

AS SEEN IN
QUILTCON
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ECHOES QUILT

BY LEANNE CHAHLEY
Member of the Edmonton MQG



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I LOVE CIRCLES, ESPECIALLY ONES that occur in nature. Almost lost in the negative space, these circles echo in this bold, modern quilt. As I developed this block, in my mind's eye I kept seeing it as a three-dimensional globe flower or seedpod, like a dandelion flower. It reminded my friend Krista of the allium plant.

DIRECTIONS

All seams are $\frac{1}{4}$ ".

WOF = width of fabric

Fabric must be at least 42" wide from selvedge to selvedge.

Prepare the quilt top

1. Trace templates A and B onto cardstock or template plastic. Cut them out.

2. From the background fabric:

— Cut 2 strips $40\frac{1}{4}$ " \times WOF. Sub-cut 1 piece to 40" and the other to 30". Piece them together to make 1 piece $40\frac{1}{4}$ " \times 70". Set aside.

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— Cut 1 strip $6\frac{1}{2}$ " \times WOF. Sub-cut 2 pieces $6\frac{1}{2}$ " \times $20\frac{1}{2}$ ".

— Cut 2 strip $5\frac{1}{2}$ " \times WOF. Sub-cut into 12 squares $5\frac{1}{2}$ " \times $5\frac{1}{2}$ ".

— Cut 6 strips 6" \times WOF. Using template B, trace 36 pie-shaped pieces.

— From the block fabrics, cut 1 strip 6" \times 18" from each of the fat eighths.

Tip: To reduce stretching the curves while sewing, apply

spray starch to the fabric strips before tracing the template and cutting.

3. Using template A, cut a total of 36 L-shaped pieces from the various colors.

Tip: If you are using scraps, cut 36 squares $6\frac{1}{2}$ " \times $6\frac{1}{2}$ ". Place template A on each, and cut 36 L-shaped pieces.

Make the blocks

1. To piece the quarter circles, pair 1 background pie shape (template B) and one colored L shape (template A). Fold each in half along the curved edge. Finger press a mark in the curve at the halfway point. Open the pieces back up.

2. Working with a $\frac{1}{4}$ " presser foot or a foot with a $\frac{1}{4}$ " mark, place the L-shaped piece right side up on the bed of the sewing machine so you see the right angle of the L to your left and the edge of the curve is at the $\frac{1}{4}$ " mark on the foot.

3. Right sides together, place the pie shape on top of the L shape, with the curve down and to the left, away from the curve on the L shape. Align the edge of the pie shape curve with the $\frac{1}{4}$ " mark on the presser foot. (FIGURE 1)



materials

FINISHED BLOCK 20" \times 20"
FINISHED QUILT 70" \times 70"

■ Fabric for quilt top (I used Kona® Cotton from Robert Kaufman.)

— Background and binding, 5 $\frac{1}{4}$ yds. (I used Charcoal.)

— Fabric for the pieced blocks, 12 fat eighths or 36 scrap squares $6\frac{1}{2}$ " \times $6\frac{1}{2}$ " (I used Kona solids in shades of aqua, teal, and ocean green.)

■ Backing fabric, 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ yds.

