

## Fun Free-Cut Circles

This version of the Free-Cut Circles technique uses four pieces of fabric to make a complete circle (but it can be varied by using three fabrics or even more than four). Each fabric set will yield one circle consisting of four square blocks. This art quilt has four sets of the complete circle blocks.

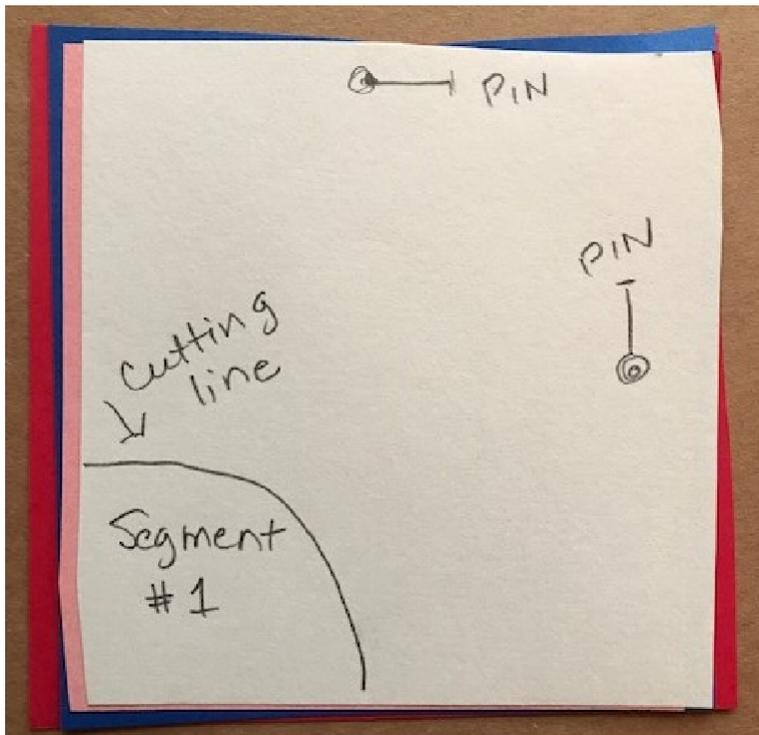


**First, choose your fabrics!** You may want to have a dark, a light, and two mediums. Or, perhaps variations of one color in different prints. Solids would work also.

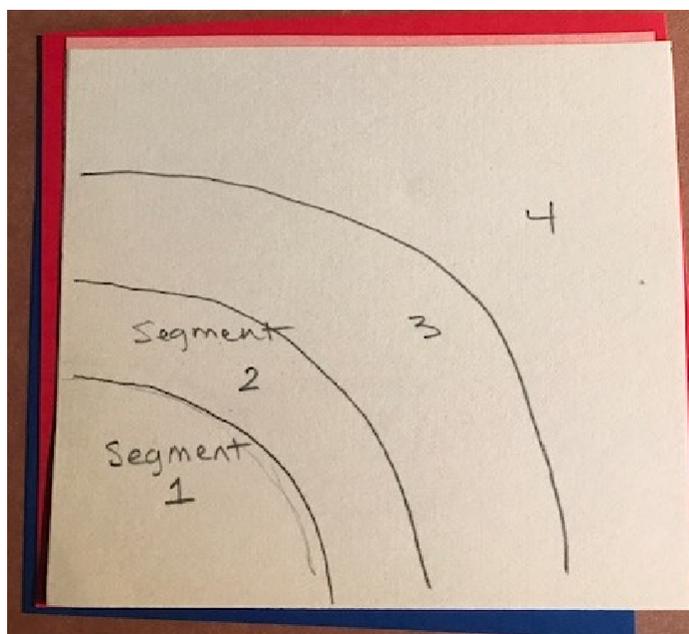
**Next, cut a 10” square out of each of your four fabrics.** (This dimension can be adapted, depending on your plan for the quilt.) The square does not have to be exact, but should be close to a 10” size. You will stack these four squares **RIGHT SIDES UP**. The lower left corner of this set should be your focus for aligning (but it doesn’t have to be “perfect”).

**Free-cutting:** Pin your fabric set in several places near the outer edges. This holds the set together nicely while you are cutting. Using a sharp rotary cutter and your mat,

make a curved cut, from *lower edge to left edge*, starting about three inches or so from the left corner. This little quarter circle is Segment 1 and will become the center of your circle block.

