Vintage Quilt Tutorial: Dresden Plate Part 1

quiltbarn.blogspot.com/2014/08/vintage-quilt-tutorial-dresden-plate.html

What you will need:

Template Printout
Scraps, fat eigths, fat quarters for blades (you need a piece at least 3"X5")
cardboard or template plastic
Frixon pen (or pencil)
thread and needle

You can see I just traced the paper but if I made more I would trace it on to cardboard or template plastic. I use a Frixon pen to trace because the lines come out with the heat of my iron. I don't worry about making mistakes and leaving behind ink marks.

You need 19 blades per plate (blades are the individual pieces I am tracing above. A plate is the blades all joined together)
You can use as many or as few different fabrics as you like.

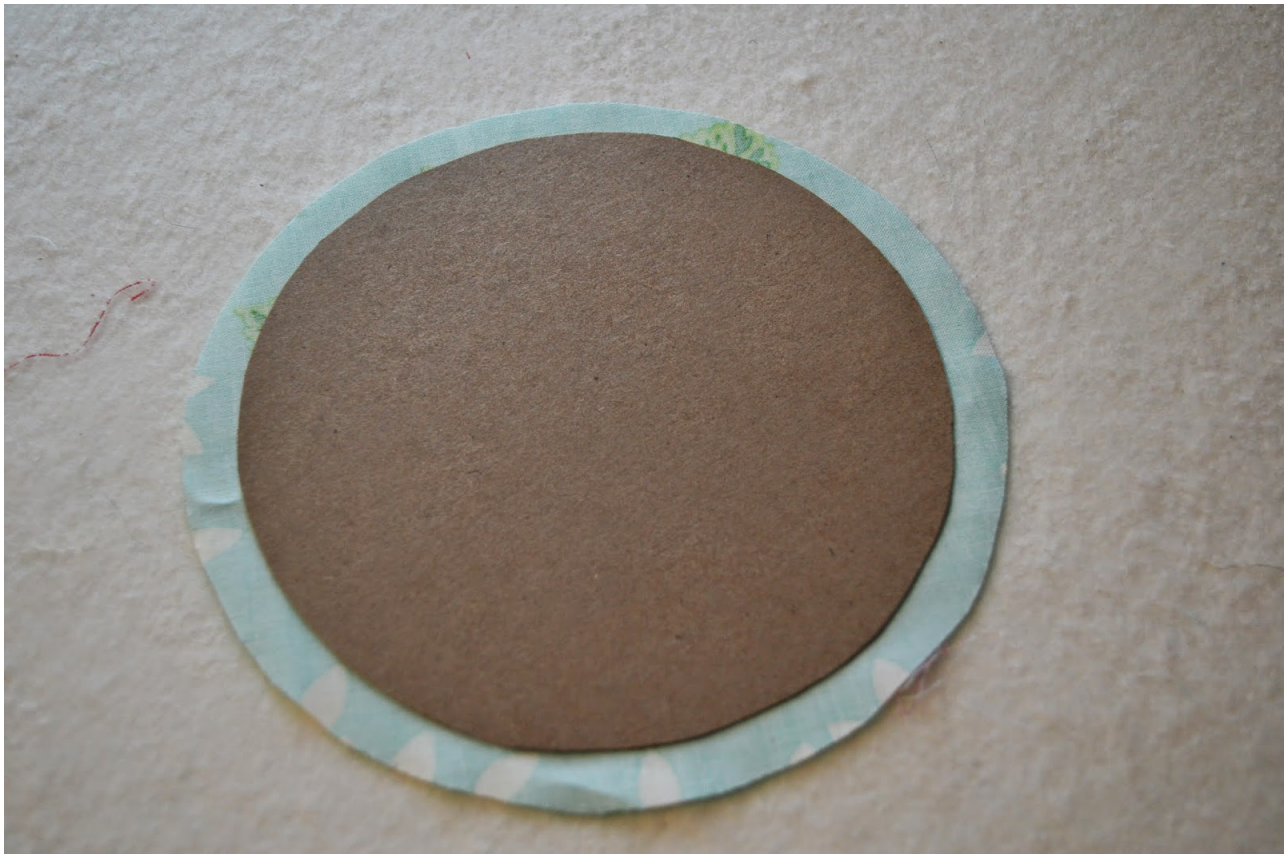
With right sides together sew all 19 blades together at the sides (1/4" seam allowance).

