Easter Table Topper

A complimentary design sewn on a Bernina 580e, by Amanda Murphy.

www.amandamurphydesign.blogspot.com

Feet:
- Patchwork Foot with Guide #57
- Open Embroidery Feet #20 and #20C
- Bernina Embroidery Foot #26
- Bernina Stitch Regulator
- Bernina Walking Foot #50

Suggested Stitches:

13, 19, 101, 104, 107, 111, 136, 147, 307, 309, 401, 405, 407, 411, 416, 417, 422, 426, 427, 429, 431, 437, 450, 461, 473, 630, 701, 709, 712, 719, 723, 904, 905, 1329, and 1332

AMANDA MURPHY

Easter Table Topper

Designed, pieced, and quilted by Amanda Murphy. Fabrics shown are by Lauren and Jessi Jung, Basic Grey, and Bonnie and Camille for Moda.

Materials

- 16 (5") charm squares
- 2/3 yard of background print
- 1/2 yard Inner Flower Central Panel Petals
- 1/2 yard Outer Flower Central Panel Petals
- (6") square piece of white fabric
- 1 yard backing fabric
- 1 yard facing fabric (around the edge of the back)
- Warm and Natural batting
- Tear-Away Stabilizer
- Paper-backed fusible web
- white, green, and various other colors of embroidery thread *(optional)*
- 22.5 degree wedge Nifty Notions Cut for the Cure ruler *(optional)*

Egg Assembly

Cut each charm square into 1 (1-1/4" x 5"), 1 (1-3/4" x 5"), and 1 (2" x 5") rectangle. Sew matching 1-3/4" and 2" strips onto either side of a contrasting (1-1/4" x 5") rectangle. Press seams open. Repeat to complete 16 pieced charm squares.

Cut Background fabric into 2 (10") strips. Using Template #1, cut 16 wedges from the strips. If you happen to own the 22.5 degree wedge Nifty Notions Cut for the Cure ruler, you can use that too. Simply line up your fabric on the 3" and 13" lines when you cut. (These are kind of "chunky" Dresden Wedges.)
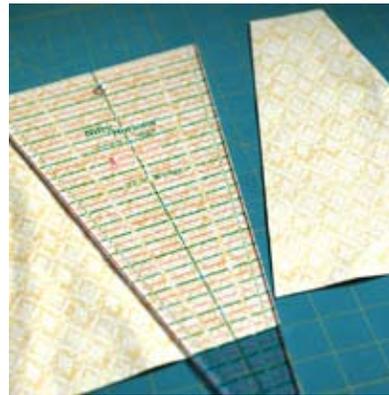
Now cut out the Dresden shape from Template #2 and place it on top of each wedge. Trace the curved shape on the top of wedge onto the fabric. Cut along the traced lines. This will give you a lovely scalloped border on your finished piece.

Trace the egg (Template #3, including the little slash marks) 20 times onto paper-backed fusible web. Cut out excess fusible roughly around the egg shape. Cut excess fusible from inside the eggs as well so your finished piece won't be stiff.

Fuse these pieces to the back or pieced charm squares, lining up slash marks with seam lines. Cut out. Fuse eggs onto Dresden wedges, using the template with for placement. (I could see right through my background fabric, but if you can't, just lightly press the wedge in half vertically and mark a tiny mark on the fold with a disappearing pen about 1-5/8" from the curved edge to indicate the bottom of each egg and ensure uniform placement.)

Repeat to fuse an egg onto all your Dresden Wedges.

2

Egg Decoration

Now it is time to decorate our eggs with fancy, much-neglected features on our machines!

I chose to use 12 wt. heavy cotton thread and a top-stitching needle so the stitches would really show. Use any (or all) colors that you have on hand that coordinate with your eggs. I used 5006 (teal) and 1114 (green) by Aurifil and 1558 (rose) and 1332 (light green) by Sulky, along with 50 wt. grey Aurifil cotton thread in the bobbin.

Back the egg area of each Dresden Plate with tear-away stabilizer. (I used Sulky Tear-Easy.) Starting at a seam, bring both threads to the top of the fabric and run a buttonhole or applique stitch all the way around the egg. (You might need to loosen the top thread's tension so that it doesn't pull the lighter weight bobbin thread to the front of the piece.)

