

The Case of the

secret garden

COTSG



About Sewing with Inklingo

The COTSG mystery is designed to teach some fun Inklingo techniques. One of the wonderful things about Inklingo is that we can sew by hand OR by machine OR combine both in one quilt.

The story of Inklingo would not have been possible if I had not been a hand piecer. As a quilting teacher and author, I was part of a small segment of the quilting industry which promoted traditional methods.

It may seem ironic to some that a digital solution was motivated by the most low-tech sewing method.

To others, it may seem ironic that a hi-tech method actually returns us to our traditional roots, before paper piecing, acrylic templates/ rulers, and other innovations. Thanks to Inklingo, quilters have lines on the fabric to guide the cutting and sewing, just like our quilting ancestors, and can cut with scissors *or* a rotary cutter.

It is my opinion that Inklingo was never going to be invented by a machine piecer. Since the introduction of the rotary cutter, quilters have been taught to sew by machine *without* the benefit of lines on the fabric.

Many techniques and tools have been designed to compensate for the lack of guidelines. However, the popularity of paper piecing makes it clear that quilters have always preferred to have a line. Quilters are willing to sew though paper instead of fabric, persist with the waste and confusion, and pick paper off afterwards, all because they love cutting and sewing along a line.

Inklingo gives us the lines—without the paper.

Clue #3

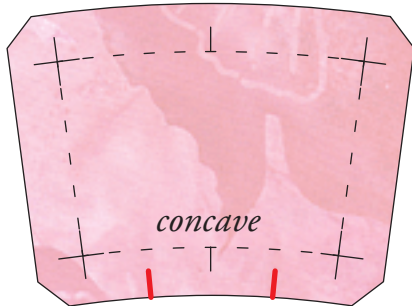


This week we start sewing!

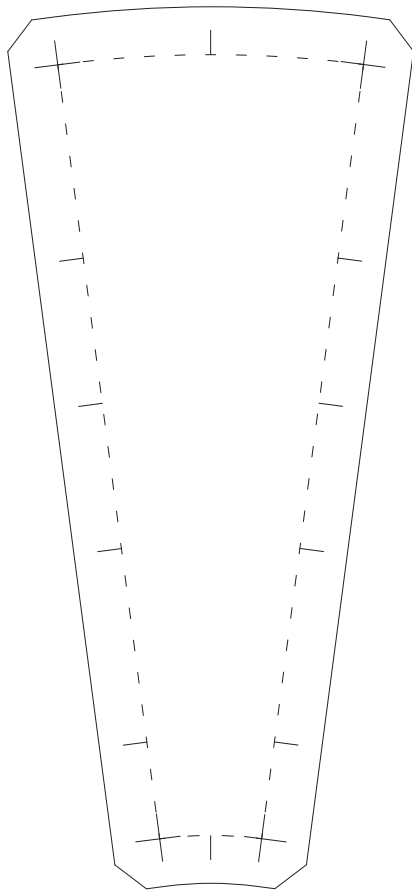
This assignment takes us closer to solving the mystery.

1. Sew 216 curved seams to sew 288 shapes together.
Every seam has a slight curve.
Don't worry! You can chain sew by machine or hand sew while you watch TV—or a little of both—and we have our best leads for you on the following pages.
2. Set up a portable sewing kit (optional).
This is perfect for sleuths who are on stake-outs in doctor's waiting rooms or at ballet lessons or hockey practice. You can do a lot of sewing in found time.
3. Print the medium fabric.
All of the accent fabric has been printed already and we will print the rest of the light and dark fabrics in clues # 4 and #5.
4. Catch up on printing and cutting from Clue # 2, if necessary.
5. Cut out all of the shapes that have been printed so far.
Watch the surveillance [video on YouTube](#).
Monkey is happy to have a "cutting short cut." (He loves puns and word play.) The short cut makes cutting 128 Shape F go fast!

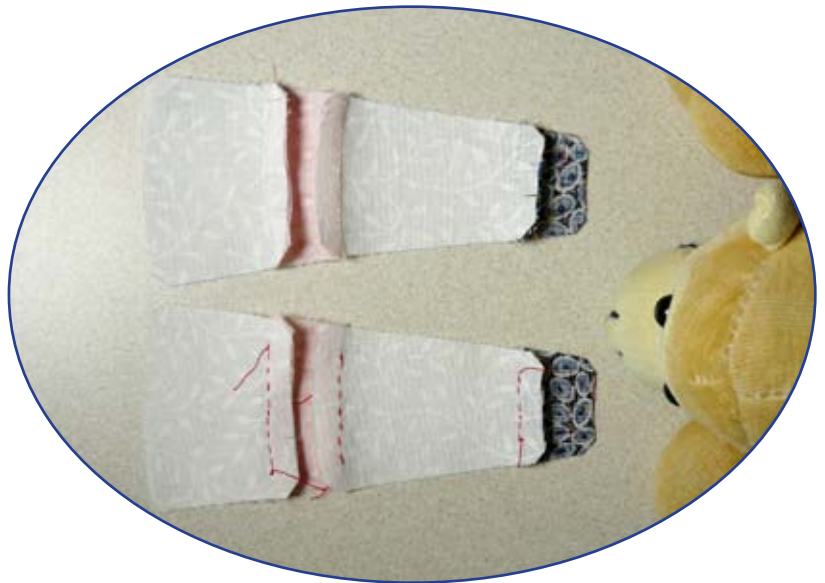
All of the shapes are printed from the [New York Wheel shape collection](#), which is still on sale for a limited time. When you buy the shape collection, you also receive the [Sunflower Quilt Design Book](#) (PDF download, \$20 value).



