

Project: Yo-Yo Wall Art

INSPIRED BY "GATHER 'ROUND" FROM DESIGNER LESLEY MEHMEN
QUILTMAKER: JILL ABELOE MEAD



Elevate yo-yos to a new level: Mount them on a painted artist's canvas and present the composition as a wall hanging. To show off the colorful prints, some of these yo-yos are right side up and the rest are upside down. Fabrics are a variety of prints by designer Kaffe Fassett for Westminster Fabrics.

Project: Yo-Yo Wall Art

Materials

- 130—5" squares assorted prints (yo-yos)
- 16x20" prestretched and primed cotton artist's canvas
- Light orange acrylic paint and paintbrush
- Staple gun
- Glue gun (optional)

Cut Fabrics

Make a template of Circle Pattern. For tips on making templates of patterns and using them for cutting out pieces, see Make and Use Templates on page 4.

From each assorted print, cut:

- 1 of Circle Pattern

Assemble Yo-Yos

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 folded edge (**Photo 1**). To make a running stitch, pull the needle up at A and insert it back into the fabric at B, $\frac{1}{8}$ " away from A. Pull your needle up at C, $\frac{1}{8}$ " away from B. 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 thread ends to make a yo-yo. Trim thread. Repeat to make 130 yo-yos total.

Mount Yo-Yos on Canvas

1. Lay out yo-yos in 13 rows of 10 each. Position some of the yo-yos right side up and others wrong side up as desired. When pleased with the arrangement, whipstitch yo-yos together in each row (**Photo 3**). Join rows in same manner to make yo-yo rectangle. (If desired, instead of whipstitching yo-yos together, position them on canvas and use a glue gun to secure them in place.)
2. Paint canvas and let dry. Position yo-yo rectangle on canvas and use a staple gun to attach outer edges of rectangle to frame of canvas.

Project: Yo-Yo Wall Art



PHOTO 1

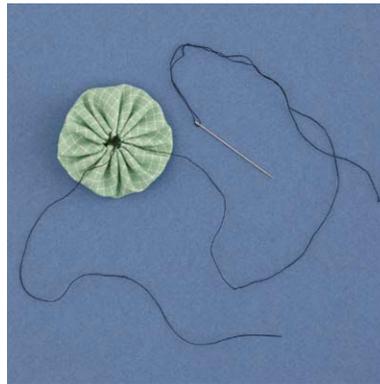
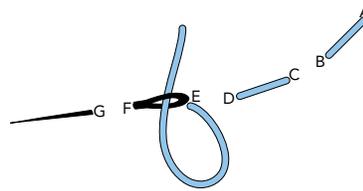


PHOTO 2

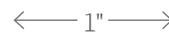


PHOTO 3



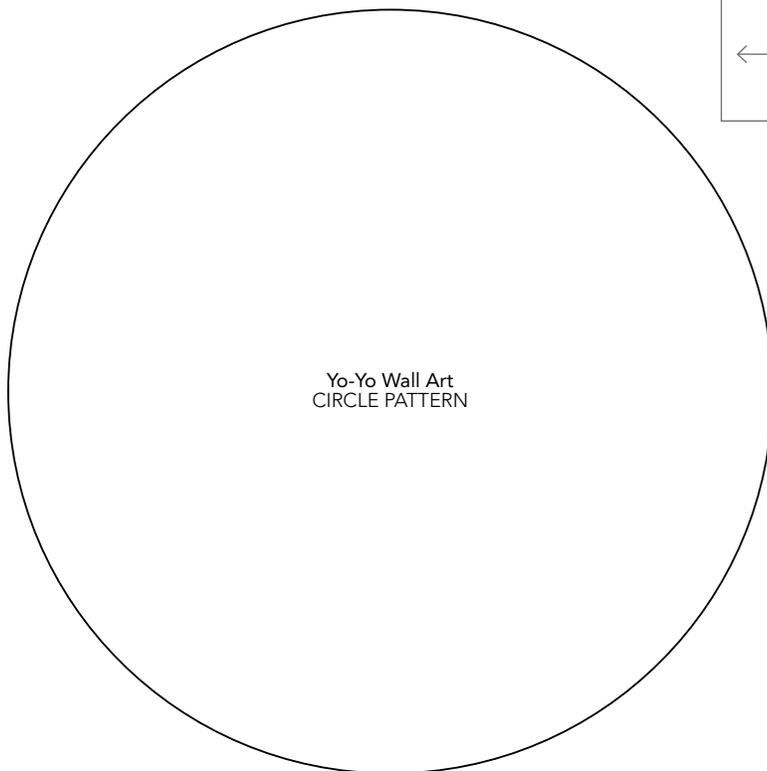
RUNNING STITCH

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 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. Trace 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.

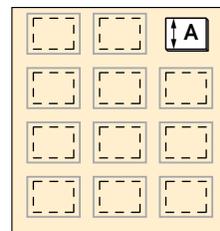


DIAGRAM 1

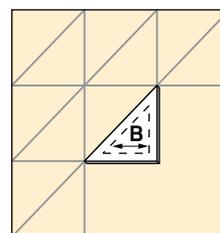


DIAGRAM 2