

Spirals Workshop

A technique created by Marilyn Smith

This workshop is comprised of 4 parts:

✧ Fabric Preparation

Cutting a spiral from cardstock

Cutting spirals from fabric

Application to a background

Fabric Preparation

1. Cut 100% white cotton into a 19" square for each color you want to paint. You can prewash the fabric if you want, or use PDF fabric.
2. Cut a 17" square from Wonder Under for each fabric you want to paint and apply it to the fabric according to the manufacturers directions.
3. Protect your painting surface. I painted on my kitchen island, laying down an old bedspread topped with a drop cloth.
4. Place Wonder Under applied fabric, fabric side up on painting surface and pin onto the cloth protective surfaces with at least 8 straight pins.
5. Thickly apply Jacquard Textile paint to each piece of fabric. The thick paint makes it easier to cut out the spirals. This is not meant for a bed quilt, so it is ok if it is stiff. You only need to paint to the edges of the Wonder Under. I use an old brush because I like the brush stokes to show. Use other surface design techniques such as pallet knife, cheesecloth, stamped circles made with small cookie cutters or small glasses, splatters of paint.....use your imagination.
6. Allow paint to dry in well ventilated environment
7. Remove the fabric from painting surface and iron the back side (not the paint side) to heat set the paint. The Jacquard paint label says to heat for 30 seconds. I had some trouble with buckling of the fabric after ironing, so I carefully removed the backing paper and reapplied it to the back, stretching the fabric as I reapplied the paper in narrow

sections. It straightened out pretty well. I don't know if prewashing the fabric would have prevented this problem. It may have.

8. Using a rotary cutter and ruler, trim fabric to the edge of the Wonder Under on all four sides. Cut fabric into pieces of manageable sizes and shapes. It works best if you lay the fabric paint-side-down on your cutting matt and cut with the paper side up. These pieces can be any shape and size.....squares, rectangles, circles, any polygon and any abstract shape.

