

The Ultimate Stencil Handbook by~ Cindy Needham

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2020 (2) Revisions: This handbook was revisited in February. All new artwork and class sample photos were added. Bonus Designs section was not touched and remains the same.

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Introduction

Welcome to a much easier way to create your own designs using The Ultimate Stencil! I've designed stencils for many years for Quilting Creations (quiltingcreations.com) and have always used circle and square grids to draft my designs. It was an "ah ha" moment when I figured out it would be awesome to provide YOU with the same system that I use for designing only in stencil form! Now you can create thousands of designs using this simple grid system and make them any size you want.

These stencils can also be used by any hobbyist or artist.

You can create designs that fit within the parameters of the stencil or you can make them as large as you wish...they are infinite. Designs can be created to fit ANY size quilt block.

Very basic instruction is provided in this book. I have YouTube videos demonstrating how to use these. You may also visit my Pinterest page (*link at the bottom of my website home page*) for more designs that are updated frequently.

This two stencil set comes with an additional set of transparencies. Use the transparencies first to draft your designs with a dry erase marker. Once you are happy with your drafted design you transfer the design to the quilt top using either the transparency or the stencil using a quilt marking pen.

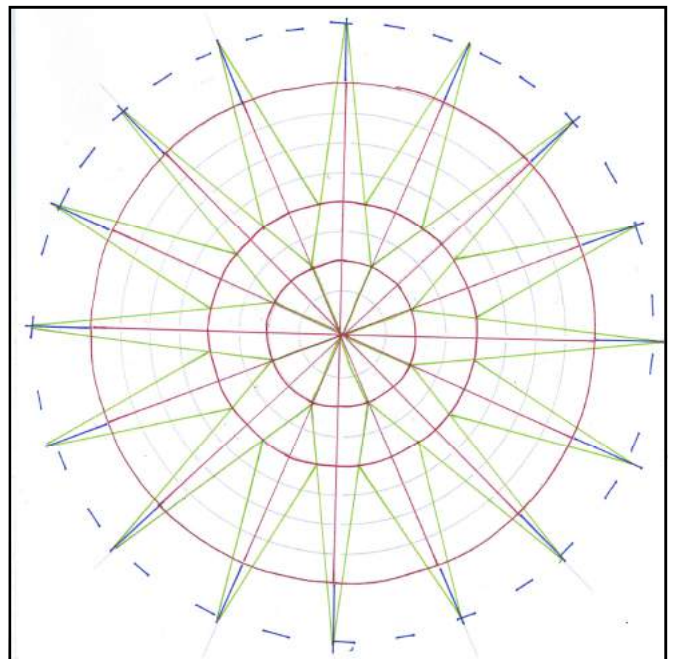
If you are interested in having lots and lots of designs already drafted using the Ultimate Stencil grids, you may be interested in my 2-book set of quilting designs. The "Ultimate Stencil Design Book" is completely dedicated to designs created using The Ultimate Stencils. I have also included a second design book, "Oldies but Goodies". This book contains all of my old quilting designs.

Please email me if you have any questions at all. I'm always here to help!

Hugs, Cindy :)

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Getting Started~Drafting a Star



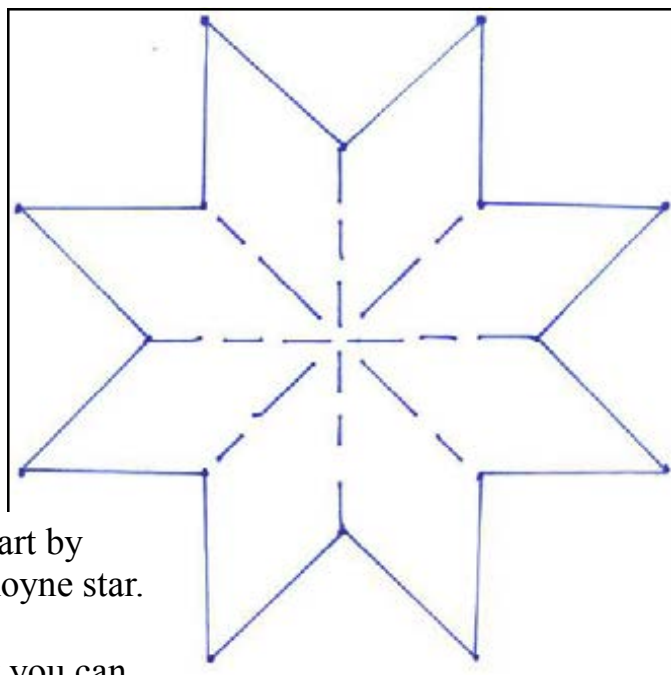
I use dry erase markers to draft the designs on the transparency. There is a sticker indicating which side to mark on.

Don't leave the markings on the transparency too long or they may be difficult to get off. I usually use a dry erase marker remover cloth or spray if they get stubborn.

I HIGHLY recommend that you start by wrapping the edges of your transparencies with brightly colored masking tape.

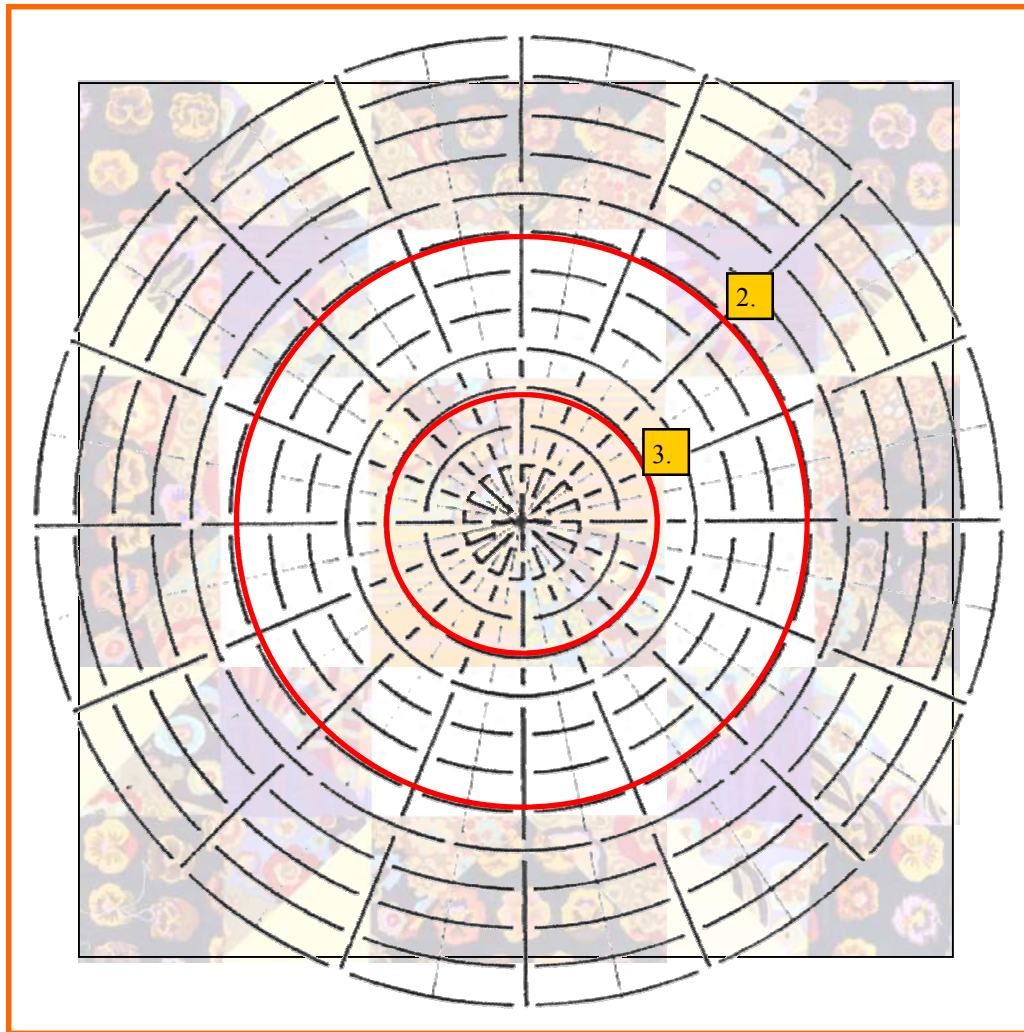
This is a stop sign of sorts to keep you from marking off the edge of your transparency to the quilt top underneath.

Ask me why I tell you to do this!

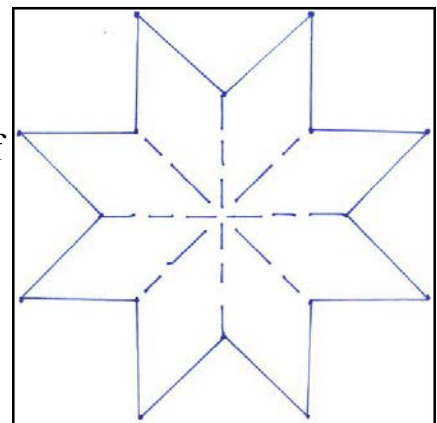


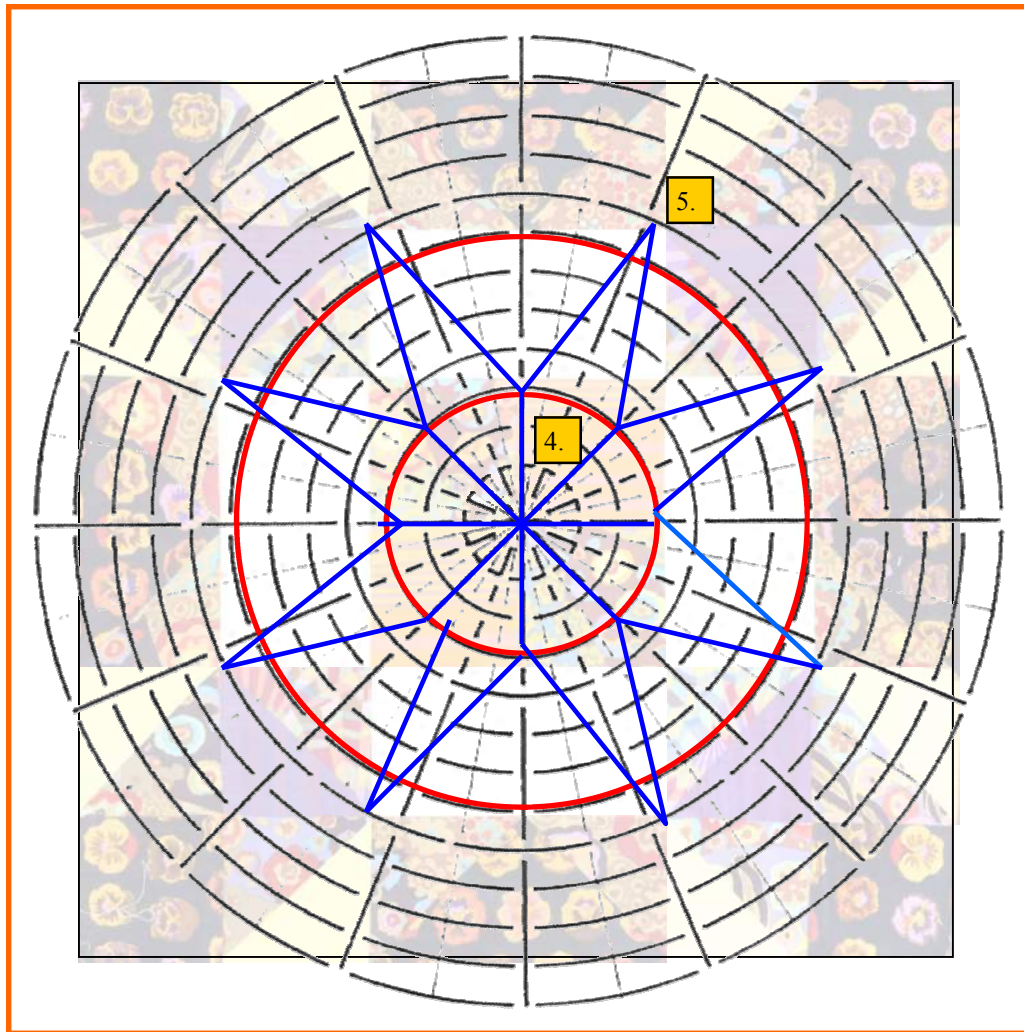
I have all of my students start by drafting a very simple Lemoyne star.

This is a simple pattern but you can add SO much to it.

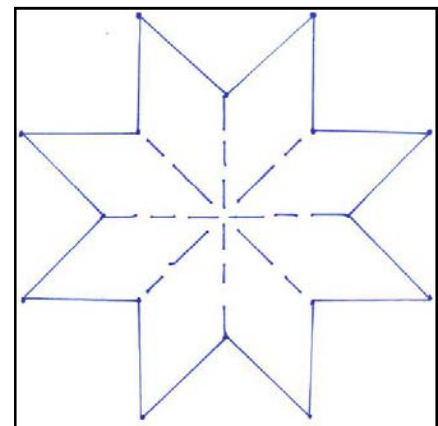


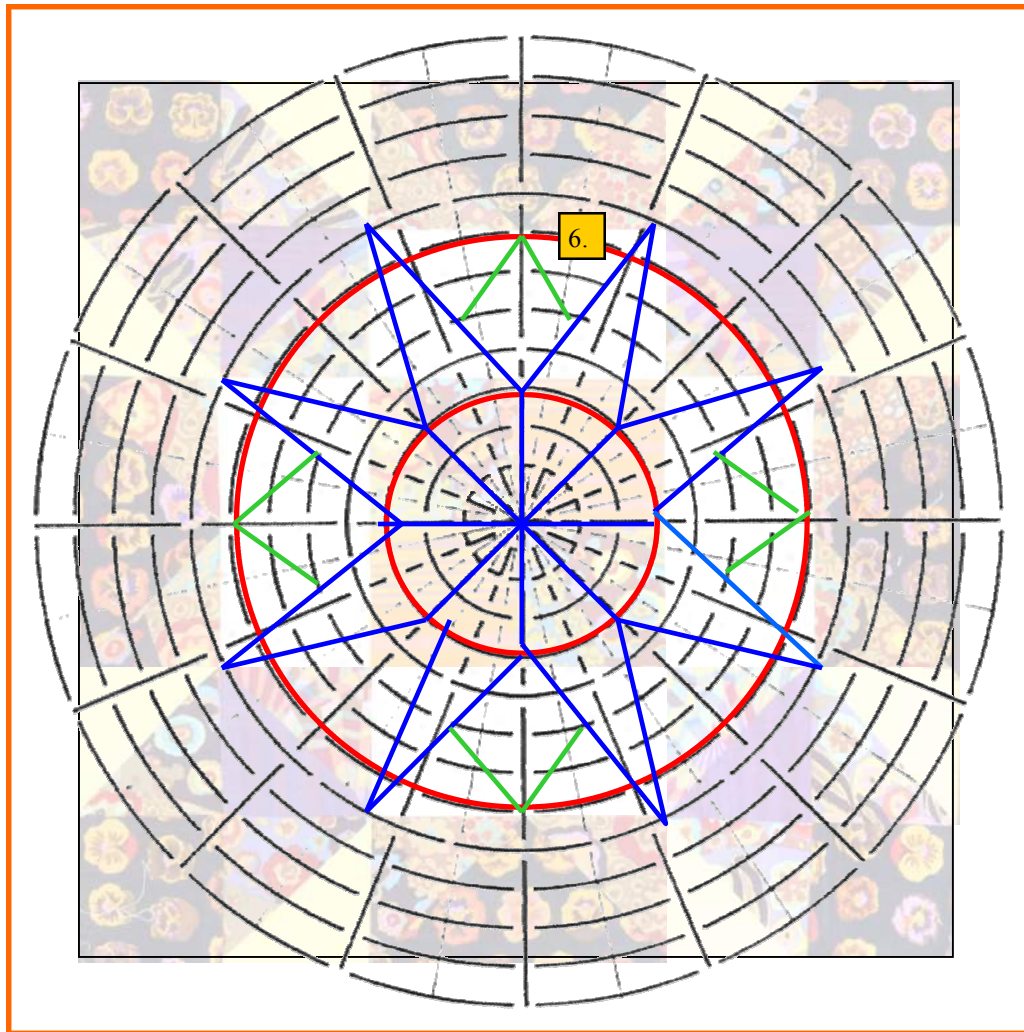
1. Place the transparency on top of the area of your quilt that you want to create a star.
2. Determine how large you want your star to be.
I usually draw a circle to define my boundary with a dry erase marker.
3. Now determine what size you want the base of your star points to have and draw a circle.
These circles are a guide only...they are not quilted.