I made a mini design board and laid out the blades in a pattern I liked, carried the board over to my sewing machine, and sewed the blades together. Lori Holt has a great tutorial for these design boards

You can press the seams open (like above) or to the side. For my finished block I waited until all 19 blades were sewn together and then I ironed the whole piece, seams to one side.

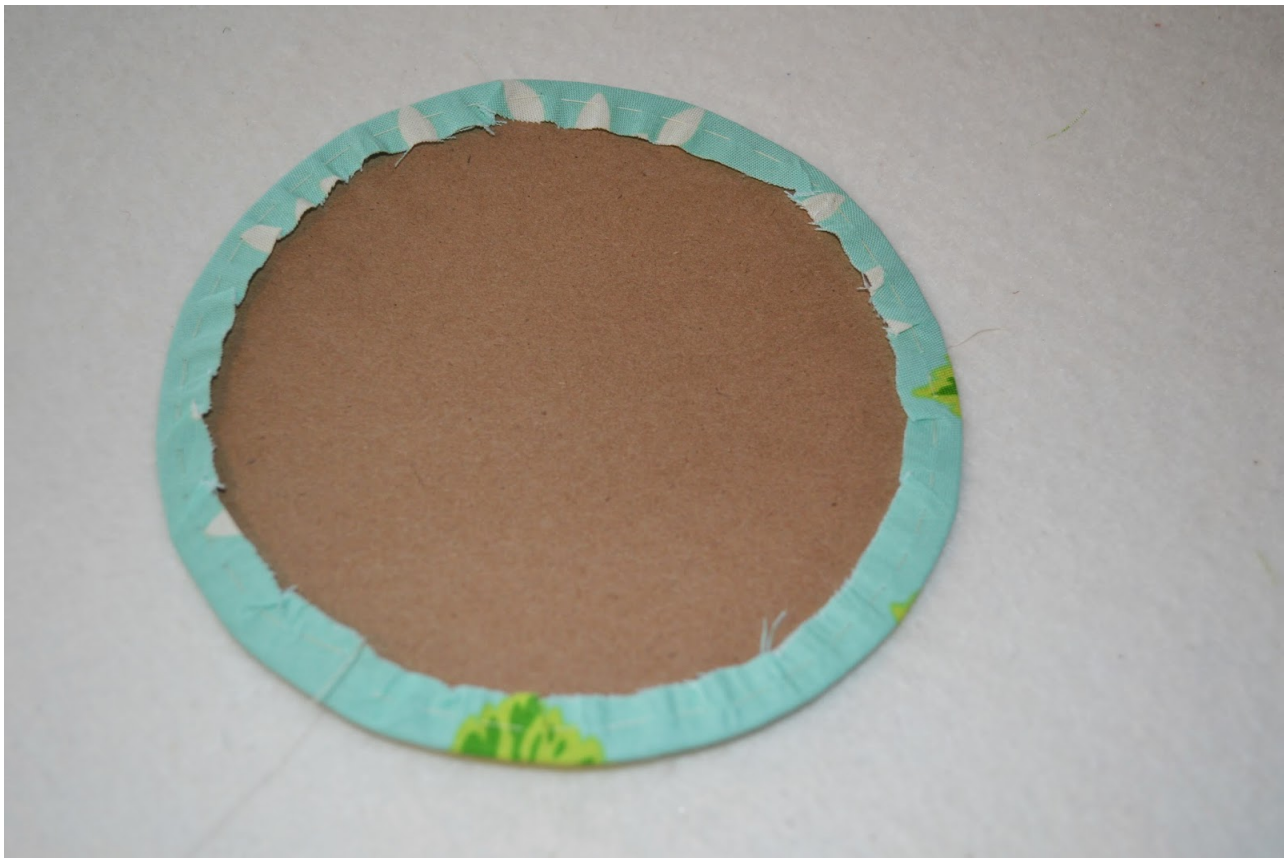
Now on to the middle circle.

