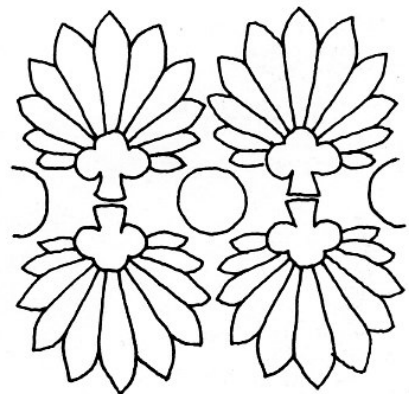
umbrella fan design - this design fills  
6 1/2" (16.5 mm)



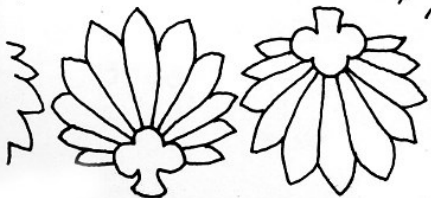
optional corners for square or rectangular blocks →  
(fills 8 1/2" block with corners)



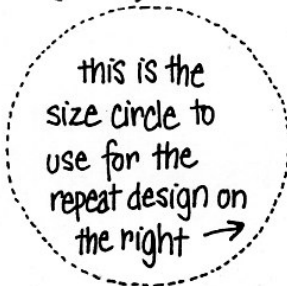
repeated, this design fills  
a 9 1/2" (24 mm) border



repeated this way, it will fill a 7 3/4" (12 mm) border

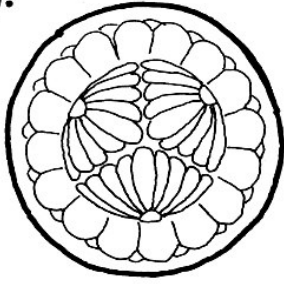


this is the  
size circle to  
use for the  
repeat design on  
the right →

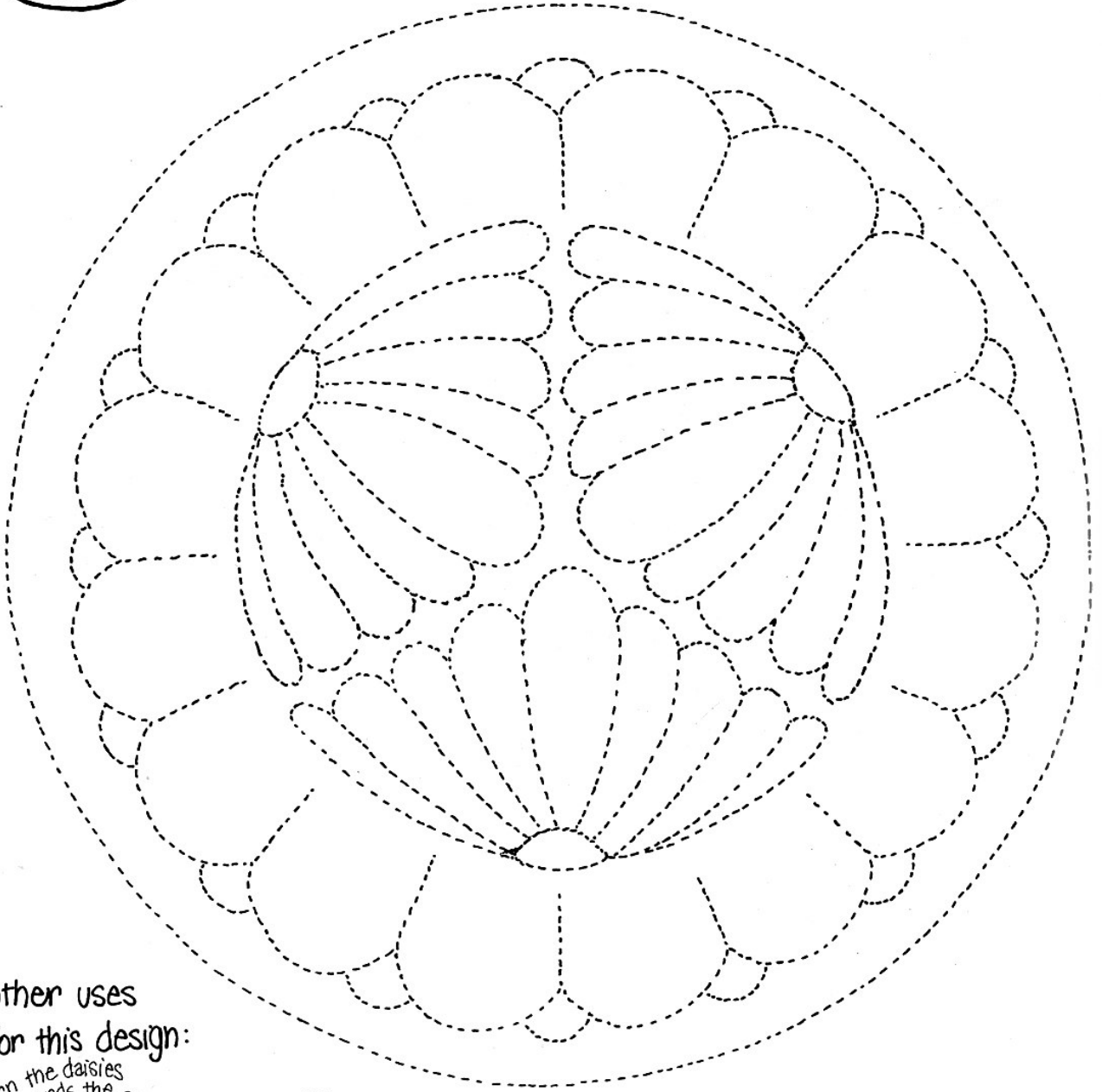




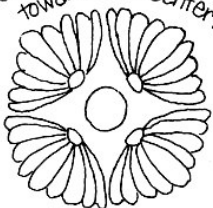
8.



three daisies - this design is for blocks that are  $7\frac{3}{4}$ " (19.5 mm) or larger



other uses for this design:  
turn the daisies towards the center!