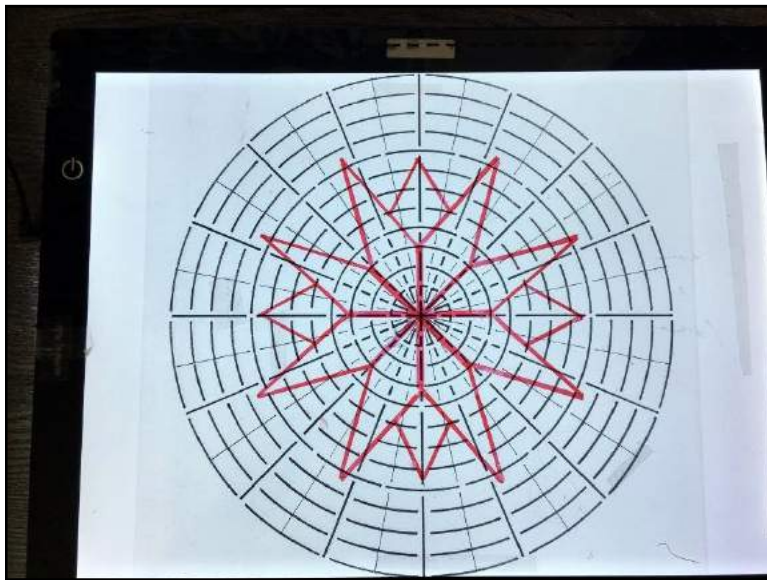
4. Always start your design from the middle and work your way to the outside. Draw the inside lines of your star first. Notice that I skipped an angled line in-between each line.
5. Now connect the star base lines to the angled line in the middle. Now you have a perfect 8-pointed star in just a matter of a couple minutes! Notice that I went off of the angled lines on the transparency to make the points end in the exact corners of the pieced block. There is no law stating you have to stay on your lines!





6. Because I had some extra space to fill, and I wanted to add a few more star points, I added some extra points shown in green.

Now it's time to transfer this design to your actual quilt block.



One way to transfer the design, and sometimes the fastest, is to use a light box. Take the transparency and turn it over so the dry erase marker side is facing the light box..NOT the quilt.

Place the quilt top on top of the transparency.

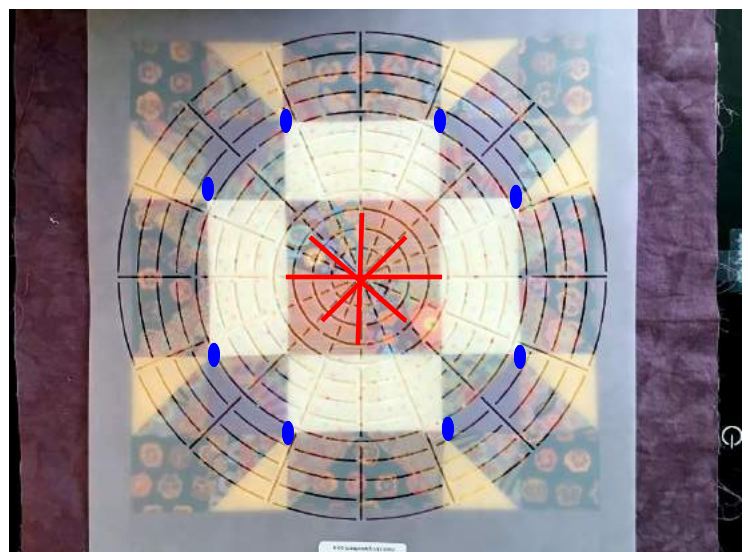
Now trace the lines with a **quilt marking pen**.



The other method is to place the Ultimate Stencil on the quilt top.

Using the transparency as your design guide, trace the angled lines of the star base with your quilt marking pen using the stencil.

Obviously you can't draw the angled lines of the top points of the star so make a dot where the point ends. Now remove the stencil and connect the top dots with the star base.

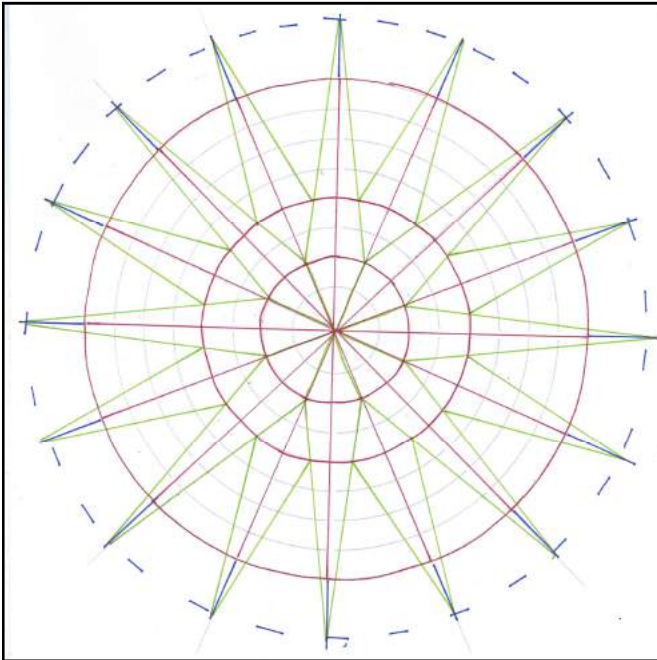




This is what the finished design looks like after quilting.

I love the fact that designs can be created in any size and with as many or as few details as you wish.

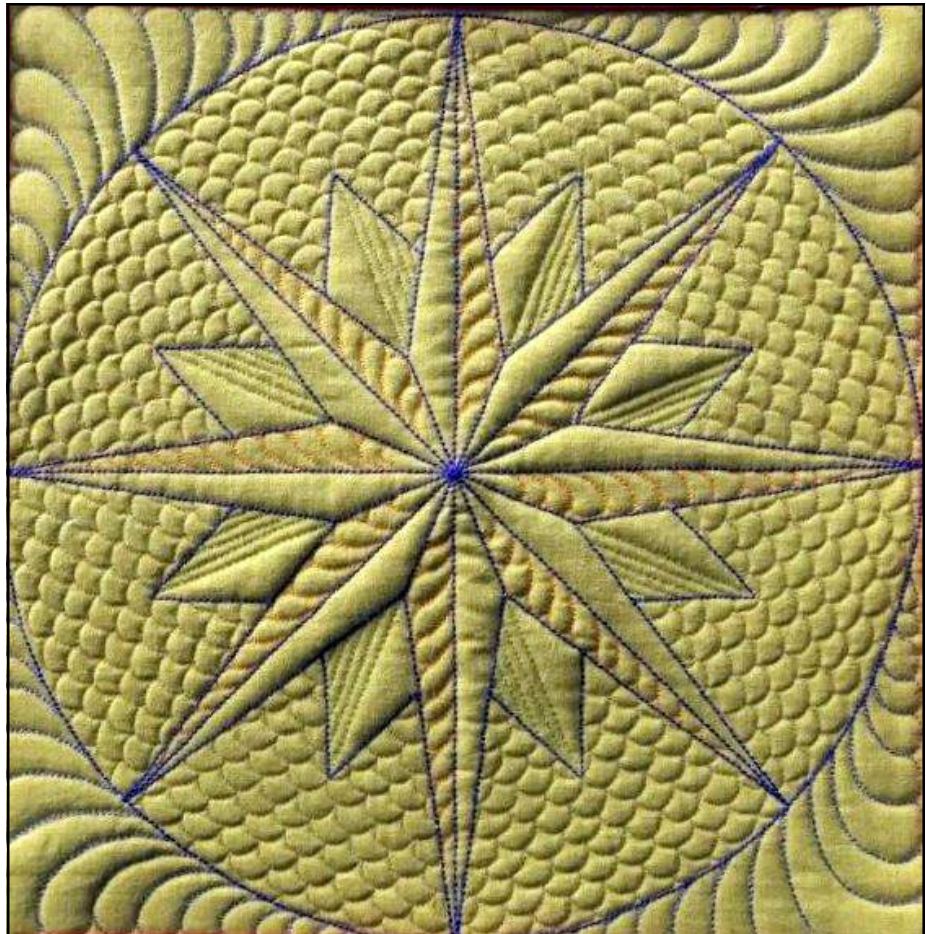
Mariner's Compass



I love a Mariner's Compass. It's classy and elegant and you can do SO much with these.

The difference with a Mariner's Compass is that the star usually has a small base long blades at the top. You can add as many points to this as you wish.

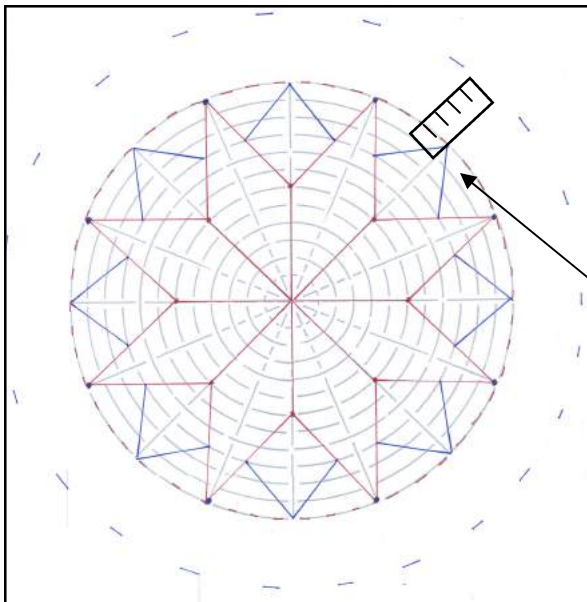
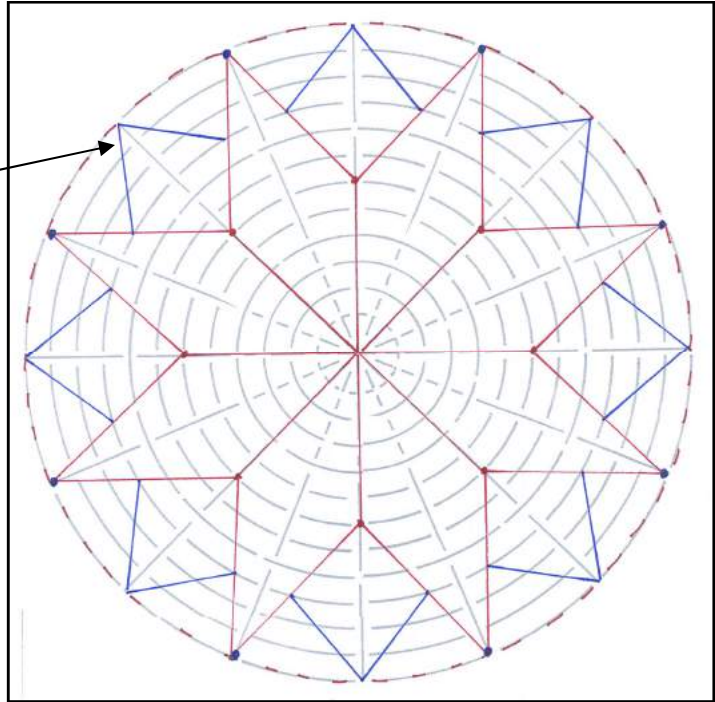
The class sample below shows how I placed feathers on one side of each blade...this creates movement. Repetitive lines were placed in half of the alternate blades. Clamshells were added in the background.



Enlarging a Design

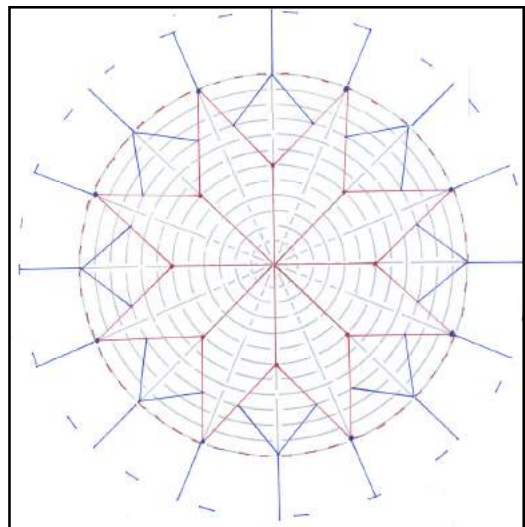
Let's say you want to add more details to the star. Very easily done!

Additional points can be added in-between the original star points just by lining up your ruler with the angles and circles.

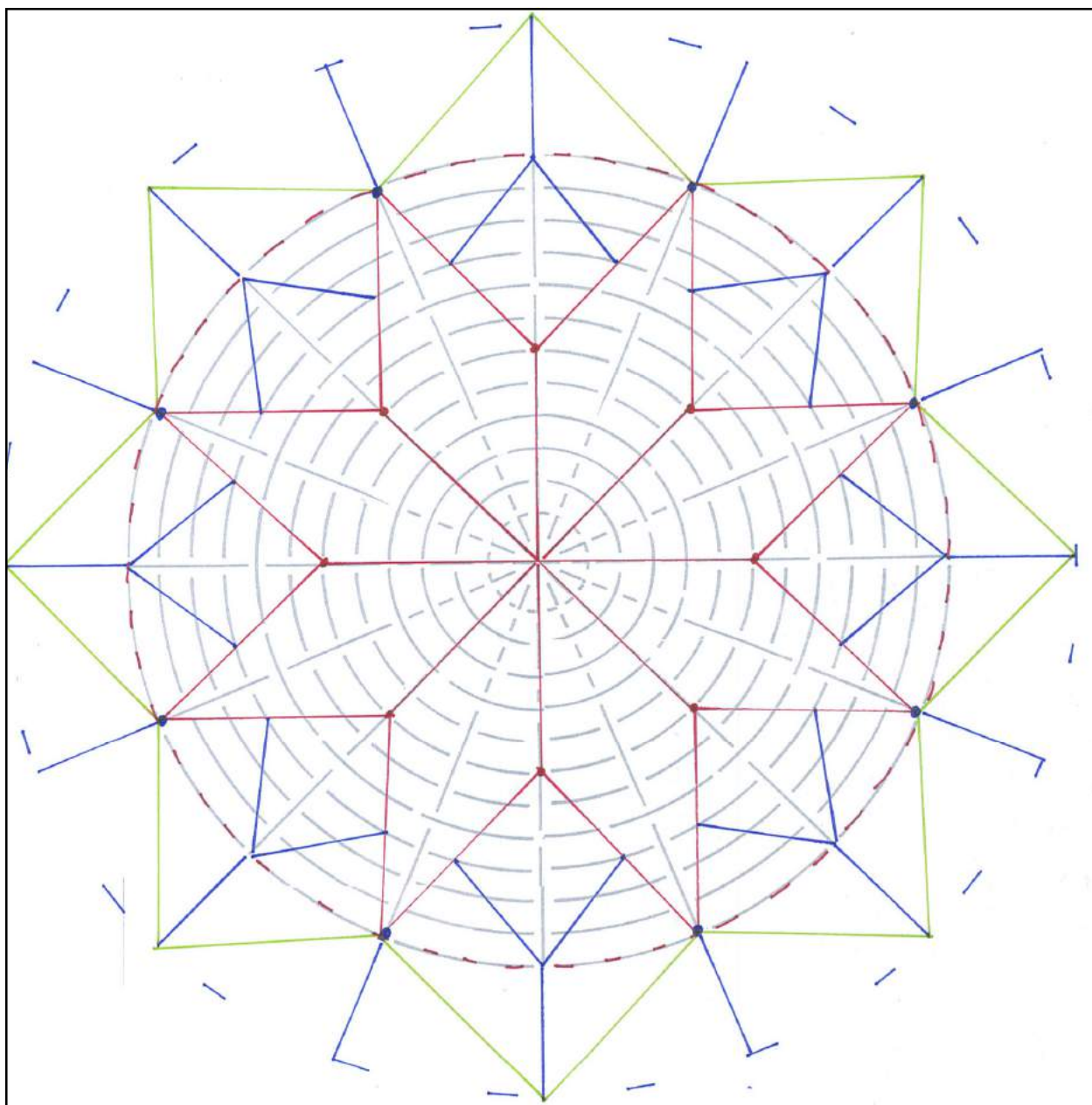


You are not limited in the size of your design by the size of the stencil. You can make your designs as large as you wish.

Determine how much larger you want your star to be. With a ruler, measure out from the last circle on the Ultimate Stencil the distance you want to enlarge the design by. Using your ruler make little dashed marks all the way around.



