

TUTORIAL

EASY NO-MEASURE RAINBOW SPIRAL

For Beginners



Easy to
Follow
Pattern

Step-by-Step
Tutorial

Full-Color
Images

Great Practice
for Basic
Shapes



RAINBOW SPIRAL

Easy No-Measure Rainbow Spiral

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There is something timeless about rainbows and spirals. Mix them both together and you have a simple yet charming beginners quilling project. This pattern is a great way to get used to making coils and teardrops, as well as dry-fitting your pieces before gluing them down.

This tutorial should take you approximately 1-2 hours to complete and is designed for even the most beginning beginner. (Is that proper grammar?)

Materials Needed:

- Slotted Quilling Tool
- Scissors
- Glue
- Background paper
- Quilling strips (I used 1/4" but you can use whatever size you prefer)
- Work Board
- Painter's Tape
- A dime
- Quilled Creations Circle Template Board or Circle Sizer (optional, but very helpful)

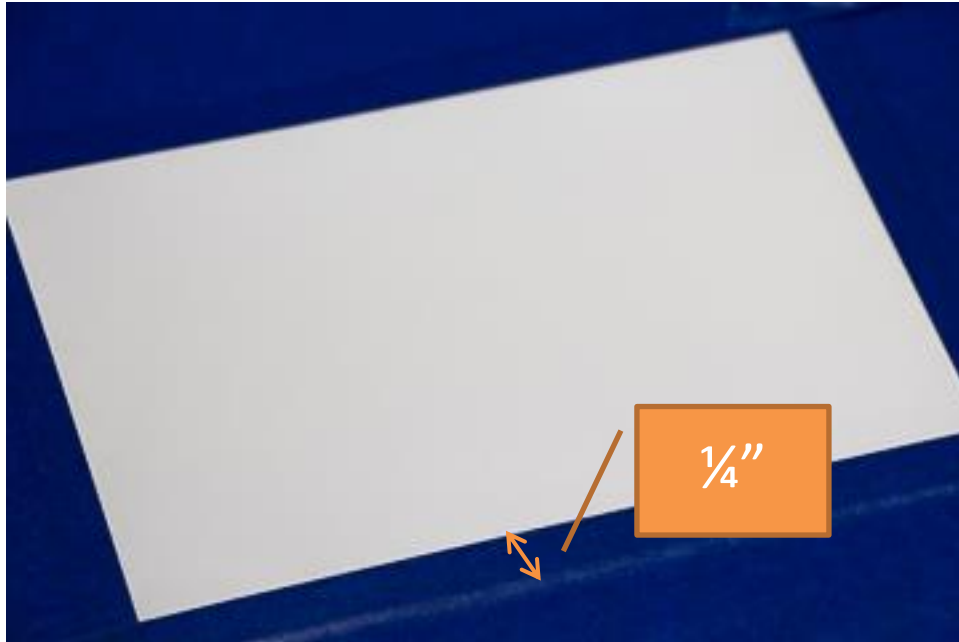
If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to reach out to me using any of the following methods:

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Step 1

Tape your background paper to your work board. I prefer to make sure my tape covers approximately $\frac{1}{4}$ " to $\frac{1}{2}$ " on all four sides. This does two things. First, it gives much needed white space – a visual buffer around the edge of the piece. Second, it makes sure you don't quill too close to the edges where it would interfere with a mat or the frame.



Step 2

Determine the center of the work space you have just created. This is where your dime will go. To make sure your dime doesn't move around I suggest folding a small piece of painter's tape onto itself so the sticky part is on the outside and tacking the dime to the center of the background.



Step 3

The no-measure method assumes that you are using quilling strips that are all full length to begin with AND that they are standard length strips from somewhere like Quilled Creations or Little Circles or Lake City. These will be roughly 16-17.5" in length. As long as this is the case, my method will work and your spiral should come out as shown in the images.

