DESIGN BASICS

101

By Patricia Simons

True
Teardrop

Quilter's Rule™

The True Teardrop Design Tool is fully nested and made from ⅛" clear acrylic (pictured on right in Illustration 1). The Small and Mini True Teardrop Machine Quilting Tools (pictured in center and on left respectfully, in Illustration 1) are nested (two sizes each) and are made of ¼" clear acrylic.

Tip: Use painter's tape to hold the nested pieces together. The painter's tape serves two purposes: holds the template together and can be used as a guide for aligning the template.

Illustration 1

SIMPLE BLOCK DESIGN

Create a simple block design using the True Teardrop Design Tool and the Whole Cloth Grid. The technique is "Rotate".
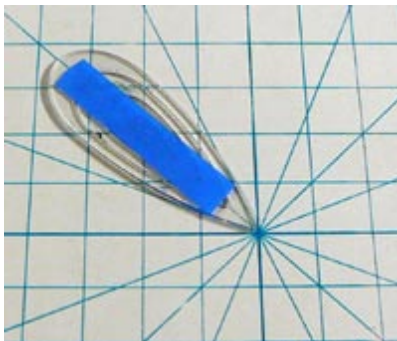

Illustration 2

Illustration 3

Place the tip of the True Teardrop on the center of the whole cloth grid and the rounded bottom edge split in half by the 45° line as shown in Illustration 2. Draw from the 90° line to the 90°line.
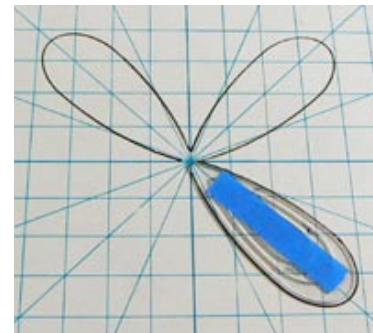
Rotate the template to the next 45° line and draw from the 90° line to the 90° line. Continue as seen in Illustration 3.
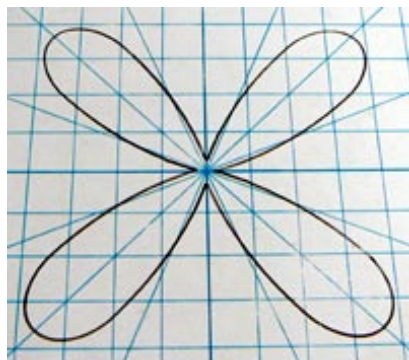

Illustration 4

Illustration 5

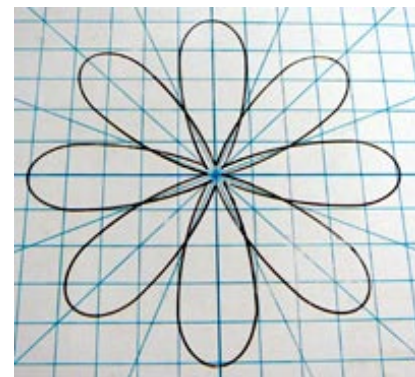When all four (4) 45° degree lines have been used, your design will look like Illustration 4.

If you use the 90° lines for your design as well (aligning the True Template on the 90° line as you did on the 45° and draw from 45° to 45° line), you will have the design shown in Illustration 5.

Transfer the design to any project by:
1. Tracing design directly onto project.
2. Print or copy design onto Foundation Paper, Stitch-Away-Paper and/or Wash Away paper or film.
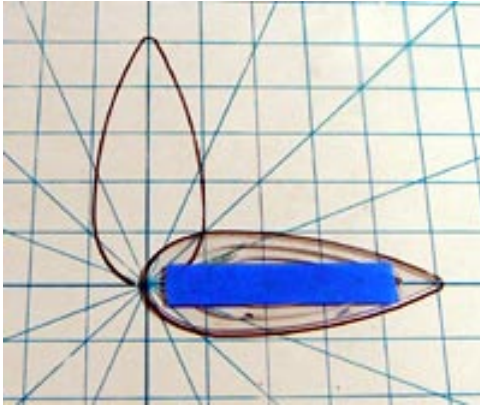
SIMPLE BLOCK DESIGN 2

