

It's Sew Easy 709-1 Creating Custom Kaleidoscope Appliqué Designs

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Materials

To create the kaleidoscope appliqué design:

- PC (or a Windows emulator - such as Parallels or VMware Fusion - running on a Mac)
- *Kaleidoscope Collections'* Kaleidoscope Kreator™ 3*
- Pencil and micron pens

To cut out the appliqué design:

- Brother ScanNCut
- High threadcount fabric
- Iron-on adhesive (e.g. HeatnBond Lite or Heavy-Duty Wonder-Under)

*Available at www.KalCollections.com



Instructions

There are three basic steps to creating a custom kaleidoscope appliqué design:

1. Create a wedge to doodle in.
2. Doodle in the wedge (and run the doodle through Kaleidoscope Kreator 3).
3. Cut out the design using the ScanNCut.

Step 1: Create a wedge to doodle in

The easiest way to create a wedge that matches one of the Kaleidoscope Kreator template shapes is to use Kaleidoscope Kreator to print them.

1. Start with a white JPEG image. You can download one from the It's Sew Easy website right next to these instructions. Just right-click on the filename and then choose "Save image as" to save it to your hard drive. (Remember where you saved it!)
2. Start Kaleidoscope Kreator 3 and open the white JPEG image you just saved.
3. You will probably notice that you can't see the template shape over the white image. (Fig. 1) Not to worry! You can change the overlay color by going to **Tools>Options**. Then click on the **Select** button next to the **Template Overlay Color**. Choose any color other than white in the **Select Color** window that pops up (Fig. 2), then click **OK**, and **OK** again. You'll see the overlay color change once you hit the second **OK**. (Fig. 3)
4. Choose a **Template Shape** by clicking on the **Select Kaleidoscope Shape** button in the **Toolbar**. I recommend a circle or square. You don't really want a fancy shape since you'll be creating the fancy design yourself. You just want something simple to doodle in. You can decide how wide of a wedge you want to doodle in by choosing the number of segments. I've chosen *Circle (16)* in the examples below. (Fig. 4)
5. Choose black for a **Background Color**. Click on the white color swatch in the **Background Color** palette (Fig. 5) and choose black by sliding the right hand slider to the bottom. (Fig. 6) Click **OK**.

