Patterns for foundation piecing are provided on page 21. Photocopy the page at least 24 times, since all quilt diagrams require 48 Arcs. You may want more copies, just in case.

If you are one of the many people with a favorite paper piecing technique, please just apply it to this pattern. If you have no experience, this is a simplified explanation of paper foundation piecing. You may want to read more or take a class before pursuing a project as large as this.

In spite of the fact that this method is messy, wasteful, ignores grainline and is actually sewn upside-down, many people love it. They think the precise seams and paint-by-number approach are worth any negative aspect and we think that describes a Pickle Dish project perfectly.

There are two copies of the pattern for paper-piecing Pickle Dish Arcs. Make a photocopy and compare one of the patterns to the Arc template. If it is not quite the correct size, adjust the output percentage on the copier and print again. Sometimes increasing or decreasing by one or two percentage points will make it just right. Make a note of your settings. Since photocopiers vary, use the same machine and the same settings if you make additional copies at a later time.

In the illustrations above, both light and dark fabrics are shown in the #1 position in the Arcs. Make sure you start correctly for your chosen design.
1. Trace or photocopy the necessary number of Arcs. Use lightweight tracing paper or one of the specialty papers available at quilt shops.

2. Shorten the stitch length on your sewing machine to 18-20 stitches per inch or 1.5 on metric machines. This will make paper removal easier later.

3. Add fabrics in numerical order. Select a fabric #1 piece that is bigger than space #1 plus seam allowances. Center it on space #1. The wrong side of the fabric should touch the unprinted side of the pattern.

4. Select Fabric #2. With the right sides of fabrics #1 & 2 touching, position #2 so that one edge extends a quarter inch into #2. Pin on the seam line and flip #2 fabric over to make sure it covers the #2 space.

5. Turn entire unit so the fabric side is down and stitch on the printed seam line removing the pin as you sew. Paper will be easier to remove if you secure the stitch at each end of the seam and do not stitch into seam allowance.

6. Fold the paper back and trim the seam allowances to $\frac{1}{4}$”.


8. Repeat to complete all pieces.

9. When you are ready to assemble with Melons, remove the paper as gently as possible. Use the Arc template to cut to perfect size. Handle gently, the Pieced Arcs are very vulnerable.

Some people who paper piece would say, “Don’t remove the paper until the arc is pieced in the quilt.” That is not recommended because most papers would eliminate the flexibility needed in the arc to make a good curved seam.