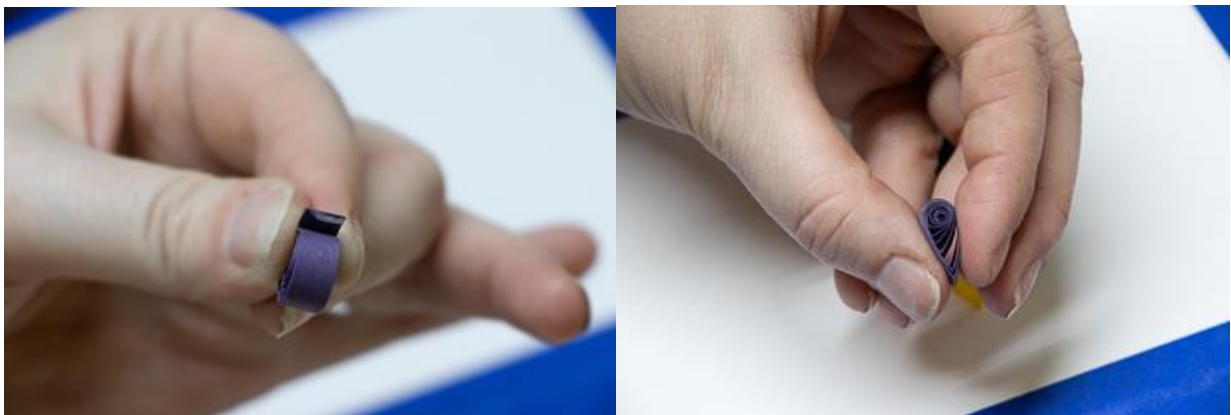
In this rainbow spiral, I have used ten colors: two shades of red, orange, yellow, two shades of green, two shades of blue, and two shades of purple. Feel free to choose your own colors. As long as you are following this method and use ten colors (or whatever color combinations you choose that give you ten starting quills), you should be fine.

The innermost ring is made with 1/2 length strips. To get this without measuring, all you have to do is take a full strip from your pack, fold it in two and snip it in the very middle.



Make all ten of your colors into loose coils. If you are using the aforementioned Quilled Creations Circle Template or Circle Sizer, the 1/2 strip should fit nicely into Circle Size 3 (1/2" diameter). Using ten of size 3 you will give near perfect coverage of the dime.

Once you have made all ten loose coils, glue them off, then pinch the ends to make teardrops.

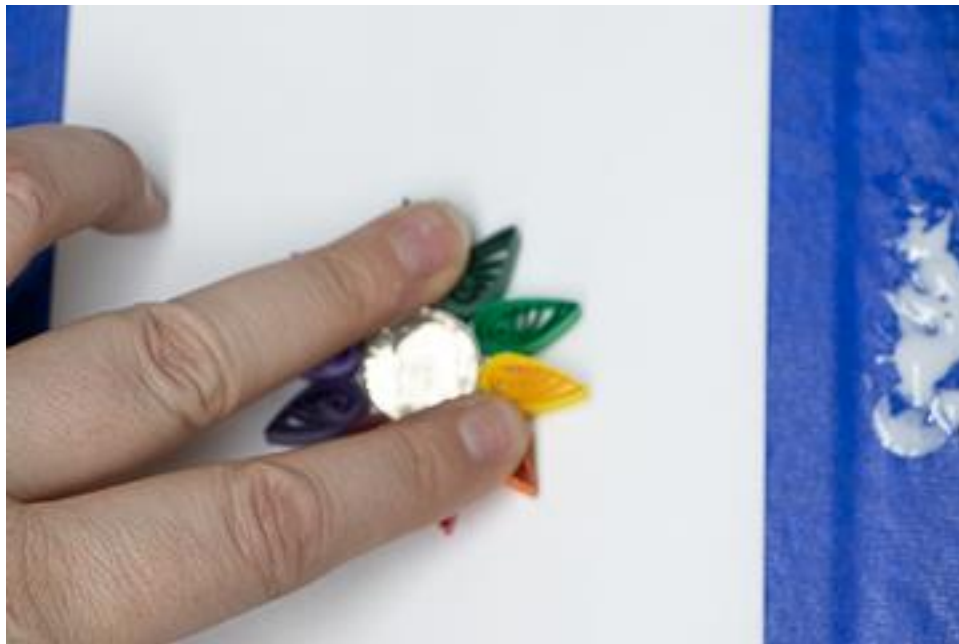


Step 4

Place your ten teardrops around the edge of the dime. They should fit nearly perfectly around it, or very close. If any of your teardrops are visibly smaller than the others, now is the time to remake it so they are all fairly consistent in size. Don't glue them down until you are happy with their placement.



