

Kaleidoscope Kit Directions

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Did you ever look down the long, dark tube of a kaleidoscope? What fun it is to watch the brilliant little bits of color inside forming and re-forming into endless fascinating patterns. They come and go — never returning in exactly the same way. How would you like to capture one of these beautiful but illusive patterns? You might use it to make a lovely Christmas card, translate it into bits of gay colored felt to decorate a headband*, or emblazon the pocket of your favorite jacket, or perhaps to work some gay wool embroidery on your mittens. You might use a design to decorate a set of placemats as a gift for your mother or a pencil container and matchbox cover for your father's desk. You can do all these things and many more with the Kaleidoscope Design Kit.

*There is enough felt in this box to make a pretty headband for yourself. After you have decorated the black felt strip according to the directions for felt appliqué, attach a short length of ribbon to each end to tie underneath your hair.

You can actually create your own designs with the colored paper, the plastic design wheel and the hinged mirror in this box. There is a trick or two to learn first, but it is very easy and once you have learned you can capture any design you like with your Design Kit and use it in any way you wish.

The plastic design wheel is divided into four pie-shaped segments. Each of these segments has a number — 3, 4, 5 or 8. These are key numbers. They are very important in the development of a design. For example: Cut 1 small V-shaped piece of green paper and 2 small circles of red paper. Using the sheet of black paper as a background place one circle in the V and one circle below the V as shown in Fig. 1. Place a square of waxed paper or a piece of glass over these snips of paper to keep them from slipping around. Now put the clear plastic design wheel over this arrangement of paper snips so they are within the pie-shaped segment marked 8 as shown in Fig. 2. Set the hinged mirror up along the inside edges of the black boundary bands as shown in Fig. 3. Look in the mirror and you will see a design which is actually 8 repeats of the original arrangement, but how different it looks.

Try a little experiment. Hold down the waxed paper firmly with one hand and slide the design wheel back and forth and around over the little bits of colored paper with the mirror in the same position. Watch the designs form and re-form just the way they do in a real kaleidoscope. Now turn the point of the V around in the opposite direction as shown in Fig. 4. You will see a new set of designs.

Try another experiment. This time, place the segment of the design wheel marked 5 over the V-shaped piece and the two circles. See how the design has become star-shaped? Now slide the wheel forward and backward over the arrangement and watch the star-shaped design open and close. Experiment with other simple shapes and colors.

When you use the segments of the design wheel marked 3 and 4 you will get better results with larger pieces of paper. You can use similar shapes, but they should be large enough to more or less fill the entire pie-shaped segment of the design wheel. See Figs. 5 and 6 for suggestions. Also notice the decorative borders of these pages. They will give you lots of ideas, but of course it is always more fun to make up your own designs.

Other sources of designs

Nature provides a wonderful source for designs. Try fern fronds, leaves, small flowers, vines, dried grasses, butterflies or anything available that is small and flat enough to fit under the design wheel and within the segments. You can use these natural things separately or you might combine two or three.

Place the waxed paper over your arrangement and use the design wheel and the mirror in exactly the same way you did over the little snips of paper. Slide the wheel and mirror back and forth and around. What beautiful designs come and go, form and re-form in the mirror.

You can get some fascinating and quite unexpected designs by sliding the design wheel and mirror over the colored pages of a magazine. Sometimes pictures of the most ordinary things make the most interesting designs. Gift wrapping paper often produces some very interesting new patterns.

Symbols of holidays have design possibilities, too. You can cut them from paper or use pre-cut symbols such as gummed seals and cut-outs. For example: A simplified Christmas tree shape, a small sprig of holly or an angel silhouette could be used separately or combined with small circles, lines or curved pieces to produce lovely Christmas designs for cards and table decorations. Hearts, shamrocks, eggs, rabbits, etc. can be used in the same way.

How to capture a design

When you have caught a design you especially like between the boundary lines of one of the pie-shaped segments of the design wheel, remove the mirror leaving the wheel in the same position. Place a piece of tracing paper over that segment where the mirror was. Trace the inside boundary lines and the shapes appearing within them. Be sure to notice the key number appearing at the base of the segment.

Now draw a circle the exact size of the design wheel on a plain piece of white paper. Use the key number appearing in the segment of the wheel and divide the circle into that number of equal parts (3, 4, 5 or 8). See the Guide for dividing a circle on the back page and follow the accompanying directions.

Blacken the back of the tracing paper with the side of a pencil lead and place it, blackened side down, over the divided circle. Match the boundary lines on the tracing paper with the segment

lines on the circle. Trace the shapes appearing between the lines. Turn the tracing paper over and trace the shapes in the next segment of the circle. Repeat in this manner, reversing the tracing paper each time, until the design is complete in the circle.

Before translating your design into felt appliqué, transfer, cut paper, wool embroidery or any other medium — try it out in color to be sure you have the best possible combination for the article to be decorated. Use your colored pencils to fill in the design, following the colors appearing in your original arrangement. Change them, of course, if they don't suit you.

Here is an interesting experiment. After you have captured your design and pinned it down in color, place the design wheel and the mirror over it. Use a different key number this time. See how elaborate the simple arrangement you began with has become. Try different segments of the design wheel — moving in and out and around. You may find a design you like even better than your original. You can capture it in exactly the same way.

How to use the designs

Felt Appliqué: Use the carbon paper to make a pattern for each different shape in your design and use these as guides for cutting out the felt. Follow the colors worked out in your design. Place the felt pattern pieces in their proper positions and stick them in place, one at a time, until your appliqué design is complete. Projects for which felt appliqué is suitable: Headbands, belts, emblems, slipcovers for books, desk sets, etc.