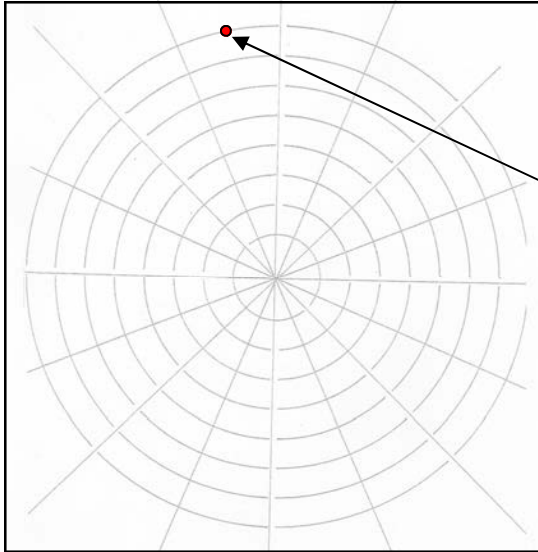
Now extend the angled lines all the way out.



The possibilities are absolutely endless what you can do with this stencil! By simply adding angles and circles you can create fabulous medallions in any size.

The same guidelines apply to the square Ultimate Stencil.

Additional Angles—Circle



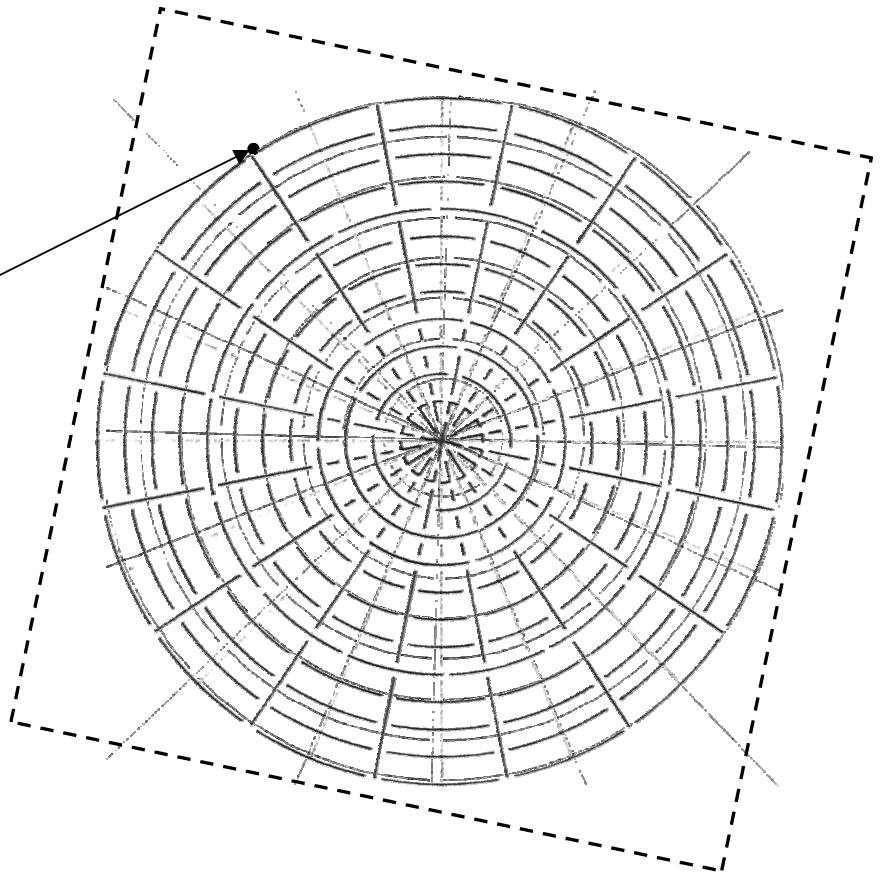
Some designs require more angles than others. It is VERY easy to add additional angles to the Ultimates.

Measure the distance between two of the angles and make a DOT at the halfway point.

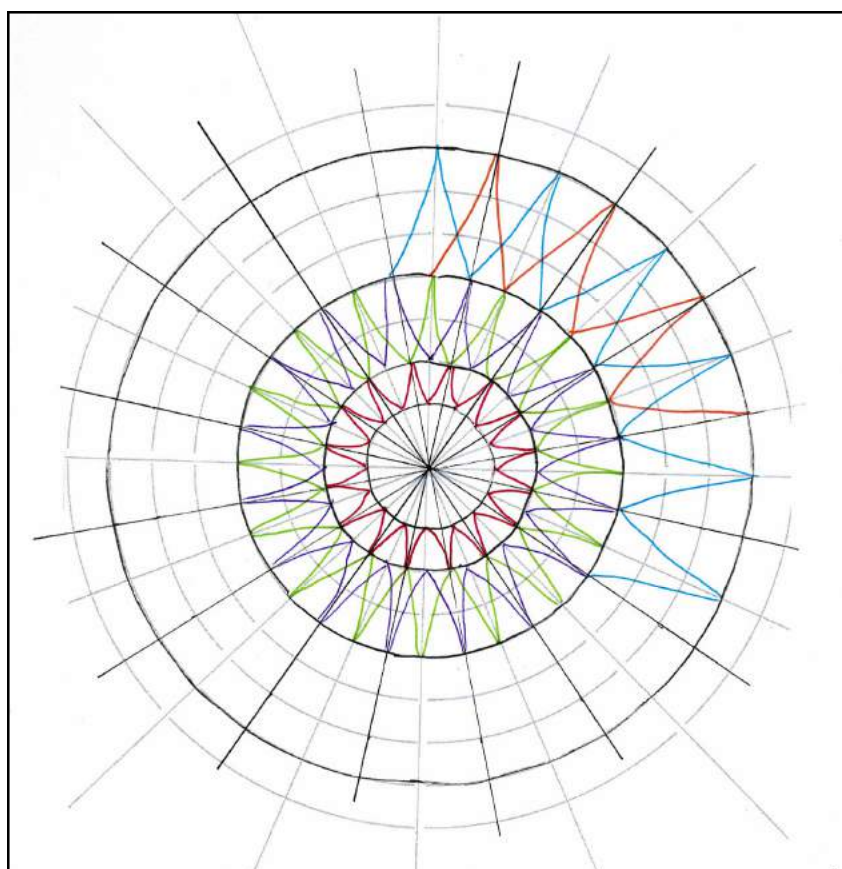
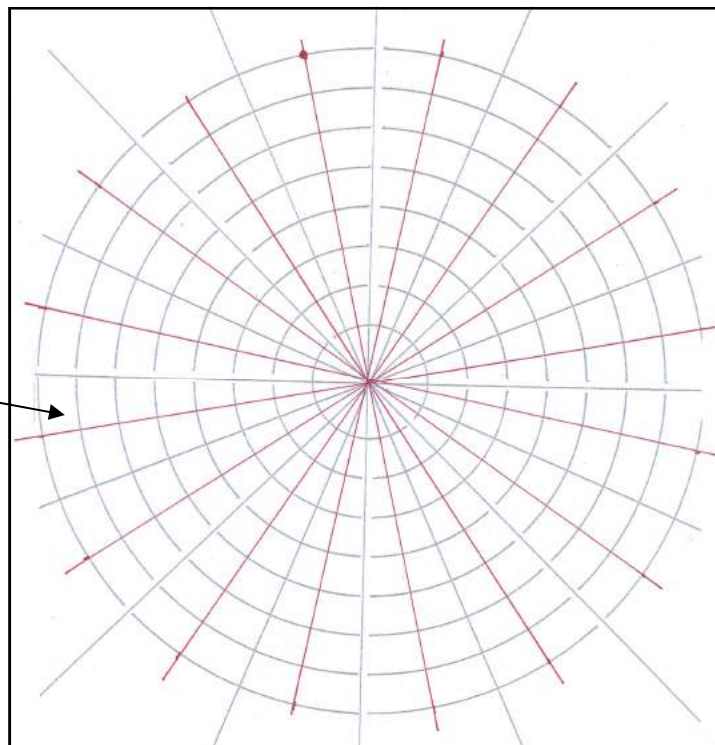
In this case, the distance between the two lines was 2". I made my dot at the 1" mark.

Place the Ultimate Stencil on top of the marked lines.

Now rotate it so that one of the angled lines is lined up with your dot and the middle is lined up at the middle.



Now mark your additional angles
(shown in red).



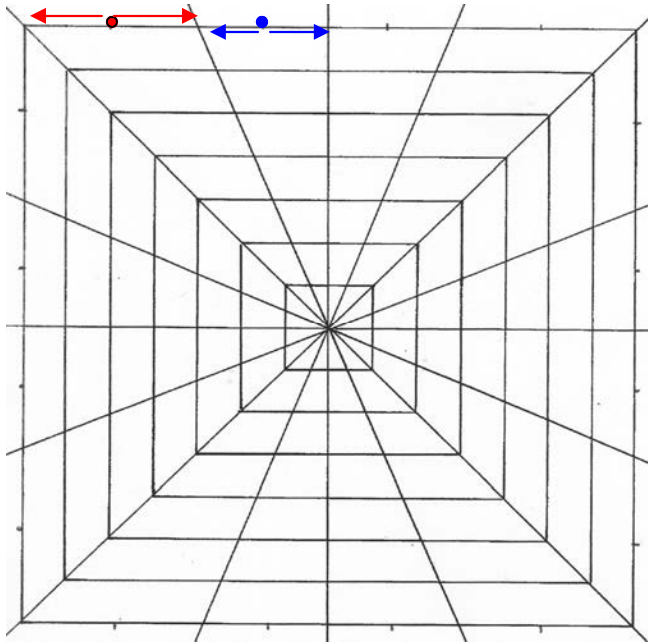
When I have an additional set of angled lines to use, I can easily create this beautiful star!

The little red star circle in the middle is using only one set of angled lines. The other two star circles are using both.

I used different colored pens to show you the pattern used. Remember...you can make your stars as long or as short as you want.

By the way, this design is VERY easy to quilt... completely continuous line!

Additional Angles—Square



Adding additional lines to the square Ultimate Stencil is a bit different than the circle...but still very easy!

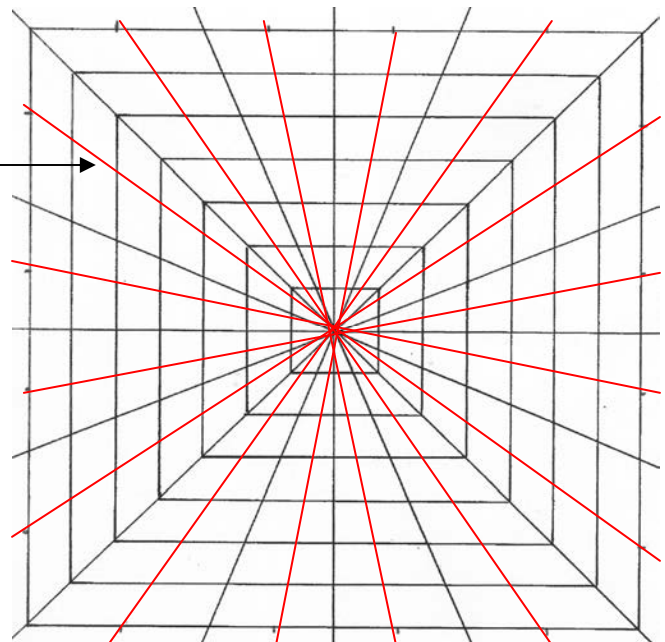
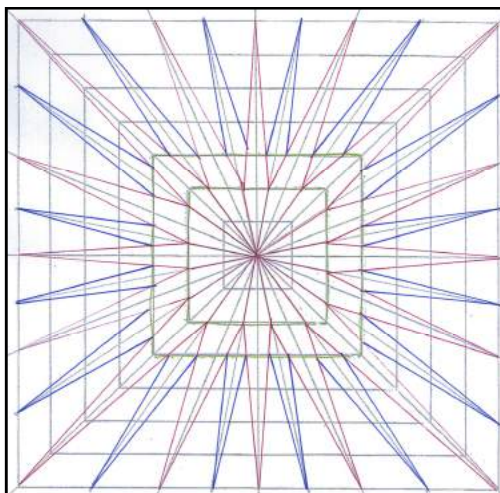
Notice that there are two angle widths to the square stencil...the circle had the same distances all the way around.

To add additional angles, you must measure the width between the angles and find the halfway point.

The distance between these two lines is $3 \frac{1}{2}$ ". The halfway point is $1 \frac{3}{4}$ ".
Draw a dot at the $1 \frac{3}{4}$ " point.

The distance between these two lines is $1 \frac{1}{2}$ ". The halfway point is $\frac{3}{4}$ ".
Draw a dot at the $\frac{3}{4}$ " point.

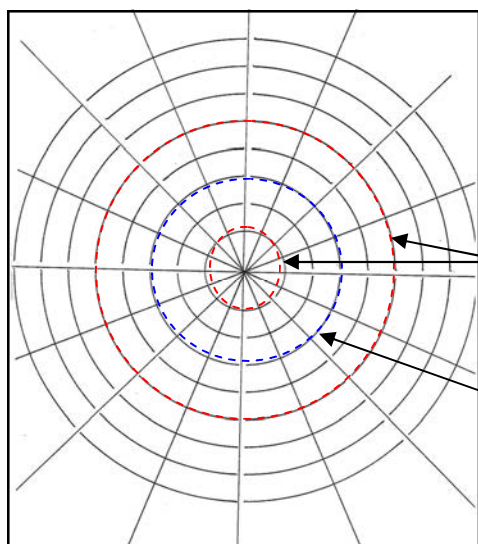
Now use your ruler and connect your dots!



Feather Wreath~Any Size!

We are all familiar with the classic round feather wreath. You see them in many quilts but drafting them can sometimes be a challenge. It's much easier to trace a pre-made stencil but you don't always have the size you want. I have a solution for you!

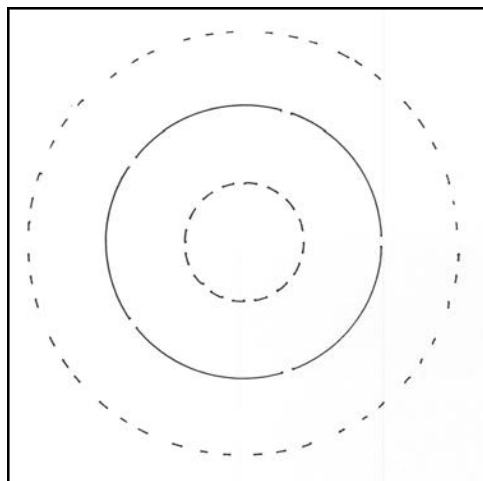
I have a set of stencils for sale used for designing that I call The Ultimate Stencils. You can use these to create an unlimited number of designs. Let me show you how you can use these to easily create a round feather wreath.



This is what the circle Ultimate Stencil looks like. Use the circles to create ANY sized feather wreath you wish!

I want the inside and outside of my feather wreath to be this size. (shown in red dotted lines)

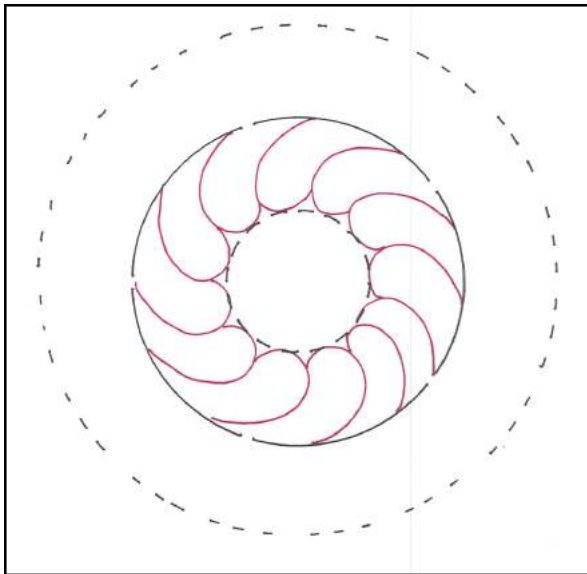
I want my feather spine to be here. (shown in blue dotted lines)



This is what my drawn lines look like after marking my quilt top with the Ultimate Stencil.

The solid line is my feather spine.

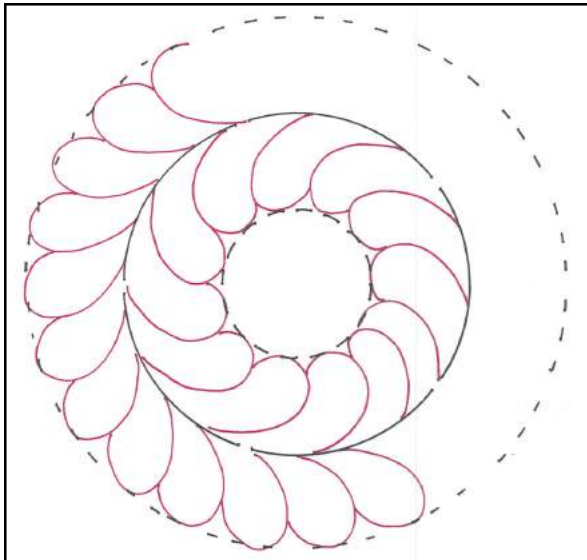
The two dotted lines are the inside and outside "gates" where my feathers will reach to.



