

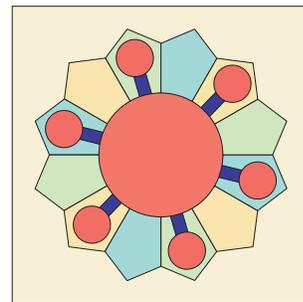
Dresden Plates are one of my favourite blocks. So many interesting possibilities emerge from the different layouts of the humble blade.

Dreaming of Dresdens

for the Splendid Sampler™

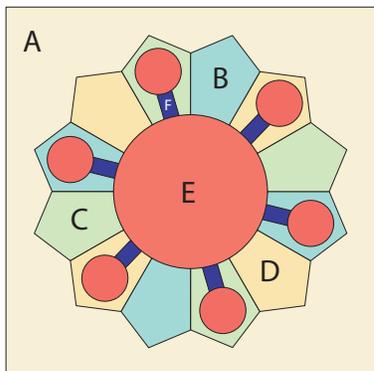
Jane Davidson

Finished Block Size 6" x 6"



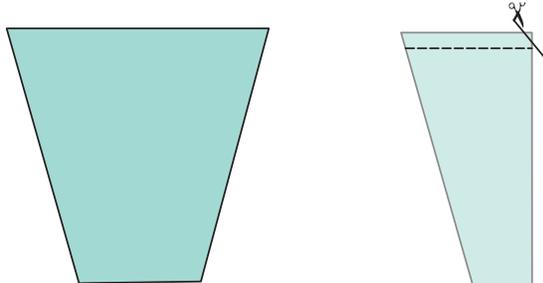
Requirements

- # 1 square - 7" x 7" background fabric A
- # 4 squares - 2 1/2" x 2 1/2" fabric B
- # 4 squares - 2 1/2" x 2 1/2" fabric C
- # 4 squares - 2 1/2" x 2 1/2" fabric D
- # 1 squares - 10" x 10" fabric E
- # 1 strip - 1/2" x 10" fabric F
- # Templates plastic
- # Freezer paper
- # Appliqué glue or pins
- # Spray Starch



Preparation

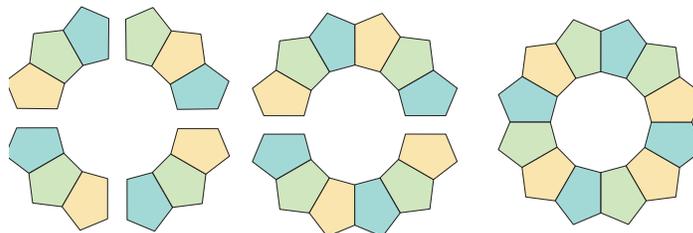
1. Using the templates plastic, make template A.
2. Trace 1 - template B and 6 - template C on the dull side of the freezer paper. Cut out B and C circle on the traced line. Press on the wrong side of fabric E. Add a generous 1/4" seam allowance and cut circles.
3. Trace template A (Dresden blade) on wrong side of 2 1/2" x 2 1/2" squares for fabrics B, C and D.
4. Trace templates B (2 1/2" circle) and C (3/8" circle) on wrong side of fabric D. Add 1/4" seam allowance when cutting out circles.



Block Assembly

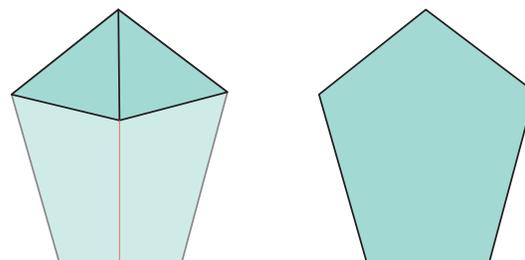
Dresden Plate

1. Fold the Dresden blade in half lengthwise with rights sides together.
2. Sew a scant 1/4" seam across the top.
3. Carefully, clip the top corner leaving a distance of a few thread widths before the stitching line.
4. Finger press the seam open. Turn the point right side out and gently push out the point.
5. From the back of the blade press down the block lining up the seam with the centre of the blade.
6. Make 12 Dresden blades
7. Sew blades together in sets of 3. Start sewing from the centre out to avoid the bulky seams at the pointed end.
8. Join 2 sets together to make a half.
9. Sew 2 halves together.
10. Press all seams to one side.