■ Templates A and B

■ Cardstock or template plastic

■ Spray starch

■ Fabric-safe marker

■ Tweezers

■ Batting, 78" \times 78" or a double/full

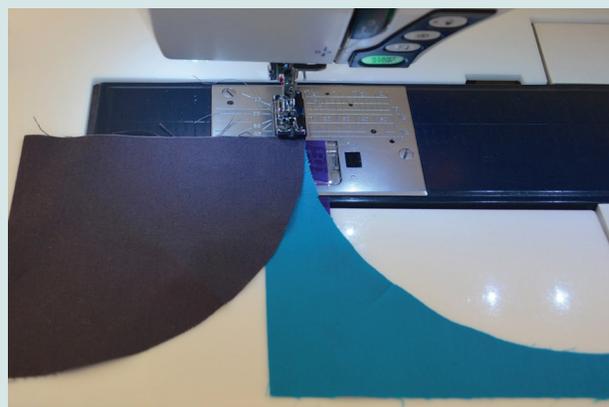


FIGURE 1

PROCESS PHOTOS COURTESY OF LEANNE CHAHLEY



FIGURE 2



FIGURE 3

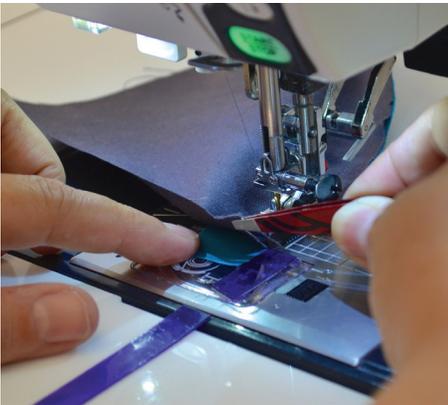


FIGURE 4

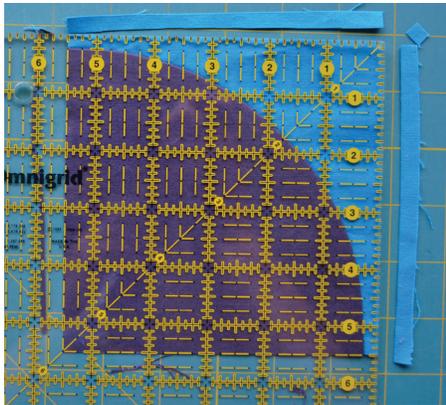


FIGURE 5

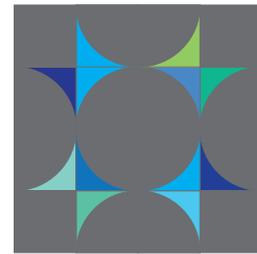
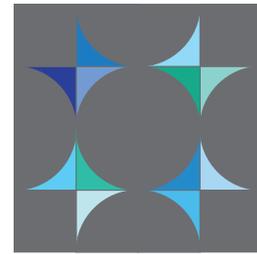
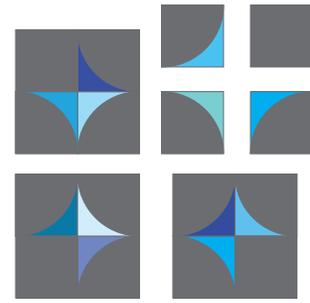


FIGURE 6

4. Take 2 or 3 stitches and stop with the needle down. Raise the presser foot. Lift the pie shape up at least 45° from the L shape. Reposition the pie shape so that the edge of its curve is at the ¼" mark on the presser foot. Make sure the edge of L-shape curve is also at the ¼" mark. Lower the presser foot. (FIGURE 2)

5. Stitch slowly, continuing to hold the pie shape up with your left hand and guiding the L shape with your right hand.

Tip: Because these are bias edges, work gently to prevent stretching.

6. As you approach the finger-pressed marks, gently stretch one or the other

piece slightly, if needed, so the marks meet. (FIGURE 3)

7. Near the end of the seam, stop with the needle down. Use tweezers to grasp and ease the last of the pie shape to the L shape. (FIGURE 4) Sew to complete the seam.

8. Press the seam allowance toward the L shape, being careful not to stretch the block.

9. Align the ruler ¼" beyond the seam where the L shape meets the pie. Trim all 4 sides so the block is 5½" square. (FIGURE 5)

10. Make 36 total pieced blocks.

11. Arrange the pieced blocks and the 5½" background

squares as shown in FIGURE 6. Each section consists of 12 pieced quarter circles and 4 background squares. Make 3 sections.

12. Sew the sections together in a row, matching the seam lines where they intersect.

Assemble the quilt top

1. Sew a 6½" × 20½" background border to the top of the strip of pieced blocks and the other 6½" × 20½" background border to the bottom. Press. Measure the pieced block strip. If it is longer than 70", trim half of the excess length from each of the top and bottom so that the block strip is 70". (FIGURE 7)

managing the curve

In addition to the method described, there are several other methods for piecing quarter circles. Experiment with some extra fabric and find the method that works best for you.

- Pin at the beginning, center mark, and end of the curves. Ease the fabric as you sew.
- Pin every ¼" or so, starting at the beginning and end of the curves.
- Use a special presser foot for stitching curves, if one is available for your sewing machine.
- Sew without pins by starting at the center mark and stitching out to one end. Remove the pieces from the machine, place the needle back in the center, and stitch out to the other end.

2. Sew the 70" × 10½" background strip to the right side of the pieced block strip. Press.

3. Sew the 70" × 40½" background strip to the left side of the pieced block/ background unit. Press.

Complete the quilt

1. Trim the selvages from the backing fabric and cut it in half. Sew the pieces together along the long edges. Press the seam open.

2. Layer the backing, wrong side up, batting, and quilt top, right side up. Baste as desired.

3. Quilt as desired.

4. Trim the excess batting and backing and square up the quilt to 70" × 70".

Note: Given the large amount of negative space, there are few reference points for much of the trimming. Start by trimming the edge closest to the pieced blocks, using them as a guide. Use that straight line as your reference to trim the rest of the quilt. It helps to place the quilt on the floor and measure and mark each edge line before you trim.

5. From the remainder of the backing fabric, cut 8 strips 2½"

× WOF. Remove the selvages from the strips and join them with diagonal seams to create 1 strip. Press the binding strip in half, wrong sides together. Bind as desired.

6. To achieve the modern industrial texture, wash and dry the quilt using medium heat settings. Laundering causes the quilt to fully draw in along the quilting lines. Some shrinkage may occur which results in the crinkles that provide added texture to your modern quilt.