Use the large circle template to trace and cut your fabric. I fussy cut this awesome bird from Heather Bailey's Up Parasol



I dont have a picture of this step but you can see it sort of in the next step.
Hand sew a basting stitch around the edge of the circle. Make sure your thread has a know at one end. It doesn't have to be pretty. When you get to where you started go a few stitches past. Leave a thread tail

Place your smaller circle template in the middle of the wrong side of the cut out larger circle (for this part you will need to trace the paper template on to cardboard or template plastic)



Pull the thread tail holding the cardboard in place. The fabric edges will gather up over the circle.
Iron the front and back of the circle. Remove the cardboard.

There you have it. Now go and sew up a bunch of blades!

Vintage Quilt Thursday:Dresden Plate Tutorial: Part 2

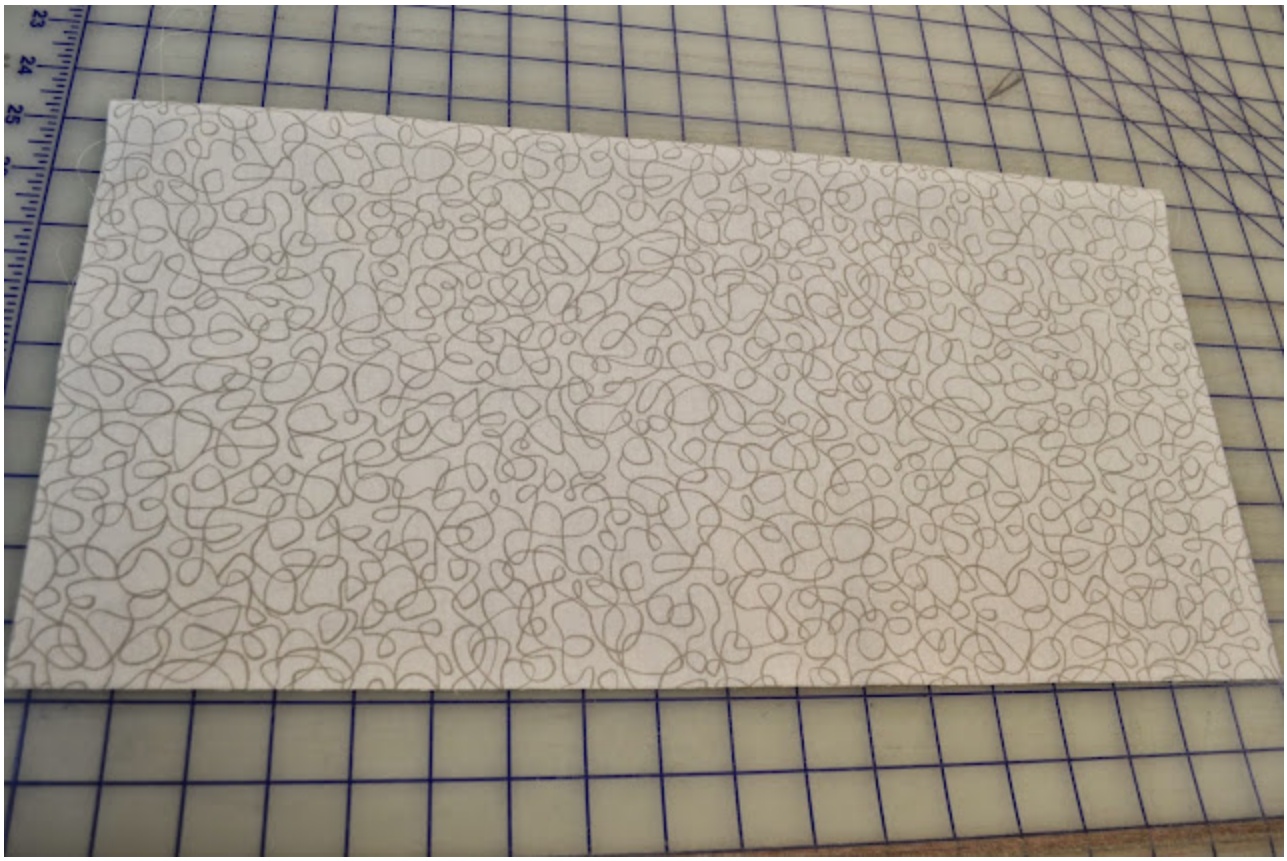
quiltbarn.blogspot.com/2014/08/dresden-plate-tutorial-part-2.html

First, an apology for the delay. I got ridiculously sick with the flu Thursday morning and was laid up for several days. It feels good to be up and about again.

