

## SPRING BASKET GREETING CARD

We all love to see the spring flowers after the drab colours of winter. A basket of fresh flowers will soon fade and die - but this one won't. Make a traditional patchwork basket, and put it on a card for someone special.

The basket is made using a technique called mosaic patchwork (except that we now usually use thin card, not stiff paper!).

A different sort of patchwork technique called yo-yo patchwork is used to make the flowers.

### You will need

- Triangle templates - large, medium and small.
- Rectangular background template
- Lightweight card
  - white scraps for triangles
  - A4 coloured sheets for finished card.
- Small pieces of cotton fabric for the basket
  - white
  - plain, strong colours - e.g. red, blue, green
- 505 basting spray glue; with newspaper to protect table
- Hand quilting thread.
- 18cm x 13cm piece of white background fabric.
- Ribbon or tape.
- Circle templates.
- Cotton fabric for the flowers.
- Optional: a circle of shiny fabric to show through the central hole.
- Optional: Fabric crayons
- Optional: Green embroidery thread

*Equipment: see next page*

## Equipment

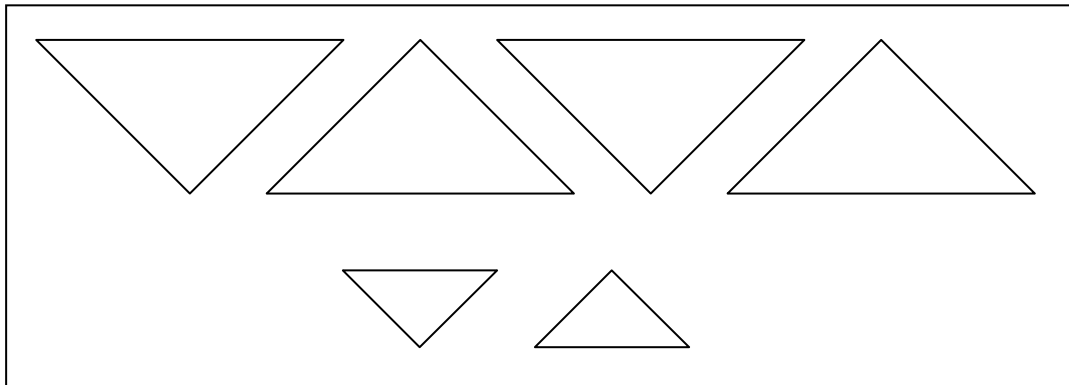
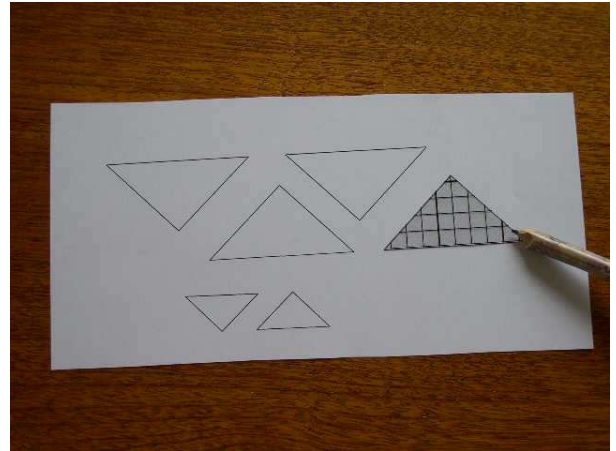
- Pencil and pencil crayons
- Sharp paper scissors
- Small envelopes or plastic bags
- Sharp fabric scissors
- Pinking shears
- Pins
- Hand sewing needle

## The greetings card is made in 13 steps

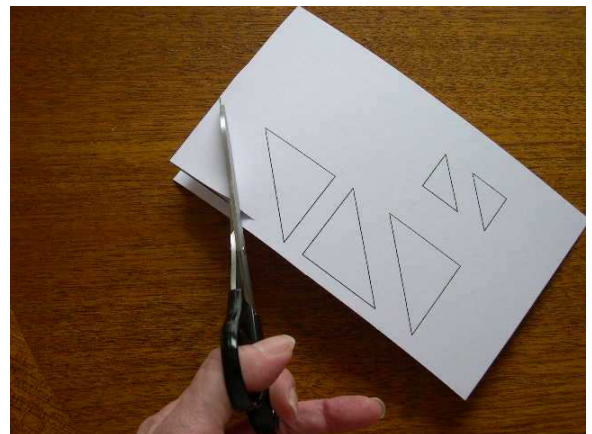
1. Draw round the small and medium triangle templates onto card.
2. Cut out card pieces.
3. Draw round the large and medium triangle templates onto fabric.
4. Cut out fabric pieces.
5. Spray baste the wrong side of the fabric pieces and stick the card onto them.
6. Fold seam allowances over card.
7. Stitch basket sections together by hand.
8. Cut rectangle of backing fabric out with pinking shears.
9. Position basket onto backing fabric.
10. Add ribbon basket handle.
11. Make yo-yo flowers or draw on with fabric crayons.
12. Stick backing fabric onto card.
13. Add personal greeting.

## Cutting out the card pieces

1. Take the *medium* triangle template, and place it onto a piece of thin card, near one corner.
2. Draw round the edge of the template with a pencil.
3. Move it along, and draw round it again.
4. Keep doing this until you have drawn four medium triangles.
5. Now take the *small* triangle template.
6. Draw round this twice.



7. Cut out the triangles carefully using sharp paper scissors.
8. They are very small - put them in an envelope or plastic bag for a minute, to stop them getting lost.

