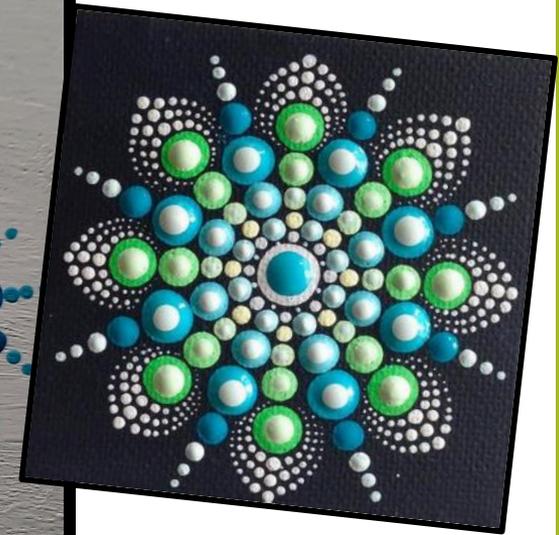
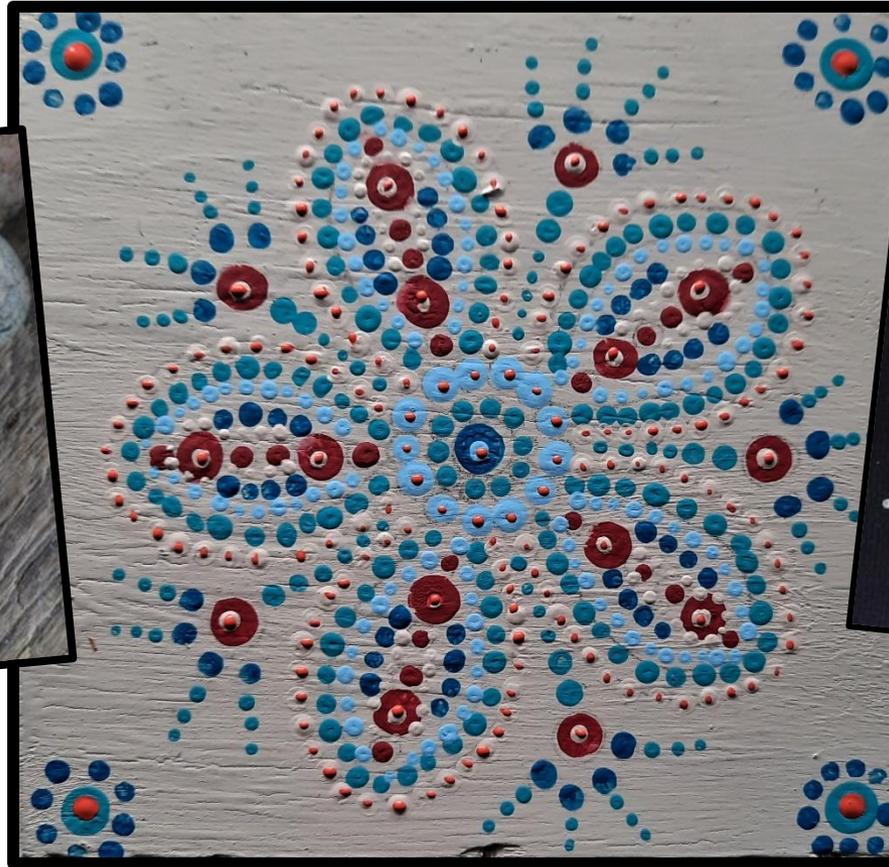


Session 5: Dot painting



A simple and absorbing painting technique that can be used to create beautiful pictures and items.

Materials

These are just suggestions and you won't need everything or you can substitute for what you have available.