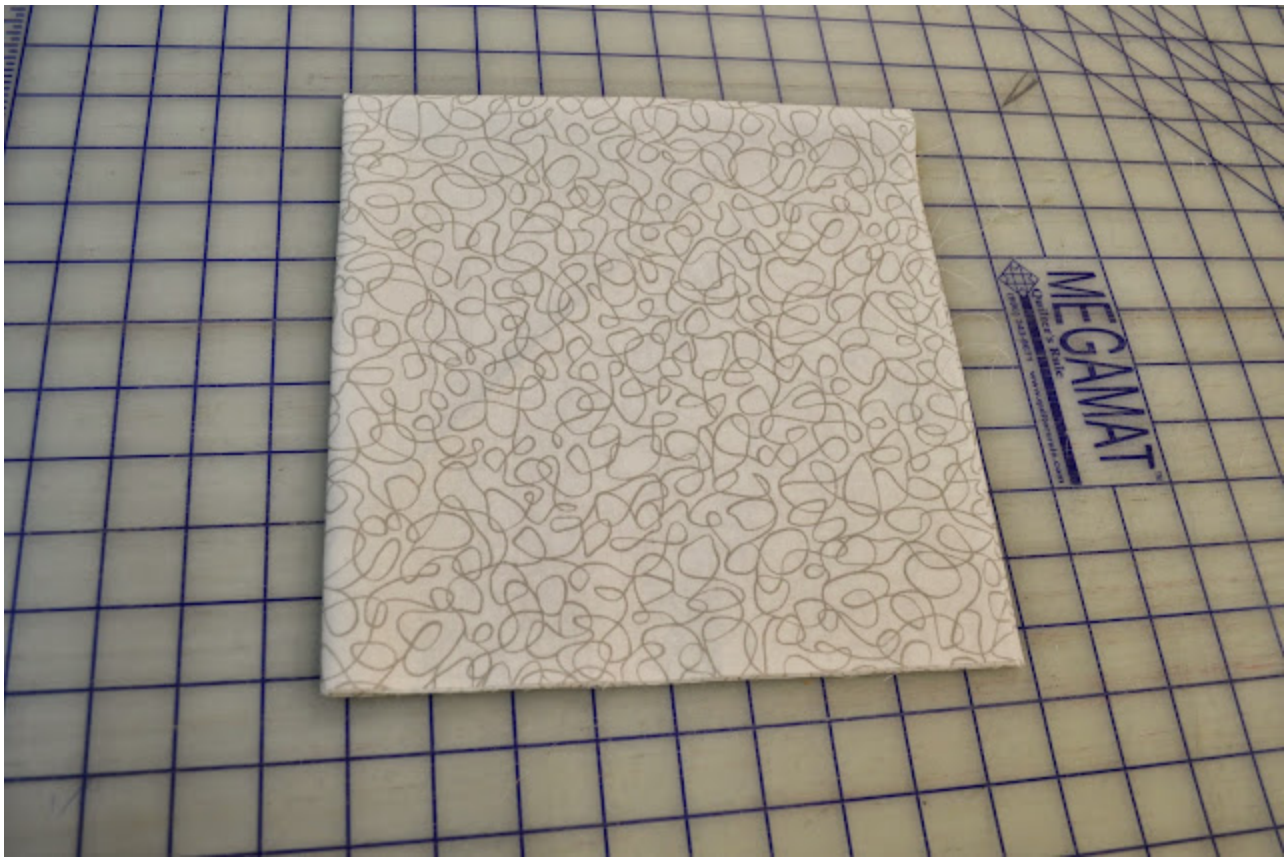
You will need:
Background fabric 18"X18" (I often cut my fabric to be appliqued on slightly bigger and then trim it after. The applique process can shrink the square a bit. I cut this square 18.25")

Pins, I like applique pins. They are smaller and I don't get poked with them like regular pins

Hand sewing needle and thread to match



Start with your 18" square background fabric. Fold it in half and press the fold with your finger.