When you get back to where you started switch to a decorative stitch, adjusting thread tension again if necessary, and sew down the seam line. You may want to adjust the scale of the stitch to fit the egg. Now switch to a straight stitch and travel around the short distance along the side of the egg to the other seam. Switch back to the decorative stitch and sew down that seam line. Remove the Dresden Plate from the machine and clip the threads, leaving at least 3" tails. With a chenille sewing needle (or one with a big eye) take the threads to the back of the Plate and tie a knot close to the fabric. Clip threads.

Now, which decorative stitches are good choices? Well, really any will work. I saved the more detail ones for the eggs that have fabrics that read more as solids so that you can see their full effect. I also adjusted the scale of some stitches and the thread tension on all. Since I made two table toppers, I tried a lot of stitches! No two eggs are alike.

#431

#709

#905

#411

#427

#104

#723

#307

#101

#107 and #719
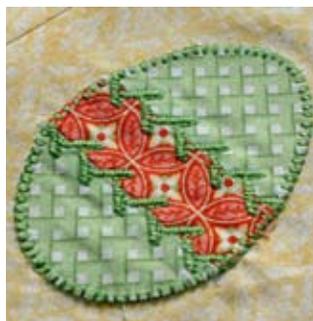
#461

#450

When you have finished decorating your eggs, arrange 16 Dresden Plates together in a circle. Join their long edges, using a 1/4" seam.

Central Panel

First, print out Template #4, the Outer Flower Template 4 times and tape it together on the dashed lines. Trace the big flower shape onto paper-backed fusible web. (I used Steam-A-Seam-2 by the Warm Company. If you only have some narrow fusible web you might have to trace it in two halves and that is okay.) Cut out the excess fusible from the center of the shape (there will be a lot and you can use it for another project!) and fuse the remainder onto the wrong side of your Outer Petal fabric.

Remove paper and center on your Table Topper, using the seam lines as guides. Fuse. Back with one layer of stabilizer (I used Sulky Tear-Easy) and buttonhole stitch around the entire flower shape to secure. (I used Aurifil 12 wt. cotton thread in 1148 teal.) DO NOT tear off the stabilizer!

One note about applique stitch. I like to use a buttonhole-style applique stitch with a 12, 24, or 30 weight contrasting thread in many of my applique projects. (I use a 50 wt. cotton in the bobbin.) My favorite is stitch #1329 on my Bernina in combination with the small (#20) open-toe foot. I loosen the top thread tension considerably.
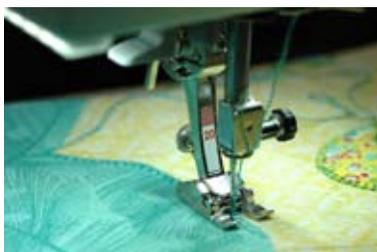
You have two options for the Inner Flower shape. If you have an embroidery machine I have designed a hopping bunny embroidery pattern to stitch on each petal of the flower! To do this, you will actually be stitching out more Dresden Plate blades using your embroidery machine, cutting them out, and assembling them as you did the egg pieces. To get this file, check the Bernina site or contact me.

To make the embroidered Inner Petals stitch out the bunny plates 8 times on your Inner Petal Fabric. Start at 1 end of the 1/2 yard cut and work your way down, rehooping for each plate. This allows you to get the motifs pretty close together. You can cut off embroidery pieces as you work your way down the fabric. I used two layers of Sulky Tear-Easy and an array of threads I had on hand: Sulky 40 wt. rayon in 1001 white for the bunny and 1332 green for the grass, Madeira 1965 orange and 1683 yellow for two of the flowers, and Brother 079 Polyester for the third.

Once you are done clip the threads and cut out your plates along the stitched lines.

Sew together plates using a 1/4" seam allowance, back stitching on both ends. Press seams open. Spray adhesive on the back and center on the Outer Flower Border shape. (You can also pin or baste or use a fabric glue stick.) I originally designed this Inner Petal shape to be centered in the Outer Petal shape like this....

But once I was actually making the project I preferred the look that resulted when I offset the placement of the Inner and Outer Petals like this...