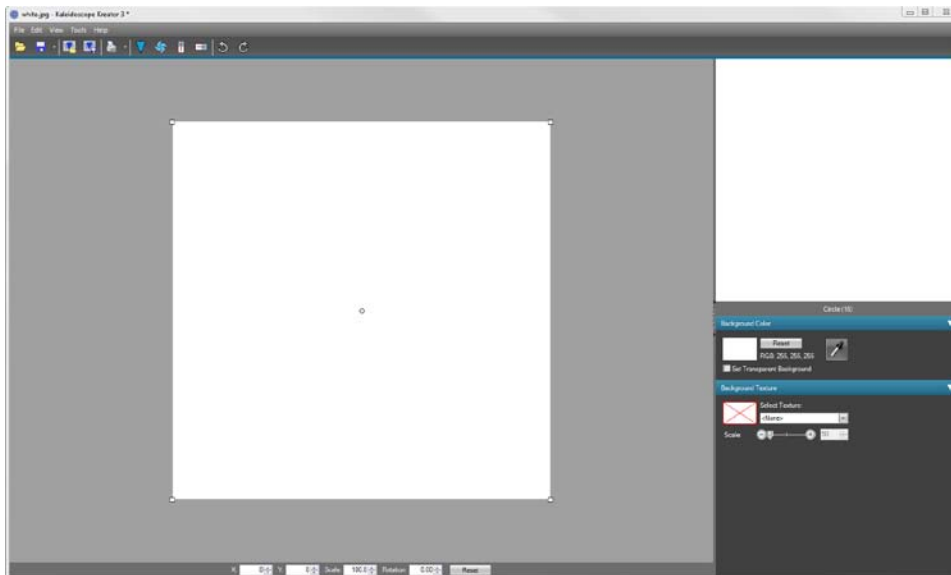


Figure 1

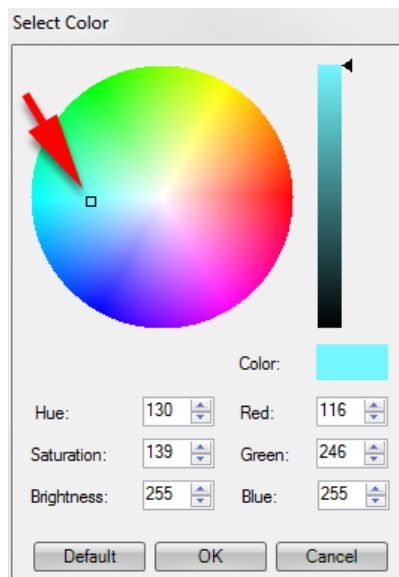


Figure 2

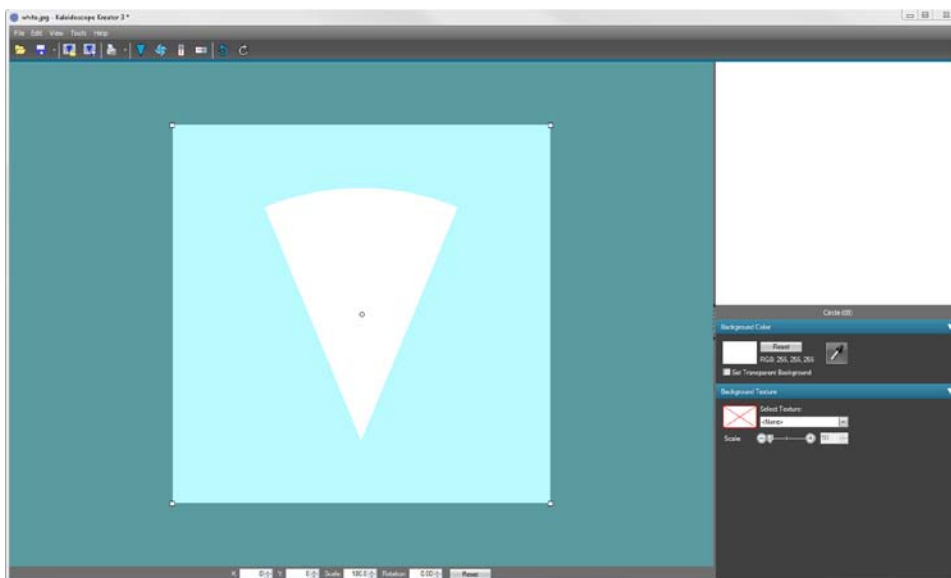


Figure 3

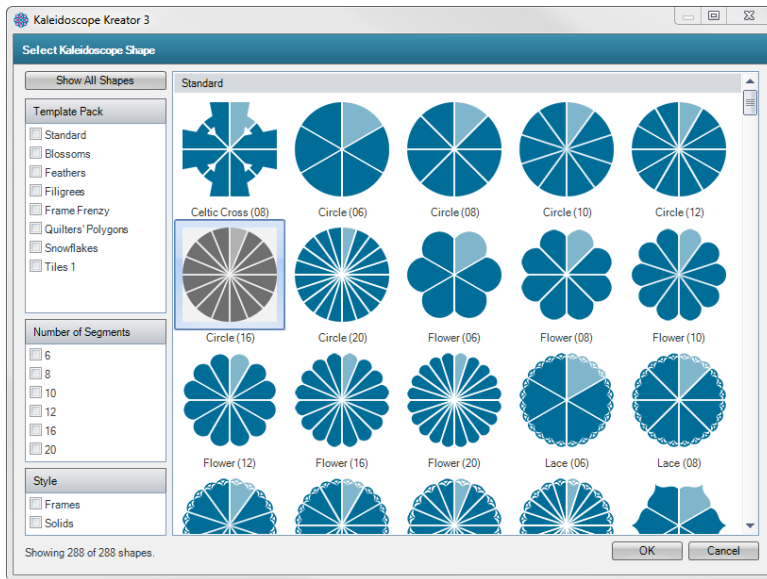


Figure 4

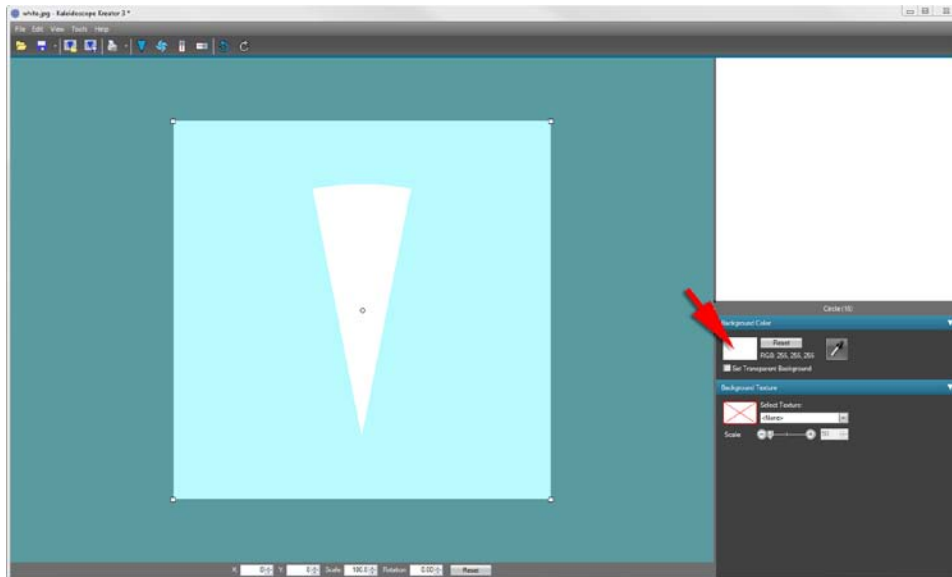


Figure 5

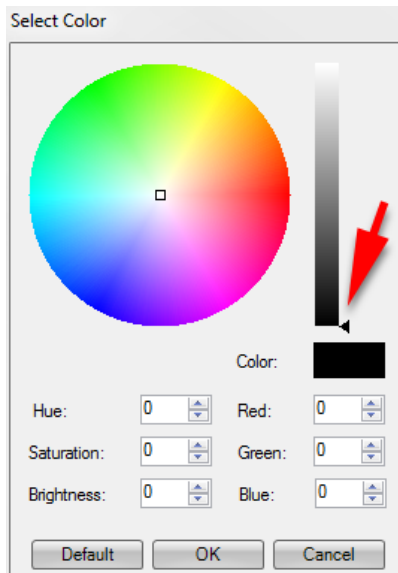


Figure 6

6. Print the wedges. **File>Print Separate wedges** (or click on the little down arrow next to the printer icon in the Toolbar and choose **Print Separate wedges**.) (Fig. 7)
 - A. Decide what size you want your design to be and enter that for the **Finished Size**. The ScanNCut has a cutting area that is 12” wide, so you probably don’t want to specify anything larger than that. (Choosing a size here does not limit you to cutting only that size! However, if you work in the size that you plan on cutting, you’ll have a better idea of how thick or thin the lines in your cut design will be.)
 - B. Make sure **Print Margins** is checked and enter *0.03 inches* for the **Margin Size**.
 - C. I usually print off a full page of wedges, but if you only want a couple, then specify that in the “wedges” section.
 - D. In the **Print Range** section, specify *Pages: 1*.
 - E. Click the **Print** button to print a page of wedges for you to doodle in.