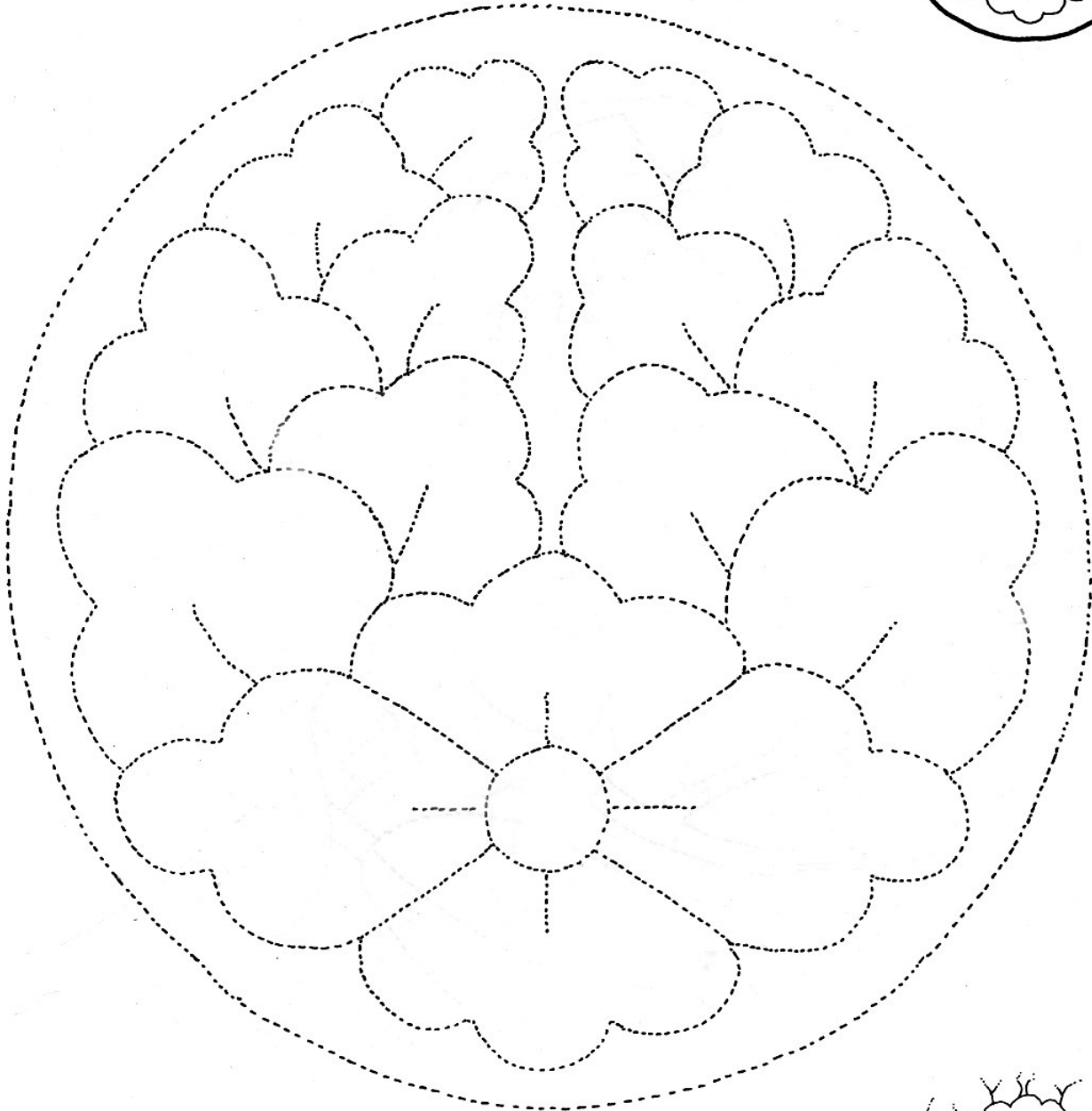
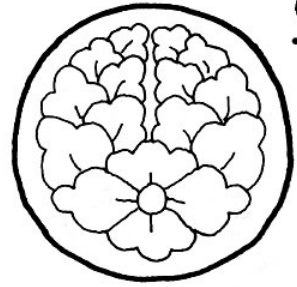
this is a full size circle for this design's center

border design - makes a  $2\frac{1}{4}$ " (5.5 mm) border



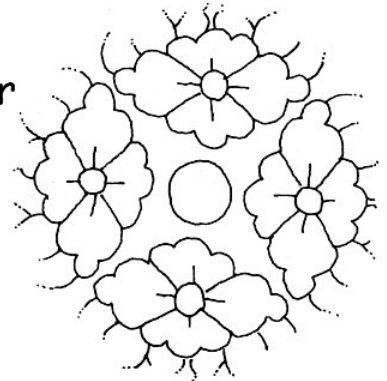
9.

floral wreath - this is for blocks  $7\frac{1}{2}$ "  
(19 mm) or larger

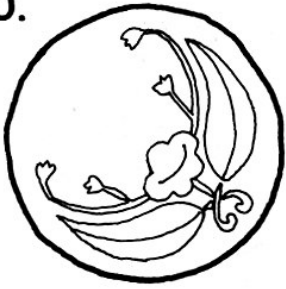


this design is good for candlewicking or embroidery, too. the center flower could be the darkest (perhaps dark pink, blue, or purple), and the other flowers could be progressively lighter in color.

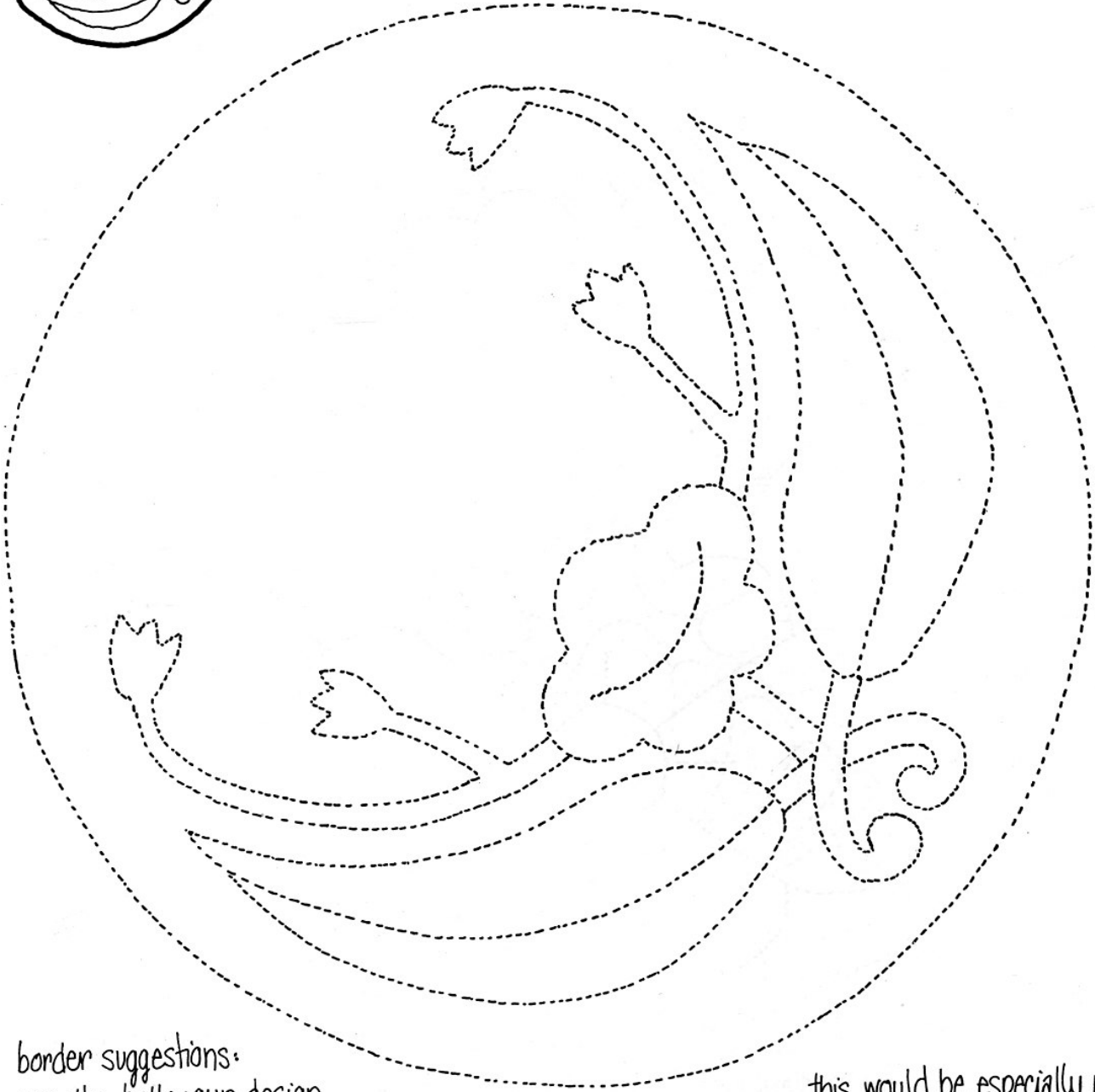
for a medallion effect, repeat the design 4 times, in a circle, with the large flowers towards the center.



10.