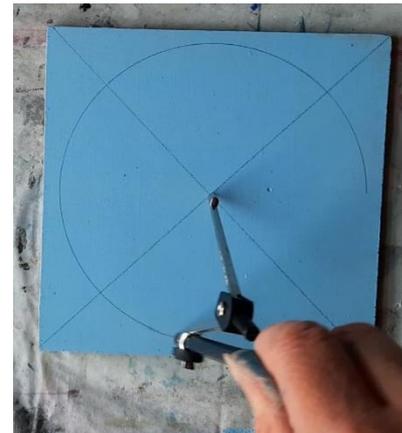
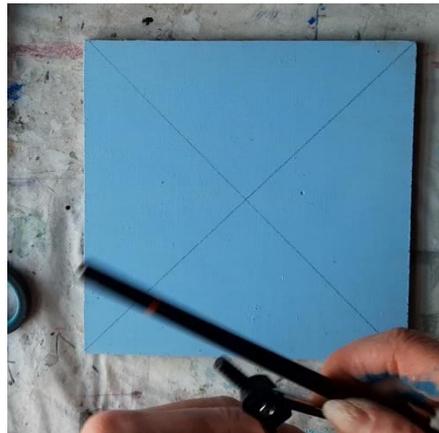
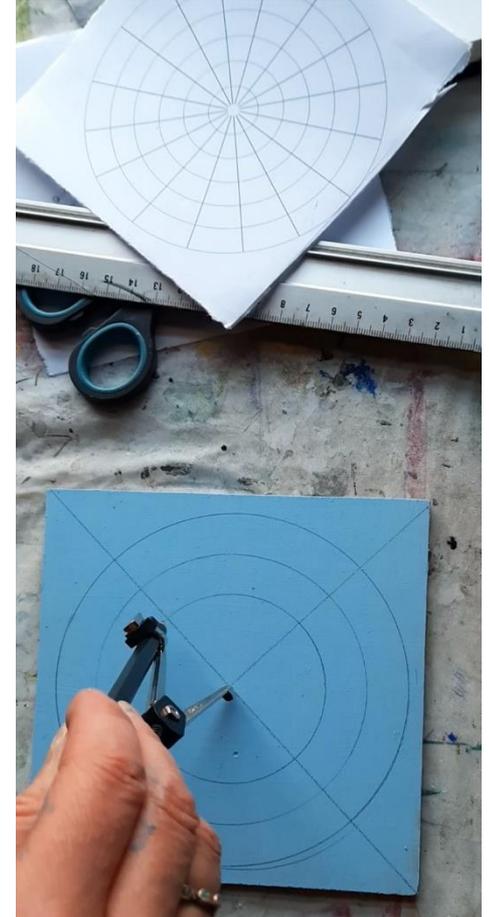
- Surface to work onto such as ceramic tile, coaster, canvas, wooden square
- Acrylic or emulsion paint tester pot
- A variety of homemade dotting tools such as toothpicks, tinds of makeup brushes, pens, take the fluff off a cotton swab, paintbrushes, nails, sewing pin heads....the possibilities are endless.
- Compass
- Ruler
- Pencil
- Tracedown/tracing paper (optional)
- Templates (optional)
- Varnish or mod- Podge (optional)



Link to demonstration video: <https://youtu.be/WOav6khL8mo>

Preparation for circle design

1. Select the background you wish to work on such as a canvas board, small canvas, piece of card, wooden square, ceramic tile or coaster.
2. If working on canvas board, wood or canvas I suggest painting a flat background colour first using acrylic paint or an emulsion tester pot.
3. Allow to fully dry then mark the centre of your format with a pencil.
4. Draw your basic circular shape onto your background with a pencil and compass. If you don't have a compass you could use plastic lids of varying sizes or trace the template provided.