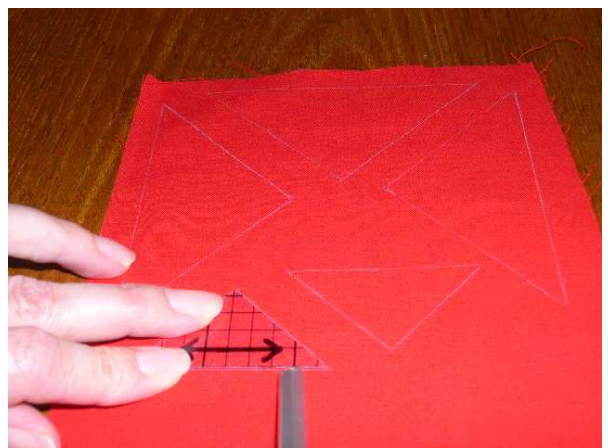
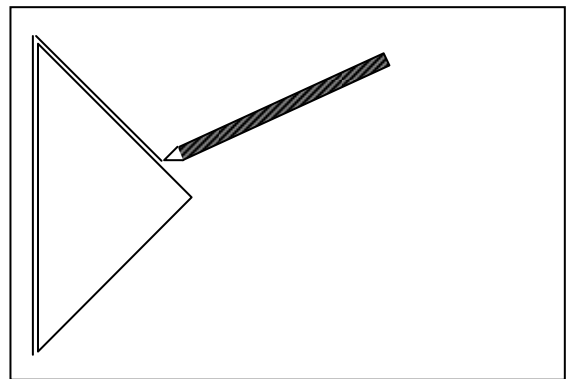


## Cutting out the fabric pieces

1. Choose a bright, strongly coloured plain fabric for the basket. Red is often used, but you could use green, yellow or blue.
2. Try out the colour with white to make sure that colour shows up well next to it.
3. Take the *large* triangle template, and place it onto the *white* fabric.
4. Put it near the edge of the fabric, not right in the middle (so that you leave enough for someone else).
5. Try to line up the template so that its arrow line is pointing in the direction of the straight grain of the fabric.

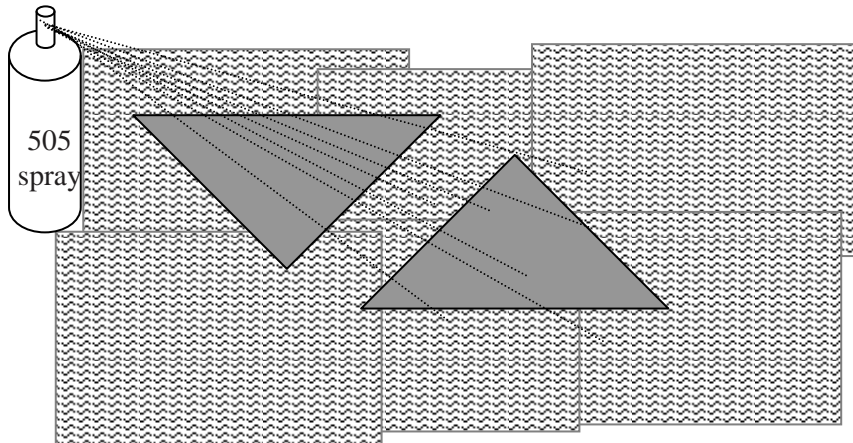


6. Draw round the edge of the template with a pencil.
7. Cut out the white triangle carefully using sharp fabric scissors.
8. Now do the same on your brightly coloured plain fabric.
9. Draw round the *large* template *three* times and round the *medium* template *twice*.
10. Use a coloured pencil if ordinary pencil doesn't show up (yellow is good on dark fabrics).
11. Cut out carefully.



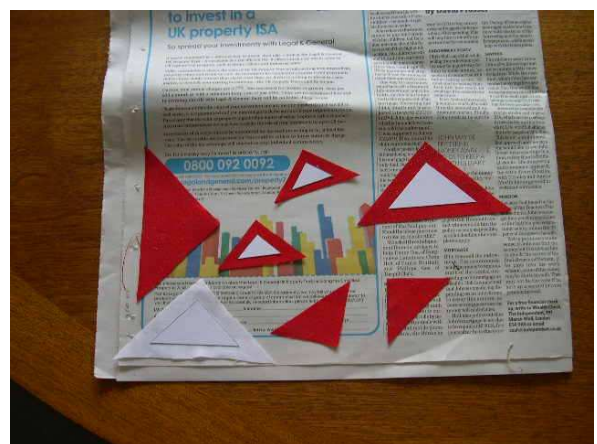
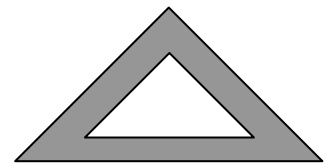
## Sticking on the card pieces

1. Spread out some newspaper or plastic to protect your table.
2. Place the fabric triangles on the newspaper *wrong* side up, and spray lightly with the 505 spray. Shake the can well before spraying, and hold about 30cm above the fabric.



*Note: Make sure that the room is well ventilated; and if you or anyone else in the room suffers from asthma, use the spray glue outside.*

3. Place a *small* card triangle onto the centre of each *medium* fabric triangle.
4. Place a *medium* card triangle onto the centre of each *large* fabric triangle.
5. Make sure that the same amount of fabric is showing all round.
6. If the card is not in the right place, it can be peeled off, and repositioned.
7. Check that the card is stuck lightly to the fabric - if not, take it off and spray a bit more.
8. The part of the fabric which shows all round the card is the seam allowance.
9. Fold this over the edge of the card, and press with your fingers to make it stick in place.