Cutting a Spiral From Cardstock

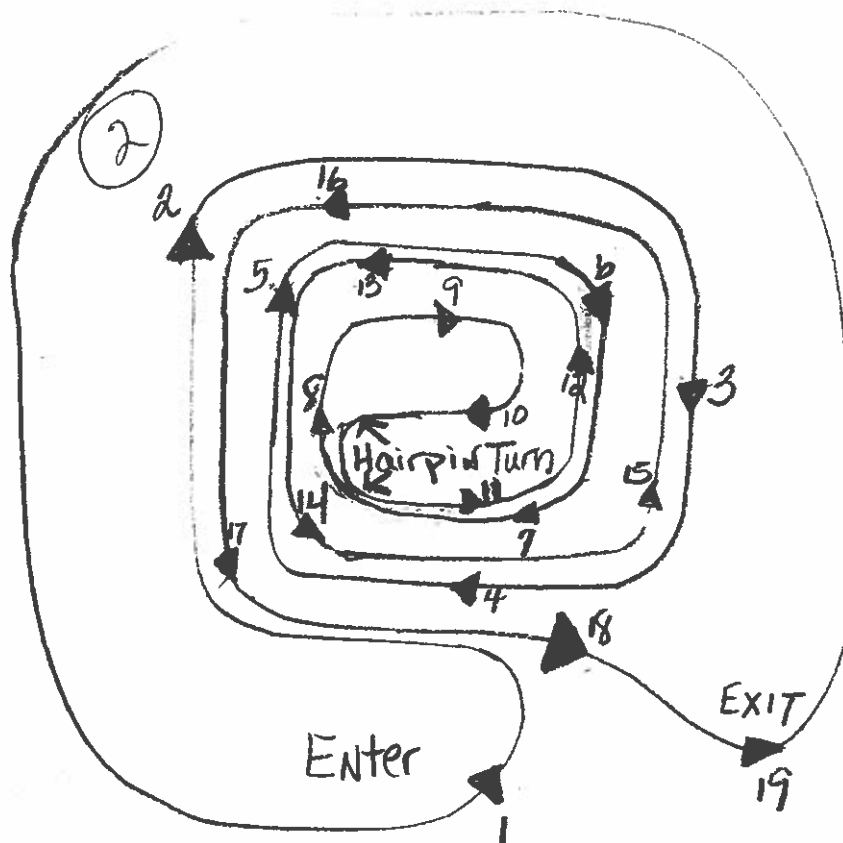
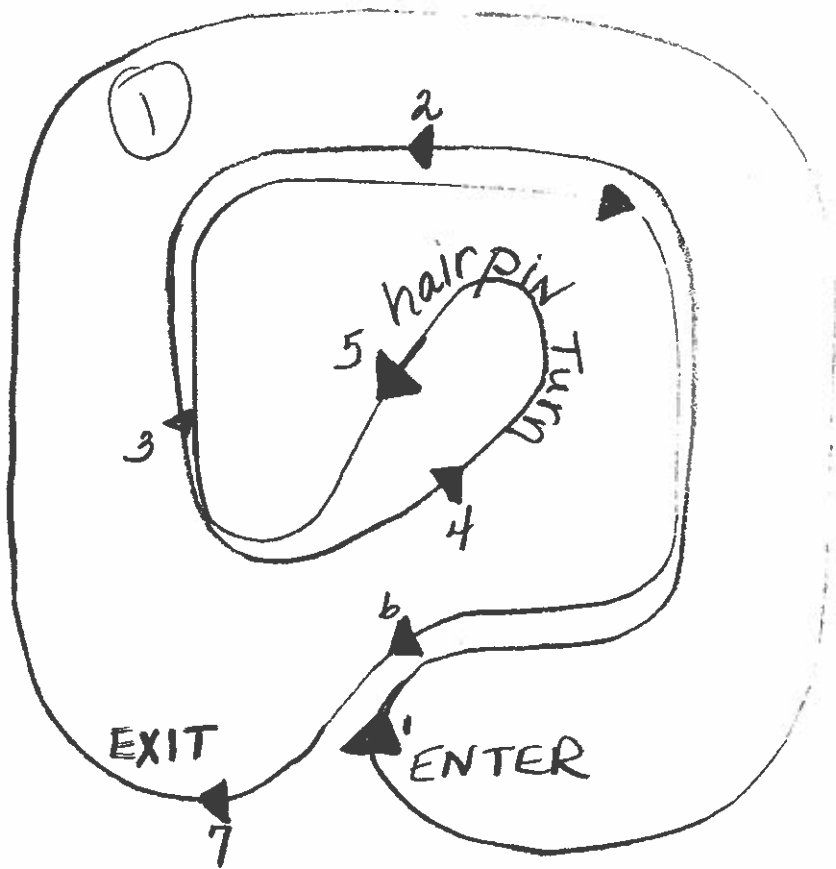
1. Every spiral has an entry point, a hairpin turn, and an exit point.
2. A spiral can be any shape, any size.
3. You must keep in mind that you have to leave enough space to cut your way out of the spiral.
4. When you cut spirals.....do not move the scissors hand, move your non dominant hand that holds the paper/fabric.
5. To begin your spiral, select a shape and round the corners.
6. Cut your entry point. I like to do a rounded turn. Mirror the outside edges of the shape, making your way toward the center. Find a place to do your hairpin turn and cut your way out along your entry line until you can exit the spiral opposite the entry point.
7. Release the loose part of your spiral.
8. Examine your spiral and edit the edges, trimming with your scissors until your lines look smooth and even.
9. Make spirals with your square and your rectangle cardstock.

