

Drunkard's Path Block



Traditionally this block is made by tracing out two parts of the block with 2 curved templates. But I don't do curves!!! ☺ So I adapted one of Eleanor Burns methods.

Eleanor uses a circle and interfacing for the center and she cuts the square to the exact size needed before sewing it all together. I added my methods to hers.

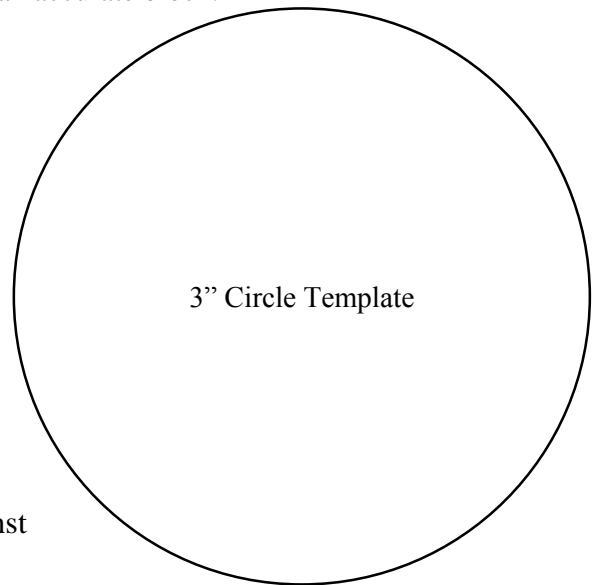
So we are cutting out squares a bit larger than needed and making yoyos to sew to the center of a square. Then cut the unit into 4 pieces and cut with a template for an accurate block.

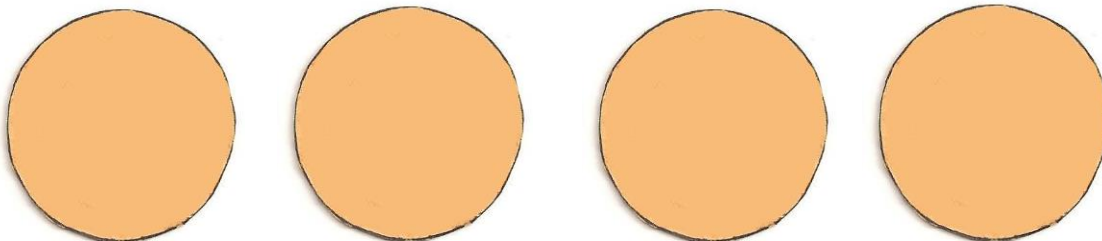
Step 1: Cut strips (refer to BOM for size)

Step 2: subcut (size will be in the BOM directions)

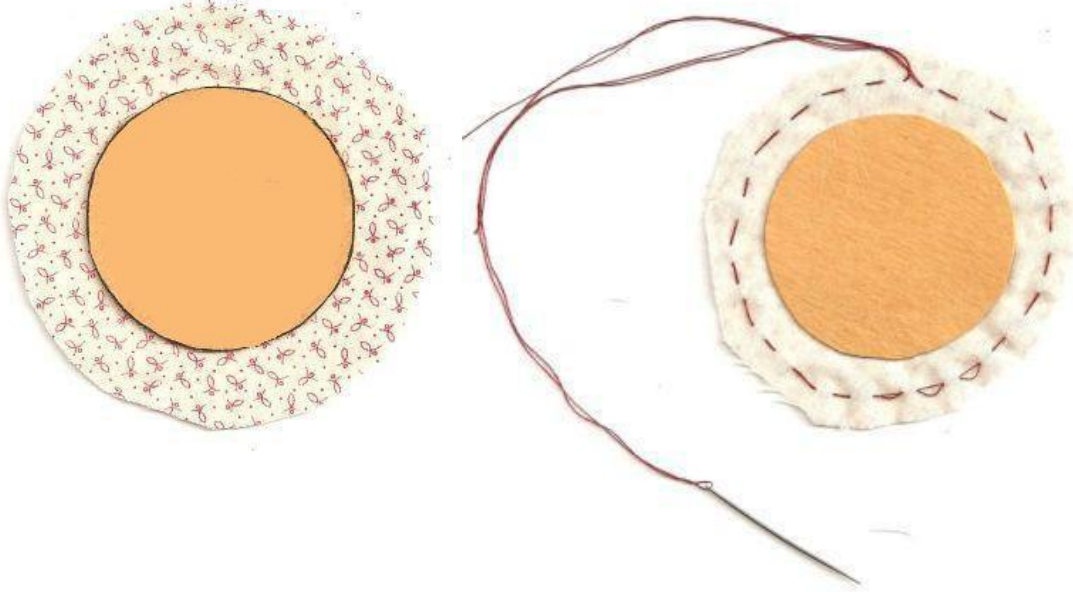
Step 3: Making a flat yoyo: First you need a 3" cardboard circle

I tried acrylic plastic and it melts too much. I tried metal and it is not thin enough. So I prefer to cut out thin cardboard. Shoeboxes/ backs of tablets/ anything thin but strong enough to pull the fabric against the template firmly. I don't recommend parchment or freezer paper. You need the structure to pull against and paper will not work here.