Illustration 6

Illustration 7

Place the True Teardrop with the rounded bottom on the center point and the pointed tip on the vertical line. Draw completely around the template. Rotate the template to the next 90° line. Draw completely around the template (see Illustration 6).
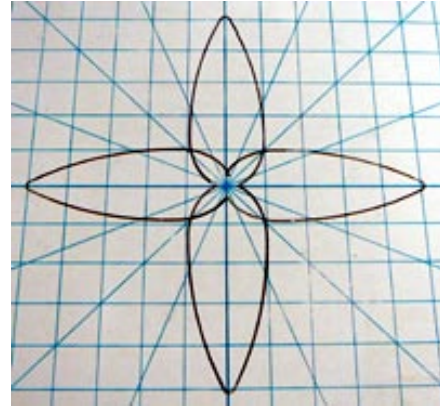
Repeat a total of four (4) times for the design in Illustration 7.
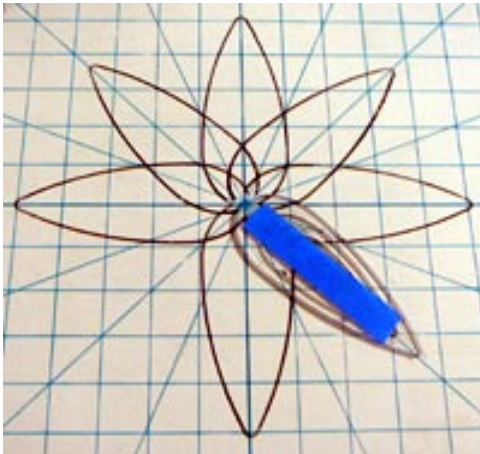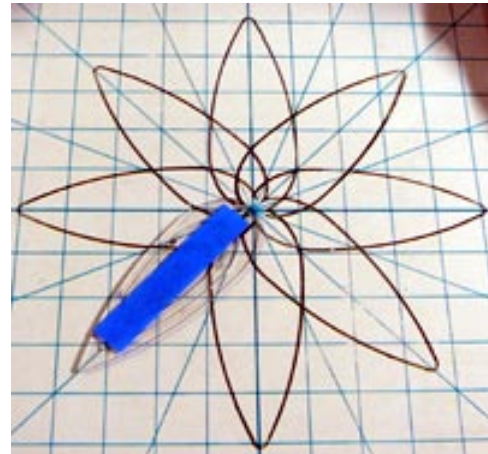

Illustration 8

Illustration 9

Repeat the placement of the template on the 45° lines (see Illustration 8 and 9). The completed design is shown in Illustration 10.
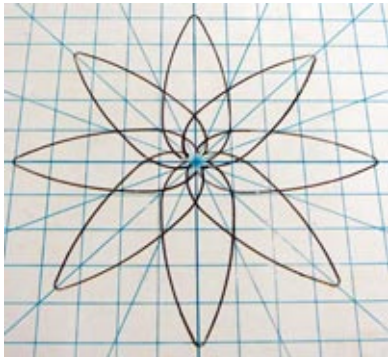

Illustration 10

Note: If you would prefer to quilt directly on the quilt without marking, use our 1/4" machine quilting tools. When using the machine quilting template allow a 1/4" of space to accommodate the hopping foot when placing the template.

Transfer design using your favorite transfer method.