Once you have glued down your teardrops, place your hand down on them to press them firmly onto the background. This helps make sure they are all firmly glued down and it pushes down the background in case it has bowed from too much glue usage.



Step 5

Gently pry your dime out using your tweezers.



That is it for the inner ring of teardrops. Just two more rings of two different sizes and your 5x7 rainbow spiral will be done!

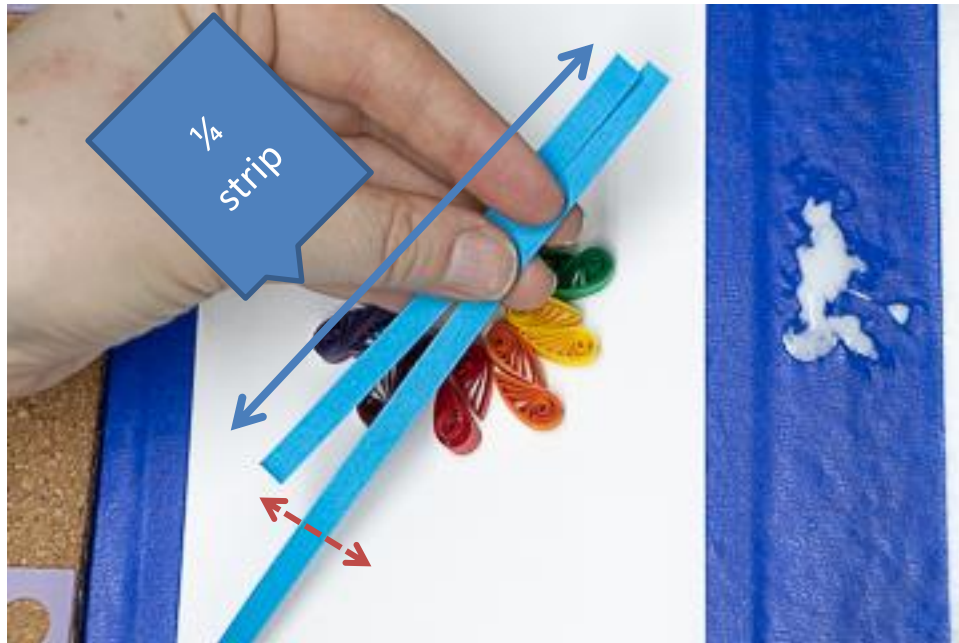
Step 6

The middle ring is made with $\frac{3}{4}$ length strips. These can easily be cut without measuring using the following method:

1. Take a full length strip and cut it in half.
2. Take the half length strip you just created and cut it in half.
3. You now have a $\frac{1}{4}$ length strip to use to cut your $\frac{3}{4}$ length strips

Take a full length strip and line the $\frac{1}{4}$ length strip you just created up with the end of it. Cut your full length strip at the bottom of the $\frac{1}{4}$ length strip. This will create a $\frac{3}{4}$ length strip. You can use this as a guide to cut your other nine $\frac{3}{4}$ length strips with.