10. Fold in the shorter sides first.



11. Then fold in the longest side.

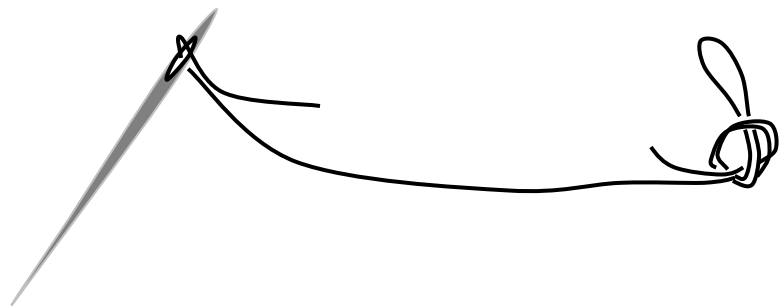
12. Make sure that you don't squash the card out of shape at the tip of the triangle! Just fold the fabric right against the edge, to make a firm point.

13. Squeeze the edge all the way round the triangle between your finger and thumb. Now there is a clear fold, and the seam allowance is stuck down.

14. Don't worry that there are "wings" sticking out at the triangle points. We will sort these out later.

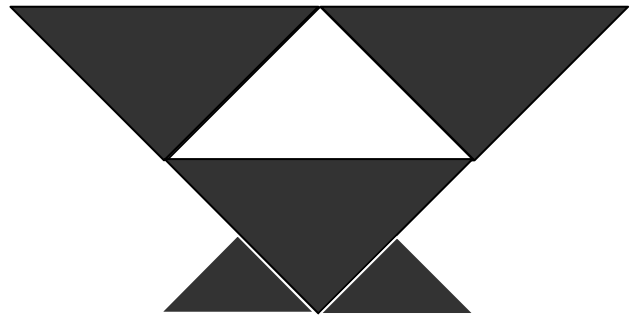
### Tacking the seam allowances

1. If you can't make the seam allowance stay folded in place, it doesn't really matter, as long as the fold line is clear.
2. If you want to, you can put a few stitches in to hold them down.
3. These can be big tacking stitches right through the card - it doesn't matter if they show, because you can take them out at the end.
4. Tacking means big stitches that just hold things together quickly while you sew it properly.
5. To tack, thread a hand sewing needle with any colour.
6. Double the last 2cm of the thread, and tie a double overhand knot (this just means an ordinary knot tied with double thread).
7. Now sew big stitches wherever you need them. Finish by taking two big stitches in the same place.
8. If you weren't using the spray glue, you would need to tack the seam allowance down like this all round the shape.