Transfer: Use your original design or re-trace and fill in the color evenly and carefully with the painting pencils in this box. Wet the piece of cloth to be decorated and place over the colored design. Press with a warm iron until the colors come through to the wrong side of the cloth. You can set the colors by rinsing the material in a solution of equal parts of white vinegar and water or by pressing under a press cloth wrung out in the vinegar and water solution. Projects for which transfer is suitable: placemats, holders, scarves, handkerchiefs.

Cut Paper decoration: Use the carbon paper to transfer the various parts of the design to paper. Use the carbon paper again to transfer the entire design to the article to be decorated. Fill in the design by sticking the colored pieces in the design outline. Projects for which cut paper decoration is suitable: Pencil containers (fruit juice cans painted or covered with black paper), match book covers, trays, Christmas and other holiday greeting cards.

To Enlarge a Design: Square it off. Square off a blank piece of paper, (the size of square depends on the amount of the enlargement). For example: To enlarge four times — a $\frac{1}{4}$ " square on the design would equal a 1" square on the blank paper to which it is to be transferred. Draw the design in the enlarged squares just as it appears in the squares of the original.

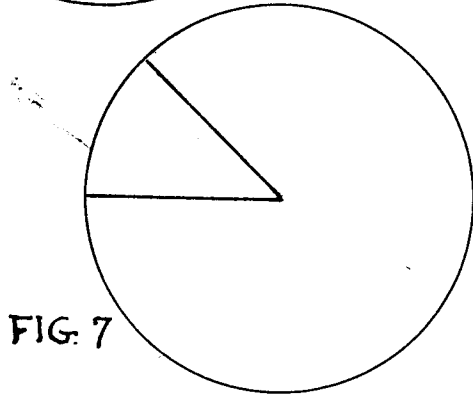
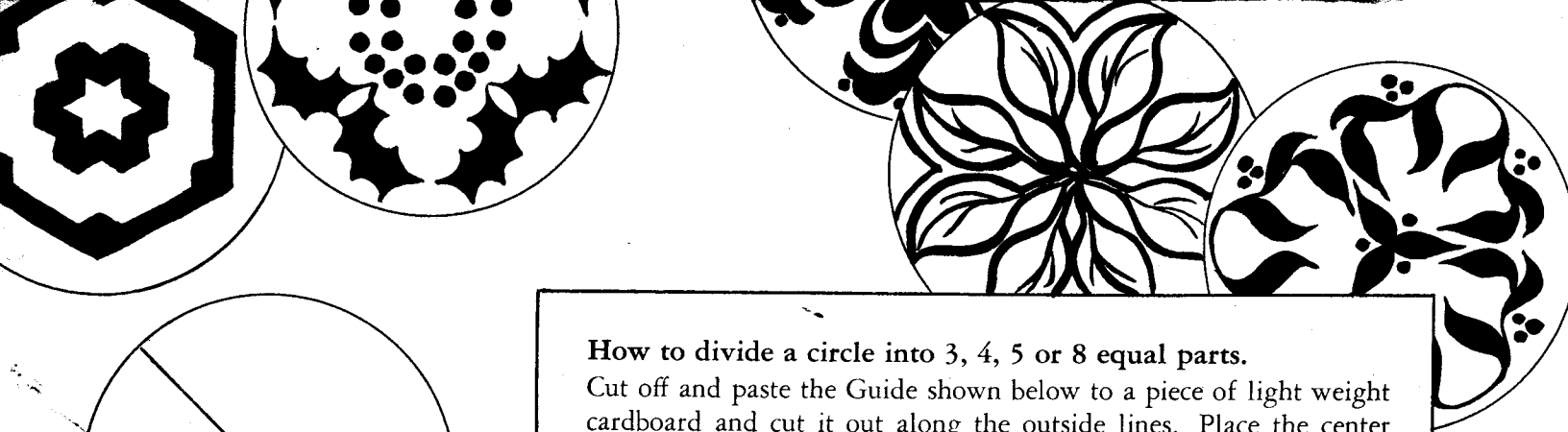


FIG. 7

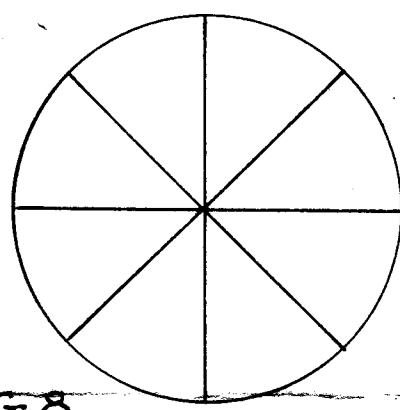
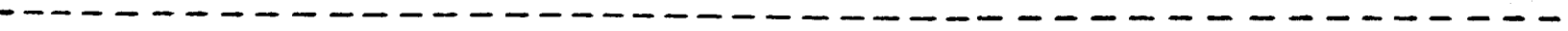


FIG. 8

How to divide a circle into 3, 4, 5 or 8 equal parts.
 Cut off and paste the Guide shown below to a piece of light weight cardboard and cut it out along the outside lines. Place the center of the Guide exactly on the center of the circle you have drawn. Draw a line along the base of the Guide from the left side marked **START HERE** to the center of the circle. Refer again to the key number below the design to be captured. For example: If the key number is 8, make a dot on your paper where the line marked 8 meets the outer edge of the Guide. Lift the Guide and use it as a ruler to connect the dot you have just made to the center of the circle as shown in Fig. 7. Move the Guide on the circle so the base of the Guide rests on the line you have just drawn. Make a dot at the line marked 8 again and connect to the center of the circle. Repeat around the circle in this fashion until it is divided into 8 equal parts as shown in Fig. 8. All other divisions of the circle are made in a similar way by matching the key number appearing within the segment of the design wheel to the key number on the Guide.



CUT ALONG THIS DOTTED LINE