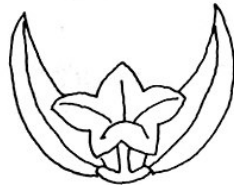
buttercups - this design is for blocks 8" (20 mm) or larger



border suggestions:  
use the buttercup design  
on page 16



or the floral accent on page 17  
and repeat them.

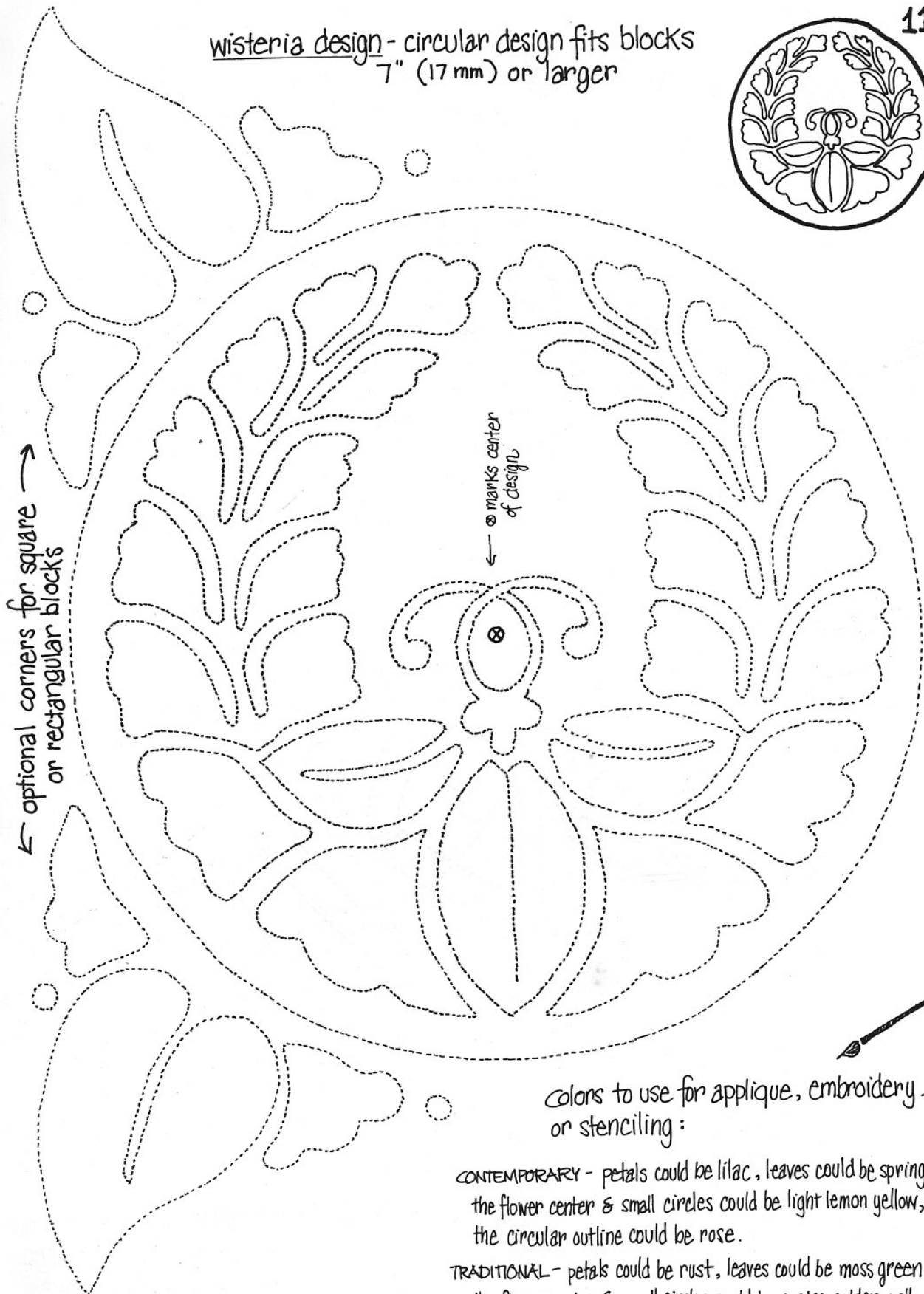


this would be especially nice  
on a lampshade, or  
embroidered on a pillow.  
use pastels - lilac, baby  
pink, spring green...



wisteria design - circular design fits blocks  
7" (17 mm) or larger

11.



Colors to use for applique, embroidery,  
or stenciling:

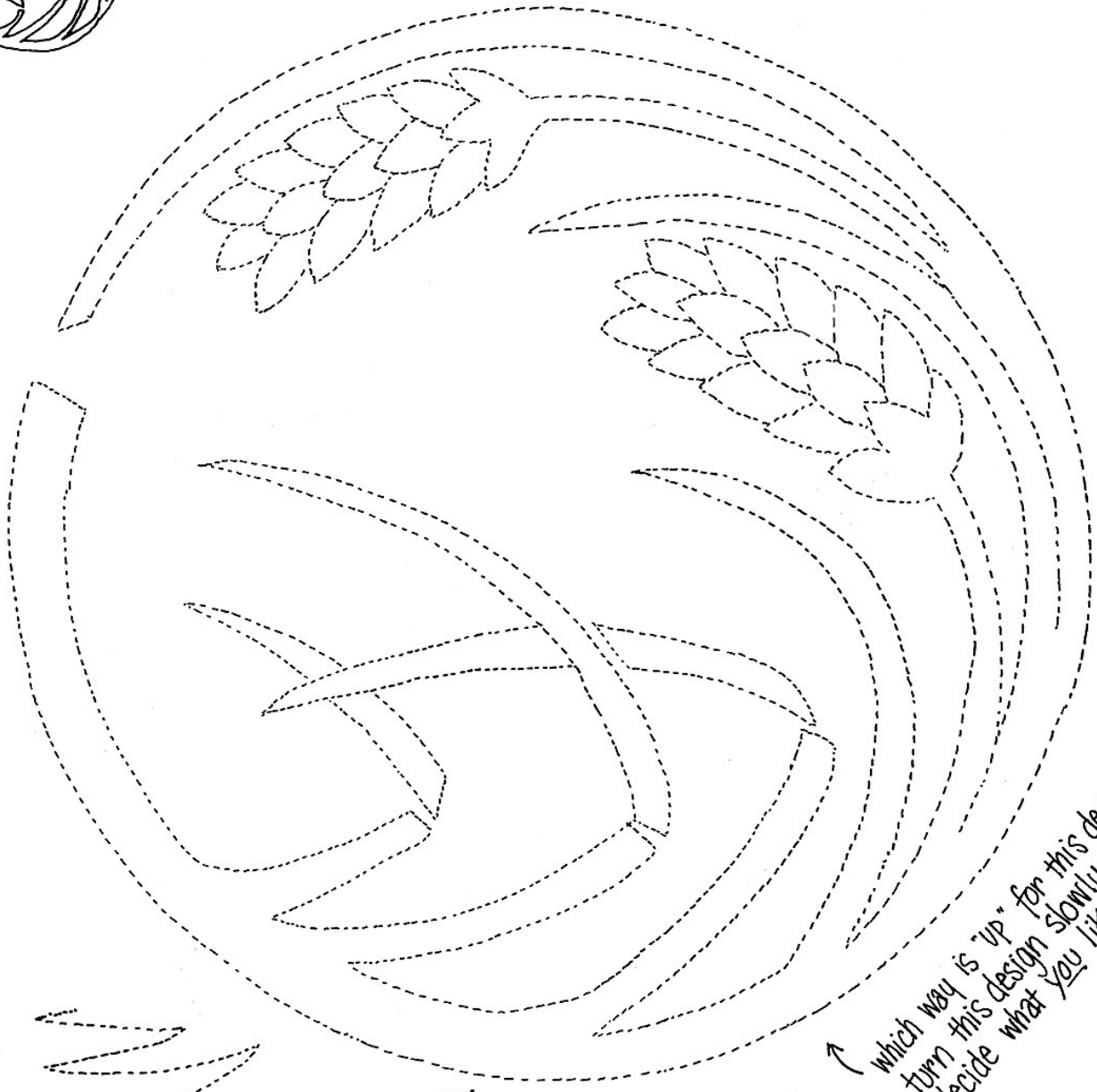
CONTEMPORARY - petals could be lilac, leaves could be spring green  
the flower center & small circles could be light lemon yellow, and  
the circular outline could be rose.

