



How to make a circle mandala

by Tracy Gillespie

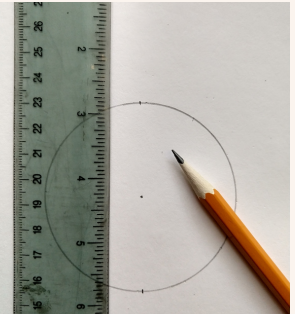


CIRCLE MANDALA:

Step by step instructions

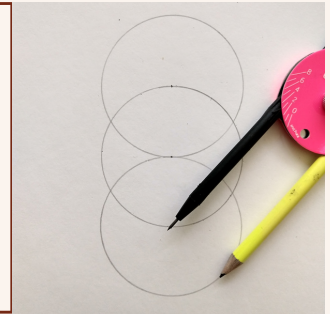
1.

Set your compass to a radius of around 1.5 inches and draw a circle. **KEEP YOUR COMPASS AT THIS SETTING FOR THE ENTIRE DRAWING.** With your straightedge, make two marks on opposite sides of the circle



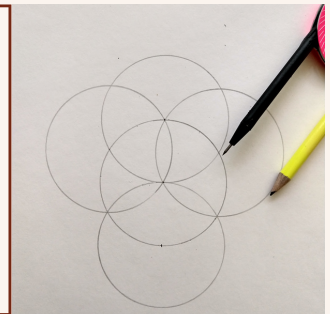
2.

Using these marks as center points, draw two new circles. Notice you have four points along the circumference of your original circle where the two new circles intersect.



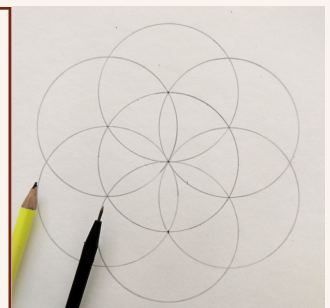
3.

Use these new intersection points as center points to draw four more circles.



4.

You now have a total of six circles going all the way around the circumference of the original circle. It's beautiful! You can totally stop here and start coloring if you want. But if you're ready for more, keep going!

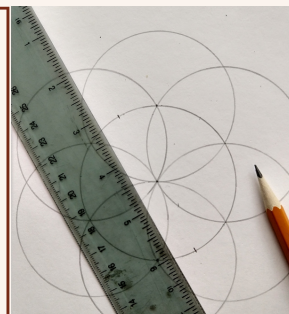


CIRCLE MANDALA:

Going Further!

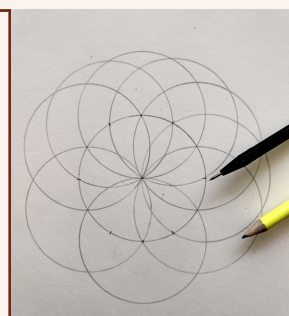
5.

Pick any intersection point of the outer circles. Use a ruler to find the line that connects this point with the center of the original circle and the intersection point of two circles on the opposite side. Mark where this line intersects with the original circle (both sides).



6.

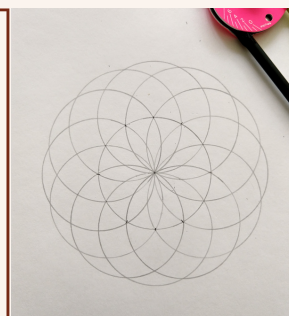
Use the newly marked points as centers of new circles. You are now dividing your original circle into twelfths using the same process you used to divide the original circle into sixths. Keep going around the original circle, using new intersection points as centers for more circles.



7.

You should now have a total of twelve circles that go all the way around the original circle.

Take a moment to contemplate your work. What do you notice? What do you wonder?



8.

Now it's time to color! You can go around the center with each color, or you can look for different patterns and pathways. Limiting yourself to 3-4 colors can bring interesting results. Notice how you feel as you work, and whether any insights arise.



Tips and Resources

Traditionally, geometric drawing is done with a hard pencil, like 2H or higher because it's lighter and easier to erase and doesn't show as much after coloring

If your circles aren't coming out the way you'd like, practice on a separate piece of paper. On most compasses, the technique is to set the center point, then twirl the top as the pencil point lightly skims the paper. Make sure the setting is tight so the radius doesn't change while you draw. It might take a bit of practice, but you can do it!

You can take the design even further by repeating the process until you have 24, 48 or even 96 divisions of the circle!

If you'd like to watch a video demonstration, Pepper and Pine does a nice one (with some variations in technique) at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l64Z0eBRkhU>

Tag me on Instagram @kitchentableprinter with pictures of your mandalas. I'd love to see what you create!