BLOCK DESIGN VARIATIONS

If you desire a design with less quilting in the center, take a Q-Tip and erase the lines in the center (see Illustration 11). You can choose how open you desire the design to be (see Illustration 12).
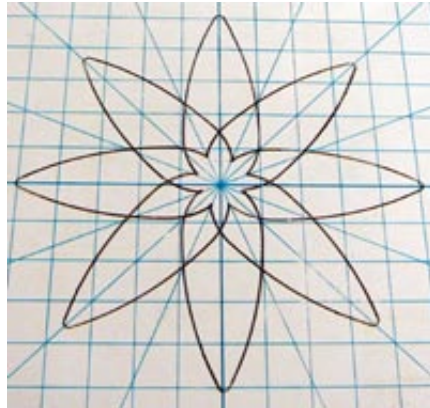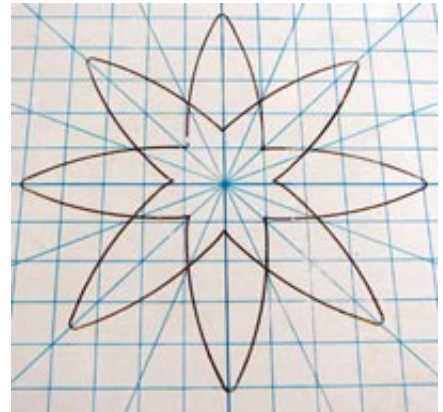

Illustration 11

Illustration 12

SIMPLE BLOCK DESIGN 3

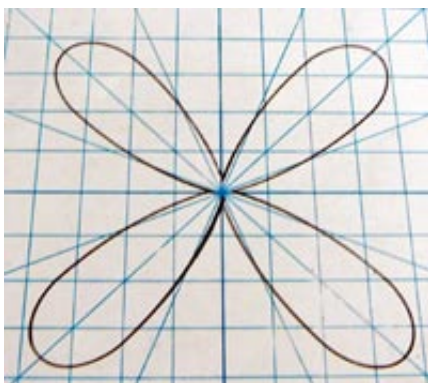This design is a combination of the first two Simple Block Designs.

Illustration 13

Illustration 14

Illustration 15

Start with the design created in Simple Block Design up to Illustration 4.
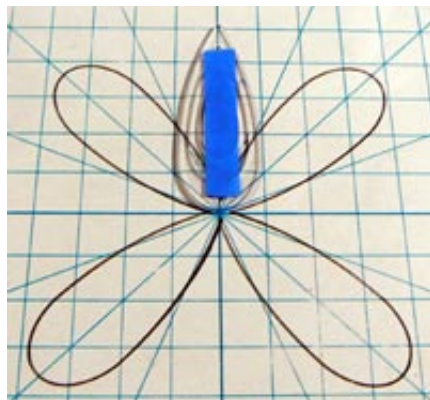
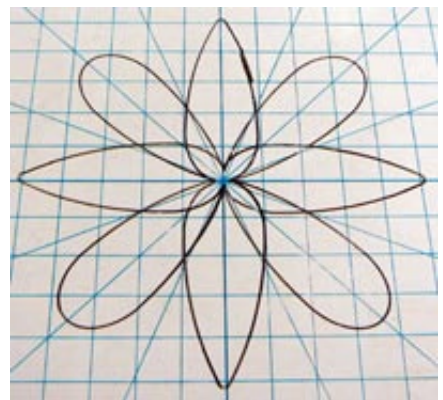Continue by adding the design from Simple Block Design 2 up to Illustration 7.

The completed design.

Note: If you would prefer to quilt directly on the quilt without marking, use our 1/4" machine quilting tools. When using the machine quilting template allow a 1/4" of space to accommodate the hopping foot when placing the template.

Transfer design using your favorite transfer method.

BORDER DESIGN 1

Create a simple border design using the True Teardrop Design Tool and the Border Grid. The technique is "Slide".
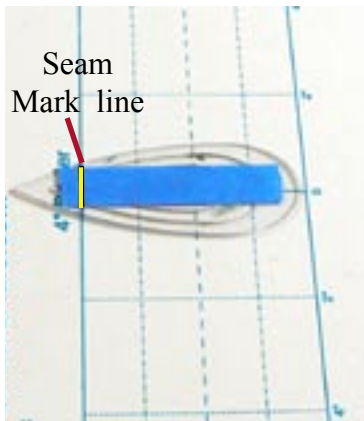