TRADITIONAL - petals could be rust, leaves could be moss green,  
the flower center & small circles could be a nice golden yellow,  
and the circular outline could be a burnt sienna brown.

12.



rice plant design - this design is 7" (18 mm) wide



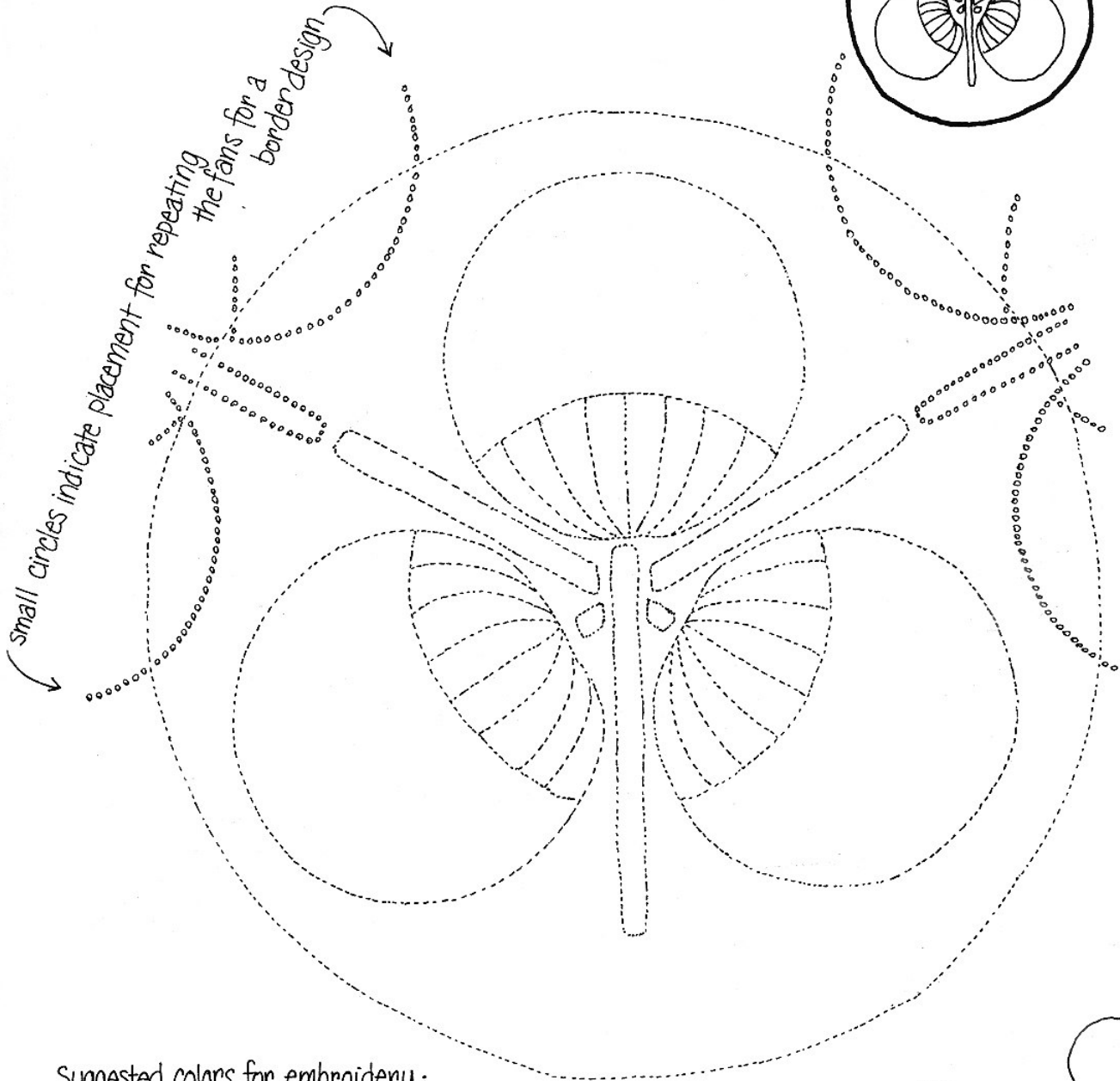
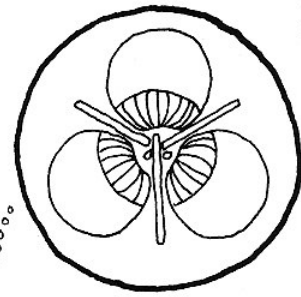
which way is "up" for this design?  
turn this design slowly and  
decide what you like.



← border design - repeat  
for a 5" (12.5 mm) border

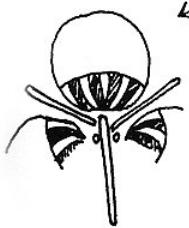
suggested colors for embroidery:  
rice plants are green when  
growing, so use a variety,  
from spring green to moss  
green.

Japanese fan design - this circular design is 6 1/2" (16 mm) wide

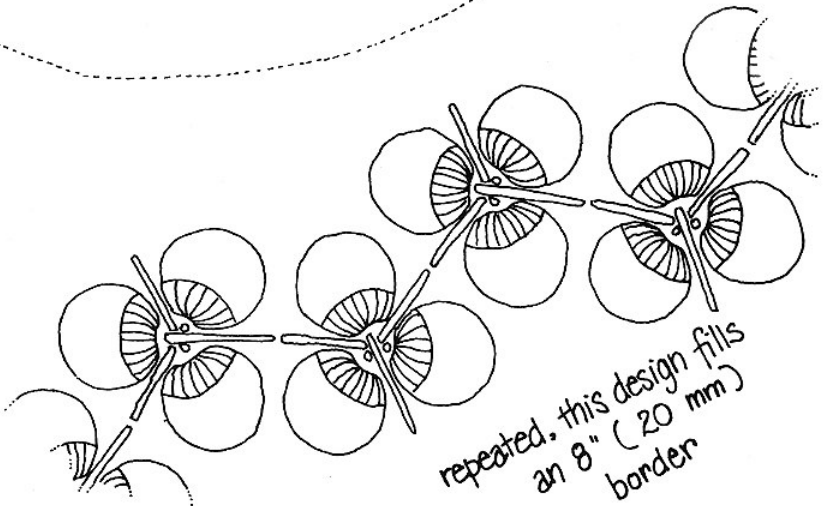


Small circles indicate placement for repeating the fans for a border design

Suggested colors for embroidery: bright, Amish or Oriental colors - turquoise, rust, golden yellow.



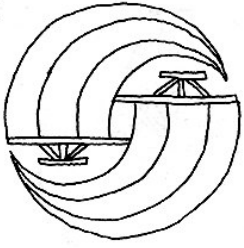
Stencil choices - instead of simply cutting for the lines, you could cut every second section of the fan.