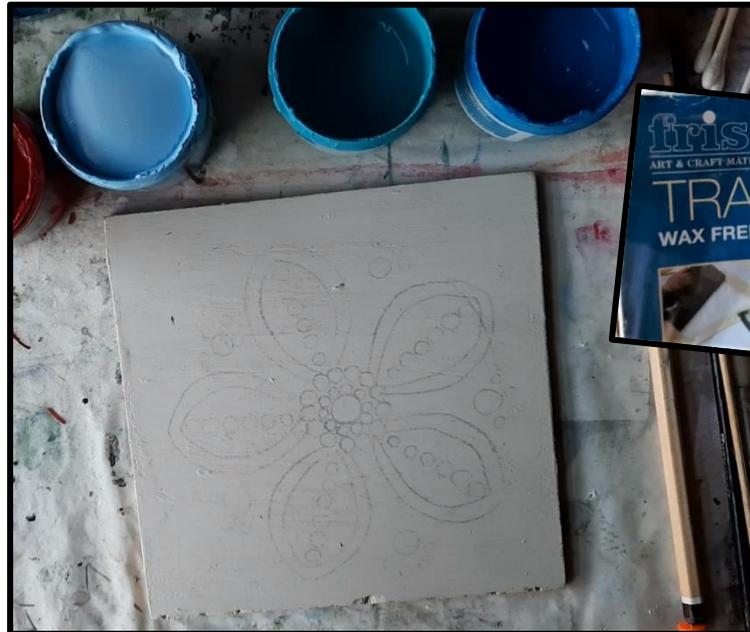
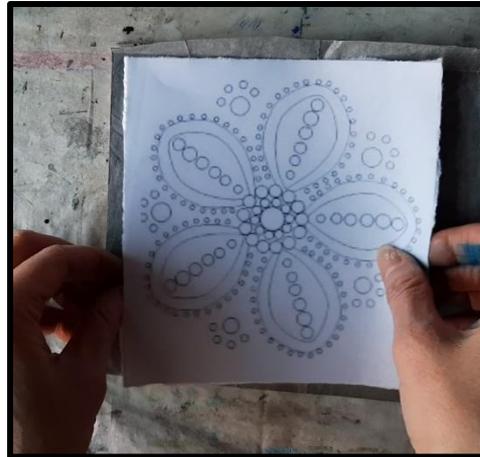
Preparation for floral design

I have provided a template for a floral mandala at the end of the document, which can be copied or traced onto your surface.

I used Tracedown to transfer my design. The tracing paper is placed face down onto the chosen surface (it works on lots of different surfaces), with the design positioned on top. Tracing over the outlines enables the image to be transferred accurately onto the surface below.

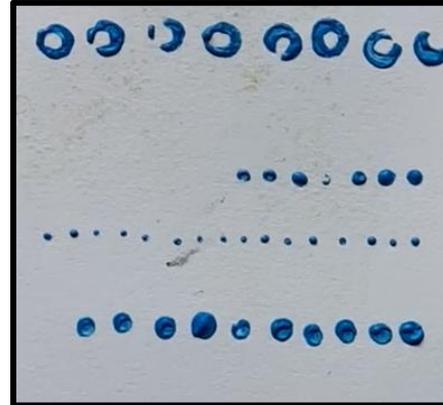
You may prefer to draw free-hand taking inspiration from some of the images in this document.

I then established my colour scheme from emulsion tester pots, although acrylic paint would also work well.