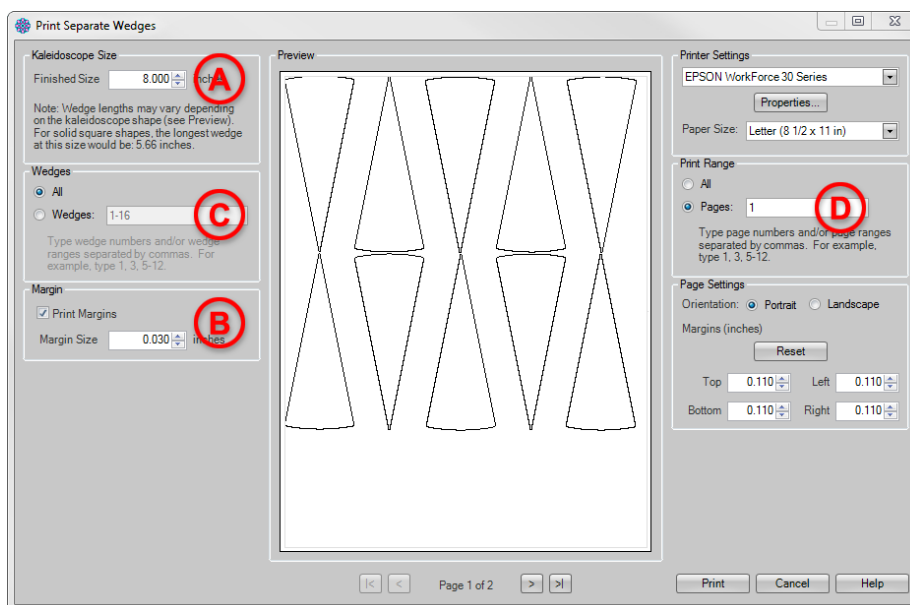


Figure 7

Step 2: Start doodling!

Imagine that you’re cutting out a snowflake. In other words, think about the parts of the wedge you want to remove. You’re not limited to just cutting in from the edges of the wedge. You can draw any size and shape hole that you can dream up for the cutter to cut out!

I personally start drawing with a pencil so that I can make modifications to the design as I’m working on it. Then I’ll go over it with a black marker and fill in the part of the design that I want to keep, i.e. not the holes – the holes will remain white. Here’s a tip though: run the image through Kaleidoscope Kreator before you color it in to see if you even like the design. If not, don’t waste time filling it in! Just move on to the next wedge and draw something else. (Fig. 8)

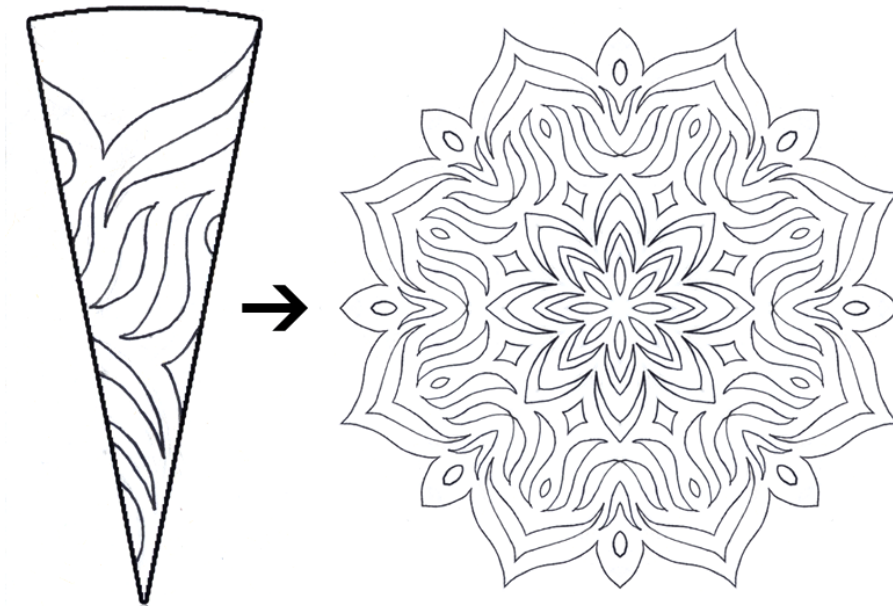


Figure 8

So how do you run the wedge design through KK? You'll need to get it into digital format. You'll get the best image if you scan it in, but you can also take a picture of it. It's important for the image to be in focus in order for the electronic cutter to create the best cutting file. The scanner pretty much guarantees the image will be in focus, but if you have enough light, taking a picture should be OK too.