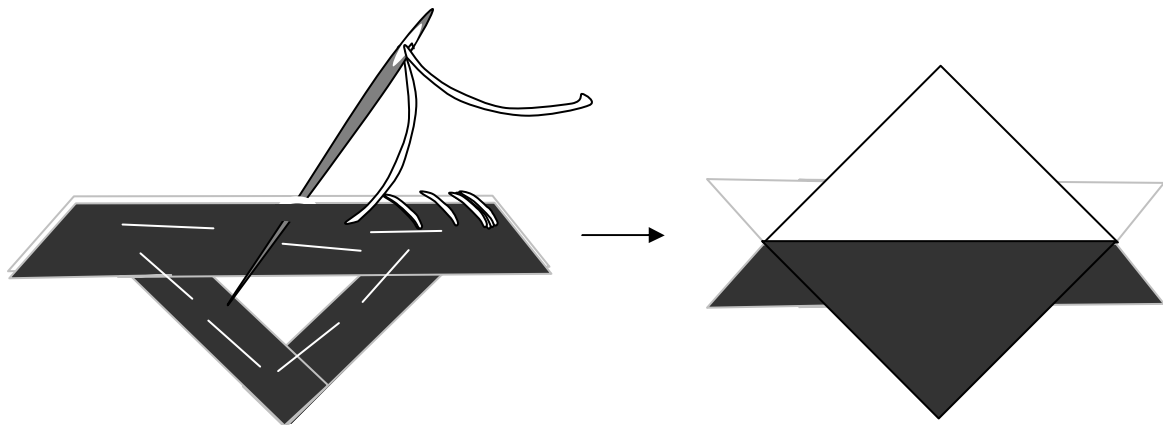
## Fitting the triangles together

1. Lay out the card sections, to see how they fit together.



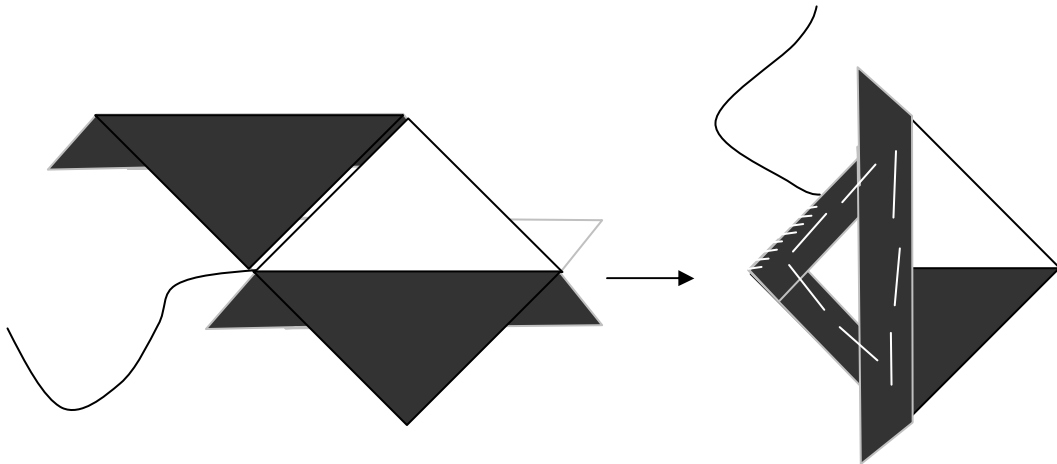
## Oversewing the triangles together

1. Put a white triangle and a brightly coloured triangle fabric sides together.
2. Line them up carefully, so the points meet at both ends.
3. Now oversew the longest edge of the triangles together.
4. Thread a needle with a new piece of quilting thread.
5. Choose a "sludgy" coloured thread that doesn't show up much against either colour fabric.
6. Don't tie a knot to start this time. Just take the first few stitches all in the same place, and this will stop it coming undone.
7. Don't sew in and out this time. Always push the needle in from the back to the front. Then lift the needle over the top again, ready to take another stitch.
8. When you have taken a few stitches, open out just a little. Have you joined the right edges? Check against the diagram.



9. Carry on stitching all along the edge.
10. Try to take small stitches, close together.
11. When you put the needle in, just pick up a little bit of fabric on each side, right at the folded edge.
12. At the end, take several small stitches in the same place. Don't cut the thread yet - you can carry on using it for the next triangle.

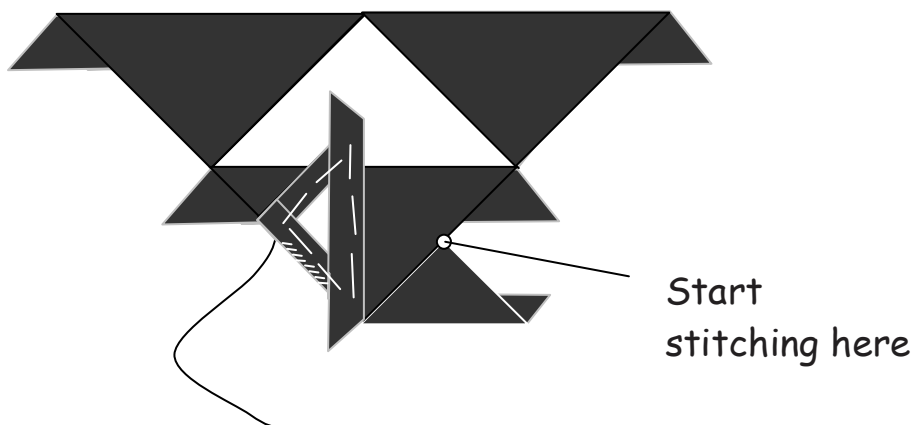
13. Take another of the brightly coloured triangles. Open out the two that you have just joined, and place the new one next to them like this:



14. Fold it down onto the front of the joined pieces.  
 15. Now you are ready to sew this one on to the white one too.  
 16. Use the thread already attached, and oversew along the edge.  
 17. Fasten the third triangle on in the same way.  
 18. When you have sewn all three of them on, take several small stitches in the same place. This will fasten the end off securely, so that it won't come undone when you cut the thread.

### Stitching the small triangles on

1. Take a new piece of thread, and stitch the two small triangles onto the base of the basket in the same way.

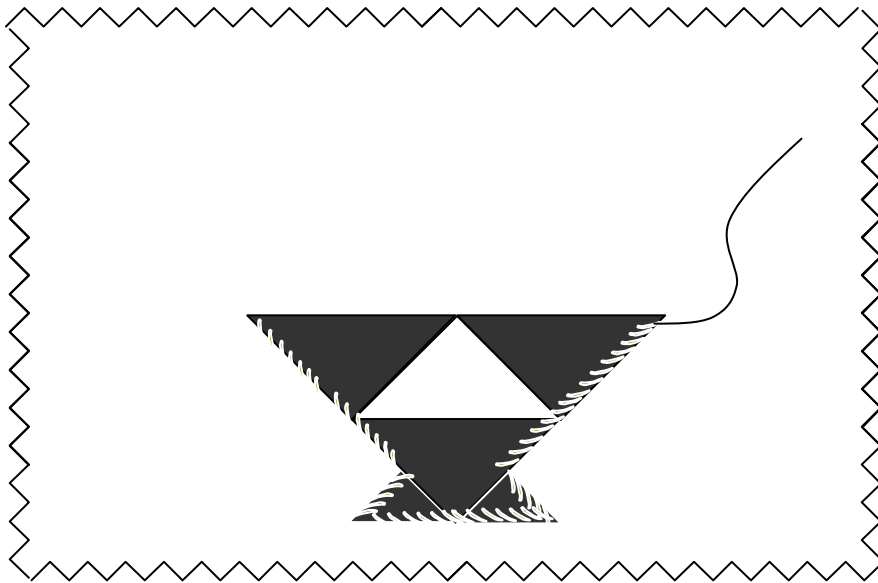


2. Start at the place shown with a white dot on the diagram.  
 3. Oversew the first small triangle on, and then you will be in the right place to stitch the second triangle on, as shown.

