

Project: Gather 'Round

DESIGNER: LESLEY MEHMEN



Learn two great ways to make yo-yos for this sweet little accent pillow.

## Project: Gather 'Round

### Materials

- 40—5" squares assorted prints (yo-yos, pillow back)
- $\frac{1}{3}$  yard muslin (pillow top, lining)
- 2—9 $\frac{1}{2}$ " squares batting
- Polyester fiberfill
- Clover Quick Yo-Yo Maker, size large (optional)

**Finished Pillow:** 9" square

**Quantities** are for 44/45"-wide, 100% cotton fabrics.

**Measurements** include  $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowances. Sew with right sides together unless otherwise stated.

### Cut Fabrics

Cut pieces in the following order. The Circle Pattern is on page 5. To make a template of the Circle Pattern, see "Make and Use Templates" on page 6.

#### From assorted prints, cut:

- 36 of Circle Pattern (If using Yo-Yo Maker, see directions for cutting under Assemble Yo-Yos: Method 2)

#### From muslin, cut:

- 3—9 $\frac{1}{2}$ " squares

### Assemble Yo-Yos: Method 1

Thread a needle with matching or neutral thread and tie a knot about 6" from end. With an assorted print circle facedown, turn raw edge of circle a scant  $\frac{1}{4}$ " toward circle center. Take small, evenly spaced running stitches (**Running Stitch Diagram**) near the folded edge to secure it (**Photo 1**). End stitching next to the starting point. Do not cut thread. Gently pull thread ends to gather folded edge until it forms a gathered circle (**Photo 2**). Knot and trim thread to make a yo-yo. Repeat to make 36 yo-yos total.

### Assemble Yo-Yos: Method 2

**1.** Layer the Yo-Yo Maker disk (**Photo 3**), right side up, atop wrong side of an assorted print 5" square. (The disk's right side is the side with printing.) Insert disk and print square into plate, aligning disk lines with protrusions on plate. Press firmly to secure disk, fabric, and plate together (**Photo 4**).

**2.** Leaving about  $\frac{3}{16}$ " from edge of plate for seam allowance, cut away excess fabric (**Photo 5**).

**3.** Thread a short needle with matching thread, and tie a knot about 6" from end. Fold seam allowance in toward disk center and hold in place. Insert needle into concave part of disk beneath seam allowance and pull out through hole in plate (**Photo 6**).

**4.** With plate side up, continue to hold seam allowance down and work counterclockwise, pushing needle down through next hole, then up through following hole. Repeat to make running stitches around circle, going one hole beyond starting point and pulling needle out through disk side (**Photo 7**).

**5.** Remove disk from plate. Gently lift seam allowance and remove disk from fabric circle. Pull thread ends to gather circle into a yo-yo; knot thread ends and trim.

**6.** Repeat steps 1–5 to make 36 yo-yos total.

### Assemble Pillow Cover

**1.** Referring to Pillow Back Assembly Diagram, join

remaining four assorted print 5" squares in pairs. Press seams in opposite directions. Join pairs to make pillow back. Press seams in one direction. The pillow back should be 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ " square including seam allowances.

**2.** Layer pillow back, a batting 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ " square, and a muslin 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ " square; baste. Quilt as desired. Lesley machine-quilted the pillow back in a 1" diagonal grid. In the same manner, layer and quilt remaining two muslin squares and batting square to make quilted pillow top.

**3.** With right sides together, sew quilted pillow top to quilted pillow back to make pillow cover, leaving a 3" opening along one edge for turning. Turn pillow cover right side out. Stuff with fiberfill through opening. Whipstitch opening closed.

### Finish Pillow

**1.** Lay out yo-yos in six rows. When pleased with the arrangement, place yo-yos with gathered fronts together and whipstitch to join, stitching about  $\frac{1}{2}$ " (**Photo 8**). Join rows in same manner to make yo-yo square.

**2.** Referring to photograph, page 3, center and pin yo-yo square to quilted pillow top. Whipstitch outer edges of yo-yo square to pillow top seam lines to complete pillow.

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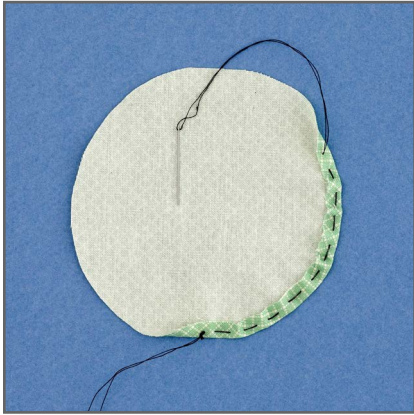