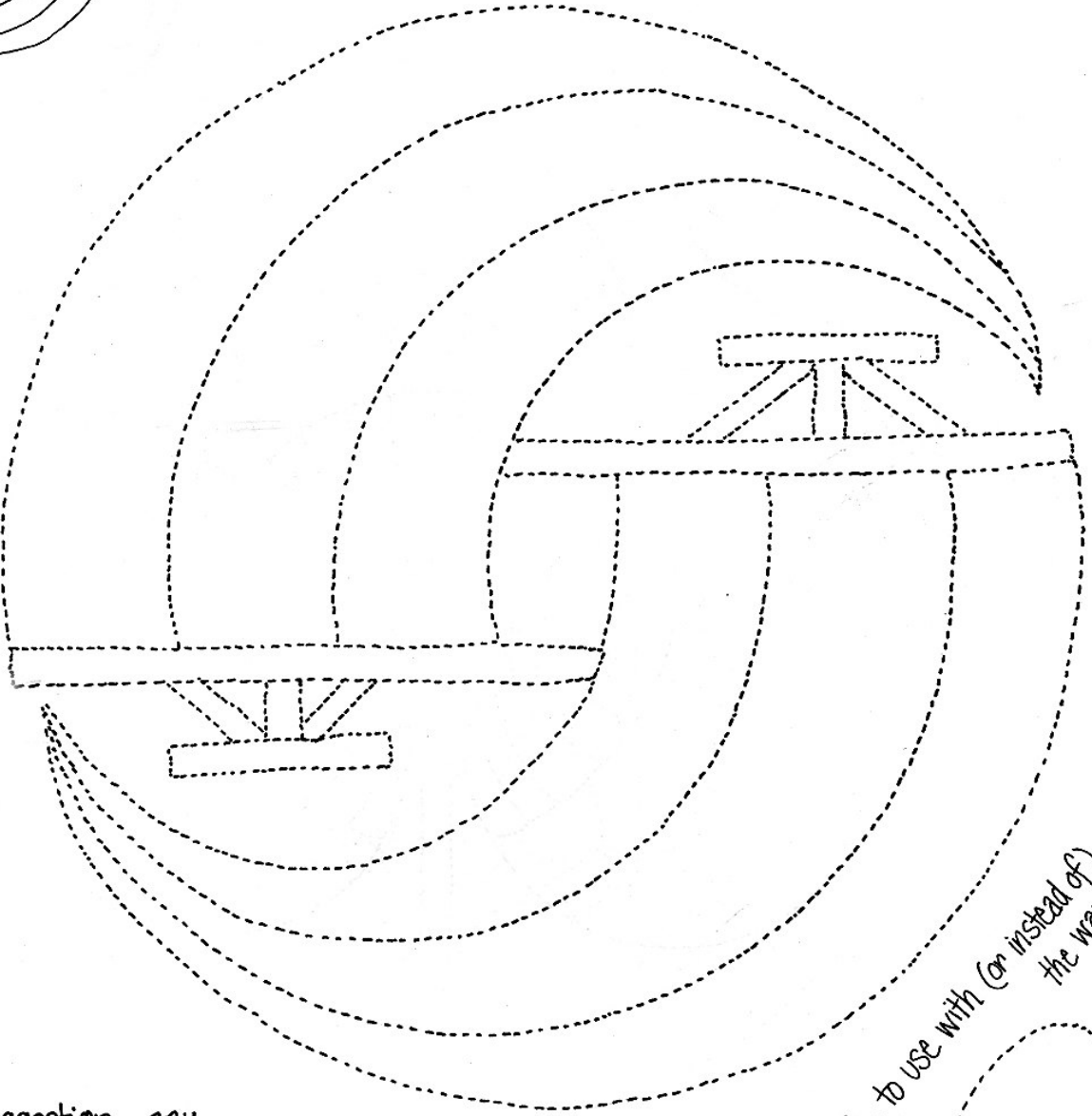
repeated, this design fills an 8" (20 mm) border



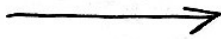
14.



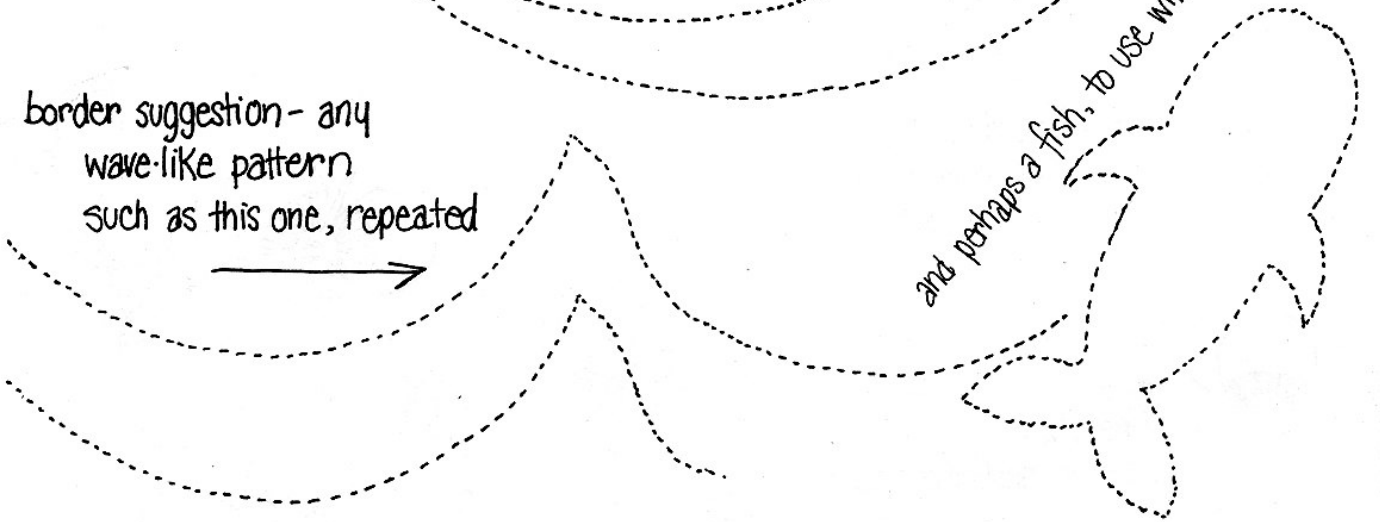
ships' sails - this is for blocks  $7/4"$  (18 mm)  
or larger