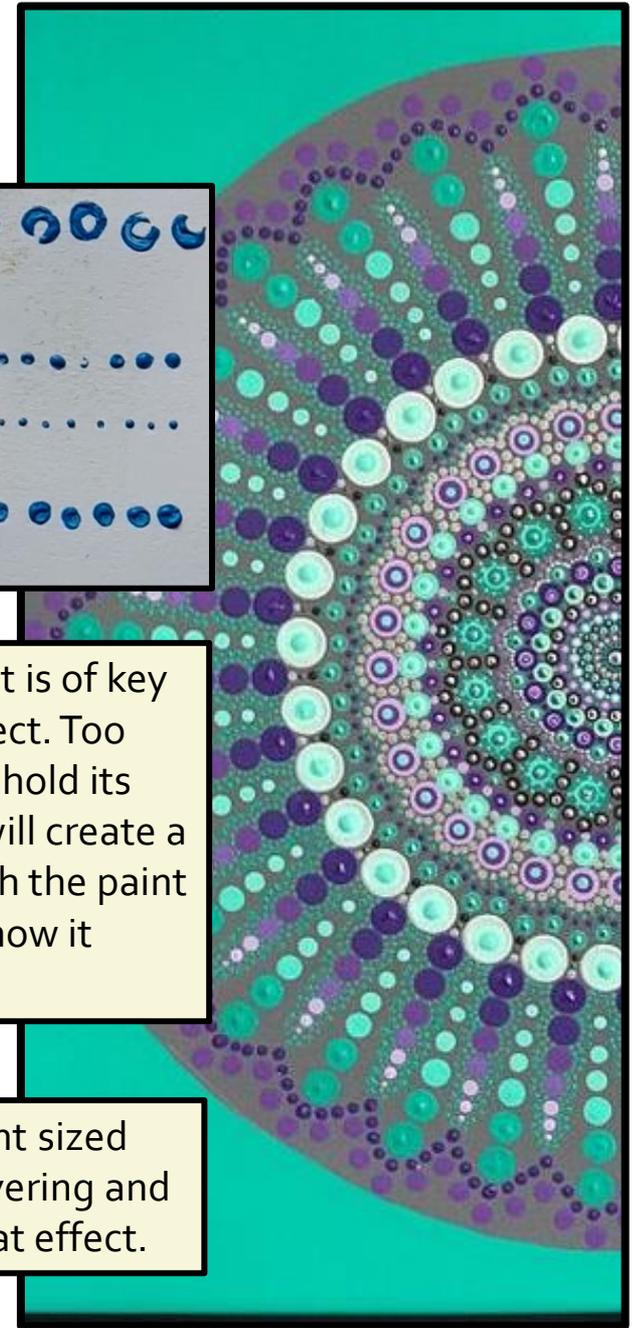
Preparation continued

It is a good idea to do a quick test of your home made dotting tools to see how well they print and to check that you have a range of different sized dots. It will also enable you to familiarise yourself with how much paint to dip into so that you get a clear circle.



The consistency of the paint is of key to the success of your project. Too runny and your dot will not hold its shape but too thick and it will create a point – so do a trial first with the paint you have available to see how it behaves.

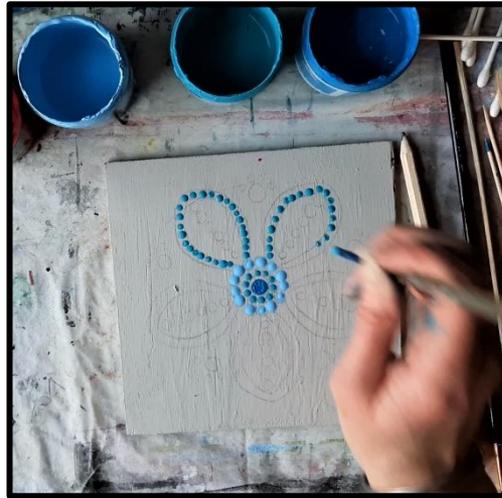
An example of how different sized dots have been used in a layering and ascending technique to great effect.



Creating your design

Tips on printing your design

- Always start at the centre of your design and grow your artwork outwards.
- When using a flat edge tool such as a dowel or nail head, aim to just touch the top of the paint with the end. If you dip it all the way in you will get paint on the edges and it will not create a clean dot.
- Often a lighter touch is better.
- When you want to keep your dots consistent in size use the dip and dot, dip and dot technique, wiping your tool regularly.