*You may not need to clip at all.
If you do, just make 2 shallow clips.*



All 72 A-B-C-D units must be this size.



Piece the Curves by Hand or by Machine or Both

The COTSG mystery should make you more familiar with some of the many resources available to you.

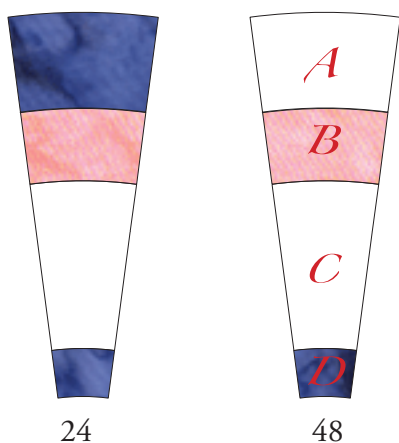
By hand, **Sunflower Quilt Design Book** pages 68 - 72.

By machine, **Sunflower Quilt Design Book** pages 73-74.

Important Make one A-B-C-D unit and check the size against the outline (left). If necessary, adjust your scant 0.25 inch seam allowance before sewing the other 71 units.

These tips are the same whether I am sewing by hand or machine:

1. Lay the pieces out in order, wrong side up, to stay organized.
2. Wear a finger pincushion and use only one pin on each seam.
3. If you clip the concave curve, two shallow clips are enough (top left). You may not need to clip the curves at all.
4. Pin the center match. That is the only pinning you need to do for machine piecing because you have precision corners at each end of the seam. If you are hand piecing, when you get to the center match move your pin to the crosshair at the end of the seam.
5. Sew with the concave curve up (top left).
6. Pressing (photo above)
Accent fabric: press the seam allowances toward the accent fabric.
Dark fabric: press the seam allowances toward the dark (Shape D).
I like to finger press these small seams as I go and then finish on the front with a hot, dry iron when I have a mystery to watch on TV.



Whether you are sewing by hand or by machine, make 24 with blue Shape A and 48 with white shape A.

Hand or Machine?

Hand There will be some very easy chain piecing in the following clues, so if you would like to make some of the mystery quilt by hand, this is a good time. All of the seams are short—just two or three loads of the needle. My best tips for hand piecing are in the **Sunflower Quilt Design Book** (pages 68-72).

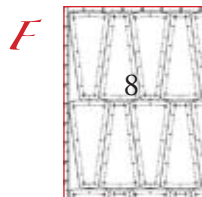
Machine If you prefer sewing by machine (above), we have some tips:

1. Sew edge to edge instead of crosshair to crosshair, the way we do for hand piecing.
2. Be sure to check the size of one complete A-B-C-D unit before starting a chain piecing marathon. Adjust your seam allowance accordingly.
3. Pin the center match on several pieces, and chain piece. Use the precision corners to align the start and finish without pinning. Take a small "bite" with the pins.
4. If possible, use a foot that will not ride on the left side of the stitching line. That allows the top fabric to curl upwards (photo above).
5. Move the needle position (if possible) to make it easy to see and follow the stitching line.
6. Use a walking foot and start on a scrap so the small pieces are not sucked down the needle-hole.

