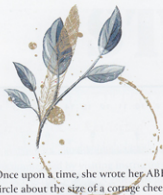


Circle Time

by Donna Uncles



Once upon a time, she wrote her ABCEDARIAN in a round shape, a circle about the size of a cottage cheese lid. But she ran out of space on that circle, before she ran out of letters in the alphabet. The trial-and-error, eyeball-it, and just-wing-it methods continued but failed. But this story does not end yet. She was attending a BVCG Galleria and something magical happened. Ideas started coming fast and furious. Yogi started and others chimed in:

Write out the alphabet (or any chosen text) in a straight line using the tools and proportions you plan to use in the circle. (Now think back to your school geometry classes and get out the compass from your old geometry set.)

Measure the line of text. That will be the circumference of the circle. To draw a circle with that circumference you will need to know the radius. Here is the formula:

circumference $\div 2\pi$ = radius. (The value of π is ~ 3.14)

Example: The line of text turns out to be 12 inches long.

12 inches $\div 2\pi$ = 1.9 inches

Set the compass at 1.9 inches and draw the circle. That circle will be the base line for your text. For the x-height guideline, increase the span of the compass by the x-height used in the line of text and draw a second circle.

And Annette said, "There is a ruler for drawing circles, called a Helix Circle Ruler, which will not poke a hole in your paper at the middle of the circle. It can make circles from 1/16 inches to 12 inches in diameter."

And Valerie said, "Photoshop is another possibility."

These are just a few tips and tricks that our peers are keen to share with each other during an opportunity like the GALLERIA, even an online Galleria.



