

## YO YO FLOWERS

**December's block of the month** will be YO YO Flowers. The yo yo is more a method than a block but thought it would be fun to reacquaint ourselves with this age old fun and beautiful "flower". Another wonderful way to use up those scrappy bits we all put to the side because we can't quite throw them away. Yo yos can be used as embellishments on quilts or clothing or bags, and if you make enough of them (literally hundreds) you can even make a Yo Yo Quilt! Make 3 yo yo flowers for our next meeting if you want to participate in the draw (and as always, the colour is "scrappy").

1. Make a circle pattern out of freezer paper, (I am using a 4 inch diameter circle for the demonstration which will make about a 2" yo yo). Iron this to your fabric (stack layers of fabric to get more than one circle at a time) and cut around the freezer paper pattern to make the fabric circle(s).
2. Place the fabric circle wrong side facing up and use your fingers to fold the outer edge of the circle over  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch. I finger press this fold which just makes the next step easier.
3. Hand stitch the folded edge with even running stitches right along the folded edge. Make the stitches approximately  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch apart and  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch long. I add one stitch past the knot. (Larger stitches make pleats and the resulting yo yo will have a smaller hole in the center than smaller stitches which make tiny gathers and result in a larger hole in the center).
4. Pull on the needle and thread to pull the outside of the fabric circle together. Pull the thread as tightly as possible and do a couple of slip knots in the thread to secure it. Then run the needle down one of the pleats and out and then clip. Flatten the fabric circle and there you have a wonderful little yo yo flower.
5. Embellish the center with a button or leave open.

**\*\*\* December's jelly roll strip (3" x 42") will be a Christmas fabric.**