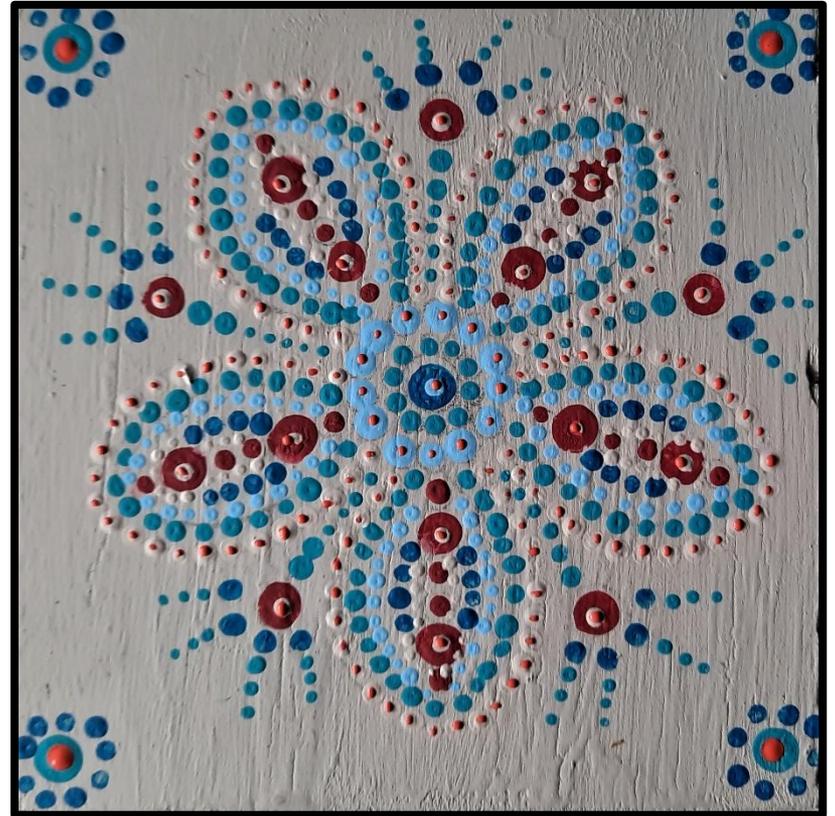


Creating your design

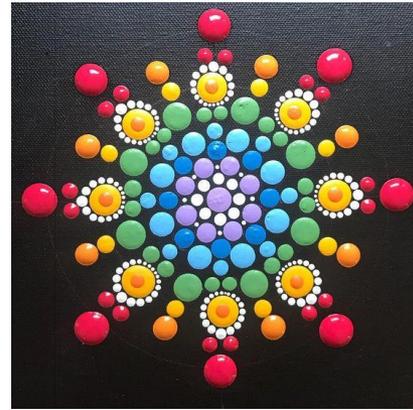
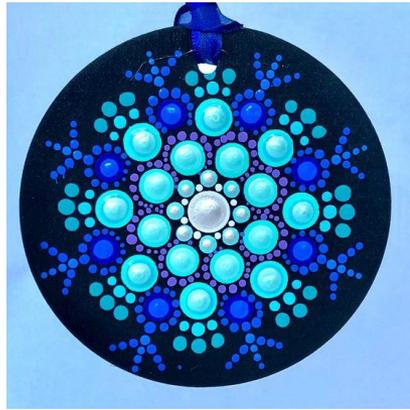
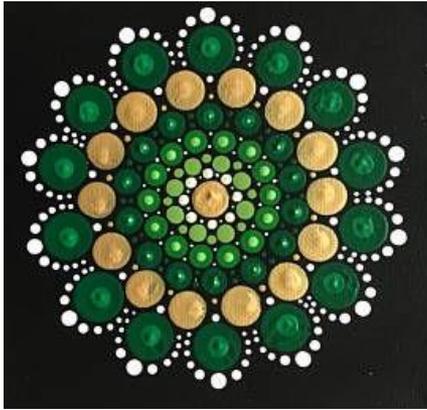
My tip for correcting mistakes is to use a dampened cotton bud to remove a dot/smudge while the paint is still wet . Then once the area is dry I redo the dot.

Layering the larger dots (once dry) with smaller dots on top in a contrasting colour applied with a fine tool like a tooth pick creates a striking design. It looks complex but is fairly simple to achieve.

If working on items you want to use such as coasters or teapot stands I suggest coating the finished dry design with a couple of layers of varnish or Mod Podge.