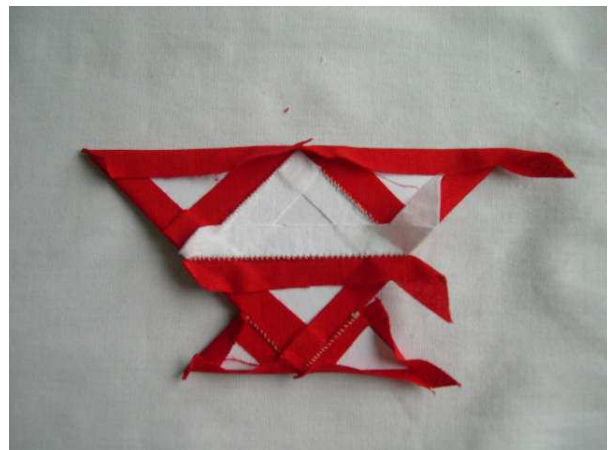


## Stitching the basket onto the background.

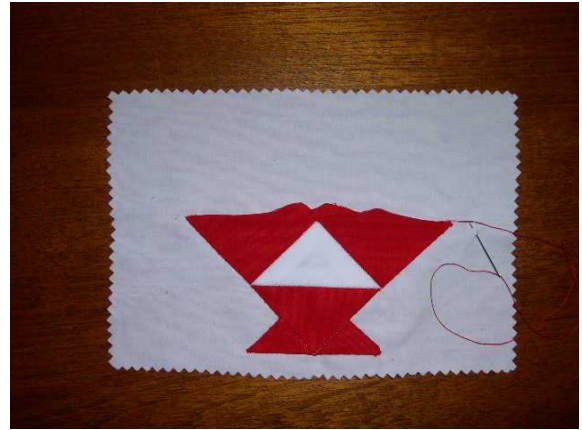
1. Take the background rectangle template.
2. Draw round this onto a piece of white fabric.
3. Cut out just inside the line using pinking shears. The zig-zag edge that they cut will not fray easily. Ask for help if you need to.
4. Take the patchwork basket, and pull out any tacking stitches.
5. Now carefully remove all the card pieces.
6. Keep the folds in the fabric, even though the card isn't there any more.
7. Position the basket near the bottom of the white fabric rectangle. Make sure you have left room at the top for the basket handle and the flowers.



8. Fold the "wings" underneath, out of the way. Trim away a bit of the wing if you need to, but don't cut too near the point.
9. Pin the basket in place.

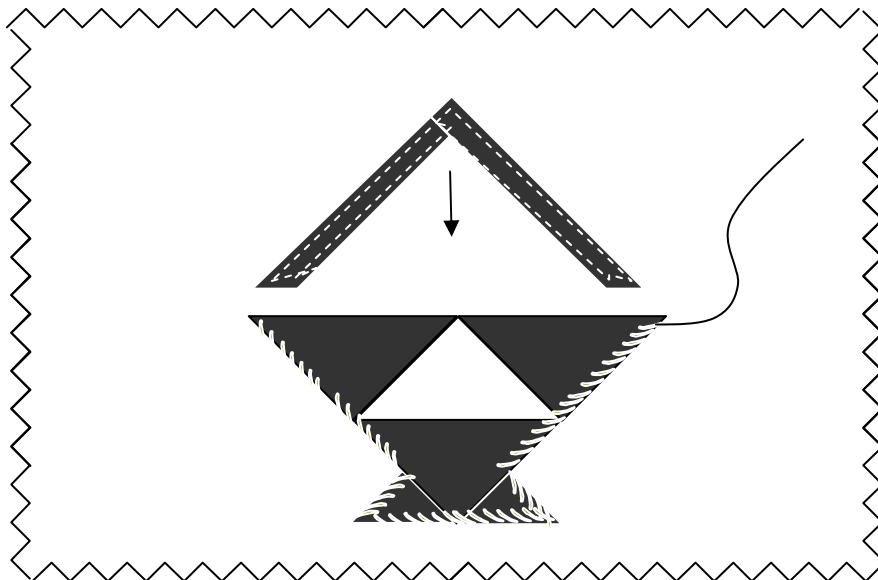


10. Start at one of the top corners, and fasten on a new thread.
11. Stitch down all round the outside edge.
12. Stop at the other top corner, but don't cut the thread yet.



### Basket handle.

1. Find a 16cm piece of ribbon or tape that is the same colour as your basket.
2. Cut the ends at an angle.



3. Fold the middle of the ribbon so that the handle is now bent.
4. Tuck the ends of the ribbon underneath the top edge of the basket.
5. Pin in place.
6. Stitch along both sides of the handle with a running stitch.
7. Now you can finish stitching the top of the basket down.



## Yo-yo flowers

Now you can fill your basket with some flowers. Have you got time to make some yo-yo flowers? If not, just use fabric crayons to draw some, and jump to the last section to assemble the card.