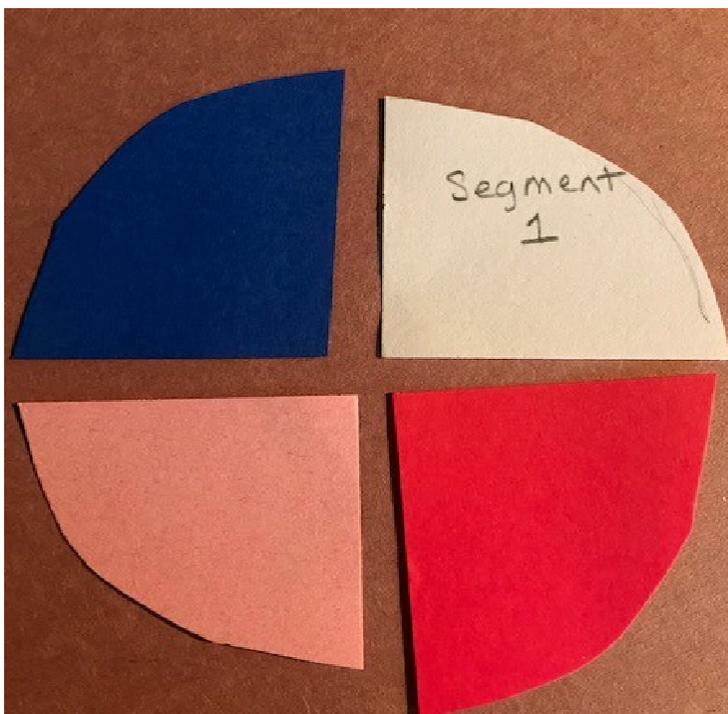
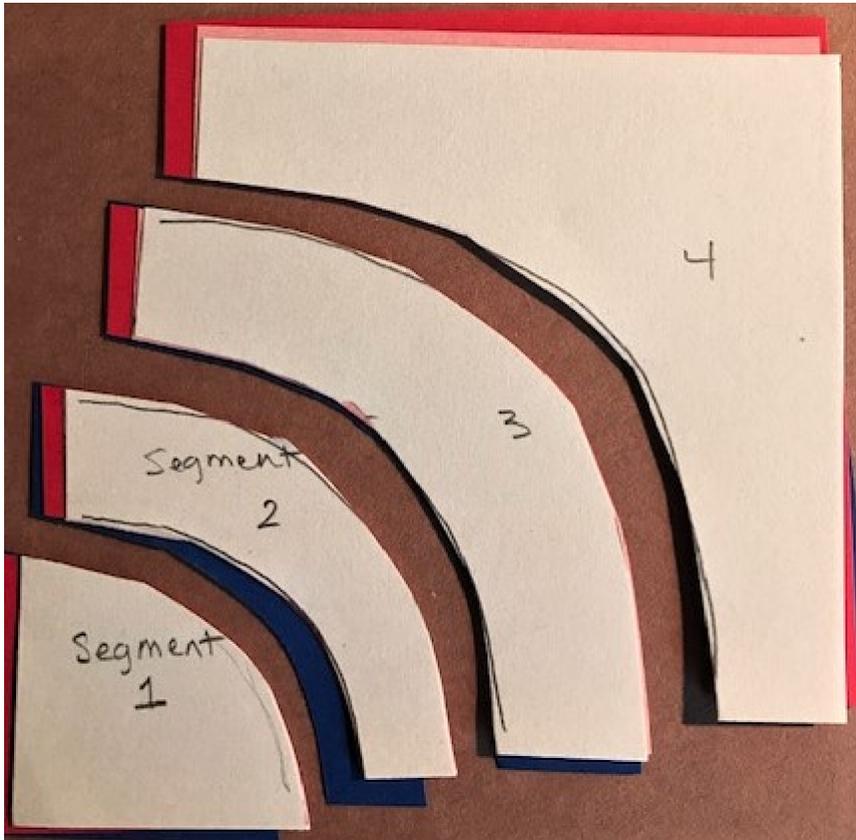


Then move your cutter over to the right a few inches from the first cut, and do another circular cut from lower edge to left edge, making it about 2-3" wide. This will be Segment 2. And finally, make a third cut, parallel to your first two, to form Segment 3. Leaving some space at the right lower edge so that you have four pieces, including the outside piece which is Segment 4. The width of these cuts may vary, of course, since this is free-cutting!



**Designing:** Remove pins and separate the four fabric cuts carefully on your cutting board, keeping them in the same stacked order that you started with.

Use your design wall or a table to lay out the sections. Pick up the Segment 1 pieces and put them on the wall with the right angle portions facing a center spot so you can see the circle emerging.



Then pick up your Segment 2 sections and place them outside the Segment 1 pieces, using a different fabric for each block you are building. Continue with Segments 3 and 4. You will now have your design for a circle block, with each quadrant having all four fabrics.



**Sewing:** Sewing curved seams can be tricky, and you may need a little practice if you have not done it before. A walking foot is useful if you have it. **Use a small seam allowance, near to 1/8 inch!** Pin or not, depending on how you like to work. You will start with one quadrant. The larger segment should be on top of the next smaller one as you sew. Your edges will not necessarily be even, don't worry. When you have sewn each of the blocks, **TRIM** them to a square, using the smaller of your blocks as the model for the dimension you will use for trimming. The block below will be trimmed to 9 inches. A square ruler is nice for this job.

This is a helpful instruction video on YouTube about sewing curved seams:  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SR\\_ywxilZe0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SR_ywxilZe0)



Here are several samples of art quilts made with the circle block. The blocks don't need to be used only in circles, but can be quarter or half circles for many design variations.



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