Illustration 16

Line the True Teardrop so the rounded bottom edge of the template is on the inside of your border. (NOTE: if you are marking your quilt, you simply need enough room for your marking tool. If you are using a mid- or long-arm machine without marking, remember to leave room for your foot which for most machines is ¼" from needle to outside edge of your foot.) Using a marker or blue painter's tape mark where the seam line is on your template for ease of placement of your template as you move it down the border (see Illustration 16).
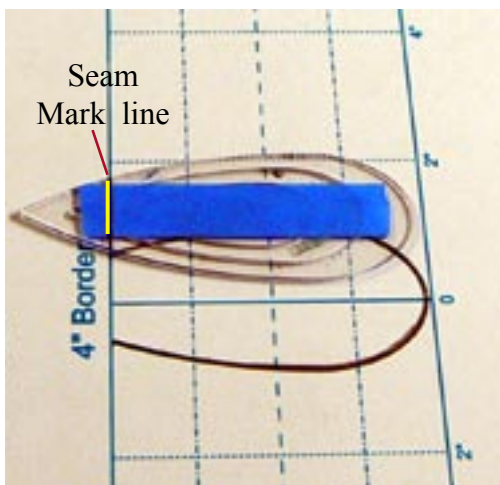

Illustration 17

Illustration 18

Draw from one side of your template to the other. Do not cross over the seam line. Slide your template up the seam until bottom edge of the template touches your design while keeping the seam lined up on the marked template (see Illustration 17).
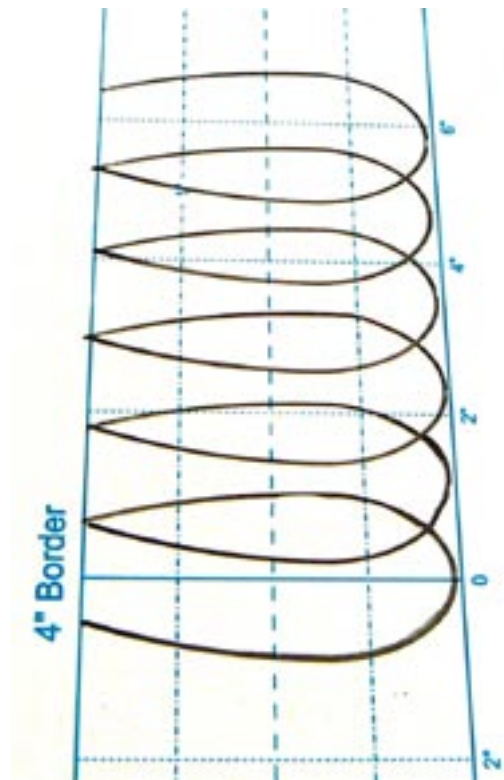
Draw from one side of your template to the other. Continue to slide your template until your border is done as shown in Illustration 18.

BORDER DESIGN 2

The technique is "Flip"

Line the "tip & tail" of the True Teardrop on the long center line of the border. Line the second largest True Teardrop's rounded bottom edge on the center of the border as shown in Illustration 19. Draw completely around the template.

Illustration 19

Flip the template to the opposite side of the border center lining it up as shown in Illustration 20. Mark the template where the drawn lines show through as shown in Illustration 20. You will need these marks as we move down the border. Draw completely around the template.
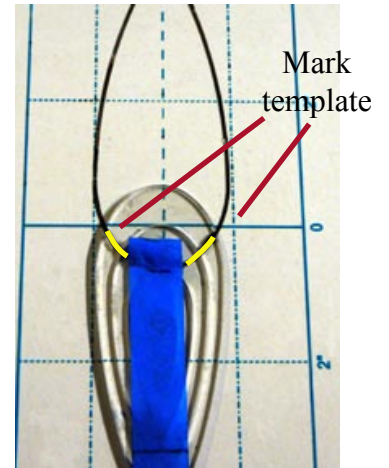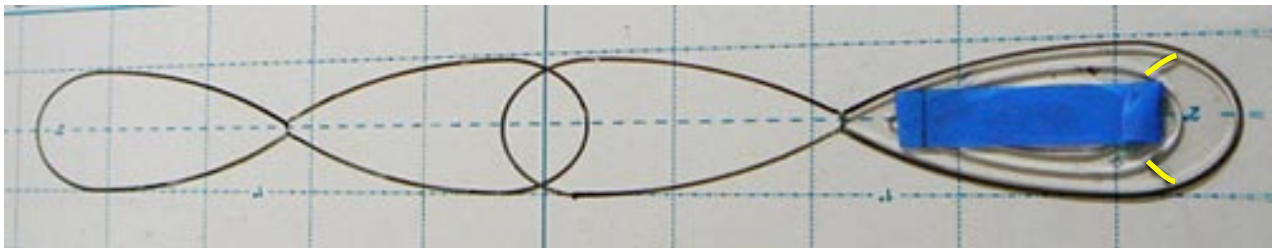