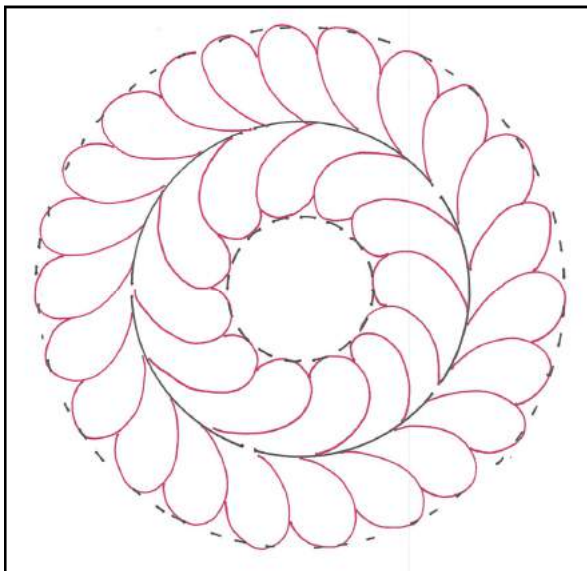
Because tight circles are hard to fill with feathers, I always draw them first and then quilt them.

I started with my center circle first. See how my feathers reached for the donut hole in the middle?

Also note how wide the bases of my feathers are to get around this tight turn.



Now I draw my feathers going around the outside.



This is my completed feather wreath.

You can make your wreaths any size you wish...you can have the outside feathers larger or smaller than the inside feathers...

Remember...you are the boss of your feathers!



The following pages have been added as a bonus for you!

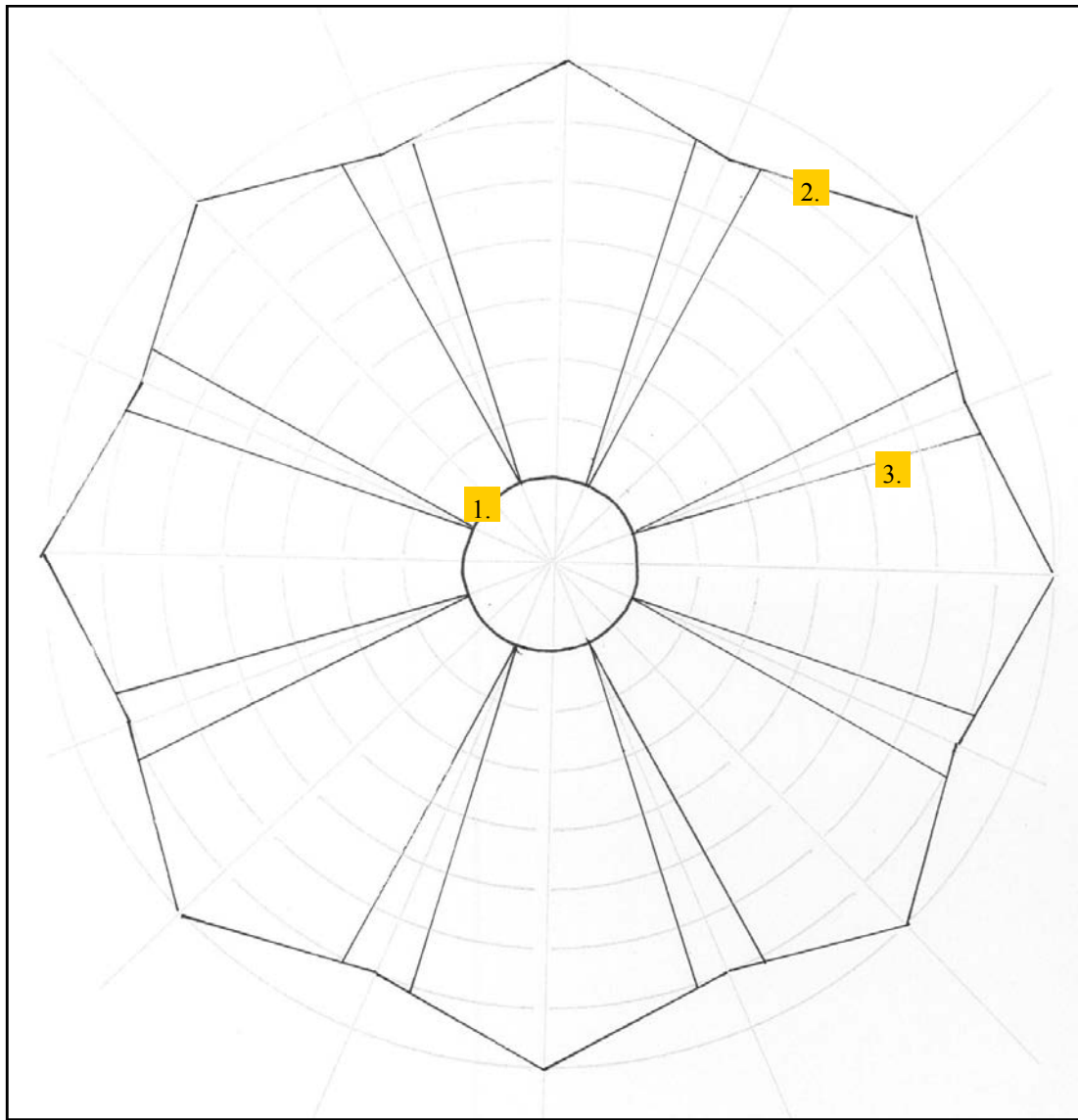
This is a small sampling of the designs that are included in my Ultimate Stencil Design Book. There are over 150+ pages of designs such as these that are already drafted for you. Each design comes with numbered instructions as well as suggestions of ways you can fill with basic fillers.

“My Designs” is a 2-book set of E-Books. The second book, Oldies but Goodies, is a collection of my older quilting designs.

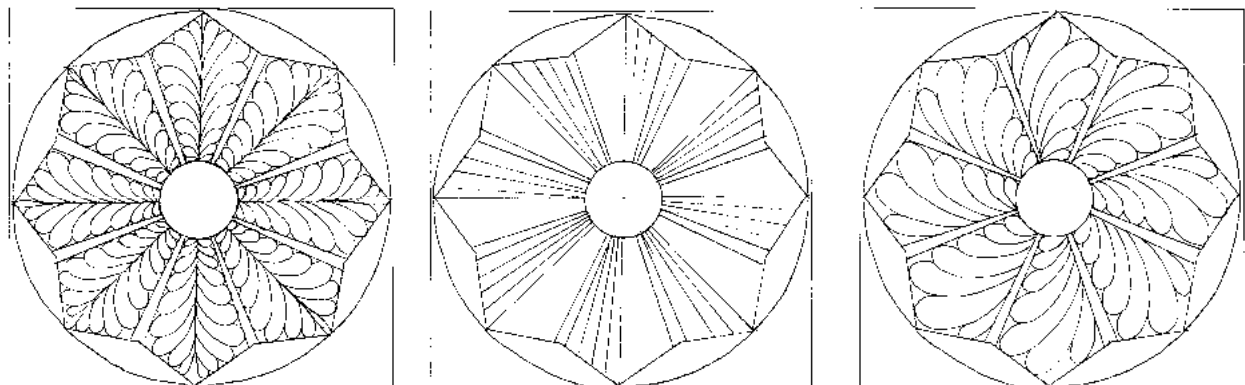
This set sells for \$50 off of my website and the E-books are sent via email download within 24 hours of purchase.

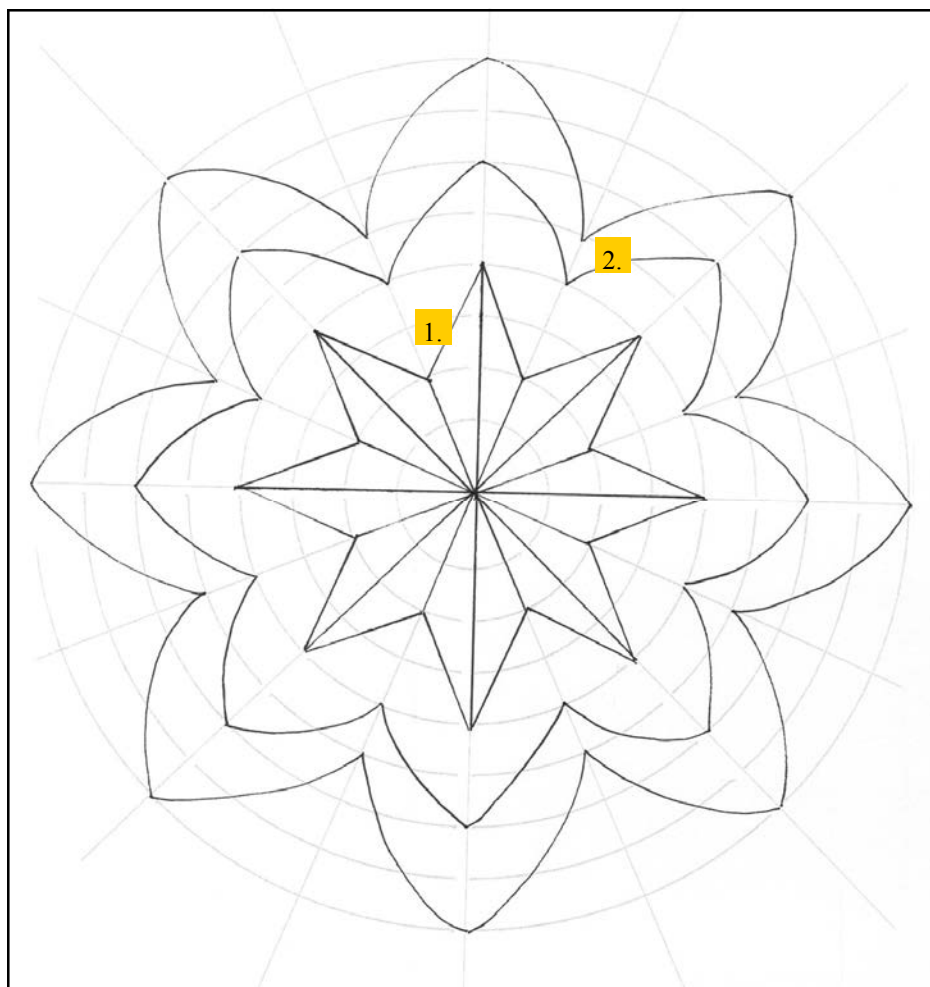
Please visit my website at: cindyneedham.com for more inspiration!

Thank you! Cindy :)



1. Draw the center circle first.
2. Draw the outside edge of your fan blades second. Use the radiating grid lines and the concentric circles for your guides.
3. Draw your wedge lines last.

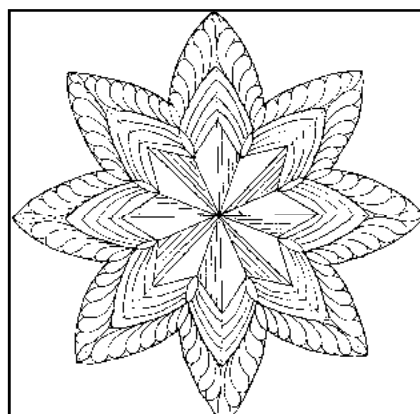
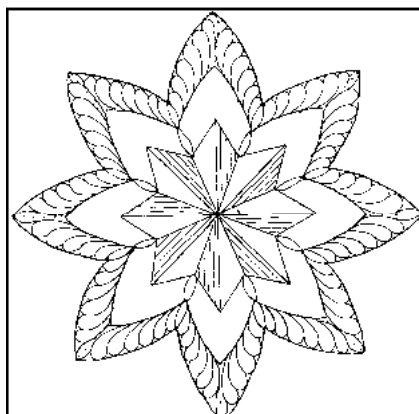
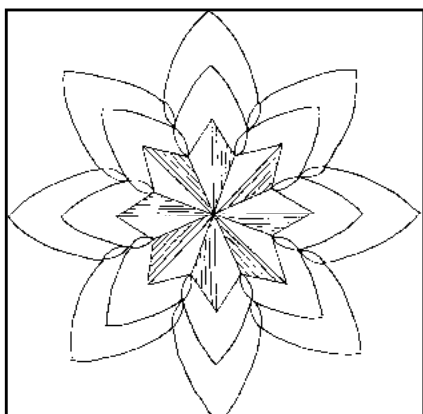


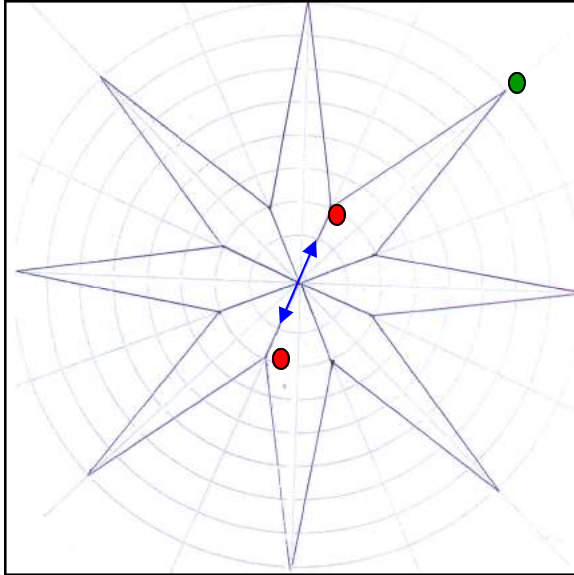


1. Draft the inside star.

2. Now add different layers of arched lines.

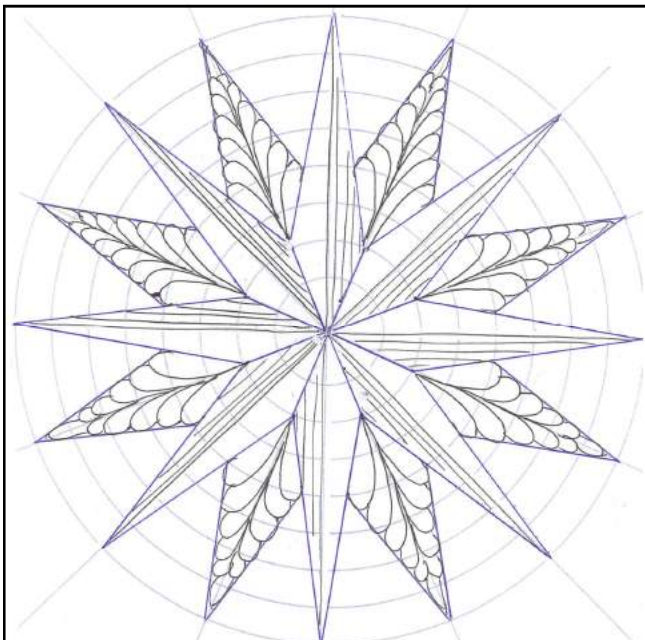
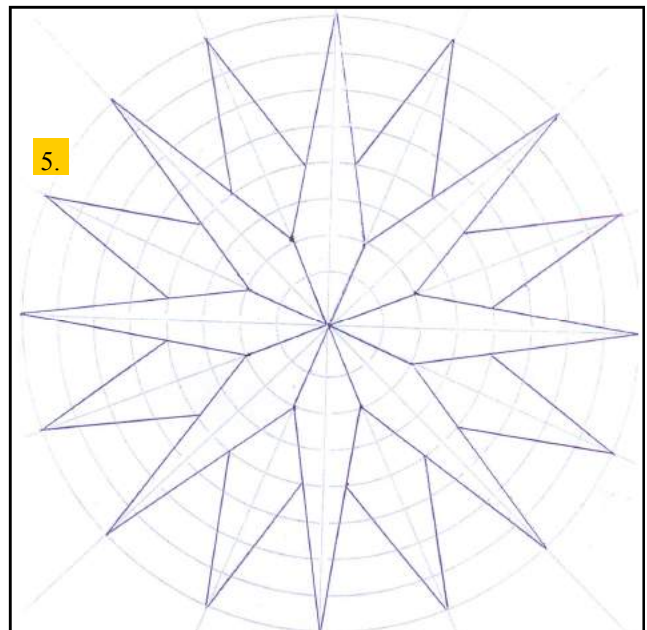
Remember you can make your arches as long as you want and add as many layers as you wish.

