

## Sew Perfect Circles Round and Round We Go

**Sewing a perfect circle isn't as easy as you might think.**

**First**, prepare the fabric by using a temporary spray adhesive to attach tear away or cut away stabilizer to back of fabric.

**Next**, select one of the following:

☞ **A compass or template** from an office supply or art store to draw a circle. Stitch on the line.

**OR**

☞ **Tape a thumb tack or upholstery tack** (pointed end up) to the bed of your machine. Use painter's tape to hold in place. The tack is the pivot point for the center of the circle. Place stabilized fabric onto the tack point. Select stitch and sew a perfect circle. Don't sew too fast. Be sure that fabric stays on the tack as you sew.

**OR**

☞ **Use a Circular Embroidery Attachment.** Most major brands of machines have one available as an accessory.

1. Connect the attachment to bed of machine as shown in instructions.
2. Changing diameter of the circle is simple as you slide the pivot point within the attachment.
3. Place stabilized fabric on the pivot point.
4. Select desired stitch. Keep feed dogs in the **UP** position.
5. Sew medium to slow speed and a perfect circle is the result.
6. With the Circular Embroidery Attachment, it's easy to sew consistently sized circles as well as concentric circles using a wide variety of utility or decorative stitches. Have fun experimenting!

~ **Small circles are best stitched with the Flower Stitch Foot.** This is a generic foot (not sold with any specific machine and ranges in price from \$10.00 - \$15.00). You may need an adaptor shank for your machine.

1. Install the Flower Stitch foot according to instructions. Make sure that the metal extension goes over the needle screw.
2. Drop feed dogs.
3. To insure success:
  - If you can adjust the presser foot pressure on your machine, increase the pressure.
  - Fabric must not be obstructed at all. It must be able to rotate easily with the foot.
  - Fabric must be stabilized.
  - Experiment with fabric size. If too large, the fabric may drag and cause the foot to stitch incorrectly.
  - This foot works best with utility stitches.

### ~ **How to Get Creative with Circular Embroidery Attachment:**

- **Circle Appliqué**
  1. Place stabilized fabric on pivot pin.
  2. Place appliqué fabric (helpful to starch the appliqué fabric) also on pivot pin.
  3. Select a straight stitch and stitch your perfect circle on the appliqué patch. Remove from machine.
  4. Trim appliqué fabric patch very close to the stitching.
  5. Replace fabric on same pivot point.
  6. Set machine for zig zag stitch - slightly narrower and a little longer than your desired end result. (3.5mm width and .75 length)
  7. Stitch.
  8. Now, adjust the zig zag for final stitch - wider (4mm) and closer than the previous round of stitching (less than .75).
  9. Stitch again over first zig zag stitching, and you have the perfectly satin stitched, appliquéd circle.
- **Embellish printed fabrics.**
- **Create an elegant look by stitching circles with matching thread and fabric.**

### ~ **How to Get Creative with Flower Stitch Foot:**

- **Stitch multiple rounds** of stitching for heavier thread coverage.
- After stitching one round, **rotate the plastic wheel**. Try 3-5 clicks and see what happens. Who knew that you could create such beautiful flowers with utility stitches?
- **Play!** The best way to learn about this foot is to play with your machine stitches.
- With a bit of practice, you can stitch **small concentric circles**, creating some adorable flowers.
- Always create a practice piece before stitching your project and make notes.