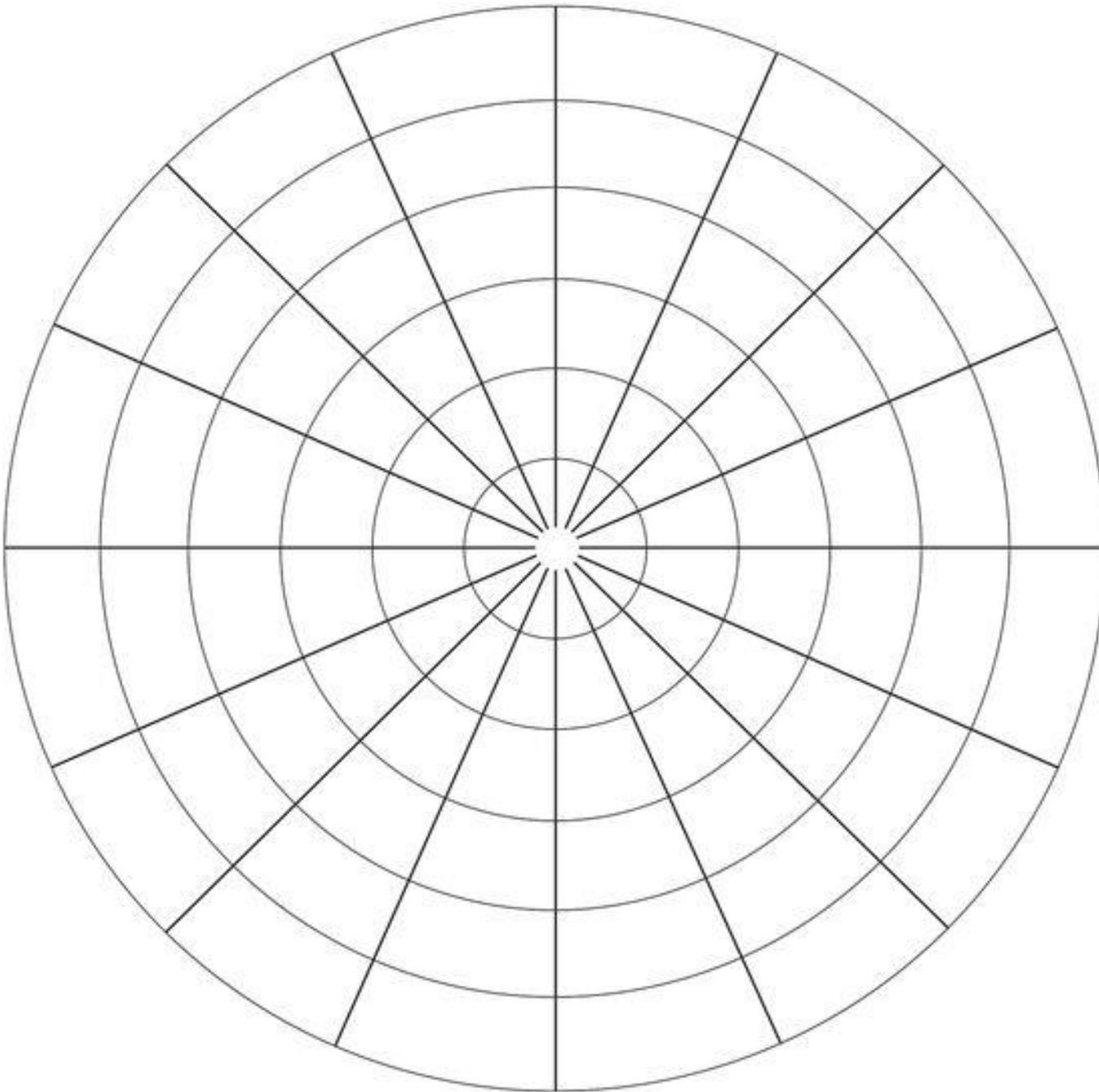


Creative Inspiration



See more here at A beginners guide to Mandala Rock Painting
<https://www.rockpaintingguide.com/mandala-rock-painting-guide>