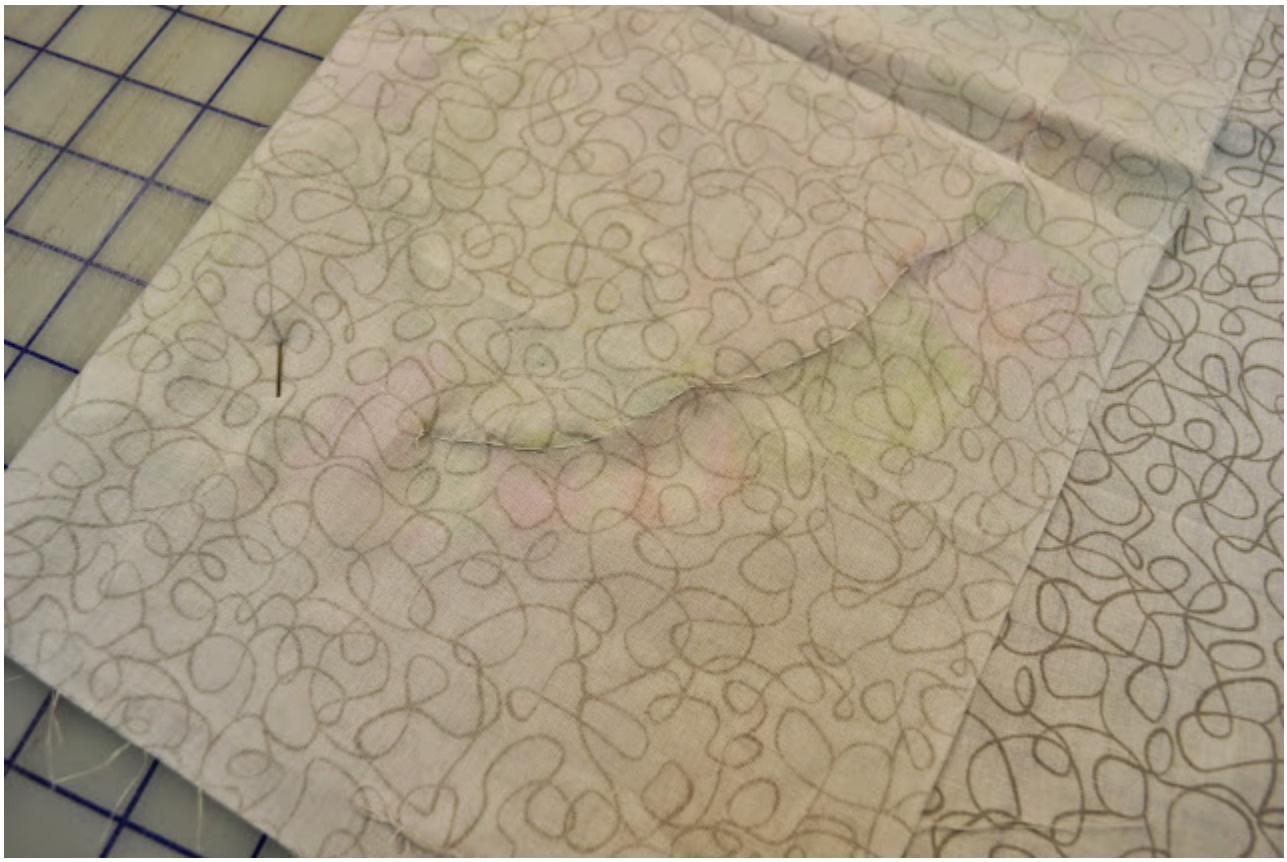
Fold in half again and finger press the seam. Open your square and you will see a cross hair pressed on the fabric. If you have trouble seeing the lines you can lightly press with an iron. Use this to center your plate circle.

You can see (barely, sorry) the middle cross hair is lined up with the center seam of the two blades.