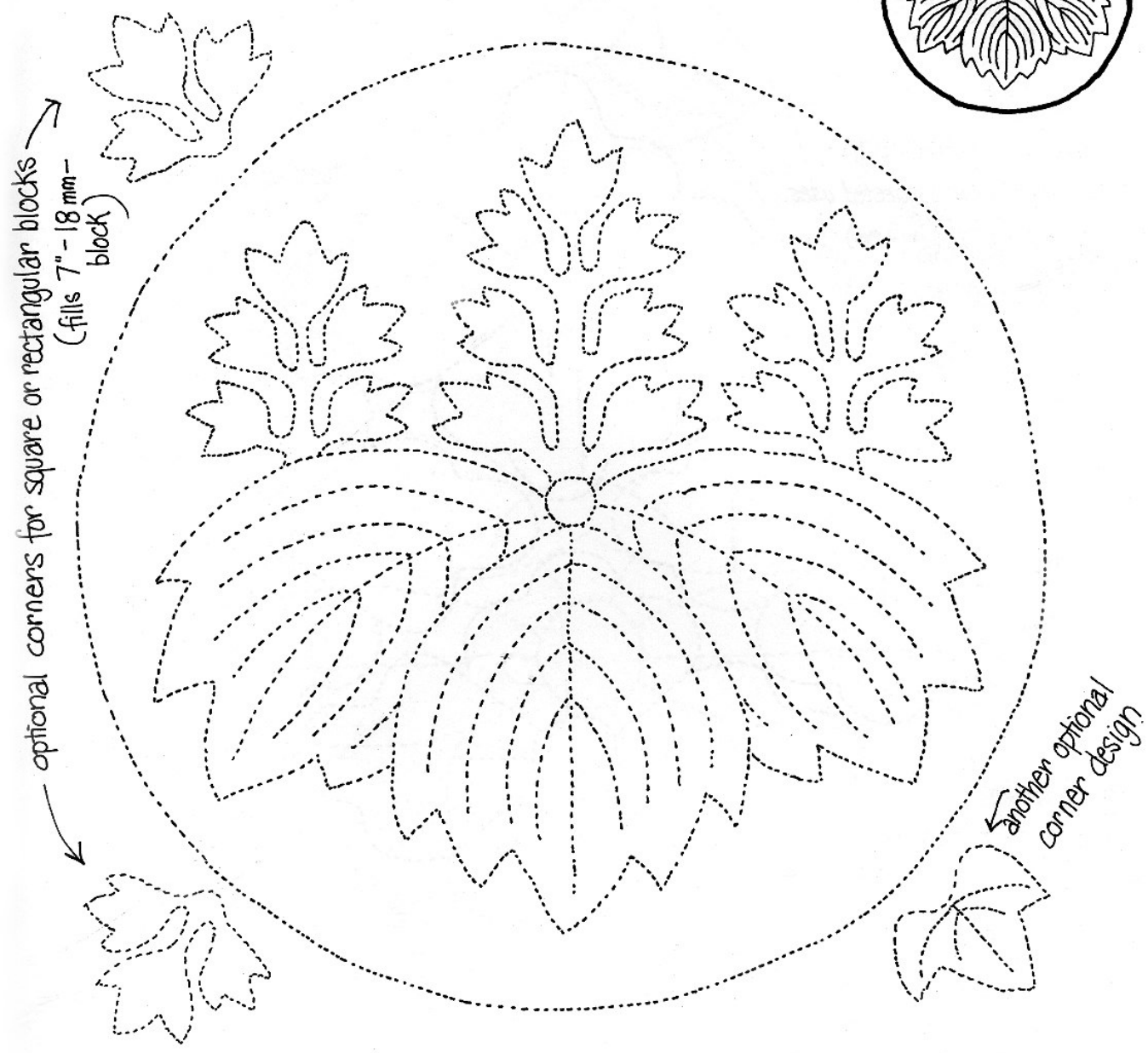
border suggestion - any  
wave-like pattern  
such as this one, repeated



and perhaps a fish, to use with (or instead of)  
the waves?

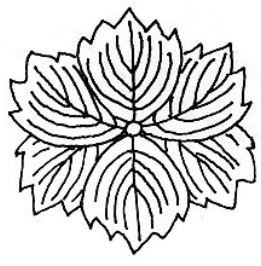


crest of the Empress - this design is 6 1/2" (16.5 mm) wide

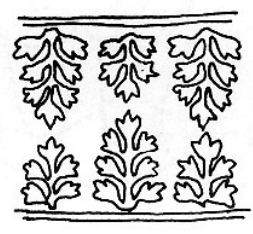


border ideas: (all of these are approx. 6" - 14.5 mm - tall)

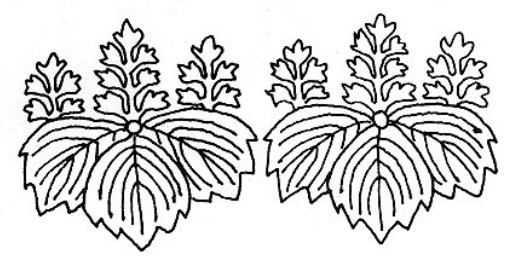
repeat the leaves ↘



repeat the flowers ↘



repeat the whole design! ↘

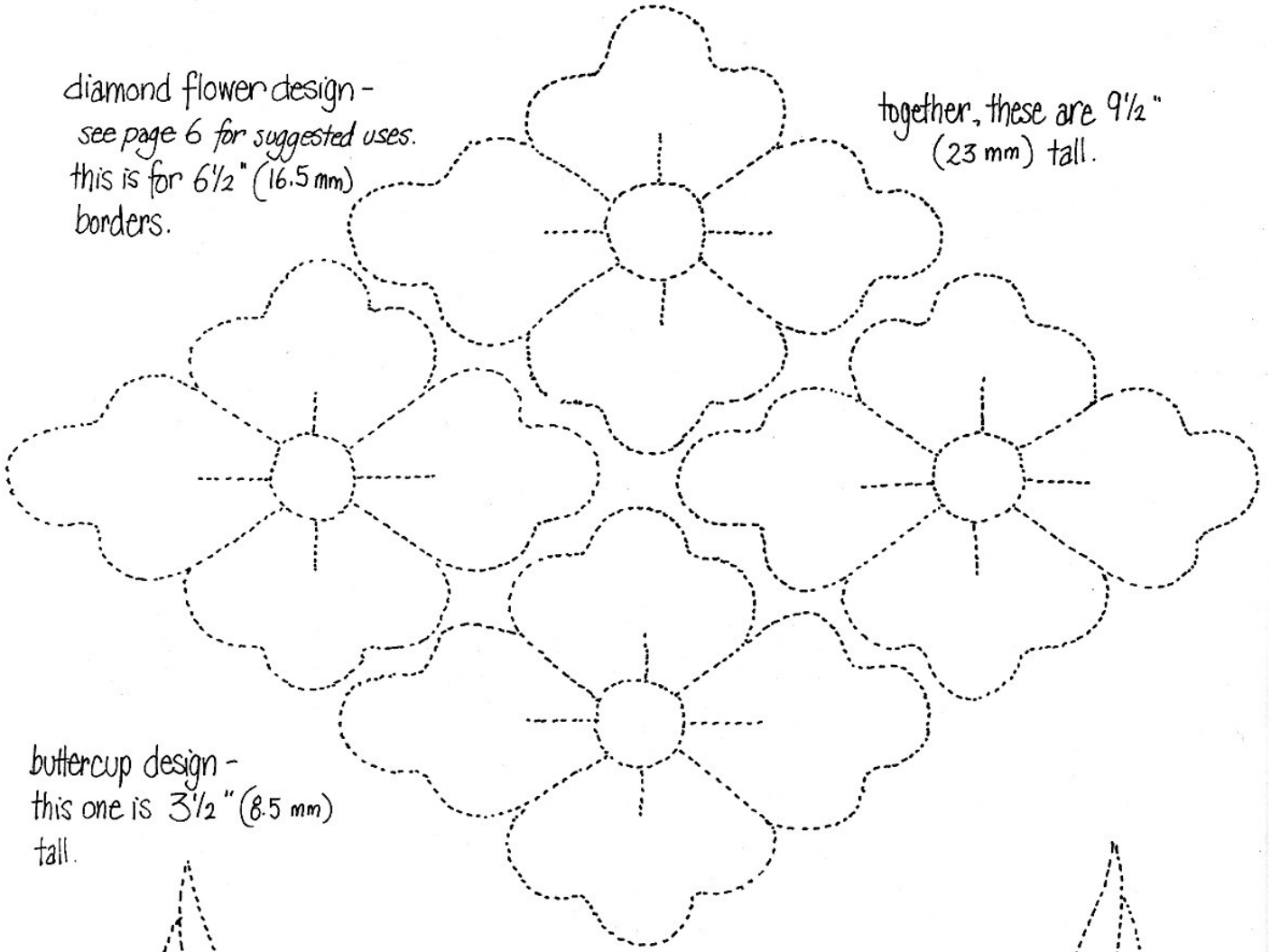


16.

