

Alabama Beauty is one of the designs in the Inkingo Deluxe Orange Peel collection.



curves

Inkingo curves are the easiest ones you will ever stitch! The stitching lines, matching marks, crosshairs, and precision corners make it easy to align the pieces and stitch curved seams accurately, whether you sew by machine or by hand. These pages focus on machine piecing. (For hand piecing, see *The Inkingo Handbook*.)

If you have a book or pattern for a quilt, you can follow those instructions, but you will want to review the tips for stitching Inkingo curves on these pages too.

TIP To see all of the Inkingo shape collections with curves, go to the top menu bar SHOP > Shapes with Curves. (While you are there, download the free Double Wedding Ring instruction book too.)

PRINTING Print all of the shapes, so you have crosshairs and matching marks on every piece.

PINNING Several Inkingo matches are printed on long seams, but with experience you will probably only need to pin the midpoint and maybe at the last crosshair when you sew by machine. If you pin, take small “bites.”

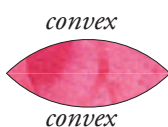
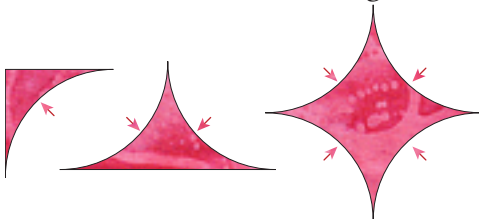
CLIPPING Whether you are stitching by machine or by hand, it should *not* be necessary to clip either seam allowance on gentle curves. If you clip, only clip the concave edges, and use several short clips between the matches instead of one deep clip.

CONCAVE SEAM UP Stitch with the concave seam on top, facing you. This is the key to sewing curved seams (page 3).

PRESSING Handle bias lightly and do not use steam to press. It is easy to stretch bias out of shape. If a piece is distorted, it is better to cut a new one than to try to fix it.

inkingo

Red arrows indicate concave edges.



requirements



Inklingo curves can be cut with a rotary cutter OR with scissors.

REQUIREMENTS

- color Inkjet printer or all-in-one (any kind)
- freezer paper (FP)
- cotton fabric, washed
- rotary cutter, two rulers, and a mat (or scissors)
- needles & thread for hand piecing, or sewing machine
- scissors
- iron and ironing surface

TIP A rotary cutter works very well on curves, especially if you tilt the cutter at a slight angle so you can see the line ahead. My preference is 45 mm—smaller if the curve is very tight.

For safety's sake, wear a protective glove any time you are using a rotary cutter and replace the blade frequently. A dull blade is dangerous, because when you press harder, it is easy to lose control.