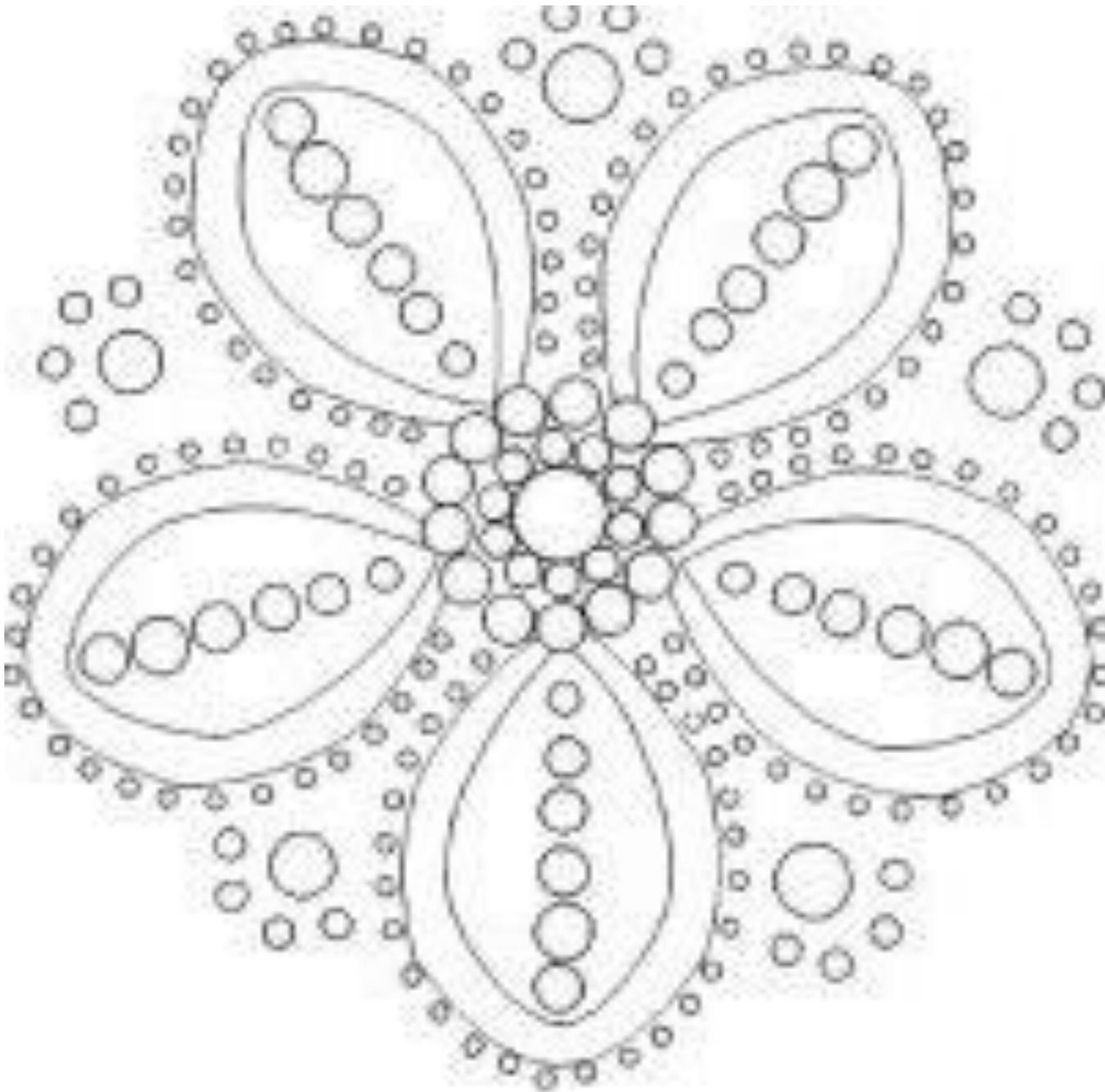
Templates



These can be printed, cut out and drawn around.

Or use them to inspire your own designs.

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