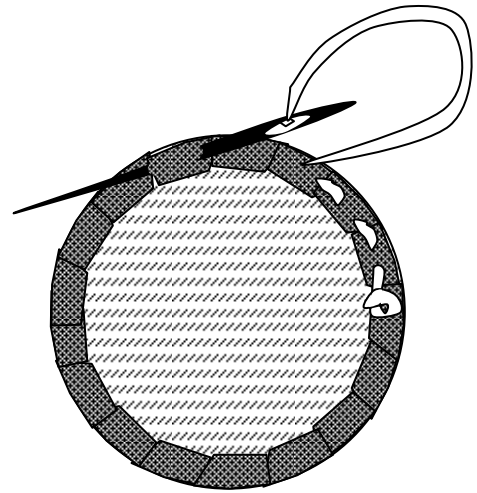
### Preparing the circles

1. Choose the size of circle that you want. Two sizes are suggested, but you could try other sizes. Remember that the finished yo-yos will be much smaller than the circle templates.
2. Choose some fabric. Do you want all your flowers to be the same colour?
3. Put the template near the edge of the fabric, not right in the middle (so that you leave enough for someone else).
4. Draw round the circle template onto the fabric.
5. Use a coloured pencil if you can't see the line from an ordinary pencil.
6. Cut it out using fabric scissors.
7. With your fingers, fold in the edge of the circle all round
8. Just fold in a little way - about  $\frac{1}{2}$  cm.
9. Make sure you fold it in over the wrong side of the fabric.
10. Squeeze the fold between your fingers, and then move on just a little way round the circle to do the next bit.
11. If you find folding the edge in too hard, don't bother! Your flowers will still work, but they will have a fuzzy middle where the fabric has frayed a bit.



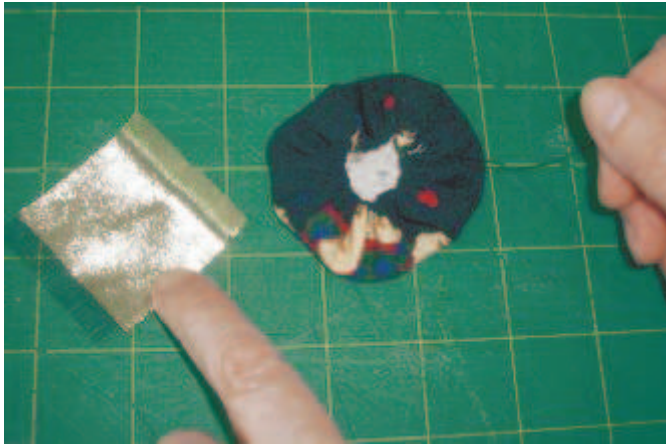
## Gathering the circles

1. Thread a hand sewing needle with quilting thread.
2. Choose thread that is a similar, but dull colour to your fabric.
3. Start by making a small knot in the end of the thread.
4. Sew around the outside edge of the circles using a running stitch.
5. If you haven't folded the edge in, make sure that you don't sew too near the edge - about  $\frac{1}{2}$  cm away is right.
6. Start so that the knot ends up on top of the folded in edge.
7. Take stitches in and out of the fabric, making sure that you go through both layers before coming up again.
8. Pull the thread right through each time.
9. Try to make all your stitches about the same size - they don't need to be really tiny for this.
10. Stitch right round the circle. When you get back to where you started, go through to the other side.
11. *Don't* tie another knot, fasten off or unthread the needle yet!
12. Holding the fabric in one hand, pull the thread, so that the fabric starts to wrinkle up. This is called gathering.
13. Keep pulling until all the edge of the circle has come together into the middle.
14. When you can't pull it any tighter, take several small stitches, all in the same place to fasten off.
15. Try not to let the gathering slacken off while you do this!
16. Don't cut the thread - you can use it in a minute to sew the flower on.
17. Well done - you have made your first yo-yo.



## Inserting shiny fabric.

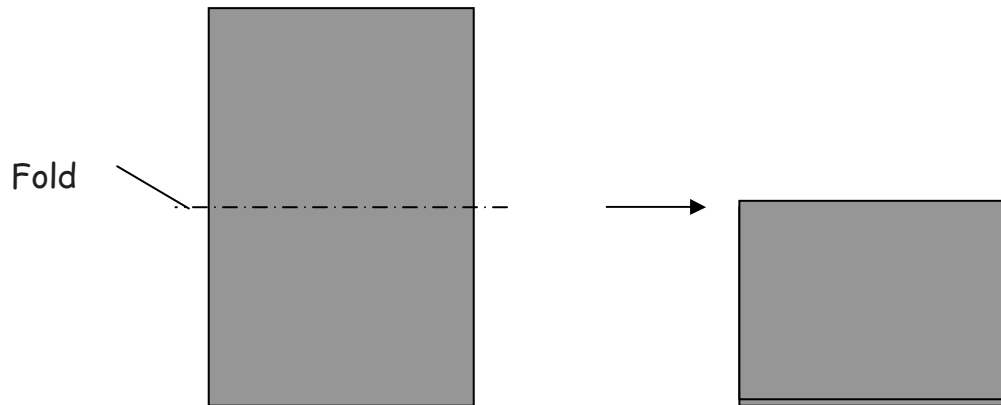
1. Does your yo-yo close right up in the middle? If so, you can use it as it is.
2. If your gathering stitches were very small, you may have a gap in the centre of your yo-yo.
3. Cut a small piece of shiny fabric, a bit bigger than your hole.



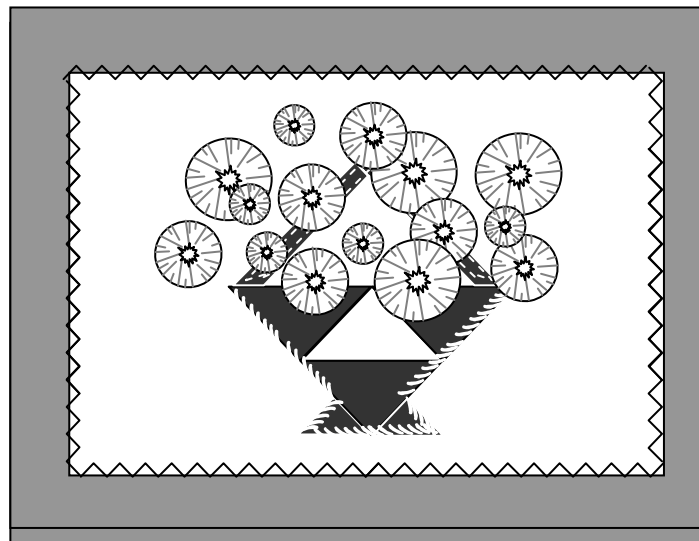
4. Tuck it in through the hole, so that the shiny side shows, filling in the space. Does that look better?
5. Now you need to make some more yo-yos.
6. When you have made a few, try arranging them on the basket.
7. Does it look best with only a few flowers? Try a few more.