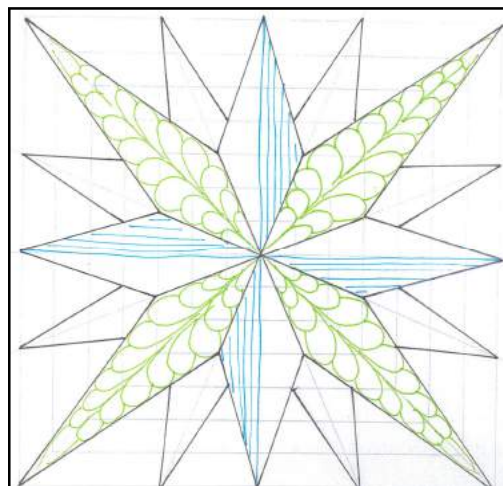
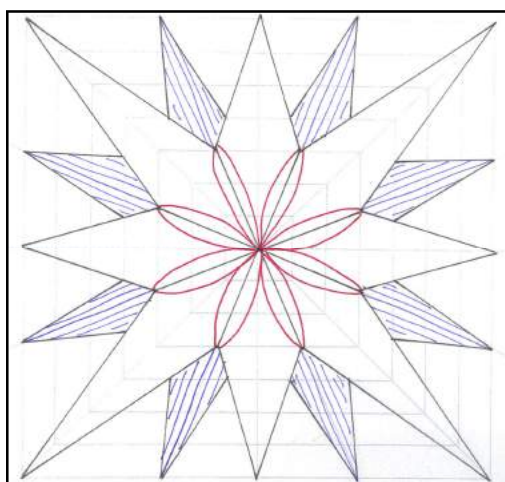
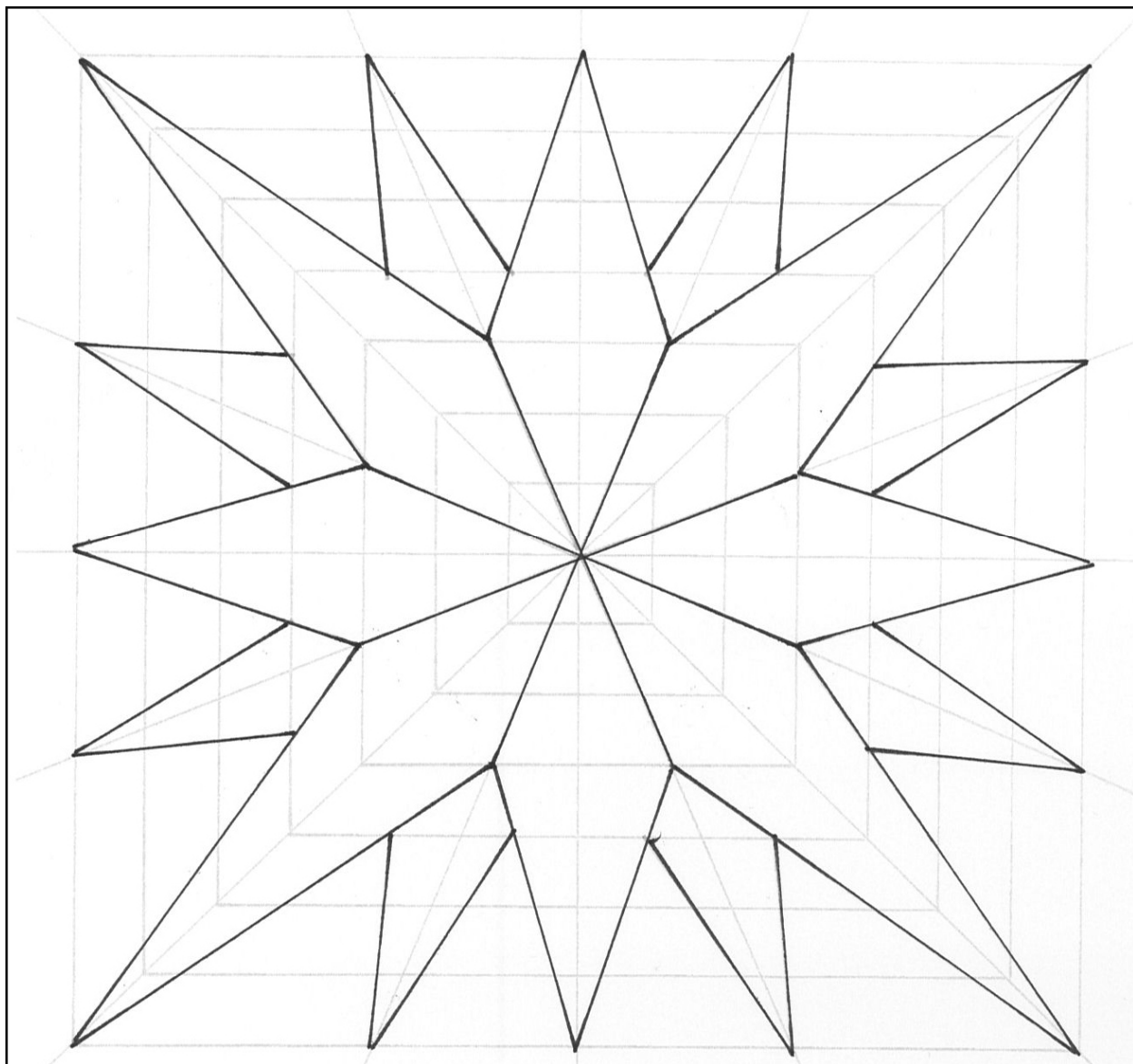


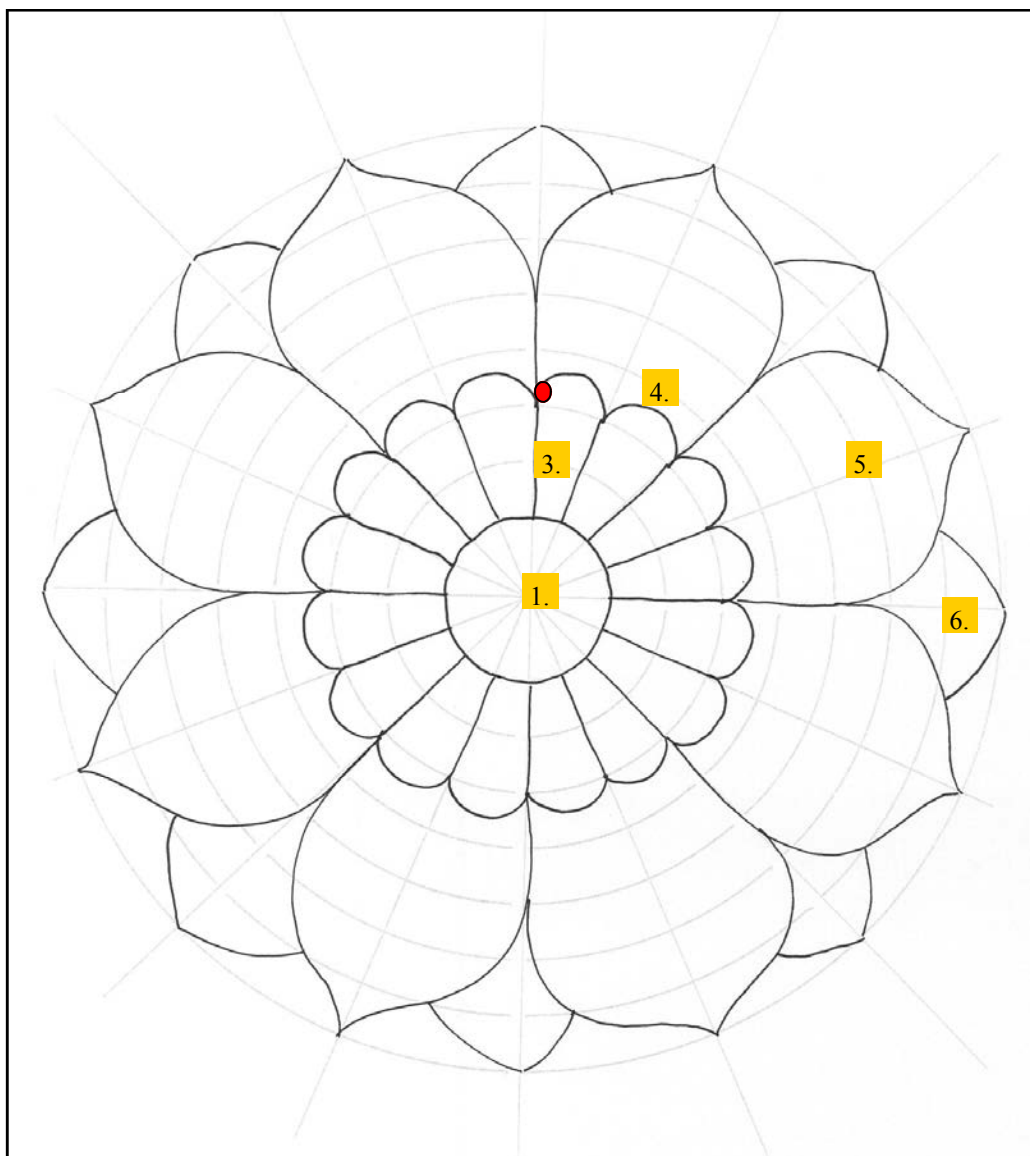


1. Determine where you want your compass points to start and make dots all the way around using every other line. ●
2. Connect all the dots. ↔
3. Determine how far out you want your star points to come and make a dot. ●
4. Connect the red and green dots to get your star points.

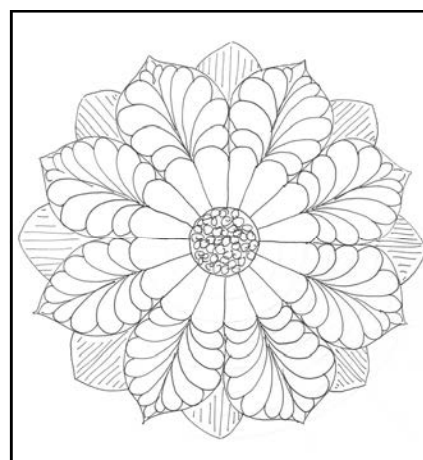
5. You can add as many star points in between as you wish. Just continue to use the circles and angled lines as your guides.

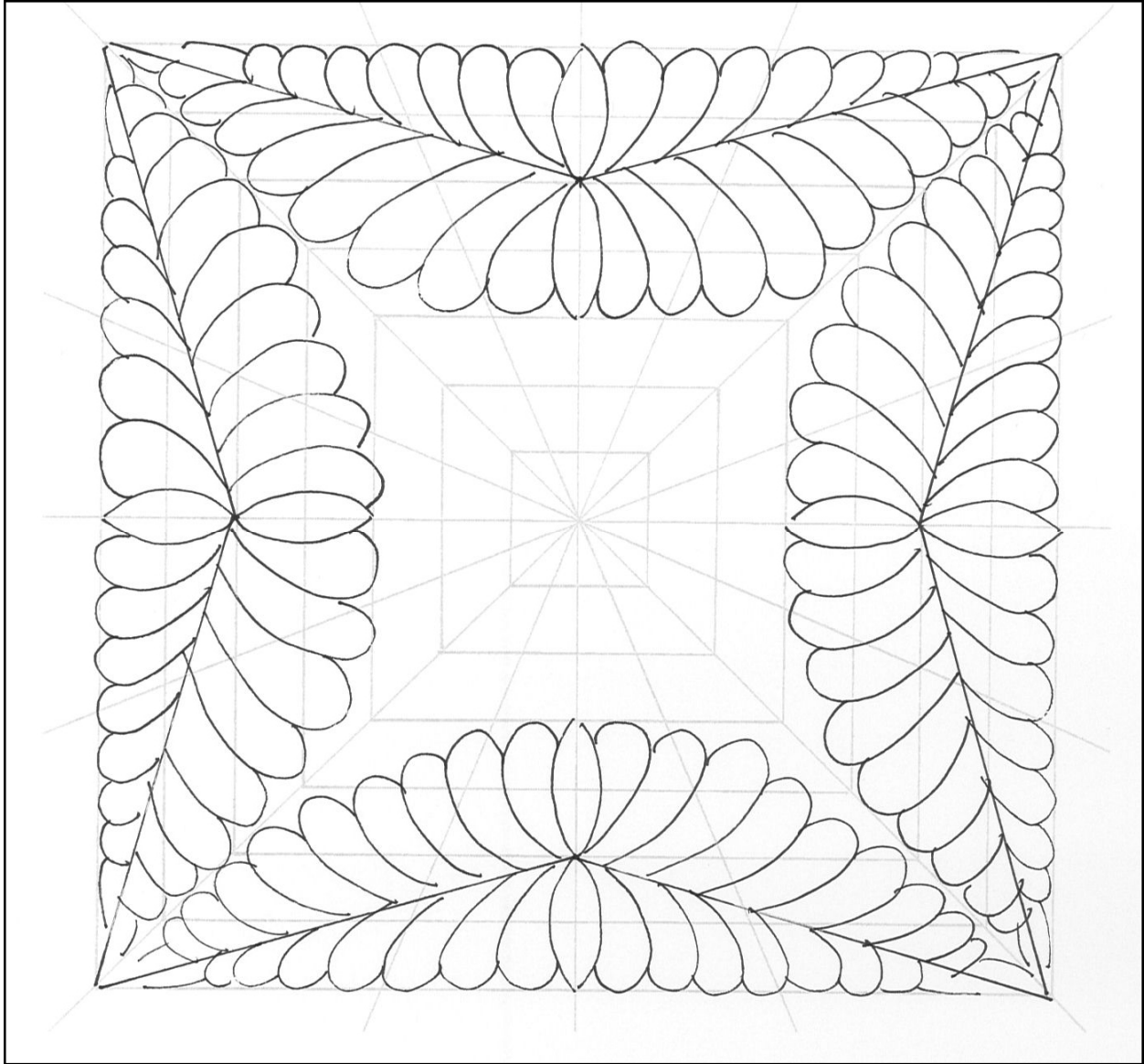




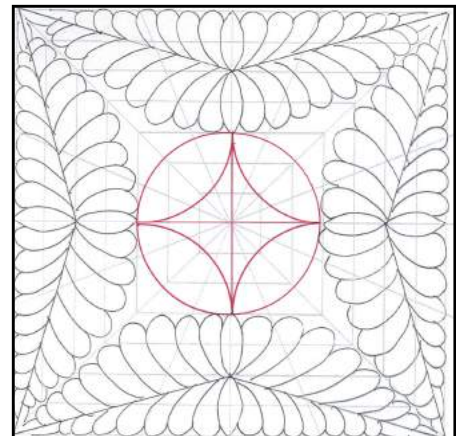


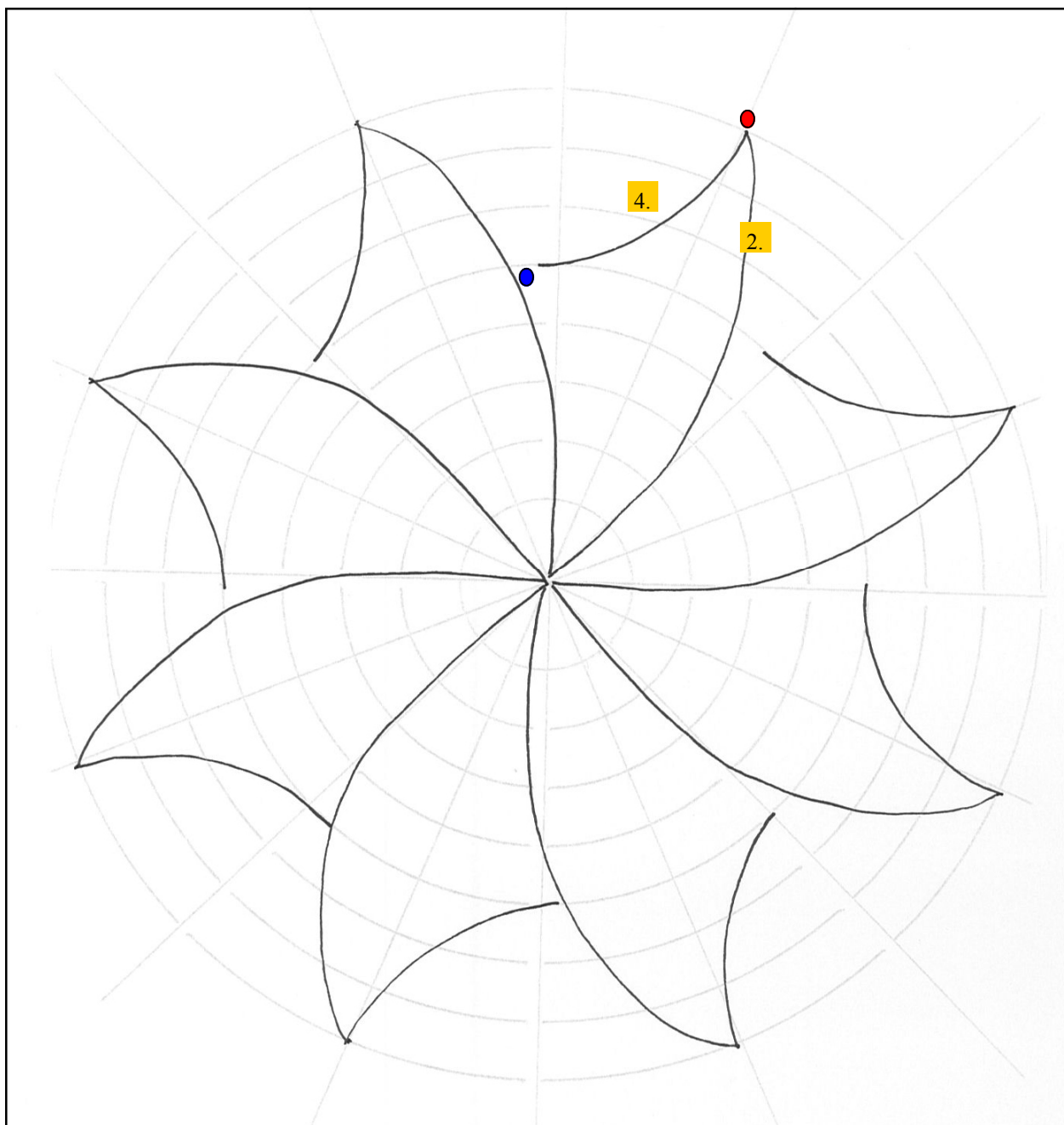
1. Draw your center circle first.
2. Determine how far out you want your petals to come and draw a dot. ● You can use every angled line or every other one...totally up to you!
3. Draw a straight line from the dot to the center circle.
4. Draw in arches to connect your straight lines.
5. Sketch in your eight petals using the angled lines as your guide.
6. Fill in with remaining petals as you wish.