Use a buttonhole stitch around the entire Inner Petal shape to secure. (I used Aurifil 12 wt. cotton thread in 1114 green.) Tear off stabilizer and cut excess fabric from behind the Inner Petals, being careful not to clip the Inner Petals themselves!

If you don't have an embroidery machine you can still make the table topper! Use Template #5 to print out 4 copies the Inner Petal Shape. Tape the shapes together along the dotted lines and trace onto paper-backed fusible web. Cut out the excess fusible from the center of the shape and fuse the remainder onto the wrong side of your Inner petal fabric. Cut out. Remove paper and center on your table topper. Fuse. Back with stabilizer and buttonhole stitch around flower to secure.

Tear off stabilizer and cut excess fabric from behind the Inner Petals, being careful not to clip the Inner Petals themselves.

Now it is time to add your bunny! Trace Template #6 onto paper-backed fusible web. If your are sewing the non-embroidered version you might want to enlarge the printout to 120%. Cut out the excess

fusible from the center of the shape and fuse the bunny shape onto the wrong side of your outer white bunny fabric. Cut out. Remove paper and center on your Table Topper. Fuse. Back with stabilizer and buttonhole stitch around the entire Bunny to secure. (Again, I used Aurifil 12 wt. cotton thread - this time in 2024 white.) Tear off stablizer and cut excess fabric from behind the Bunny, being careful not to cut him!.

Assembly

Before we being assembly, let's jump ahead and see some of the quilting that I did with the Bernina Stitch Regulator.

I quilted cocentric arcs radiating from the center of the topper behind the bunny and then filled in the arcs with concentric teardrop shapes. This helps hide the seams where the Dresdens met and helped focus your eye on the center section as whole.

I also marked off arc areas around the eggs and filled them with stippling. With all that motion I quilted some straight lines between these areas for contrast.

Once you have your Easter Table Topper quilted, you are going to apply facing. Take a large (at least 29") square of fabric that is bigger than the size of your Topper and fold it in half both way, pressing lightly, to find the center. This will be your facing. Using that center mark, draw a big circle (mine was about 12-1/2") in the center of the fabric square. Stay stitch on the circle line. Cut out the center of the circle, using a 1/4" seam allowance. Clip the seam allowance right up to the stitching line at 1/4" intervals. Press the seam back along the line. Use steam! The better your pressing line, the easier it will be to finish.

Layer the facing on top of the Easter Table Topper right sides together, centering the design inside the cut out area. Pin.

Turn the entire unit over and sew all the way around the piece, through all layers, using a 1/4" seam allowance and your walking foot.

Trim off extra facing fabric. Clip the 1/4" seam allowance every 1/4", right up to - but not through - the seamline. Clip through all layers - including the batting! You might have to clip a little extra at the internal corners where the scallops meet.

Turn the facing to the back. Press. (If it doesn't turn well, you might have to turn it back inside out and clip the seam a few more times.)

Slipstitch the facing to the back of the Table Topper, all the way around your circle. While doing insert an embroidered label, if desired.

