

Making Piece with Curves

Connecting two pieces of fabric to form a circle can be challenging.... Drunkard Path blocks, Dresden plate design and blocks using variations of these designs usually requires hand piecing or tedious sewing of convex to concave edges. Can be done...but this technique may make it go quick and easier.

Use of a sheer, weight fusible (or non-fusible) interfacing will act as a facing behind the cotton fabric circles or arcs. This facing will encase the raw edge of the fabric. It can then be stitched down to the base fabric allowing by machine. Use a reduced length and width variation of the blind hem stitch (or one of several other decorative stitches) to give a clean look of a hand- picked stitch to the finish edge.

Project for the Skill Builder Block

The project for this will result in a circle stitched to a square and used as in shown the skill builder quilt. Variations are for the square to be cut into 4 units and turned for Drunkard Path variation.

The circle is a 6" circle.....Background square is 9 ½" cut square. Drunkard's Path block will require a 10" sq.

* First trace a 6" circle onto the fusible interfacing. (The fusible dot side will be considered the right side for this project). Lay right sides together with the cotton fabric. (Strip piecing can first be made and sew as a circle for the quilt). Sew **on the line using** a 2.5 stitch length (15-17 spi). This small stitch length will secure it well for turning and giving a smooth edge to the finished curve.

* Trim the circle's outer edge leaving a scant ¼" s.a.. Pinking scissors work well for this part as it will help the edge turn smoother. On the fusible side make a small cut with a seam ripper or sharp scissors, trim the excess leaving a good 1" margin of fusible remaining as the s.a . Carefully turn right side out thru the opening taking care not to tear the fusible interfacing. With your fingers roll the seam slightly to the back side all the way around to get a smooth curve. Pressing can be done but **only if on a Teflon sheet** so the fusible beads are not melted to the ironing surface.

* Interfacing can be trimmed more but leaving 1" or so can be helpful in maintaining the smooth edge of the circle. Circle can now be placed in position, ironed down to fuse in place, and stitched around with chosen stitch.

* **Blind hem stitch setting:** most all machines have a blind hem stitch as a utility stitch. If your machine has a stitch package that includes a modified blind hem stitch in a quilting bank of stitches, this has already been narrowed and shortened for just this purpose. Play around on scrap fabric until the desired stitch look is achieved. Be sure to write down the numbers for the stitch and the changes made for next time.

* **Thread:** Use a fine thread such as Sew Fine, Bottom Line, InvisiFil or something similar for the top thread. Bobbin should be 50 wt. thread or same thread as top thread depending on how your machine likes to work with different thread. Color should match the background square. Invisible threads are also fine to use.... use a neutral thin or 50 wt. Thread in the bobbin with these.

* **Non fusible interfacing :** If fusible interfacing is not necessary or available... use the sheerest non-woven interfacing and do the same process. It will not fuse to the background fabric but can be pinned or glued in place.

* **Interfacing and /or** base fabric can be trimmed away after stitching has been completed. If using multiple layers it may be of help to remove more of the interfacing to reduce bulk. It may also be helpful to leave in place for silks or lightweight fabrics.

* **Drunkard path blocks....** Need to use a 10" cut backing when making a Drunkard path block for the quilt. Take completed block and cut in half in both directions to get 4 equal units. Excess background fabric and interfacing can be trimmed down before sewing block to block to reduce bulk in seams. Turn the blocks to arrange as desired. Sew back together with $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance.