### Assembling the card.

1. Choose a coloured A4 sheet of card.
2. Does it go well with your basket of flowers?
3. Fold the sheet of coloured card in half.



4. Place the finished basket of flowers face down onto newspaper.
5. Spray with the 505 spray all over.
6. Turn it over, and stick centrally onto the folded card.

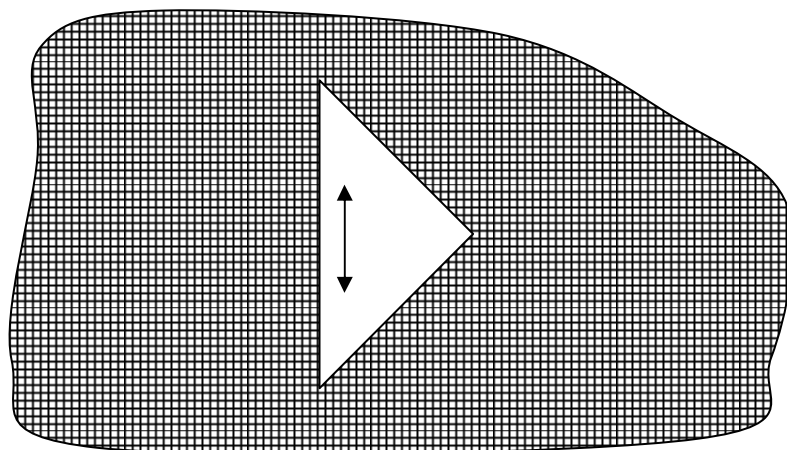


7. Write an appropriate greeting inside the card.
  - Happy Birthday
  - Happy Easter
  - Get Well Soon

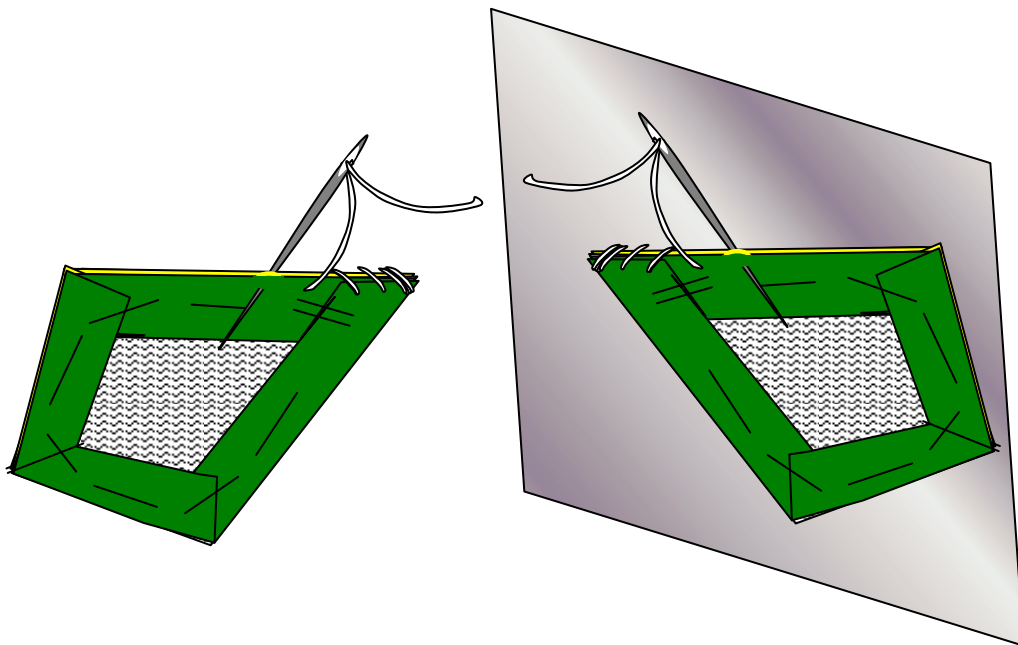
Well done! You've finished! Now you can choose who you are going to give your card to.

## A few useful hints!!!

- This project can probably only be done in two hours if you draw the flowers using fabric crayons.
- If you don't have much time, and would like to do some yo-yo flowers, save time by sticking the patchwork basket onto the background, rather than stitching; and leave out the basket handle.
- If you have more time or have older or more experienced stitchers, you can do plenty of yo-yo flowers and might also have time to embroider the flower stems. Make sure you leave a few minutes to assemble the final card if you have a time deadline.
- Paper can blunt scissors so please encourage children to use the right scissors for the job.
- Iron fabrics first, if creased.
- The 505 spray is not essential, but it makes the project easier and quicker by avoiding the traditional tacking.
- If it is windy outside when you use the spray, the small fabric pieces may blow away, or flip over! To prevent this, spray the newspaper *very lightly* first. Then lay the triangles on gently - don't press them down. The tackiness of the 505 glue will hold them down gently, while you spray the other side properly.
- The straight grain of the fabric is the direction that the threads run from which it was woven. If you look carefully at the fabric, you can see these fine threads - some running up and down the fabric, and some running across.  
Try to line up the templates so that the straight grain of the fabric is in line with the arrow line on the template.