Happy Easter!
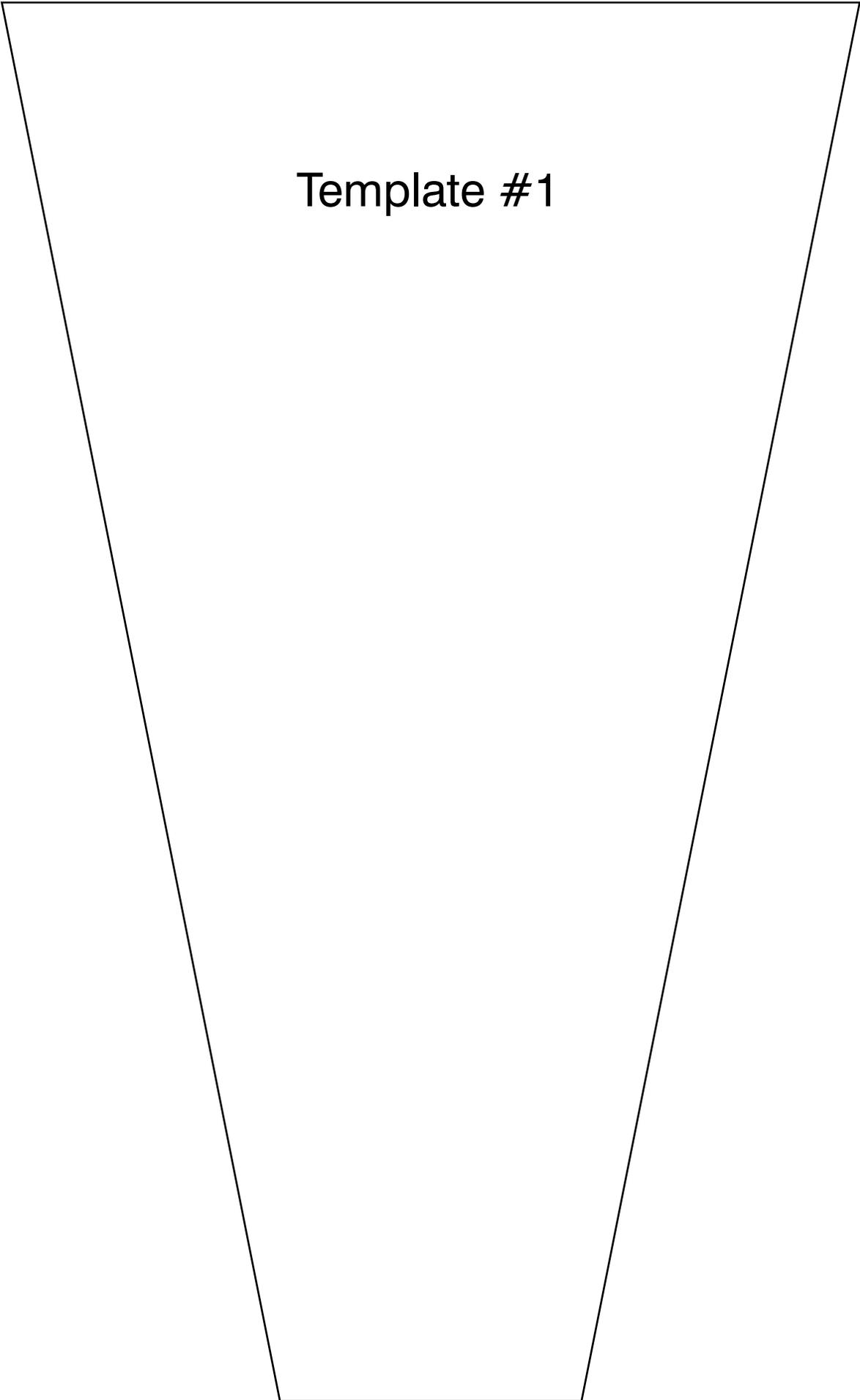
Template #1

Template #2
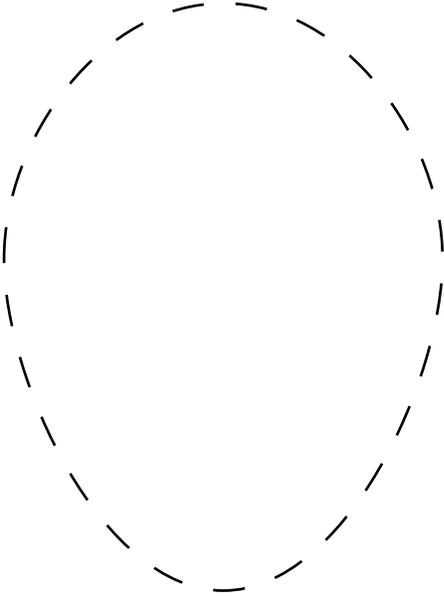