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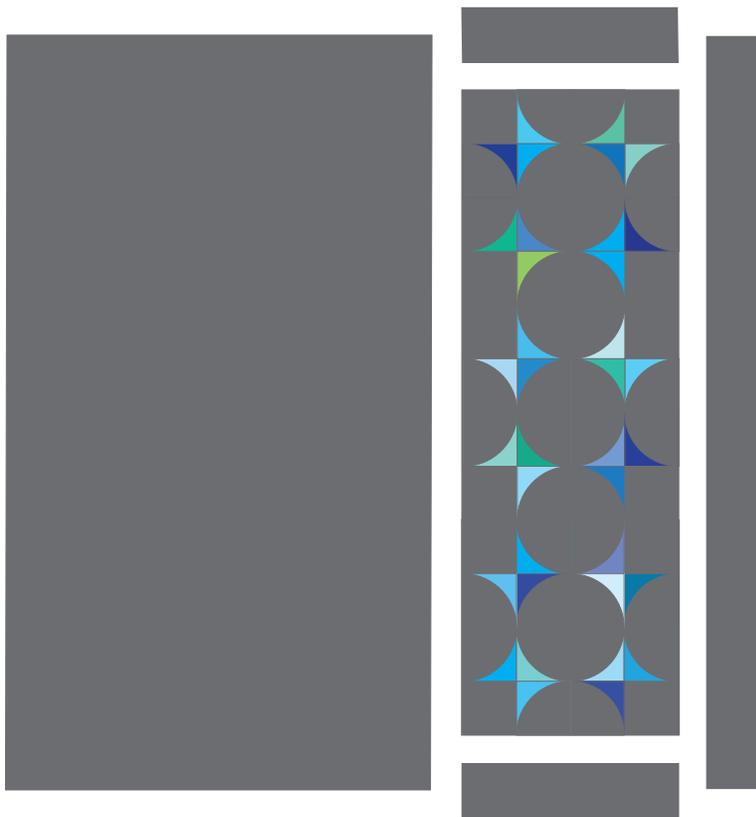


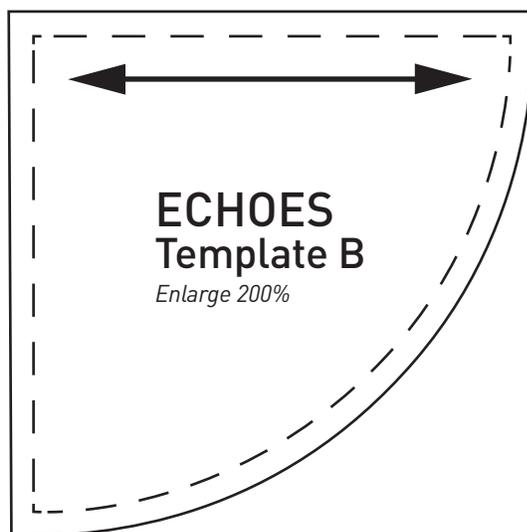
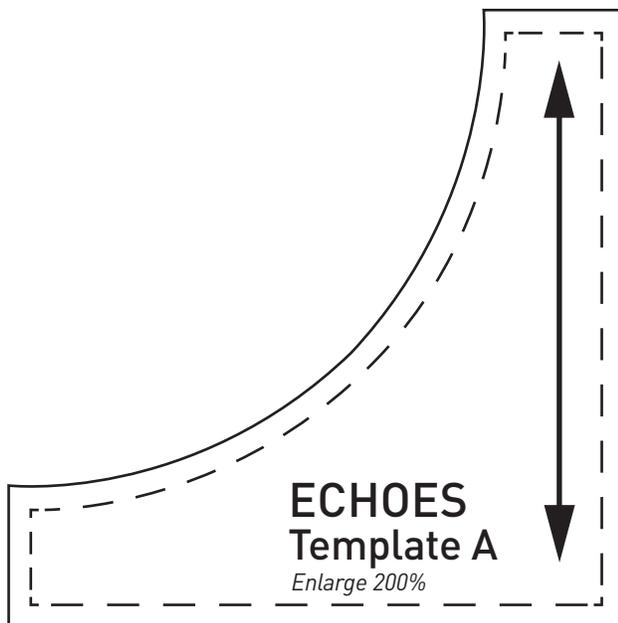
FIGURE 7

desire this quilting?

The quilting on Echoes can be achieved by any quilter—even beginners!—with a home sewing machine by using the following tips:

- Sew not-quite-straight lines randomly spaced about ¼"–¾" apart. By allowing the lines to wobble just a little bit and placing the lines in a slightly random fashion, the quilting is not difficult, yet creates an industrial modern look with plenty of texture.
- Because there is so much negative space to quilt, it is helpful to place some reference marks to help keep the quilting lines from tilting too much. Measuring from the seam line on the blocks, mark lines about every 3". As you approach these lines, use them as a reference to correct any tilt that is developing.
- Use a walking foot and a longer-than-usual stitch length. Start in the middle of the quilt and work to the edge, and then turn the quilt and repeat.

NOTE: Consider using thread in a color or colors that add interest to the large negative space in this quilt. I quilted with Superior Threads King Tut #927, a bright aqua, variegated thread.



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