

Kelly Ashton / Kellyquilter Designs

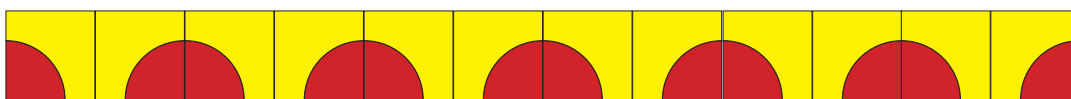
GO! Drunkard's Path

Does the thought of piecing curves send shock waves of terror through your system? Well, take a deep breath and prepare to see how simple the Drunkard's Path block is to piece! Literally, one seam and the block is done!

AccuQuilt GO! Drunkard's Path dies come in three sizes: 7", 4", and 3 1/2" blocks (finished size).

Featured in this demo:

- Accuquilt GO! Fabric Cutter
- GO! Drunkard's Path dies: 7", 4", & 3 1/2" (finished)
- Fabric: 100% cotton quilt fabric



AccuQuilt Die & Cutter Compatibility:

Die / item #	AccuQuilt GO! Me	AccuQuilt GO!	AccuQuilt GO! Big	AccuQuilt Studio
Drunkard's Path 7" (55034)	--	X	X	X (with adapter)
Drunkard's Path 4" (55338)	X	X	X	X (with adapter)
Drunkard's Path 3 1/2" (55070)	X	X	X	X (with adapter)

General Tips for cutting patchwork with the AccuQuilt Die-Cutting System

- Use good quality fabric.
- Blades on some dies are positioned at an angle. Align the fabric parallel to the edge of the die shape.
- Keep scissors handy. Occasionally, a thread or two will remain where die blades meet. Snip with scissors.
- It's always a good idea to test cut one shape before cutting several to ensure fabric orientation is as desired.
- Place fabric on the die so the lengthwise grain is in the direction that the fabric moves through the AccuQuilt GO cutter.
- Up to 6 layers of cotton fabric may be cut at once.

Fabric Preparation

Whether or not you pre-wash your fabrics, I recommend this "fabric prep" step to help add stability to the fabrics prior to cutting. This step is not related to cutting with AccuQuilt; the AccuQuilt cutter and die will cut the fabric beautifully! This step is related to piecing. In my opinion, this step is important to help diminish the likelihood of distorting the patchwork during piecing anytime one may be working with bias edges. I believe this step is especially important if you pre-wash your fabrics, as all of the sizing in the "off the bolt" fabric will have been washed away.

Procedure: Generously spray your fabrics (damp; not drippy wet) with Mary Ellen's Best Press or other fabric sizing product. Press fabrics with a dry iron on cotton setting, then hang fabric to dry completely (or put fabric in the dryer for a few minutes on cotton heat setting). Once dry, press your fabric to remove any creases. Fabric prepped!

AccuCutting With AccuQuilt

AccuQuilt Cutter

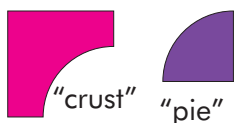


YOU are here.

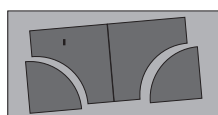
The die can move through manually-propelled AccuQuilt Die-Cutting machines in either direction (GO! Me; GO!, or Studio). If using the electric GO! Big machine, the die will be propelled through the machine in only one direction.

Die(s) & Cutting Mat(s)

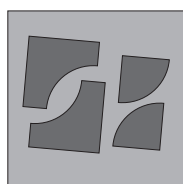
With the exception of the strip-cutting dies (because they have no cross-cutting blades), all the AccuQuilt dies are made so that the shape is on the die board at an angle so there are no big "blade bumps" for the rollers of the machine to move over. Always use the appropriate sized cutting mat for the die that is being used. Though not shown on my illustrations, all GO! Drunkard's Path dies cut notches on the patchwork pieces for easy alignment for piecing!



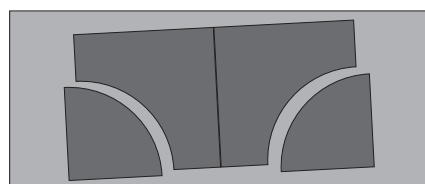
I refer to the two pieces of a Drunkard's Path block as "crust" and "pie": "crust" has the concave curve and "pie" has the convex curve.



GO! Drunkard's Path -
3 1/2" finished blocks



GO! Drunkard's Path -
4" finished blocks



GO! Drunkard's Path -
7" finished blocks

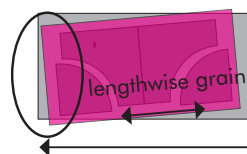
Fabric, Grain, and Placement

Fabric



The lengthwise grain of the fabric is placed in the direction the die moves through the machine.

Fabric positioned on die:



This is the direction that the die with fabric will go through the machine. The white die label is facing you as the die moves through the AccuQuilt cutter.