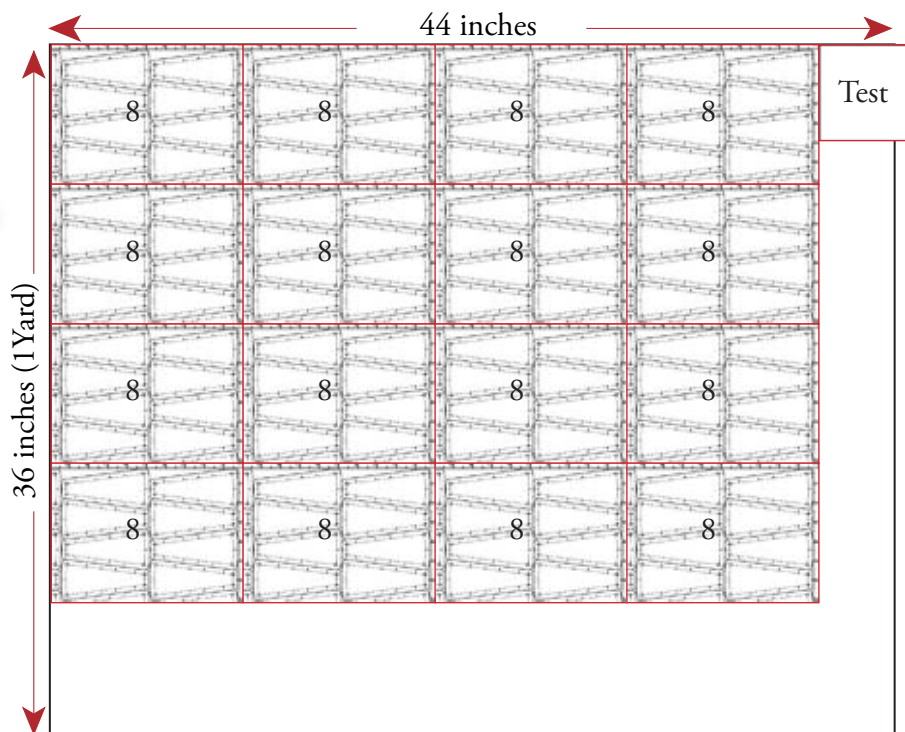
Short of time? If you cannot sew all 72 of these, try to finish 42 (18 with blue A and 24 with white A) to be ready for the sewing in Clue #4.

Clue # 3

Medium Fabric



7.25 x 10
Portrait



Print 16 sheets of 8 Shape F from the medium fabric (128 shapes).

See the notes for printing and cutting in Clue # 2. You may be able to print the test on the scrap of fabric at the selvage as shown. If not, position it where you can or follow the advice on the blog:

How to test the ink in your printer (Test Pages).

Note On the odd numbered pages in the Catalogue of Shapes, the first instruction is repeated every time: "Print a test on plain paper before cutting piles of freezer paper and fabric to size." I keep a pile of scrap paper on top of my printer, usually previously printed for something else, but still good for double-checking sizes.

The Suggested Custom Page Sizes allow for the common margins on Inkjet printers (0.25 on top and both sides, 0.5 on the bottom) rounded to the nearest quarter inch. Sometimes you might be happy to cut a little smaller and sometimes outside lines could be missing, so you might decide to cut a little larger.



How to Rotary Cut Curves - VIDEO

<http://www.lindafranz.com/blog/how-to-rotary-cut-inklingo-curves/>

The video shows a short cut for cutting the curves on Shape F .
Be sure to stack rows to cut several layers at a time.

Short of time? If you don't have time to print and cut all 16 sheets of medium fabric, try to have 6 sheets (48 shapes) ready for Clue # 4.



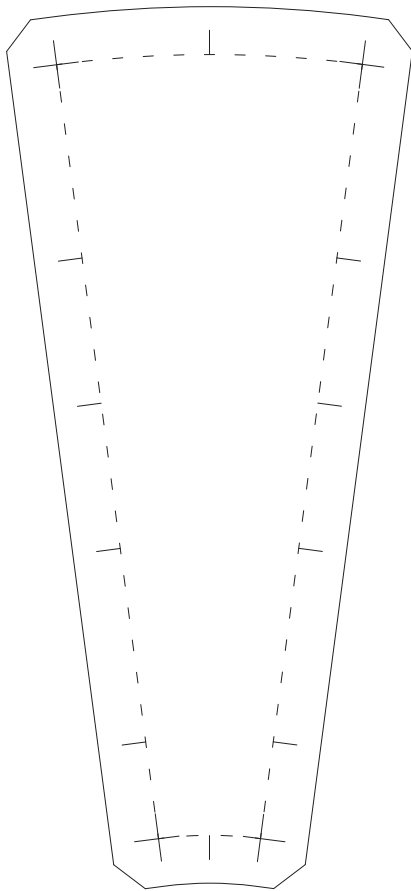
Sewing Kits

Finger Pincushion for hand or machine sewing.
<http://www.lindafranz.com/blog/how-to-make-finger-pincushions/>

Eyeglass Case
<http://www.lindafranz.com/blog/a-beauty-of-a-portable-sewing-kit/>

Smartlap Portable Desk
<http://www.lindafranz.com/blog/summer-sewing-kit-for-inklingo/>

Portable Sewing Surface
<http://www.lindafranz.com/blog/portable-sewing-desk/>



*All 72 A-B-C-D units must be this size.
 Print this outline to carry with you, so
 you can check every unit as you go.*