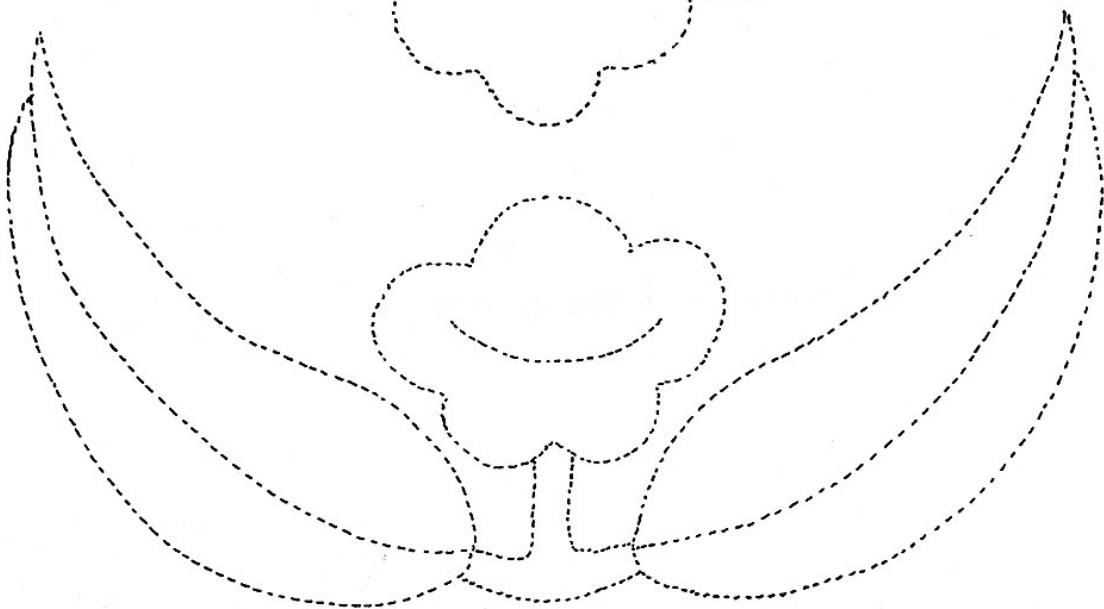
smaller designs  
for borders  
and decorating smaller pieces

diamond flower design -  
see page 6 for suggested uses.  
this is for  $6\frac{1}{2}$ " (16.5 mm)  
borders.

together, these are  $9\frac{1}{2}$ "  
(23 mm) tall.



buttercup design -  
this one is  $3\frac{1}{2}$ " (8.5 mm)  
tall.



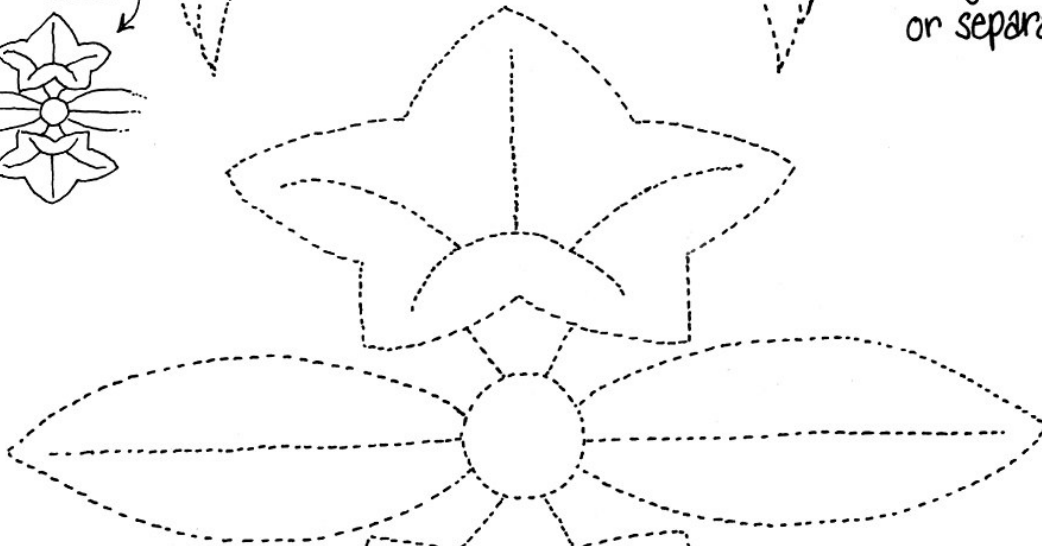
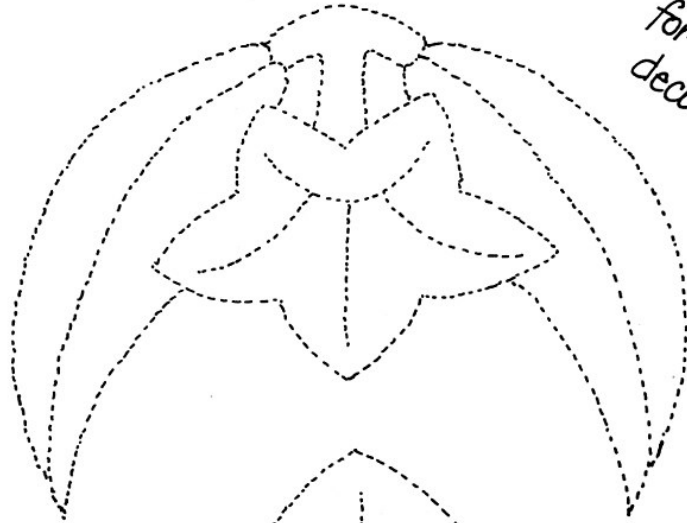
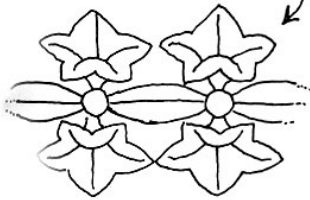


17.

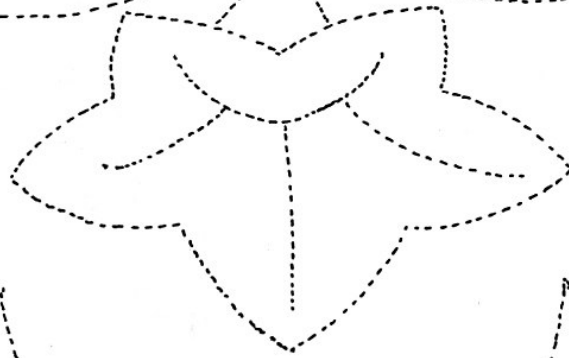
smaller designs-  
for borders and  
decorating smaller pieces

use these  
designs together  
or separately

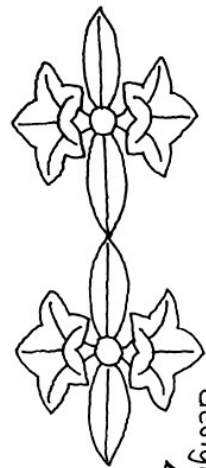
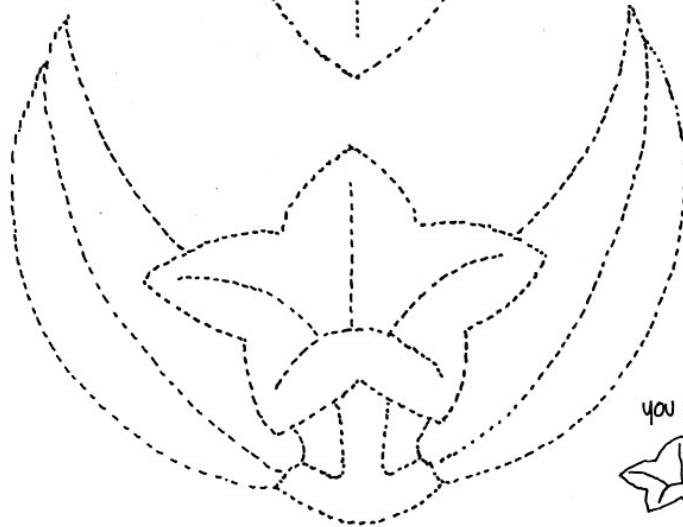
you might  
repeat the flowers  
& overlap the leaves



