

Making Yo-Yo's

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Yo-yo's are an interesting way to add embellishment to your quilt. They can also be used unlined to make a coverlet or even a vest. Traditionally, the yo-yo's were made by tracing around the edge of any round object the quilter would find. Glasses, plates, cans, or cups were frequently used.

To make a yo-yo, you need to start with a circle twice the desired size, plus $\frac{1}{2}$ ". So, if you want a 1" yo-yo, you need a circle $2\frac{1}{2}$ " across.

Thread a needle with matching strong thread, doubled. Hand quilting thread works well.

As you are stitching, turn $\frac{1}{4}$ " of the edge to the wrong side. Starting with a knot on the wrong side, sew running stitches around the edge. These stitches should be approximately $\frac{1}{16}$ th inch from the folded edge, and should be as even as you can make them, about $\frac{1}{4}$ " long. If your yo-yo will be more than 2", these stitches can be even longer. I've found that the longer stitches make it possible for the gathers on the yo-yo to meet at the center.

When you get back to the starting point, take your needle to the right side close to the starting knot, but not through it. If you want to reduce bulk, at this time you can trim the seam allowance to about $\frac{1}{8}$ ".

Pull on the thread to gather the edge. Adjust the gathers evenly. They should be in the center of the yo-yo. When you are happy with the appearance of the yo-yo, you are ready to end off.

If you intend to use the yo-yo as embellishment, the non-gathered side will not show. You can take your needle to that side, and stitch 3-4 times in the same side and cut your thread.

If you are making a coverlet, the non-gathered side will show. You will have to take the ending stitches as neatly as you can at the bottom of one of the gathers.