Mark template

Illustration 20

Illustration 21

Flip the template, lining up drawn tip to template tip (Illustration 21). Draw completely around the template.

Flip the template lining up the marks made on the template with the drawn lines (see Illustration 22). Draw completely around the template. Continue to flip the template until border design is desired length.
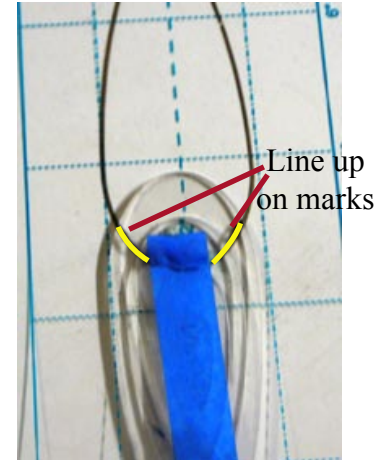

Finished Design

Line up on marks

Illustration 22

When stitching this design, here is one suggestion (see Illustration 23). This path necessitates stitching a portion of the design twice (shown with the blue arrows); however it is continuous line, and a smoother stitching path. If you do not want to stitch a portion twice, you'll need to follow a different path that will use a sharp point instead.
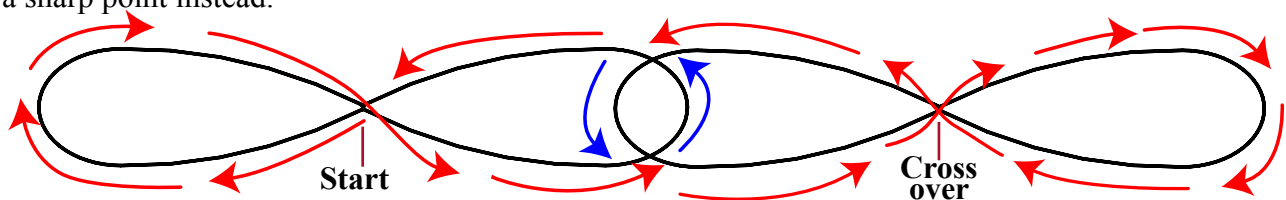