this design  
is exactly  
5" (13 mm) tall



this design  
is exactly  
3" (7.5 mm) tall



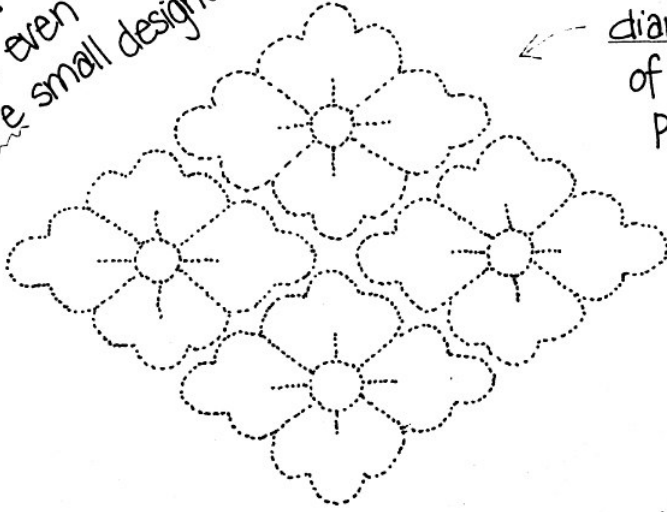
you might repeat the whole  
design

you might repeat just the flowers



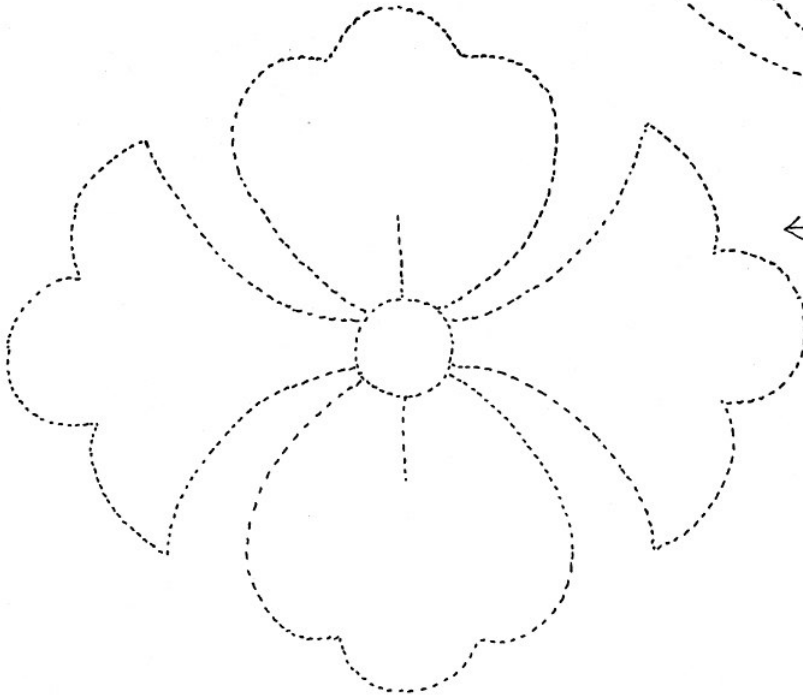
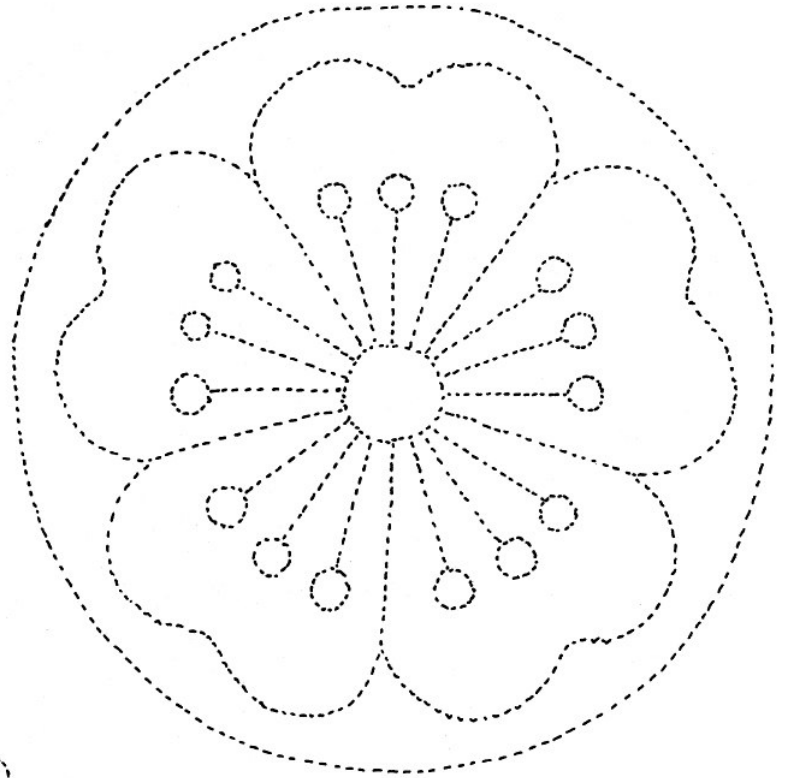
18.

and even  
more small designs!



← diamond flower design - other copies of this design, in larger sizes, are on pages 6 & 16. see page 6 for ways to use this design. this one is exactly 3" (7.5 mm) tall.

→ poppy design - a larger copy of this design is on page 5. this one is 4 1/2" (11.5 mm) wide.



← i don't have a name for this one, but it reminds me of a fleur-de-lis! repeat it this way, or turn it on its side and repeat it that way. it's 4" (10 mm) tall and 4 1/2" (11.5 mm) wide.

## HOW TO USE THIS BOOK...

these designs were drawn full-size, ready to use. you can trace them with a transfer pencil, or you can use plastic to trace & cut permanent stencils. i have my own method: i buy a fairly fine needlepoint canvas (canvas, not nylon or plastic) and trace the design onto the canvas with a permanent ink felt writer. then, i place the canvas on my quilt and use a "vanishing" or water-erasable marker so that the marks go through the holes in the needlepoint canvas, and appear on my quilt.

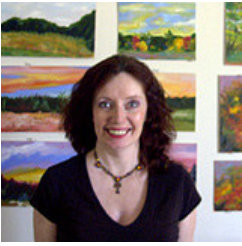
## BE CREATIVE!

there are quilting designs all around you. perhaps you'll see a design in the roses growing up a chain-link fence. maybe you could make a repeat design, using the "golden arches" on the placemat at the local hamburger restaurant. jewelry, book covers, and quick-stop convenience stores (our local quick-stop has a sign with a *terrific* hen design!) can all provide ideas for designs... and this is just the beginning!

start looking - experiment - be creative - and have fun!

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

there are so many people who are important to me & thus have been a part of this book - especially my family, who encourages me in my creative projects, despite the resulting unmade beds & fast-food dinners! this book is dedicated to them, particularly to my daughters, élan & amber, because they share my creativity & have added so much to my life.



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Thanks!

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Aisling D’Art

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... and a bunch of other art-related websites

To contact me about this book and its patterns, please use this email address:

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To contact me via snailmail, check any of my websites to be sure that this address is current. (I move every few years.) As of 2006, I’m at: Aisling D’Art, PO Box 821388, Houston, TX 77282-1388 USA.