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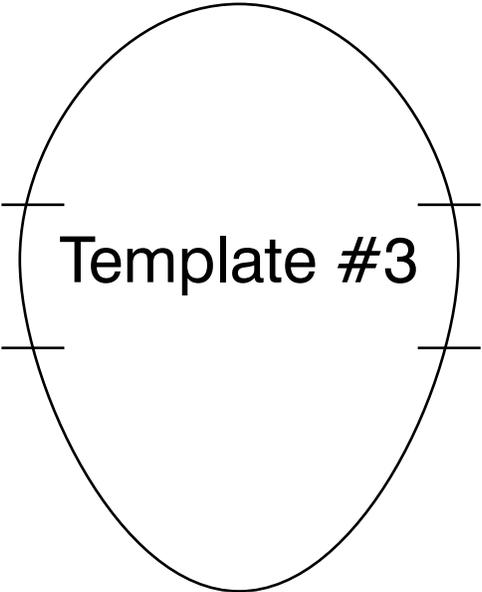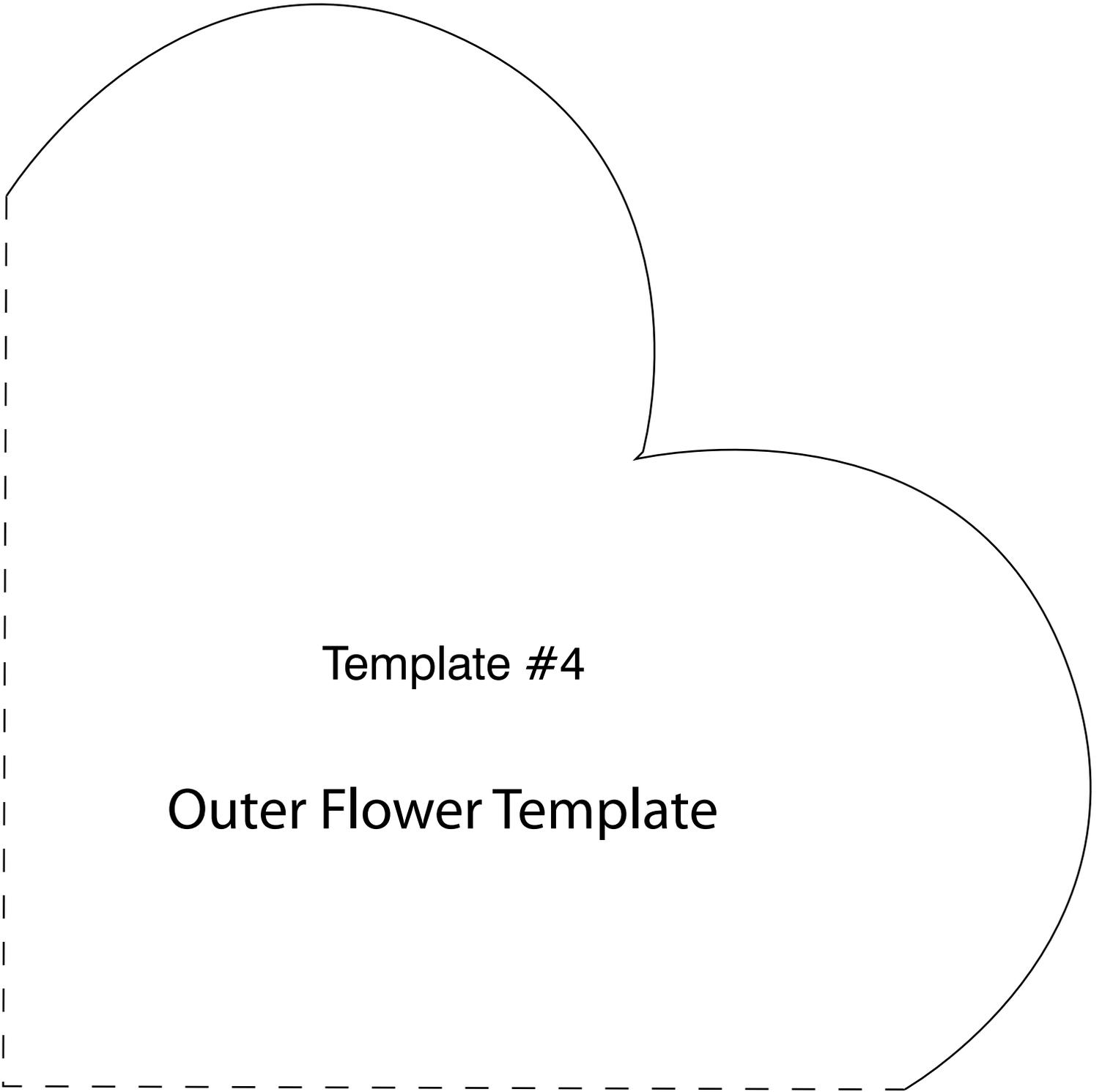
Template #4