Step 4: Cut yoyo squares into circles about ½” larger than the cardboard circle. Doesn’t have to be perfect.



Step 5: Baste a thread all around the edge of the fabric circle. Make sure you leave a good long tail.

Make sure you come out on the last stitch close to the beginning stitch. You need to be able to pull this thread so don’t back stitch anywhere.

Step 8: Lay the cardboard circle in the center of the back of the fabric circle.

Step 9: Now gently pull the basting thread around the edge of the cardboard circle. Make sure the tail doesn’t go into the fabric. Using the needle pull the thread so the fabric is tight around the circle. Smooth it if need be.



Step 10: Spray with Magic Sizing or other starch. I spray it thoroughly so it is soaked on both sides. Iron each side. I prefer to leave it dry overnight or at least a few hrs. It is so much easier to keep your circle when you remove the cardboard circle.

Tip: I thread several needles at a time so you can do several.

After your yoyo is dry - pry up one edge and pull the cardboard circle out gently. Your circle should maintain it's shape but you need to gently pull the thread to pull it back into a circle. I like to put my thumb against(NOT ON) the thread to keep the circle in shape as I pull. Pull gently on which ever side you need to to draw it back into a good circle shape. Now you can trim the thread off.

Pull the cardboard out gently

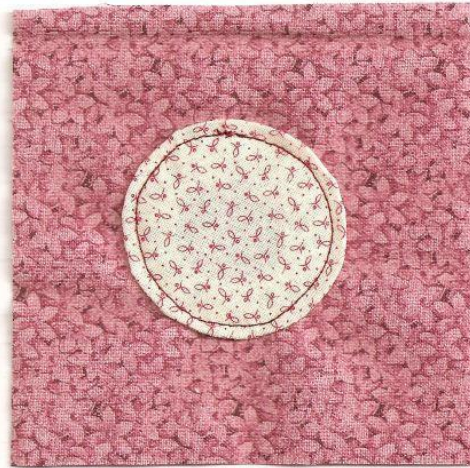


A flat yoyo



Ok Now to make the blocks!! -

This tuto was written for a 1 ½” square. You will use the size given in the BOM tutorial.



Step 1: Center the yoyo face up on the square (also face up).
Pin in place.

Step 2: Place the yoyo under the foot on your sewing machine. I try to get the stitch about 1/8” from the yoyo’s edge. But it isn’t going to be perfect so don’t worry about it Sew around the edge slowly. I lift the foot when the yoyo starts to buckle. I leave the needle down so I don’t lose my place and lift the foot just part way and adjust the yoyo. Then lower the foot and continue. You will probably have to do this several times.

Continue to sew around the circle a few stitches at a time until you get back to where you started. This is the only curved sewing you will do on this project. With practice this is not really hard. It may seem intimidating but if you go slow it isn’t really that difficult to do.