Note how the fabric is overlapping and the edge is parallel to the die blade.

Rough-cut Fabric Sizes for Drunkard's Path (Two sets of DP pieces on each die; all pieces from same fabric)

3 1/2" (finished) Drunkard's Path: 5 1/4" crossgrain; 10" lengthwise grain

4" (finished) Drunkard's Path: 7 1/2" crossgrain; 9 1/4" lengthwise grain

7" (finished) Drunkard's Path: 8 3/4" crossgrain; 17" lengthwise grain

NOTE: To rough-cut fabric for only "crust" or only "pie" areas of the die, simply measure the width and length of the blade area for the piece you wish to cut, add 1/2" to each measurement, and rough-cut the fabric. (Make sure to cut the fabric so the lengthwise grain is running in the desired direction for optimum cutting!!)

Sewing and Pressing the Drunkard's Path block:

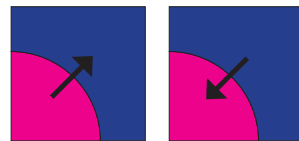
The notches that AccuQuilt has incorporated the GO! Drunkard's Path dies are SO helpful in lining up the "crust" and the "pie" pieces before sewing! You may use the area below for your own notes as I demonstrate how to piece the Drunkard's Path block, and here are some helpful tips:

- If you have rarely or never sewn curved seams, I recommend piecing larger blocks (such as the 7" finished block) first. Working with the larger pieces while honing your skill at curved piecing will be easier than starting with smaller pieces.
- Place the pieces right-sides together (RST) with the "crust" (the convex curve) on top of the "pie", aligning the center notches. Pin.
- I'll show you how I align and pin the starting and ending points of the block prior to sewing. You might want to pin one along with me, setting it by your sewing area for an example.

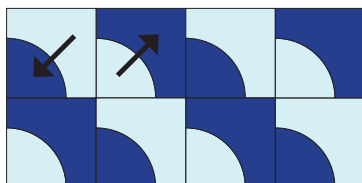
Your Notes Here:

Pressing Plan:

Because the entire, single seam of the Drunkard's Path block is bias, it is possible and easy to press the seam allowance in either direction: toward the "crust" or toward the "pie".

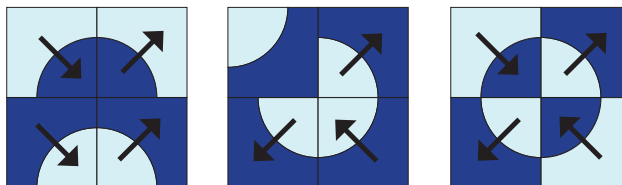


The determining factor in deciding which way to press the seam allowance will vary based on the fabric colors used and the way the Drunkard's Path blocks are set together. For example, if there is a fabric light enough in color and value for the seam allowance to "shadow" and be seen from the front of the quilt, then pressing the seam toward the darker fabric may be the better option, especially when the setting option of the blocks are such that the curved seam of the block doesn't meet up with another seam line.



In this setting option, none of the curved seams align with any other seam, therefore pressing the seam allowance toward the darker fabric in each block to avoid "shadowing" makes sense.

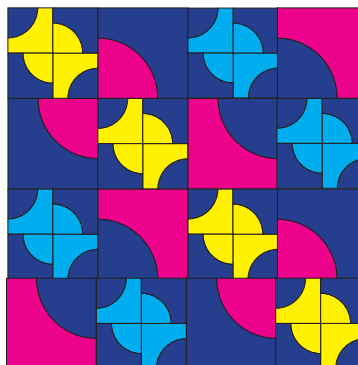
However, when setting the Drunkard's Path blocks together in a way that forms half-circles, three-quarter circles, or full circles, alternating the direction that the seam allowances are pressed allows the curved seams to nest when the blocks are placed right sides together (RST) for piecing, assisting in achieving excellent block and seam alignment! You may decide to choose this pressing option even if it means having some "shadowing". It's your call!



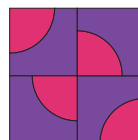
The Versatility of Drunkard's Path Blocks

In my illustrations in the pressing section, you've already seen a variety of setting options for your same-sized Drunkard's Path blocks, and they are really the tip of the iceberg! Using both block placement and color placement provides nearly endless design possibilities. The design possibilities become even more vast when we combine two sizes of blocks. The 7" finished and 3 1/2" finished blocks play beautifully together!

Here is an illustration of the block placement for the quilt shown in the video.



Here's another option for placing the four smaller blocks.



I hope you enjoy playing with curved piecing and all of the fun ways to place your blocks!

You can find GO! Drunkard's Path dies and other great AccuQuilt products at your local AccuQuilt Signature Retailer or at accuquilt.com. Also at accuquilt.com: educational videos and free patterns!!

Thank you for joining me for *Kelly Quilts With AccuQuilt! : GO! Drunkard's Path*. Happy quilt-making!

Kelly

