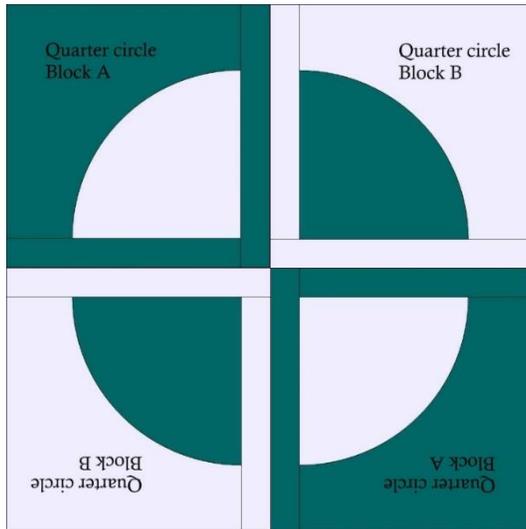


## A Fabric-conserving Method for Creating Blocks with Inset Quarter-Circles

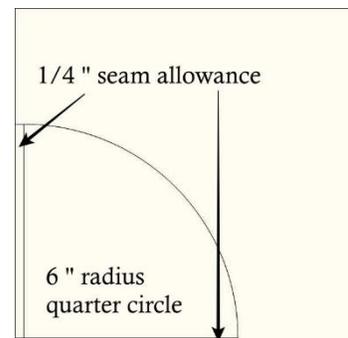
Lorna Shapiro, November 2022

These instructions describe how to build blocks that finish like this:

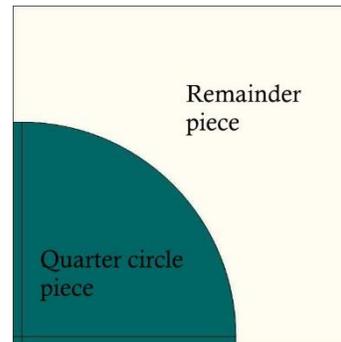


without wasting the quarter-circles cut from the background blocks and the remainder fabric left after cutting quarter-circles from the foreground blocks.

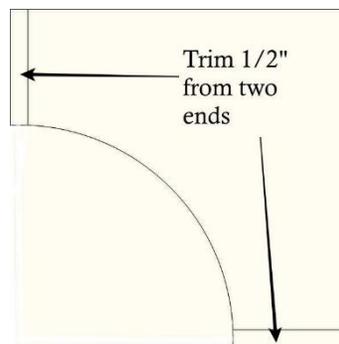
1. **Start with two 9" squares of foreground fabric and two squares of background fabric** the same size.
2. **Also cut a 1 ½" x WOF strip of each fabric.**
3. **Organize sets of squares for constructing blocks:**
  - a. Lay out the pair of foreground fabric and background fabric squares.
  - b. Add one 1 ½" x WOF strip of the foreground fabric and one of the background fabric to the group.
  - c. This set of fabric pieces will make the 4 sub-blocks needed to create one block.
4. **Working with each group, one at a time, create the 4 sub-blocks as follows:**
  - a. Lay one foreground and one background square over top of each other, right sides up.
  - b. Cut a 6" radius quarter circle through the two layers, with an additional ¼" seam allowance on the two straight edges. Create a template if you do not have a ruler to cut circles.



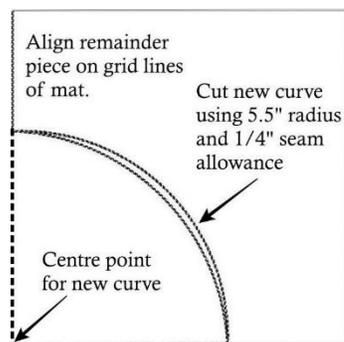
- c. Set aside the quarter circles to be sewn in at a later point.



- d. Take the two remainder pieces and cut  $\frac{1}{2}$ " off the ends of each of these as shown here:

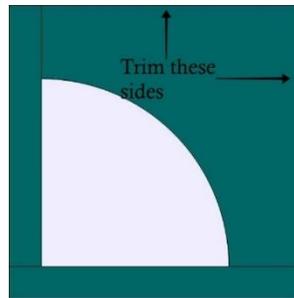


- e. When working with set-in circles, a circle goes into a hole that is 1" in diameter smaller than the circle itself. We are working with a 12" circle (6" radius quarter circle) so it will go into a hole that is 11" in diameter (5.5" in radius). We therefore now need to **adjust the curve of the remainder piece** (which is providing the "hole") so that it matches a 5.5" radius circle. To do this, we position each remainder piece as shown, lining up the two trimmed sides on 2 intersecting lines on your cutting mat.



- f. Use the 5.5" quarter circle template positioned with the centre of the quarter circle on the grid lines as shown. **Cut the curve of the remainder piece so that it follows the 5.5" quarter circle curve.**

- g. When you have adjusted the curve of both remainder pieces, you are ready to sew the quarter circles into the remainder pieces. **Fold the quarter circles**, marking with a press mark the centre of the curve. **Fold the remainder pieces**, marking with a press mark the centre of the curve.
- h. **Pair a background remainder piece with a foreground quarter circle.** Place right sides together, match and pin centre points and the start and end points of the curve. Sew with a scant  $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam and the quarter circle on the bottom
- i. Press towards the dark
- j. **Repeat this process for the foreground remainder piece paired with the background quarter circle.** Again, press toward dark.
- k. **Repeat steps "a" through "j" with the second pair of squares** and when this is done you will have 4 almost complete quarter circle sub-blocks. You now need to add the  $1\frac{1}{2}$ " strips to complete the sub-blocks.
- l. Sub-cut the  $1\frac{1}{2}$ " x WOF strips (both foreground and background) into 4 10" strips. Sew these strips onto the two inner edges of the quarter circle squares to complete the sub-blocks as shown in step 2. They are longer than needed and will be trimmed in the next step.
- m. **Trim each block to  $9\frac{1}{2}$ " x  $9\frac{1}{2}$ "** by trimming away excess from the two edges to which you did not sew  $1\frac{1}{2}$ " strips.



5. **Sew together pairs of sub-blocks you have just completed to create two partial blocks as shown.** Press toward dark.