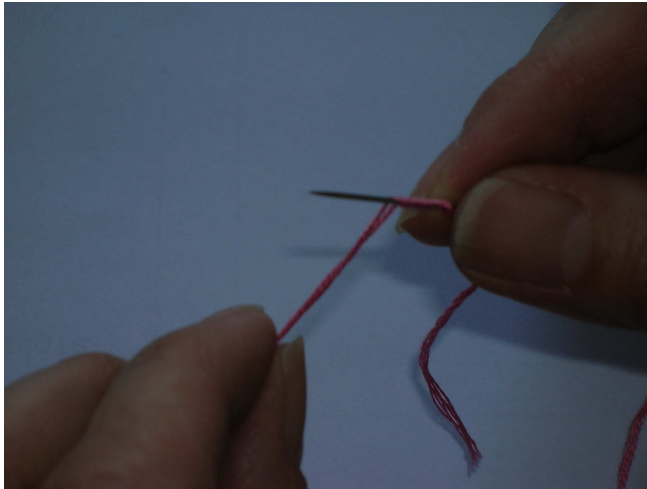
- Quilting thread cannot be used on a sewing machine, but is very good for hand stitching, as it does not knot easily - and if it does, it is more easily untangled than most other machine threads.
- It is important to start and fasten off threads securely; otherwise the stitching will come undone.
- Younger children may find it easier to use thread doubled when hand sewing, as the needle cannot then become unthreaded.
- Encourage older children to use thread that is only singly threaded. The needle will need to be moved along the thread gradually when the doubled part is in danger of being caught in the stitches.
- All the stitching diagrams are drawn for right handers. If you are left handed, look at the diagram in a mirror, and it should be easy to follow.



- If children find fastening on for the oversewing difficult, allow them to use a knot. A good way to tie a knot in the end of a threaded needle is as follows:
  1. Hold the needle in your right hand, and hold near the "tail" of the thread in your left hand (reverse for left handers).
  2. Bring your hands together, and without letting go of anything, grasp the very end of the thread with the finger and thumb of the right hand, so that it is held against the needle.

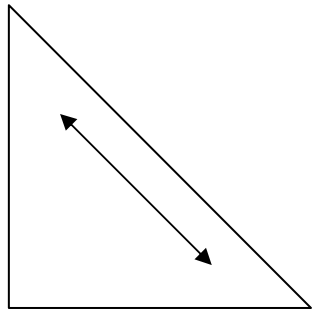


3. With the left hand, wind the thread several times around the needle.

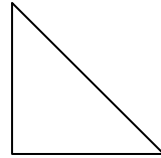


4. Slide this coil of thread down the needle until it also can be grasped by the right finger and thumb.
5. Holding this coil against the needle with the right hand, pull the needle through using the left hand.
6. You will find that the coil forms a neat but substantial knot at the end of the thread.

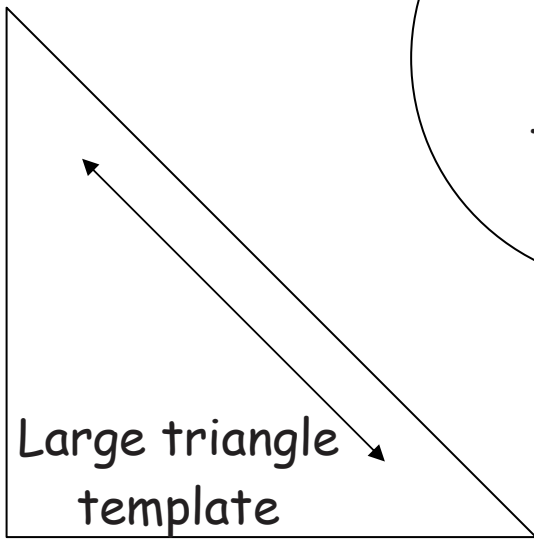
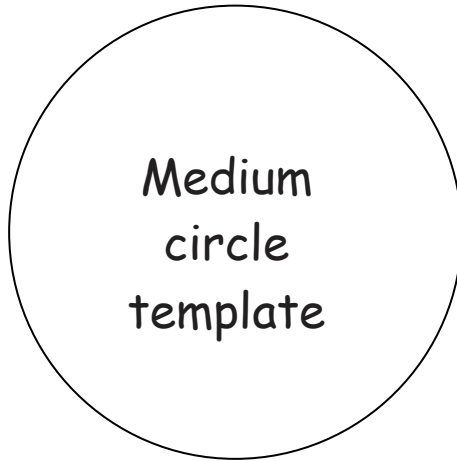
Background  
rectangle  
template



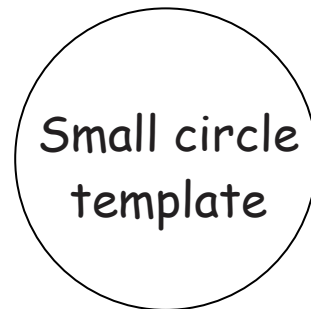
Medium triangle  
template



Small triangle  
template



Large triangle  
template



Small circle  
template

If you have access to a computer and printer, print this page off onto card, instead of drawing round templates, to save time.

Each sheet will give enough for two baskets.

Your printer will usually take thin card if you put it in one sheet at a time!