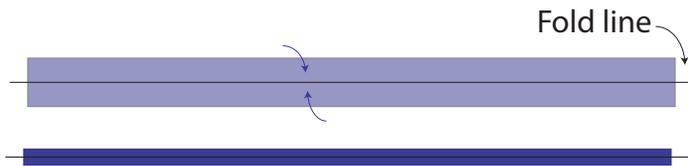


Stems

1. Heavily starch the 1/2" x 10" strip (F). Press the strip in half lengthwise.
2. Open the strip and press each side towards the centre fold mark on the wrong side of the fabric.
Hint: Use steam to set the folds in the strip and a sewing stiletto (pointed object) to run ahead of the iron to hold down the seam so you don't burn your fingers.
3. Starch again and press.

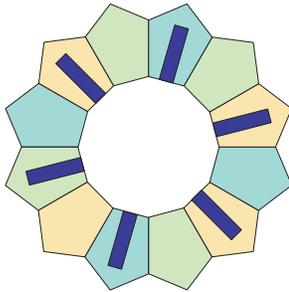


Centre



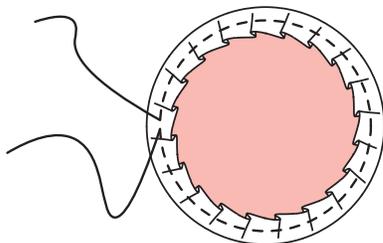
1 inch

4. Cut into 6 - $\frac{1}{4}$ " x 1" strips.
5. Position the stems and glue or pin in place. Using matching thread, appliqué the stems to the Dresden blades.



Circles

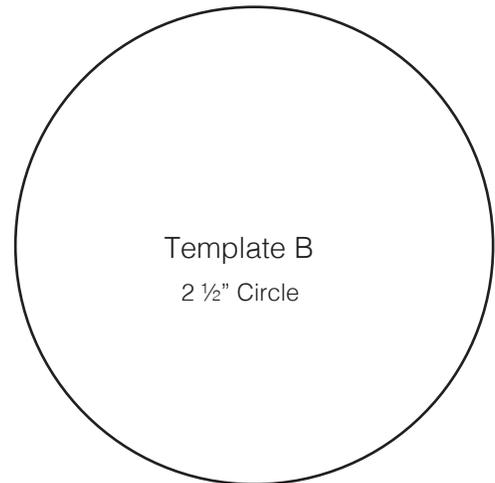
1. Sew a gathering stitch (long running stitch) around the edge of the circle on the right side of the fabric about $\frac{1}{8}$ " in from the edge. Do not knot the start or end and leave a long thread tail at both ends.
2. Gently pull the thread tails to gather the fabric over the freezer paper template until it is evenly gathered and firm around the edge of the circle. Smooth out any puckers on the edge. Tie off the threads to hold the gathering firmly in place. Make 6 - $\frac{3}{4}$ " circles and 1 - $2\frac{1}{2}$ " circle.



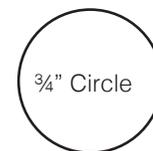
3. Spray starch in to the lid of the spray can and using a paint brush or cotton bud (swab), apply the starch to the gathered seam. Using a medium iron, press and secure the seam. Flip the circle over and press the front.
4. Gently remove the freezer paper from the back of the fabric. Tighten the gathering stitches if required to reshape the circle.
5. Apply small dots of glue around the seam of the circle and position on block. Using matching thread, appliqué the circles to the Dresden blades and centre of the block.

Finishing the block

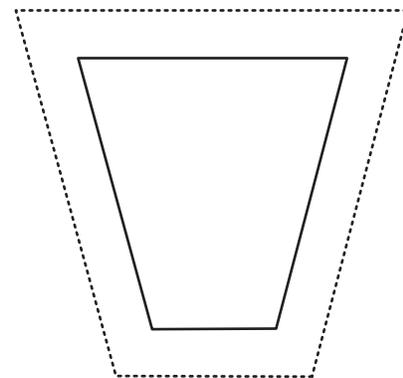
1. Find the centre of the background block (A) by finger pressing the block into quarters.
2. Centre the Dresden plate on the background and glue or pin in place. Using matching thread, appliqué the circles to the Dresden blades and centre of the block.
3. Press the block from the back and trim background to $6\frac{1}{2}$ " x $6\frac{1}{2}$ " square.



Add seam allowance



Template C



Template A

#TheSplendidSampler

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