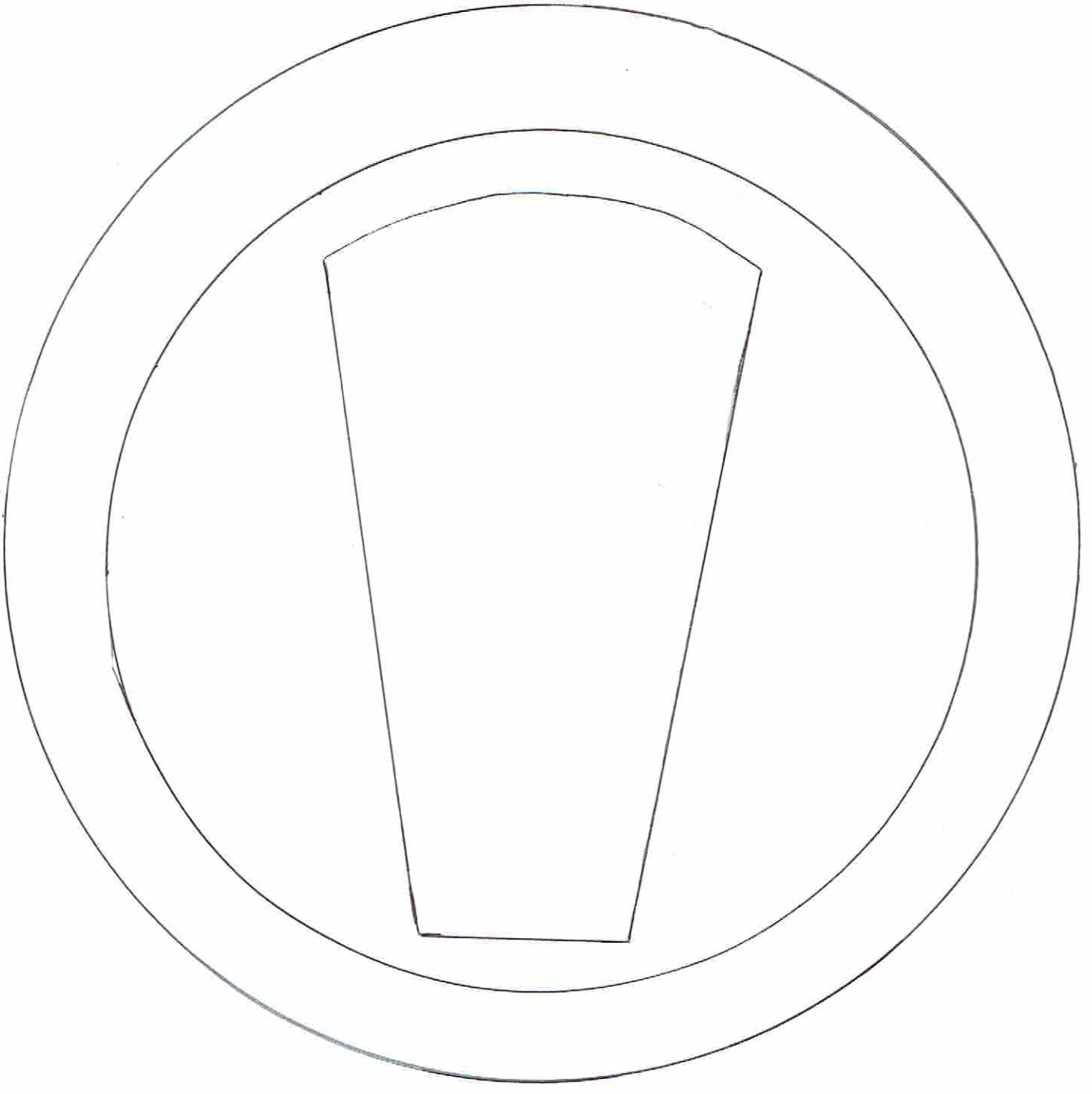
Place a pin in each blade to hold it in place (I am showing regular pins here). Don't stretch out the blades or your center circle will not fit properly.

Needle turn the edges under 1/4 inch.

The way I do it is to bring the needle up from the back, flick the edge of the fabric blade under with my needle and catch the edge (like you are sewing a binding). I turn under less than a quarter inch.



This is the back showing my stitches.

Place your prepared circle over the center, pin in place to hold, and stitch around to secure. You can use a blanket stitch, a decorative stitch, or a simple straight line. I straight line stitched very close to the edge of the circle.

Voila. I have a variation blade to share with you so you can mix up your dresden plate blocks. I also have another fun vintage block for you coming up starting with the vintage quilt inspiration this Thursday.