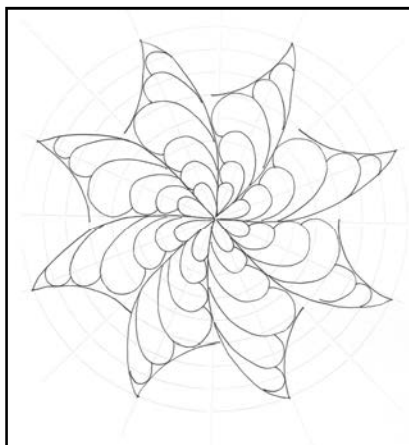


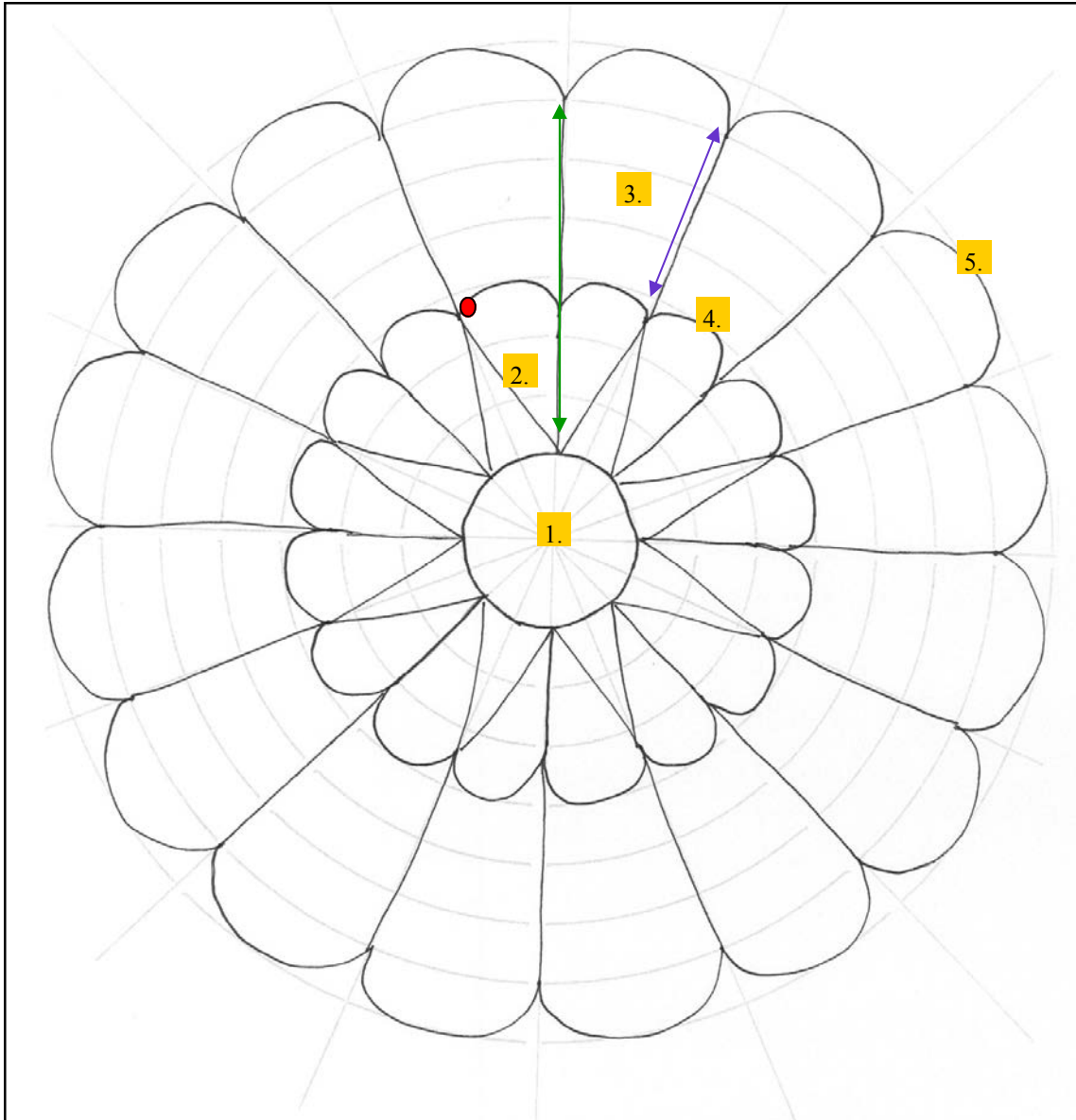
This is a great way to create feather blocks of any size or shape. I simply drew the angles for my feather spine first using the squares and angled lines as my guides. I used the square lines as my guide to determine how far in my feathers were going into the inside of the block as well as the outside edge.



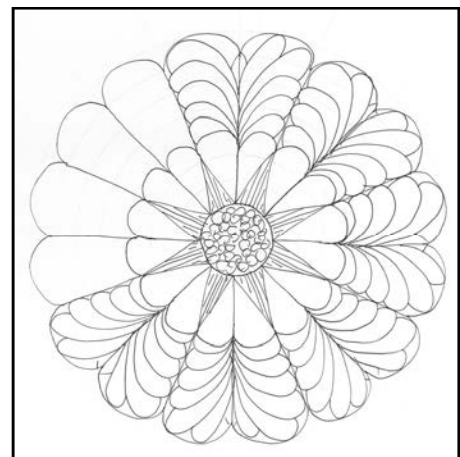


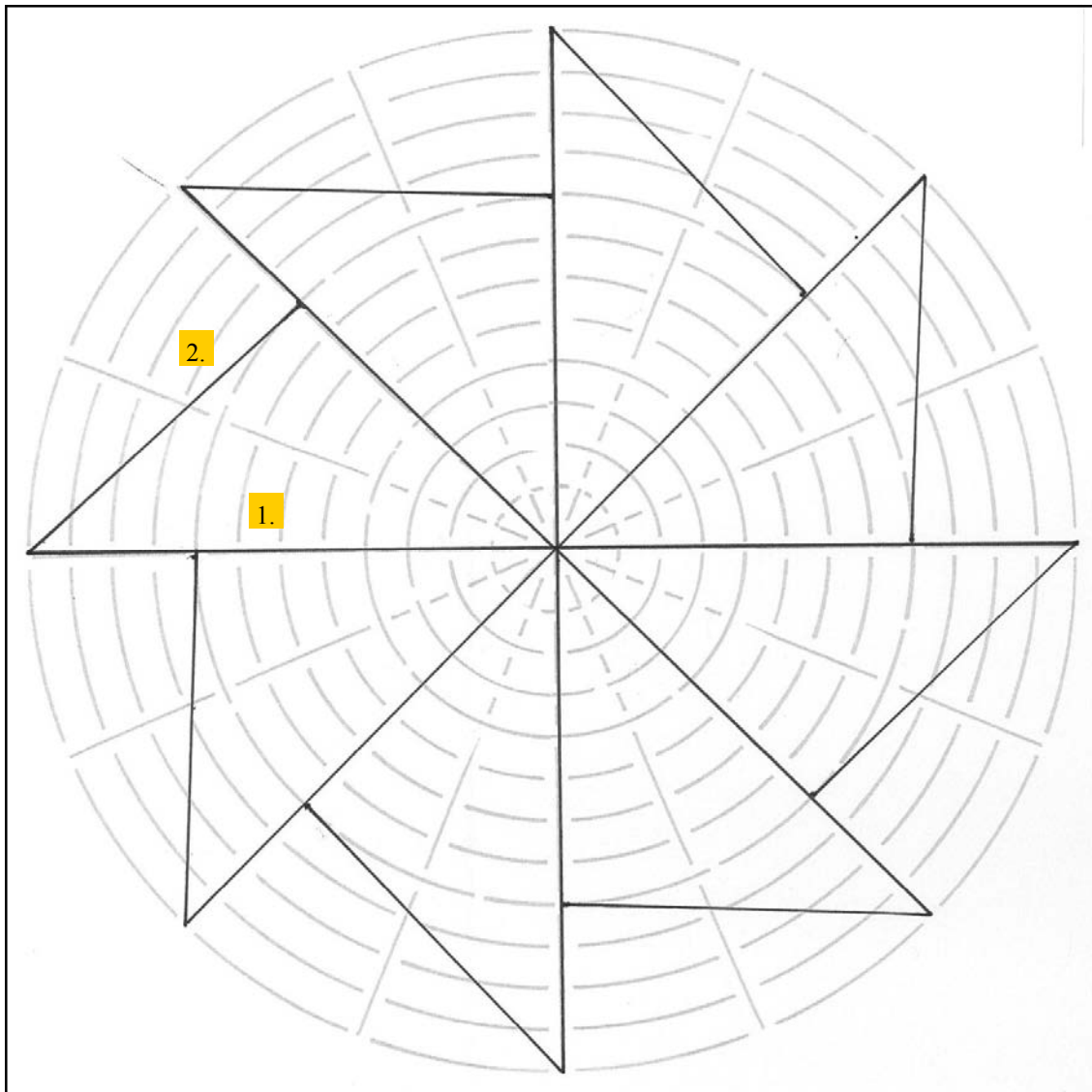
1. Determine how far OUT you want your spokes to go using every third angled line as your guide. Draw a dot. ●
2. Starting from the center point draw an arch up to your dot. Do this going all the way around.
3. Determine how far IN you want your spokes to come using the circles as your guide. Draw a dot. ●
4. Connect your dots with an arch.



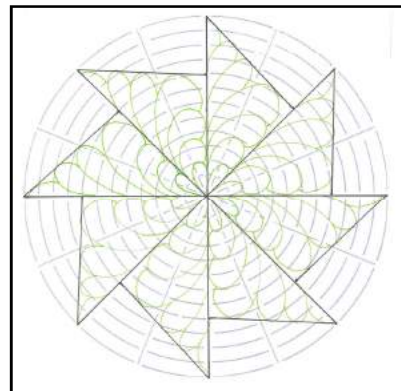
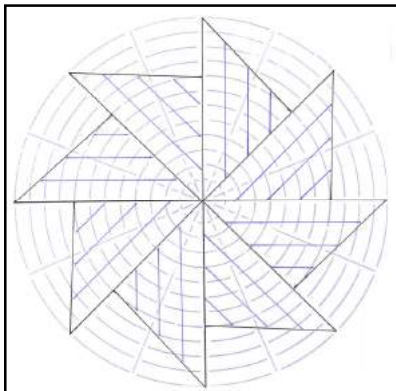


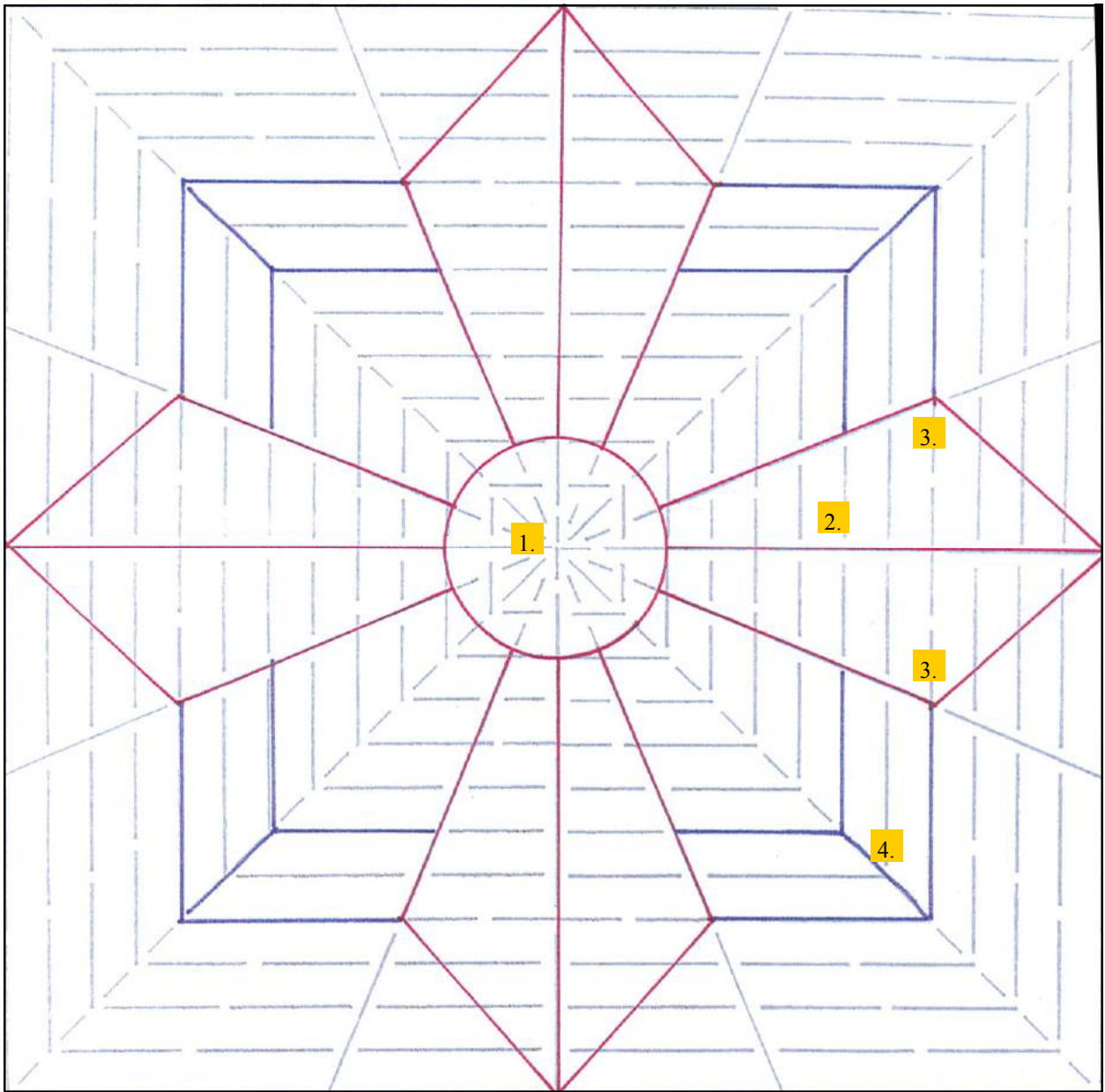
1. Draw your central circle.
2. Determine how far out you want your little spokes to go using every other line and the circles as your guide. Draw a dot. ● Draw your spokes.
3. Determine how far out you want your fan blades to go using the circles as your guide. Draw all of these long lines. Remember some will end at the spoke top ←→ and some will end at the spoke bottom. ↔
4. Add little arches between the lines.
5. Add arches between the lines on the outside.



