Step by Step Mandala

Mandala is a spiritual and ritual symbol in Hinduism and Buddhism, representing the universe. In Sanskrit, Mandala literally means circle. In common usage, mandala has become the term for a circular geometric pattern. Mandalas generally have one identifiable center point, from which emanates or spreads out from an array of symbols, shapes and forms. Mandalas can contain both geometric and organic forms. They can also contain recognizable images that carry meaning for the person who is creating it.

**Step 1:** Use a compass (or a mandala template if you don't have one) and draw a circle that is 9 inches in diameter. Make sure you give yourself enough space so your circle fits within the paper!

**Step 2:** Find the center of your mandala. This will be marked on the template, or be where the point of the compass rested when you drew the circle. Draw a **Vertical** and **Horizontal** line through the center of your circle. Draw these lightly if you want to erase them later!

**Step 3:** Divide your mandala quarters in half with a straight line to give you 8 equally sized sections. If you have a protractor, you will want to mark your lines at 45˚ angles. Draw these lightly if you want to erase them later!

**Step 4:** Around each pie slice (section) of your mandala, outside of the outside circle, mark the letter “A” or “B” in alternating order. One letter per slice-- this will help you keep your transfer in order later.

**Step 5:** On one pie slice (section) of your mandala, draw your design. Stay within the lines of that slice, though you can draw all the way to the edge lines to connect your shapes together. Organic or geometric forms, here's where you use your imagination to make your mandala come alive.

**Step 6:** Lay a sheet of tracing paper or vellum over your mandala. Trace the pie slice you drew on, including the lines dividing your pie slices (this will help you align your transfer) onto the tracing paper. Mark this side of the tracing paper “A”

**Step 7:** Flip your sheet of tracing paper over. Mark this side “B” Rotate your tracing paper to line up the traced design over a blank “B” section of your mandala. Use your pie slice lines to help you line up your design properly. Trace over your previously traced lines to transfer the graphite to your regular paper.

**Step 8:** Continue these steps, flipping your tracing paper over and lining the transferred design to a blank pie slice. “A” side of the tracing paper with an “A” marked pie slice and vice versa, tracing the design to transfer the design over and over 5 more times until the mandala is complete.

**Step 9:** Now it's time to refine your design; darken your transferred design on your mandala and make sure everything is lined up well. now is the time to erase your guide lines if you don't want them in your final design.

**Step 10:** Last step! Color your mandala using colored pencils. Choose your colors intentionally that will best suit your mandala, keeping in mind various color schemes that work well together.
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