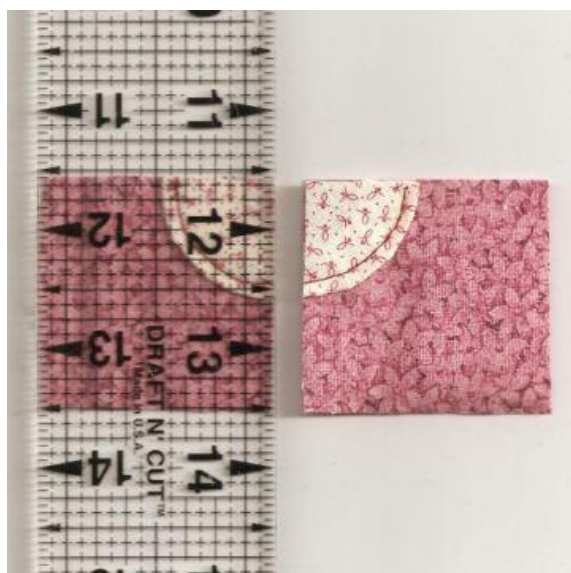
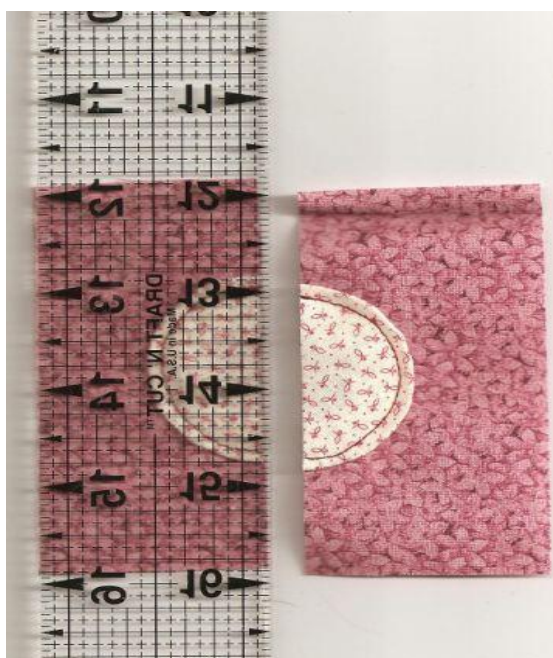
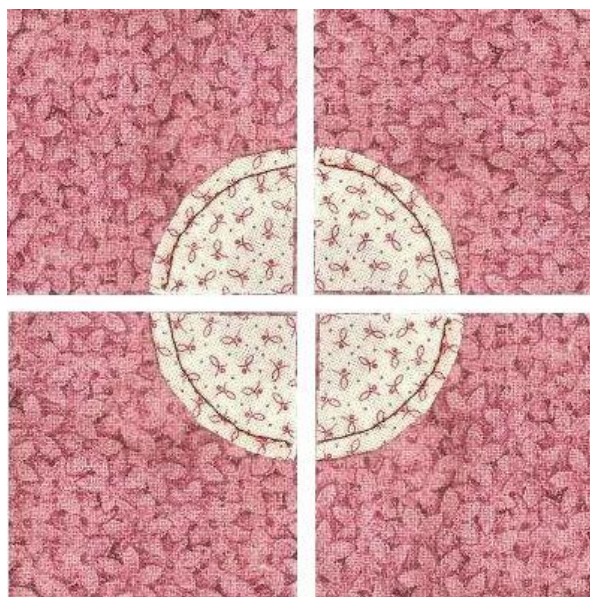
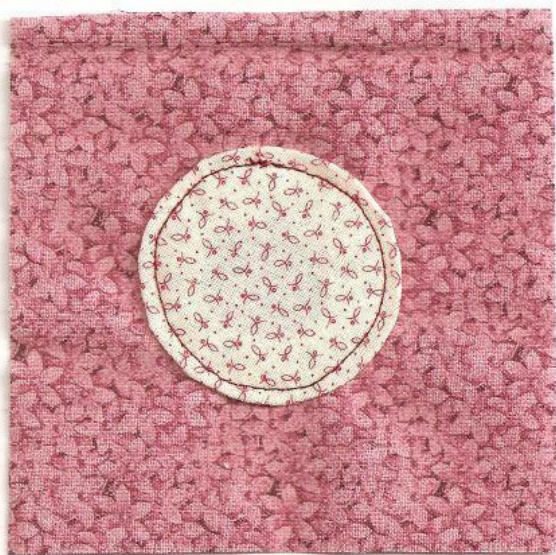


TIP: You can sew the yoyo on in several ways. You can sew it on with the sewing machine as I show below here. Or you can hand sew it on or use a zigzag or other stitch on your machine and sew around on the edge. You can certainly use the needle turn method if that is what you are comfortable with. If you are uncomfortable with these you could use an iron on method.

TIP: You can practice with paper to get the feel of sewing a circle with your sewing machine.

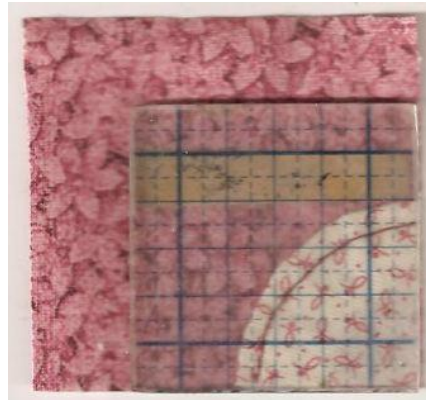
Cut out a circle (refer to BOM for size) and practice sewing it onto another piece

Step 3: Cut the square into 4 squares. Try to be as accurate as possible. This is one place That accuracy is important. It will help you to match seams if this is cut well. But I always end up with some that are a bit too short. So don't stress on it. Tacking helps to make them meet correctly when sewing these together



You should have 4 rough squares. Meaning they aren't trimmed yet. The purpose of trimming after the yoyo is sewn on is so when you cut out with a template you get a more accurate square than if you started with a perfectly cut square for the background. When you applique on it can distort the background fabric somewhat so this way the final cut is more accurate.

Step 4: Use the template to cut out an accurate Drunkard's Path block
Remember you will use a 2 1/2" template instead of this 1 1/2"



Cut out the square. Remember to keep the template from moving as you turn the mat to cut.

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Step 5: Trim the fabric under the circle. But be careful not to trim too much that you cut off your seam. I've done that LO