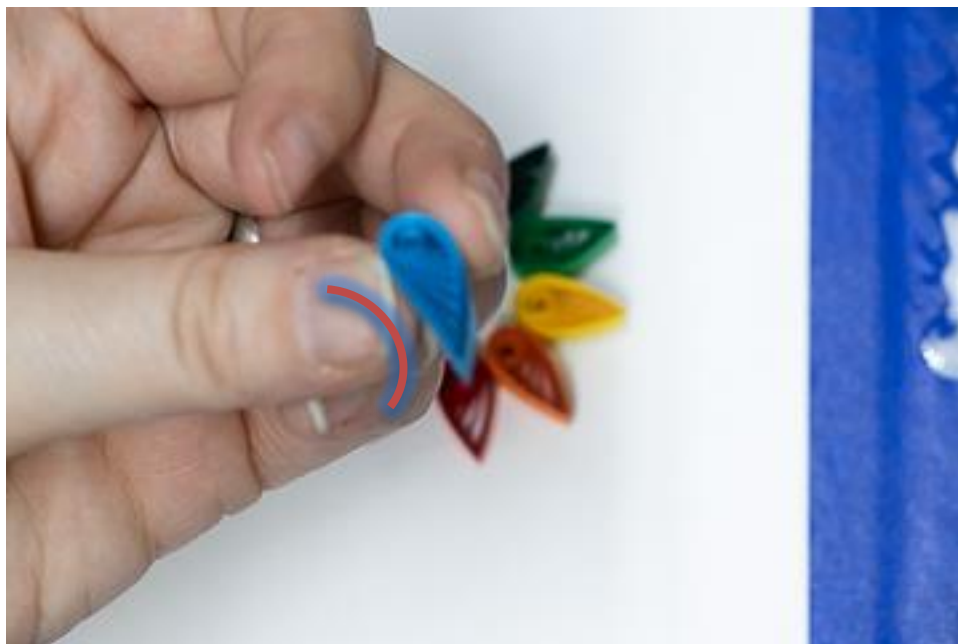
Tip: I recommend cutting these before you coil them so you can use the same guide strip to “measure” them all. It’s just easier this way.



The $\frac{3}{4}$ length strips will be approximately $\frac{5}{8}$ of an inch in diameter and will fit perfectly in the Quilled Creations Circle Sizer or Circle Template #2.

Finish making all ten of the $\frac{3}{4}$ length strips. Glue them off and then pinch the ends to create teardrops like you did for the inner spiral. Once you have made the teardrops, bend the ends to create a slight curve in the quills. This will help them create a slight spiral shape as we move into the outer ring. Don't glue them down yet. Dry fit them first to make sure they are all the same size and are fitting into the spaces that you want them to. If there are any that are considerably smaller or larger than the rest, remake them now.

***Sorry the image is blurry, I didn't realize it wasn't in focus until after I was done!
Woopsie 😊***



Please see the following image and explanation before gluing. The $\frac{3}{4}$ length strip needs to do two things to fit properly:

1. It needs to point in the opposite direction of the inner ring. (red arrows below)
2. It needs to create a small triangle of white space against the color next to it. (blue arrows below)



Once you are happy with the dry fit, go ahead and glue these down to your background.

Step 7

You have made it the outer ring. Congratulations! These are the final ten teardrops you will have to make. This time, you'll be using a full strip of each color.

Now, in order to make things fit as best as possible, you will have to play around with these slightly. I will explain how in just a moment. First, if you are using a circle template, a full strip will fit snugly inside #1 which is $\frac{3}{4}$ " in diameter. The problem is that we need is slightly larger. So what I like to do is coil the strip and put it in #1. I let it expand to the full $\frac{3}{4}$ " diameter, then I carefully remove it from #1 (by pinching the side with the end on it with my tweezers), and insert it into #0 which is quite a bit larger. I don't quite understand why they didn't make a circle sized somewhere between #1 and #0 to accommodate full strips better. (grumble grumble grumble ☺)

Anyways, once I have the coil in #0, I hold it in shape with my fingers and allow it to just barely release until it's about $\frac{1}{8}$ " away from the edges of #0. #0 is 1" in diameter. So I'm basically creating a coil that is $\frac{7}{8}$ " in diameter. (Which is roughly halfway between #1 and #0...)



Just like with the middle ring, you are going to create a triangle between the tail end of these teardrops and the tip of the teardrops from the inner ring (see blue markers on photo below). The easiest way to gauge where to place them is to but the end of the tail of the large outer ring teardrops up against the tail end of the inner ring teardrops (see orange markers on photo below).

Again, don't glue these down until you have dry-fit them successfully. Once you are happy with their placement, glue them. The outer ring looks better if you give each teardrop a slight bend around the rounded end of the quill next to it. See image below.



Step 8

Allow your piece to dry for a little bit, then remove the painter's tape. Now is a good time to use a small, dampened paint brush to brush off any glue booger that are on the surface of your quills.

Tada! You have just successfully created a beautiful rainbow spiral! Make sure to sign your artwork then hop onto Amazon (or wherever you buy frames/mats from) and get yourself a nice little matted shadowbox frame.