Outer Flower Template
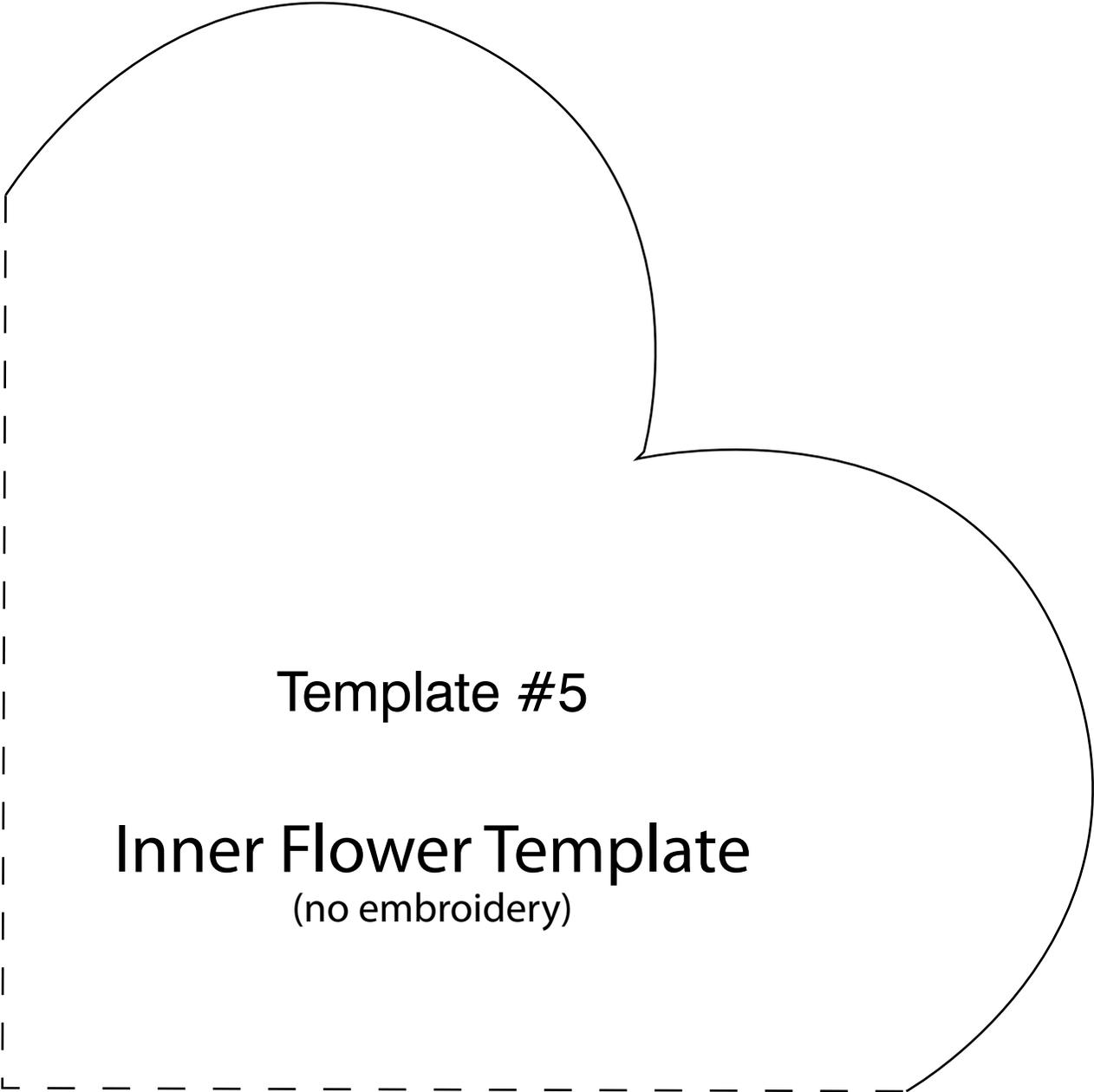
Template #5

Inner Flower Template
(no embroidery)

Template #6