Start

Cross over

Illustration 23

NOTE: Please note the different effect created when drawing around the point of a template vs. stitching around the template. The template on the left uses a Tube Template Tester to simulate the effect of your foot on a mid- or long-arm machine on the stitching. Notice the more rounded effect achieved when compared to the right template's drawn line. Both templates are identical. The round foot of mid- and long-arm machines will "round" out any point.
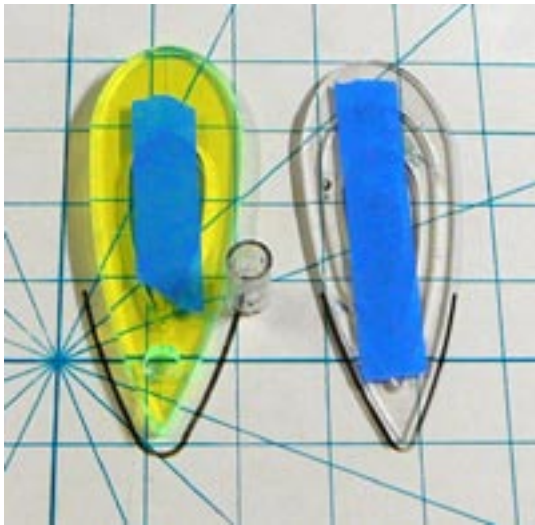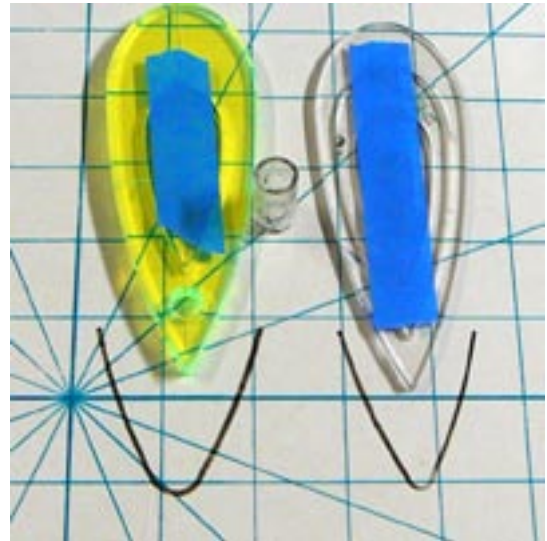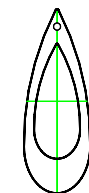

Illustration 24

Illustration 25

PRODUCTS USED FOR CREATING YOUR OWN DESIGNS
True Teardrop TEMPLATE

Dry or wet erase pens can be used on all of our printed vinyl templates to test your quilt designs. Once you complete your design simply transfer onto the Stitch-Away-Paper or use what ever transfer technique with which you are comfortable.
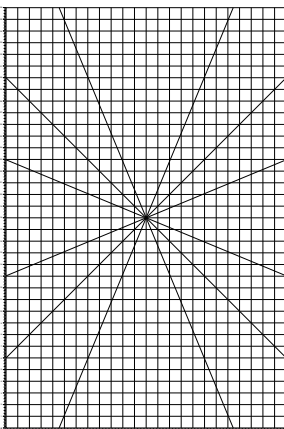
REUSABLE DESIGN GRIDS

Whole Cloth Grid
Overall Size - 25" x 38"
Grid Size - 24" x 36"
Measurement - 1" grid with 1/8" increments on side
Guide Line: 22½°, 45°, & 90°

Quilter's Rule Border Grid
(800) 343-8671   www.QuiltersRule.com
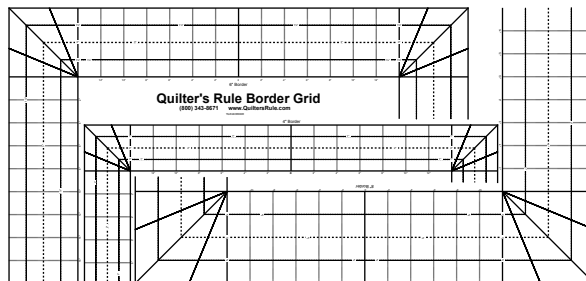
• 4", 6", and 8" wide border layouts with two corners
• Layouts are marked with a center line as well as two additional lines to center floating designs
• The center of each border layout is marked for working on center motifs
• Each corner has the 45° angle marked as well as two more angles for help in turning corners
• Overall template size is 25" x 52"

SF-DT04-B
Nested set of 4 Templates
1/8" thick acrylic
Sizes: 1/2" X 1 1/4" ,
7/8" x 2 1/2" , 1 3/8" x 3 3/4",
and 1 3/4" x 5"


MQT-MN04-B & MQT-SM04-B
1/4" thick acrylic
Perfect for quilting directly on your quilt.
Sizes: MQT-MN04-B: 1 3/4" x 5", 7/8" x 2 1/2"
MQT-SM04-B: 3 1/2" x 10", 2 1/4" x 6 1/4"

STITCH-AWAY-PAPER
Stitch-Away-Paper can be used for tracing patterns/ designs onto your project or for foundation piecing.

Use alone or with the Whole Cloth and Block Grids. Available in two sizes: 25" x 36" and 8½" x 11"