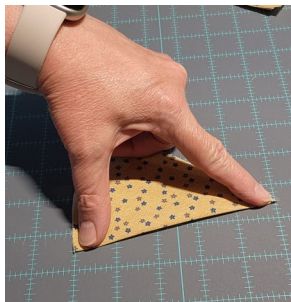


Sewing a convex and concave curve together.

A *convex curve* shapes outward, much like a football while a *concave curve* shapes inwards. In our instruction we refer to a Convex as an outer curve and a concave as an inner curve.

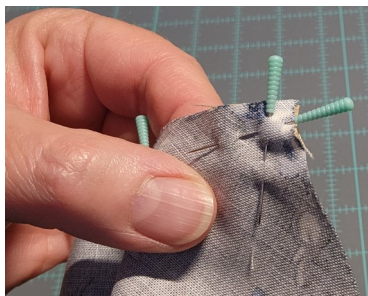


There are many video's and blog postings on the web for this technique, each with their own interpretation. Here is a an example of one method.

1. For each piece you want to fold both ends together to create a crease in the middle. Then fold side again towards the middle and crease. This creates a new fold at the quarter mark. For small curves, a center crease is sufficient, for larger you will want to create creases in quarters as shown.



2. Matching creases, pin from center out, finishing by lining up your outside seams as shown. It is recommended to minimally pin center and edges, but you may be more comfortable with 5 pins matching your quarter section folds. Adding additional pins to help smooth your curve before stitching is an option.



Note: You want to make sure your sides (straight seams) are aligned and stay aligned as you sew. This can be a little tricky. A little extra effort in this area will ensure you have nice finished edges. There are multiple ways to accomplish this from pinning and carefully removing each pin as you sew; using a very fine pin and sewing over it; or even using Elmer's School Glue to keep the edges aligned. Find which method works best for you.



3. Sew your two pieces together sewing on the 1/4" curved seam. The 1/4" seam line is the only location where your two curves are equal lengths.

- Sew with 1.8 or 2.0 stitch length, making it easier to sew a curved seam.
- Sew with inner curve piece on top, stretching the bottom outer curve piece slightly with your fingers as you stitch.
- As you start sewing your curve seam, keep your seam straight until you stitch past the 1/4 side seam allowance (3/8" or 1/2" dependent on block size) and then start forming your 1/4" curved seam. As you complete your curved seam, finish with a straight seam the same length you started with. This will help your edges stay nice and straight when you press your block flat. This will also help when you assemble your quilt in a future step.