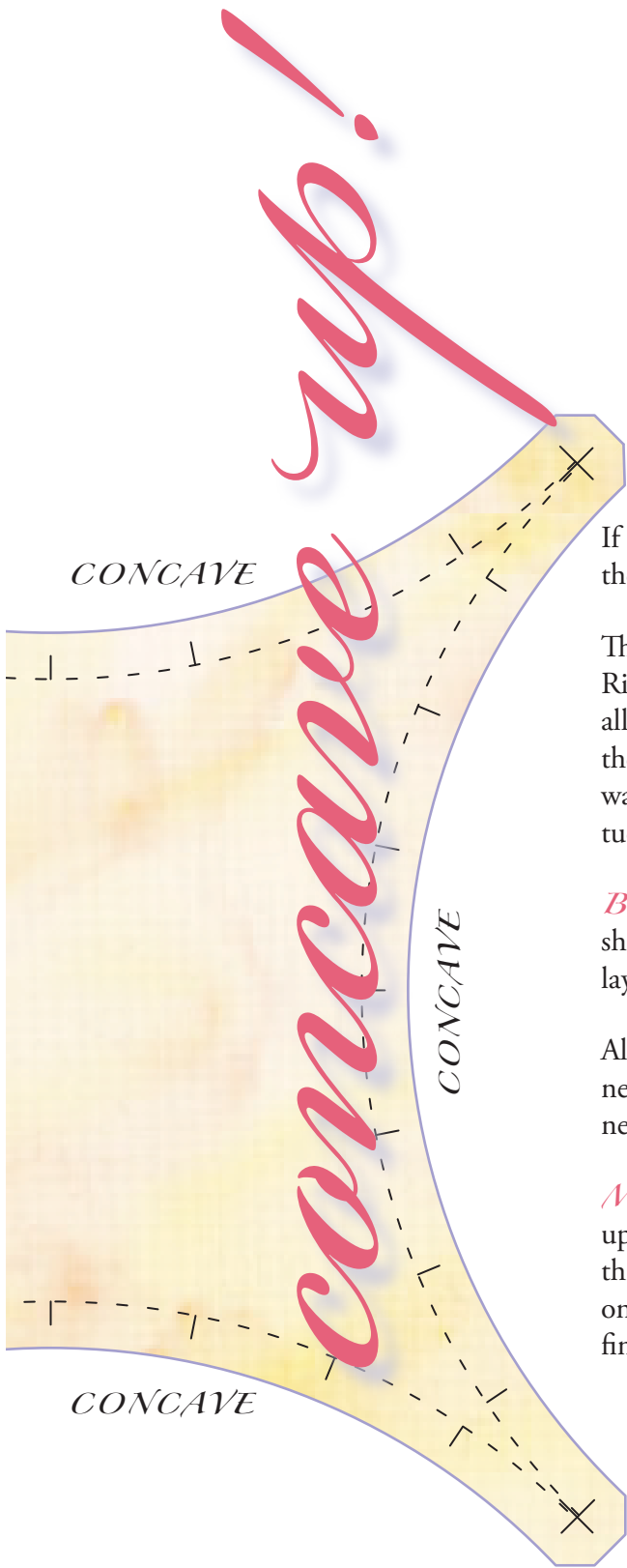
PRINTING INSTRUCTIONS

Refer to Chapter 1 of *The Inklingo Handbook*, *Printing with Inklingo*, for printing instructions.

If you don't have *The Inklingo Handbook* (yet), but you have the free Inklingo shape collection, you have Chapter 1 already. Otherwise, Chapter 1 is free from several pages at www.inklingo.com



A 60 mm blade is a bit too big for most curves.



If you always stitch with the concave seam on top, it is easy to align the edges and sew an accurate 0.25 inch seam with Inklingo.

The example above shows the pieced arc of a Double Wedding Ring on top of a melon shape. The shape with the concave seam allowance is on top. Notice how the top shape curls upward when the curved seam is sewn. By keeping the concave seam on top this way, you have a good chance of seeing and avoiding puckers and tucks.

BONUS The upward curl also makes it easier to align the shapes, because you can use your fingers on top and *between* the layers.

Align the starting edges and take a few stitches. Stop. Leave the needle down, raise the presser foot (if necessary), and line up the next short section. Continue in this way to the end of the seam.

MONKEY'S FAVORITE TIP Take advantage of the upward curve in the top piece! Position your left hand with the third and fourth fingers *between the two layers* and your index finger on top. The fingers between the layers work with your left index finger and right hand (with a stiletto or long pin) to align the edges.

Always stop with needle down, then align a short section, stitch, stop, align, stitch.

This tip applies for all curved seams. With a little practice, the pauses to align the edges are brief. You probably will not need to use any pins at all with this method, but until you get used to it, you might like to pin the middle match and the final crosshair. Remove pins as you approach them.

See *Double Wedding Ring* and all of the *Inklingo* shape collections with curves under the *SHOP* tab at inklingo.com



machine tips

MACHINE PIECING - GENERAL TIPS

- Change the needle for each new project and fill several bobbins before you start.
- Stitch a scant 0.25 inch seam allowance, as described in *The Inklingo Handbook*. Do not be fooled by the stitching line! It is a great help, but you will probably need to stitch immediately beside the line, in the seam allowance, to achieve a perfect seam.
- Use dual feed (walking foot), if possible, to reduce the need to pin. Try minimal pinning—only at the center match or a crosshair.
- If you pin the curves, use Inklingo’s crosshairs and matches, just catch a few threads of both layers (a small bite), and remove pins as you approach them.
- Use a long pin or a stiletto to guide the pieces and to keep them from bunching up under the needle.
- Only backstitch seams on the outermost edge of a quilt, since other seams are stabilized by adjoining patches.
- Organize for chain piecing, when possible, but stitch one complete block before starting a chain piecing marathon.
- Use “leaders and enders” to avoid tangling, as described in *The Inklingo Handbook*.

A RIPPING TIP If you need to rip, use small scissors to clip every third or fourth stitch on the top thread, and cover with masking tape. Pull the bobbin thread. When you remove the masking tape, the crumbs of thread will come off, too.