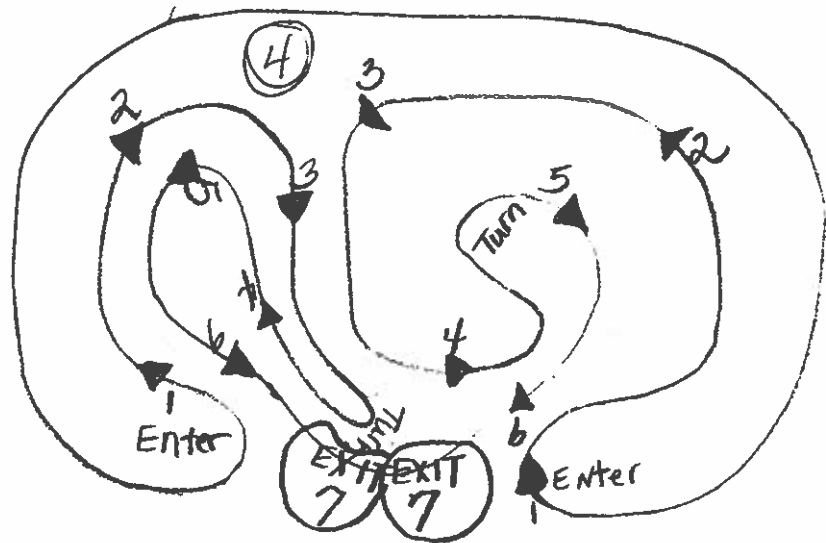
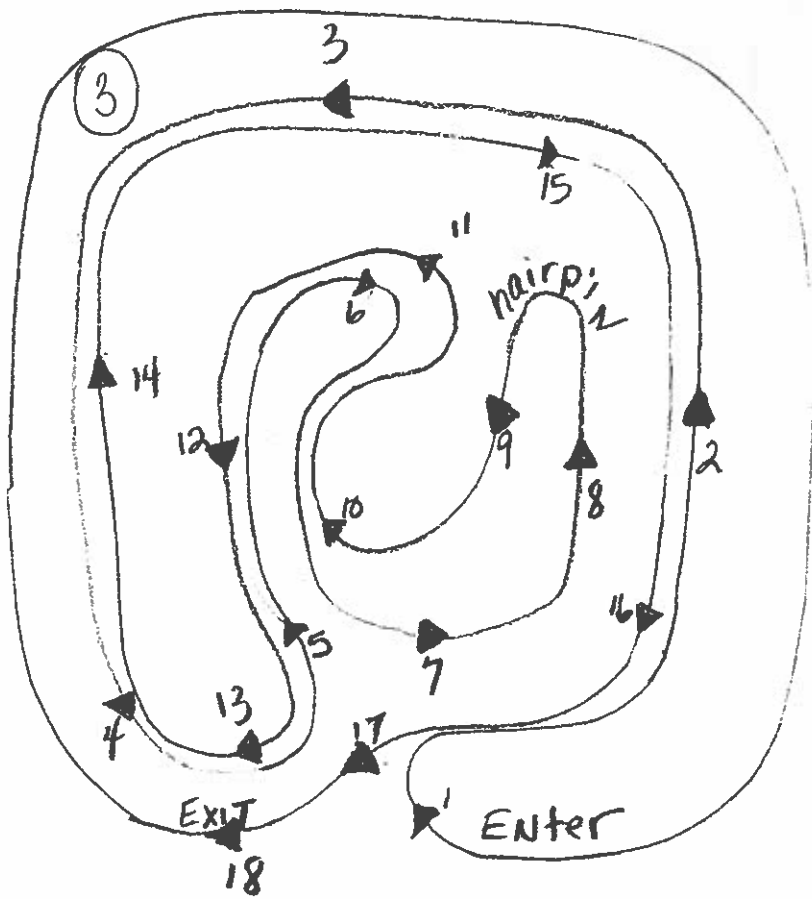
Cutting Spirals from Painted Fabric Shapes

1. When you are comfortable cutting spirals from cardstock, select a few fabric shapes and cut spirals from them.
2. When you are ready to make your spiral background, audition your spirals on your backing fabric for placement.

3. When satisfied with your placement, remove the backing paper and press them down one by one.....the Wonder Under will make them adhere. I put a cloth over the painted surface to protect the paint when I iron it down.
4. Put Tear Away stabilizer behind your spirals and applique them down with a straight stitch.
5. Select a motif, back it with Wonder Under and Iron it over your spiral background. Thread Paint over your motif.

Let me see what you do with this technique.....pictures, please. My email is marilynsmith@yahoo.com . If you send this to be exhibited, please give me credit for this technique. Thanks. Hope you had fun.





More than 1 entry & exit