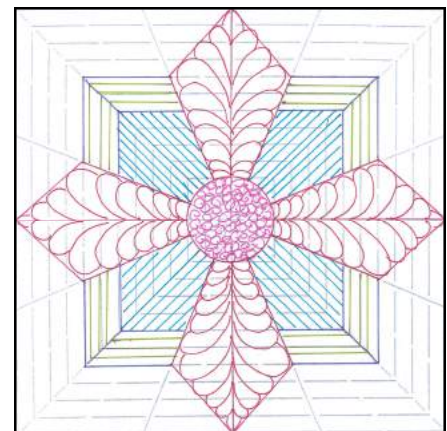


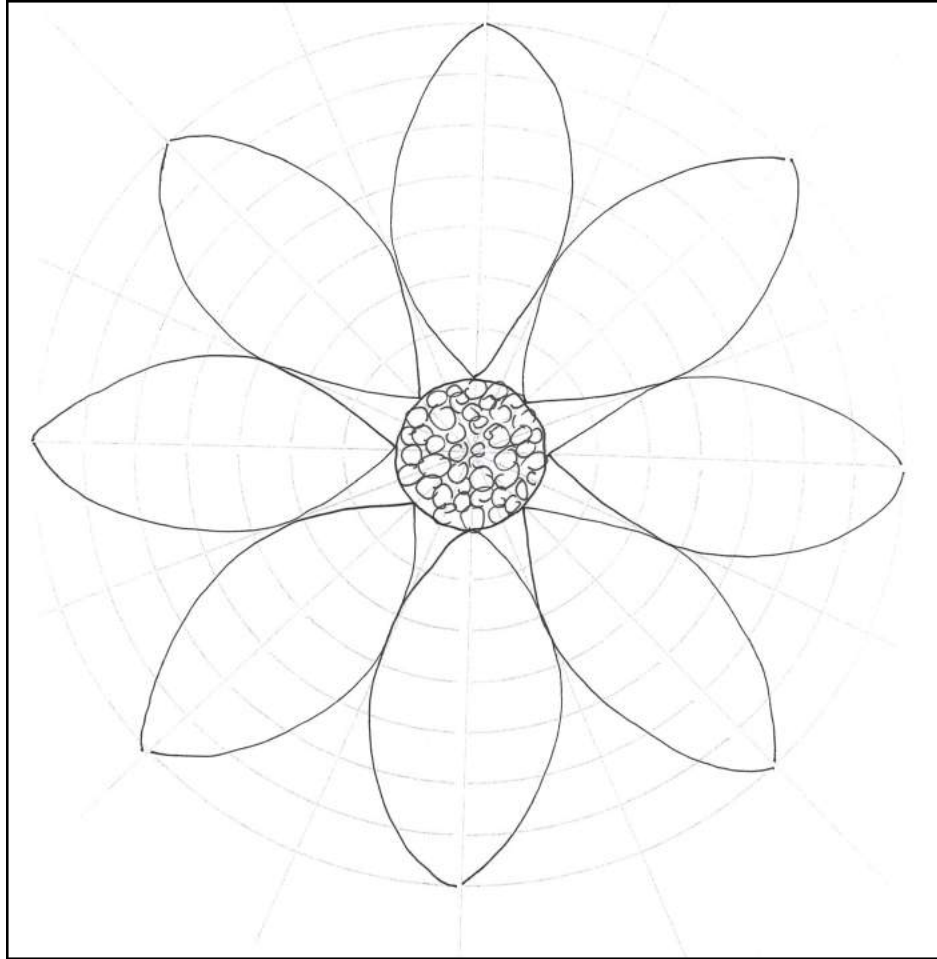
1. Draw your angled lines first using every other line.
2. Determine how far down you want the top angle to come and mark all eight blades.



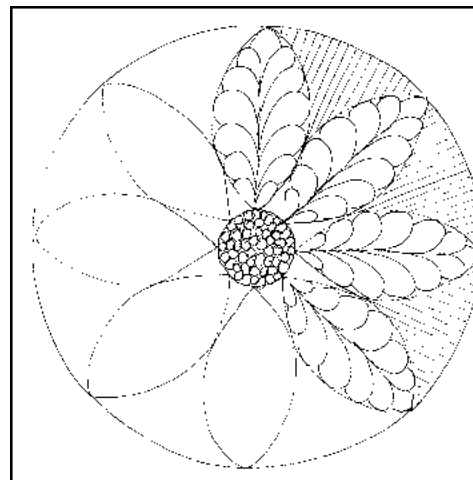
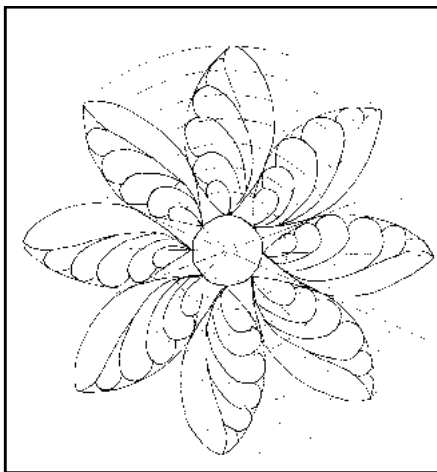


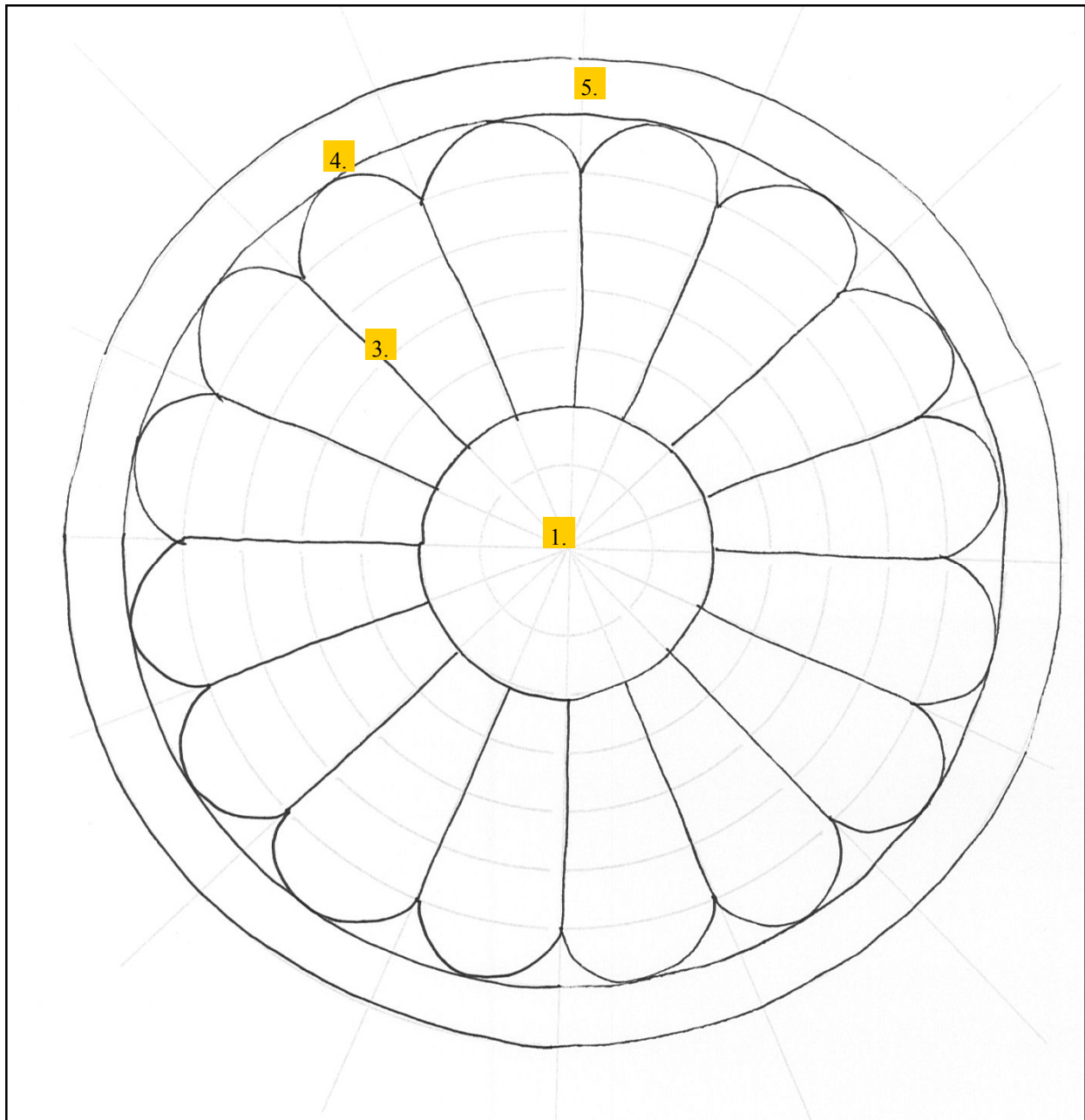
1. Using your Circle stencil, draw your center.
2. Determine how far out you want the four blades to come and draw your center line.
3. Determine how wide you want the blades to be and draw all four lines.
4. Connect all four blades with the straight lines and draw a miter in the corners.



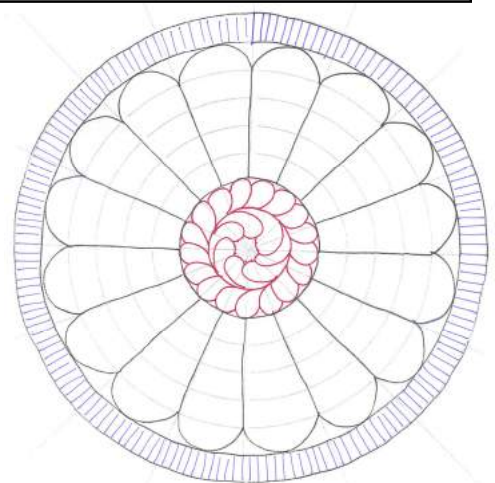


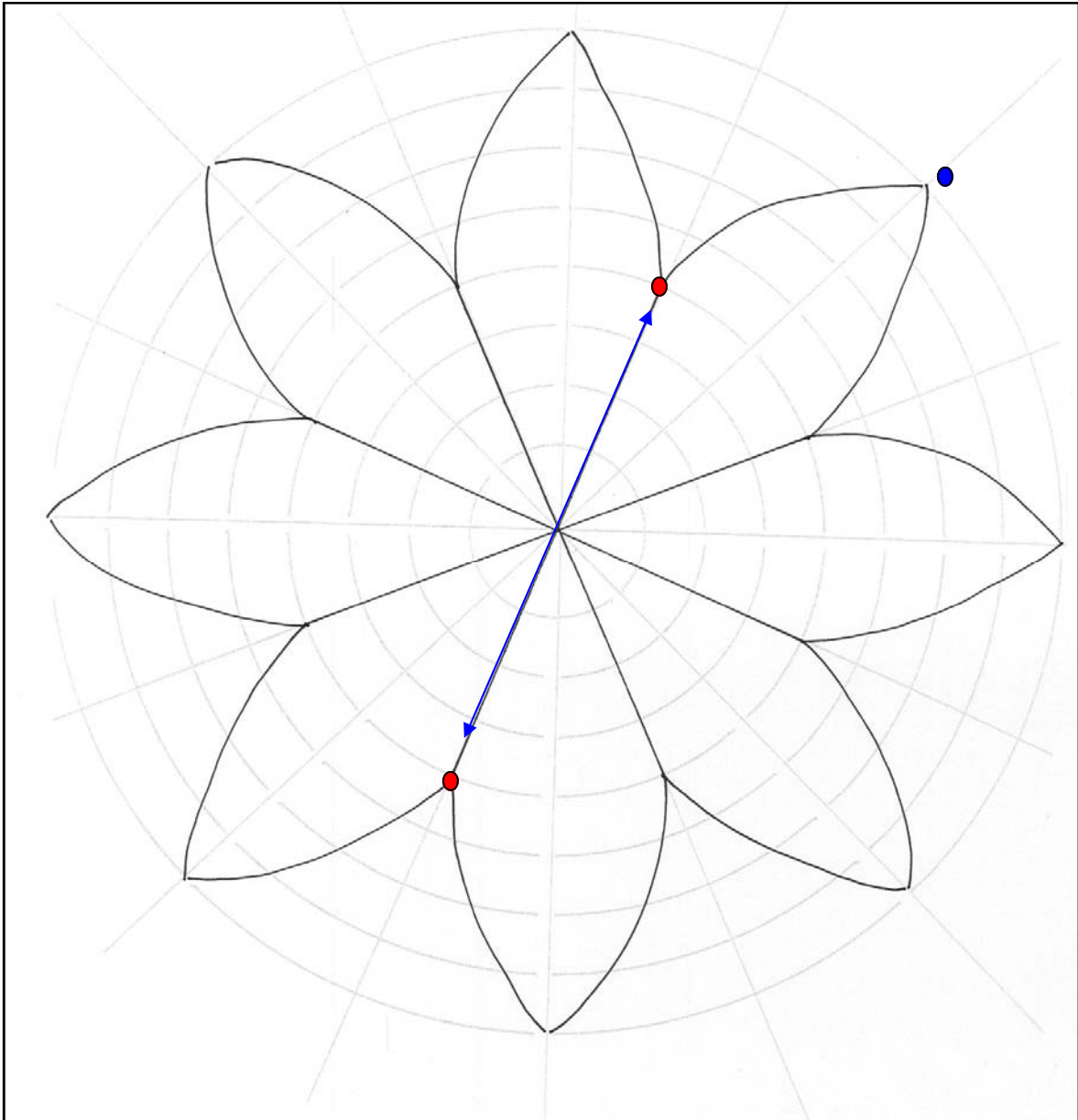
1. Draw the center of your flower first.
2. Use the various sized circles from the stencils to create your petals.





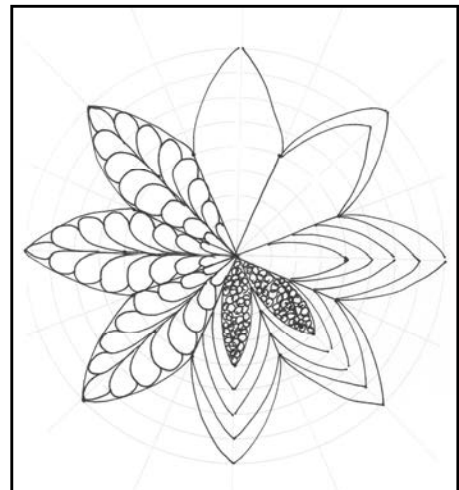
1. Draw your center circle first.
2. Determine how far out you want your fan blades to come and make a dot. ●
3. Draw a straight line from your dot to your center circle.
4. Connect your lines with arches.