Once you have the doodle in digital format, open it in Kaleidoscope Kreator, then resize to fit the wedge. If you can see the lines of the printed wedge itself, then either move, rotate or make the image larger until they disappear from the kaleidoscope preview. (Fig. 9)

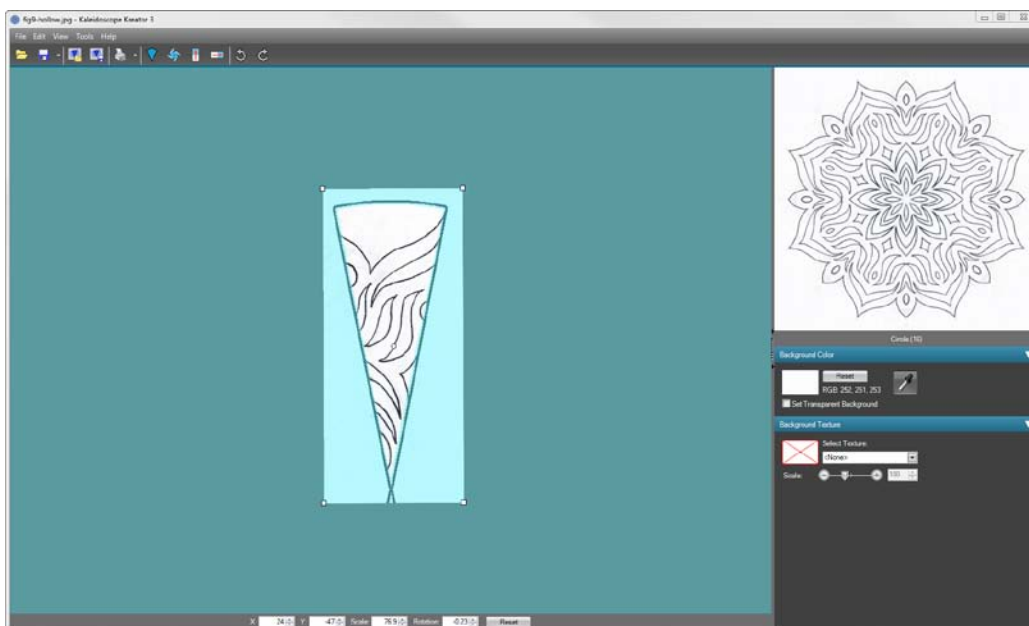


Figure 9

The more you practice, the better your designs will get. Don't be discouraged if you're not happy with your results at first. Keep making more and soon you'll find elements that you like and can recreate. One thing that I discovered is that I prefer to draw the "outer edge" design first, i.e. the design that is drawn at the widest part of the wedge. This is the design element that determines the overall shape of the kaleidoscope. (Fig. 10)

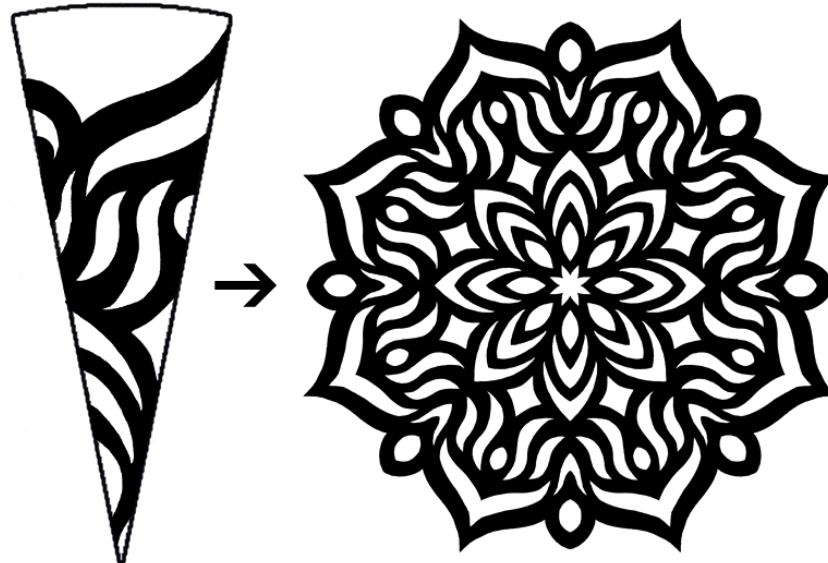


Figure 10

Step 3: Cut out the design

Print the kaleidoscope design onto plain paper, then scan the design with the ScanNCut. It will automatically create the cutting file from the scanned image.

Prepare the fabric by fusing stabilizer to the back of the fabric. Remove the backing paper and then place the fabric (fusible-side down) on the cutting mat.