PHOTO 1

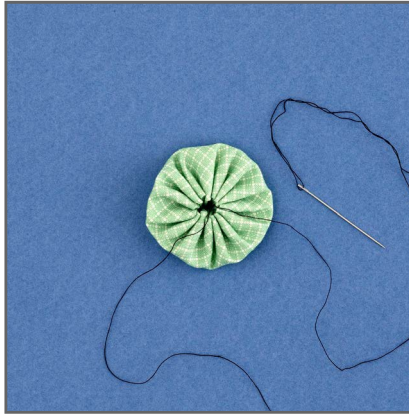


PHOTO 2

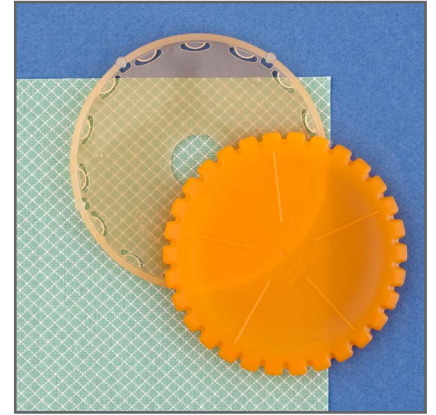


PHOTO 3



PHOTO 4



PHOTO 5

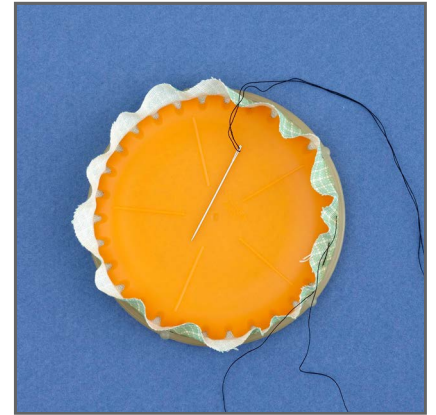


PHOTO 6

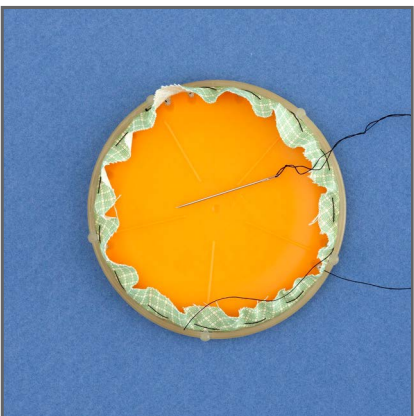
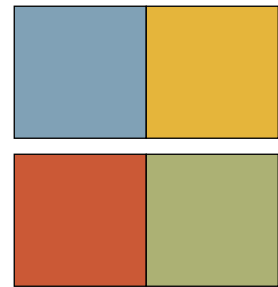


PHOTO 7



PHOTO 8



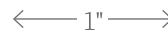
PILLOW BACK ASSEMBLY DIAGRAM

Project: Gather 'Round



GATHER 'ROUND  
CIRCLE PATTERN

This box should  
measure 1".



**\* NOTE:**

When printing a downloadable pdf, set Page Scaling preference to NONE to print patterns at 100%. Do NOT "Shrink to Fit" or "Fit to Printable Area."

## Make and Use Templates

### Make Templates

A template is a pattern made from extra-sturdy material so you can trace around it many times without wearing away the edges. Acrylic templates for many common shapes are available at quilt shops. Or you can make your own by duplicating printed patterns on template plastic.

To make permanent templates, purchase easy-to-cut template plastic, available at quilt shops and crafts supply stores. Lay the plastic over a printed pattern. Trace the pattern onto the plastic using a ruler and a permanent marker to ensure straight lines, accurate corners, and permanency.

For hand piecing and appliqué, make templates the exact size finished pieces will be (without seam allowances). For piecing, this means tracing the patterns' dashed lines.

For machine piecing, make templates that include seam allowances by tracing the patterns' solid and dashed lines onto the template plastic.

For easy reference, mark each template with its letter designation, grain line (if noted on the pattern), and block name. Cut out the traced shapes on their outside lines. Verify each template's shape and size by placing it over its printed pattern. Templates must be accurate; errors, however small, will compound many times as you assemble a quilt. To check templates' accuracy, make a test block before cutting the fabric pieces for an entire quilt.

### Use Templates

To mark on fabric, use a pencil, white dressmaker's pencil, chalk, or a special fabric marker that makes a thin, accurate line. Do not use a ballpoint or ink pen; it may bleed if washed. Test all marking tools on a fabric scrap before using them.

To make pieces for hand piecing or appliqué, place a template facedown on the wrong side of the fabric and trace. Then reposition the template at least  $\frac{1}{2}$ " away from the previous tracing (**Diagram 1**), trace again, and repeat. The lines you trace on the fabric are sewing lines. Mark cutting lines  $\frac{1}{4}$ " away from the sewing lines, or estimate the distance by eye when cutting out the pieces with scissors. For hand piecing, add a  $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance; for hand appliqué, add a  $\frac{3}{16}$ " seam allowance.

Because templates used to make pieces for machine piecing have seam allowances included, you can use common tracing lines for efficient cutting. Place a template facedown on the wrong side of the fabric and trace. Then reposition the template without a space between it and the previous tracing (**Diagram 2**); trace again and repeat. Using a rotary cutter and ruler, cut pieces out, cutting precisely on the drawn lines.

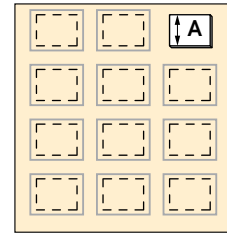


DIAGRAM 1

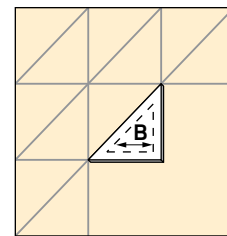


DIAGRAM 2