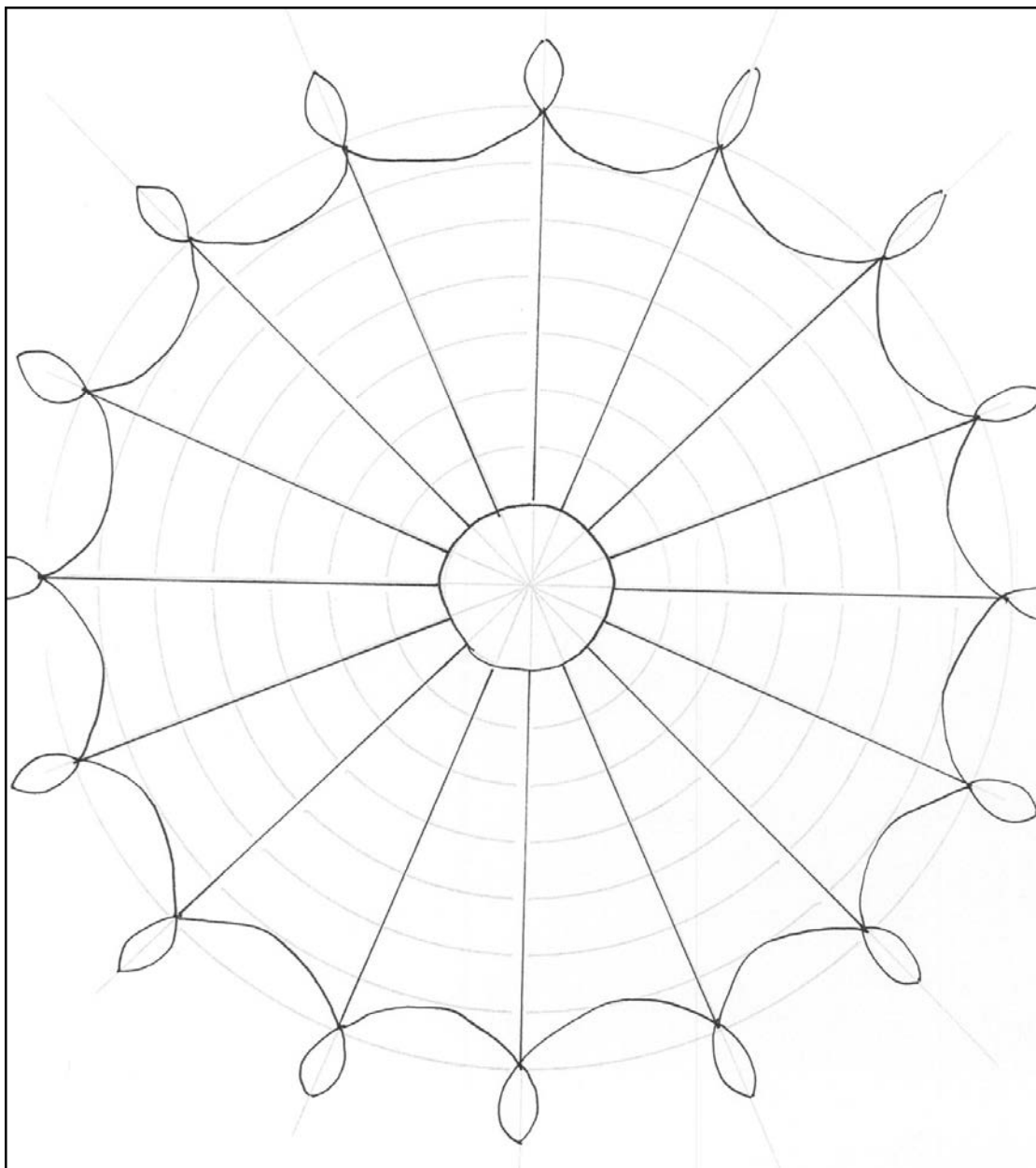




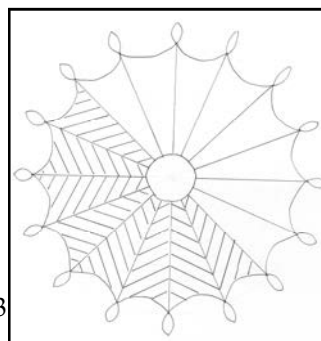
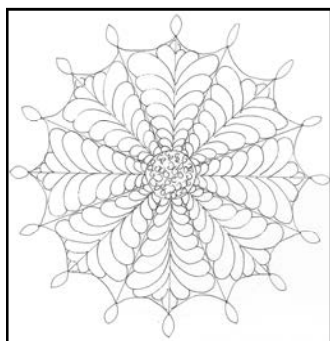
1. Determine how far “in” you want your petals to come and draw a dot. Use every other line and the circles as your guide.
2. Connect your dots.
3. Determine how far “out” you want your petals to go using the angled lines and circles as your guide. Make a dot.
4. Draw an arch from dot to dot.

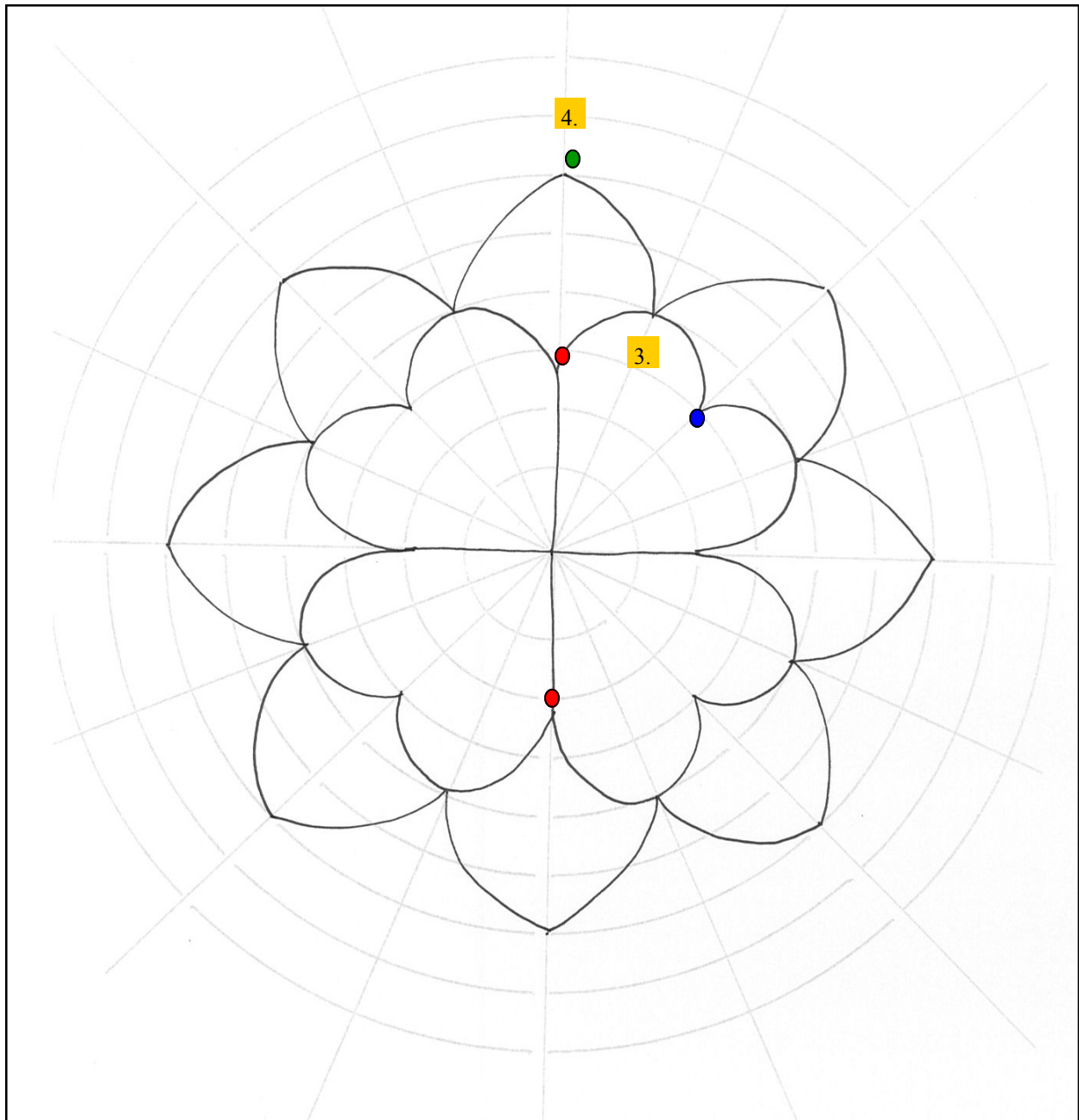
Don’t stress about making the petals perfect!



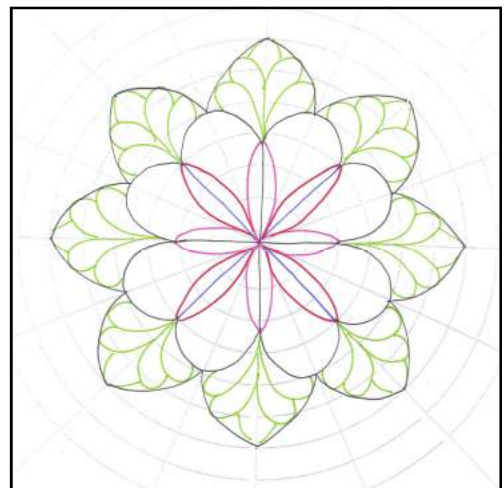


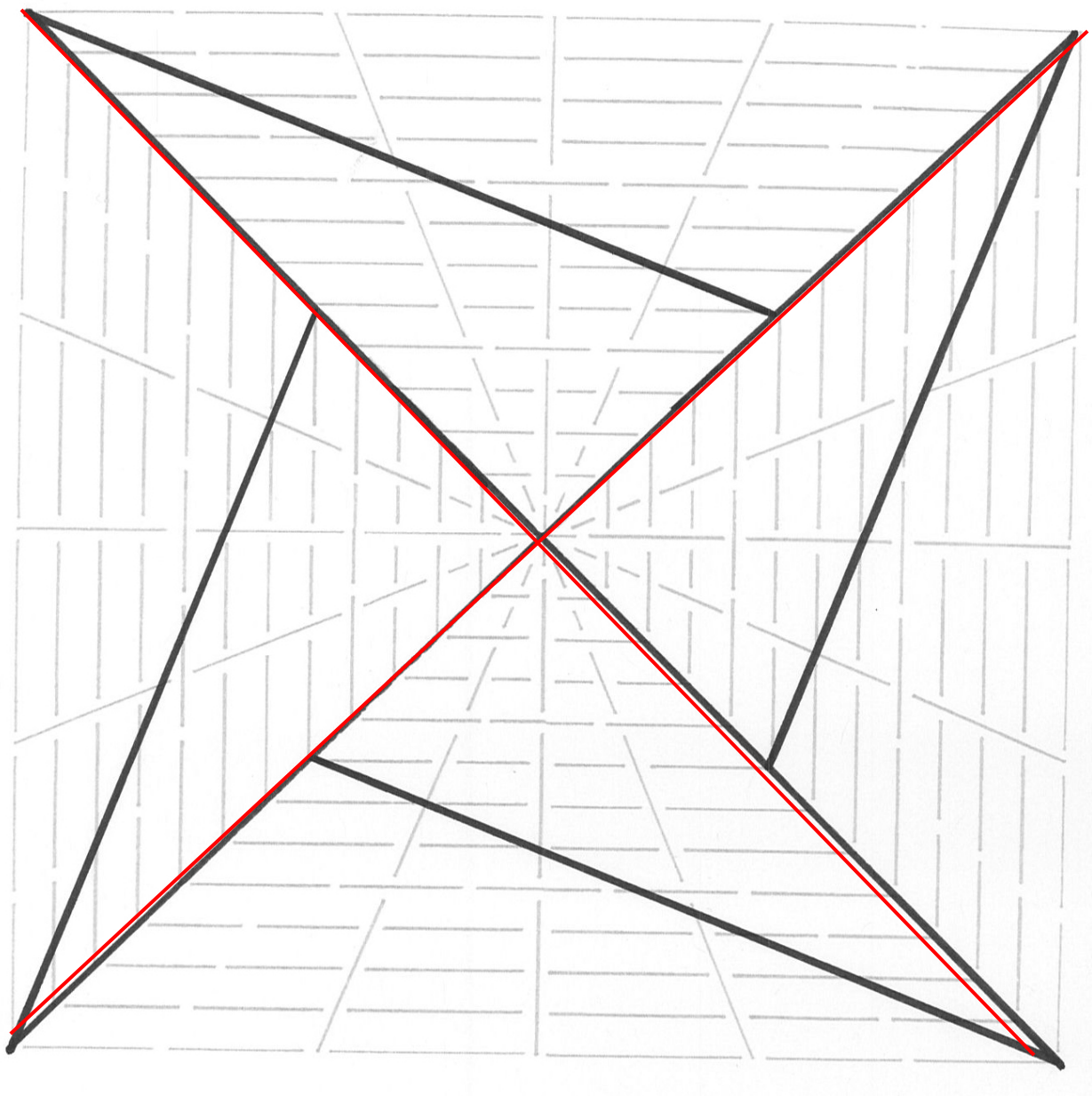
1. Draw your center circle first.
2. Determine how far out you want your spokes to come using the circles as your guide. Draw that circle. Now draw the angled lines going all the way out to that circle. *(You don't have to use every single line...you can space your lines further apart).*
3. Draw an arch in between each angled line.
4. Draw little petals at the end of each line.



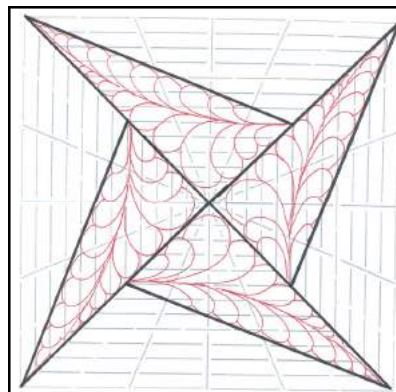
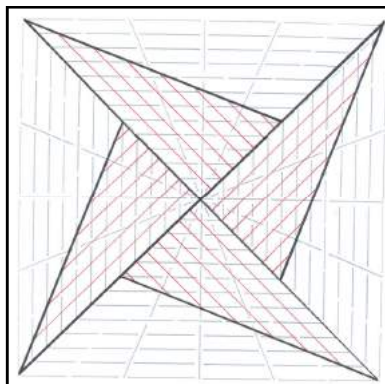


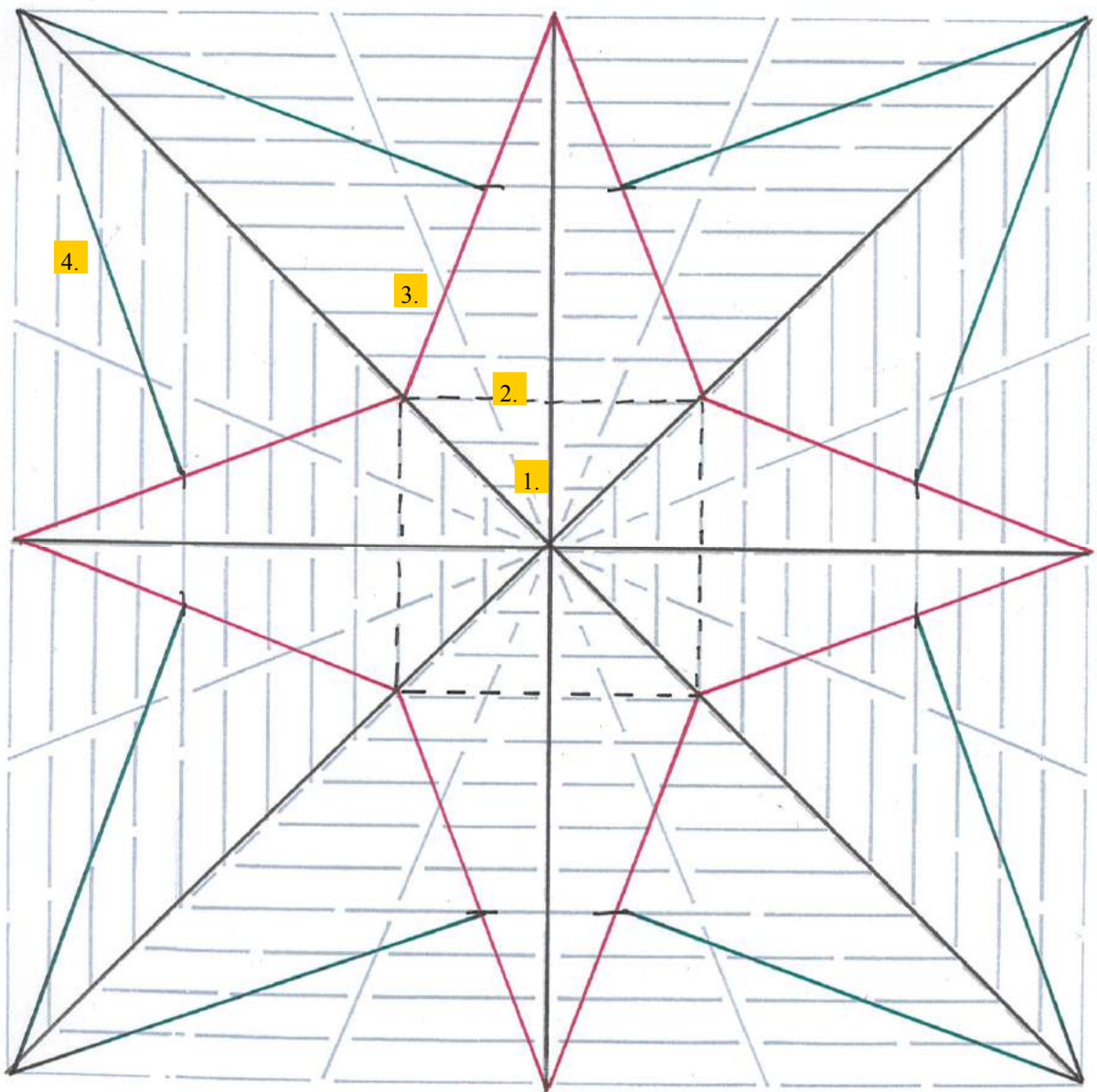
1. Determine where you want the rounded points of your heart to come IN. Make a dot. ●
Connect your dots. ↔
2. Skip two lines and make another dot for the center of the heart. ●
3. Make your heart arches from dot to dot.
4. Determine how far up you want your petals to go. Make a dot. Now draw an arch from the top of the heart to your dot and repeat eight times.





1. Draw your 45 degree lines in each corner.
2. Determine how far down you want your blade to come and mark it from the outside corner in.





1. Draw your angled lines first.
2. Mark your square where you wish your angles to come in to.
3. Mark your four pointed star.
4. Mark your outside angles.

