

CIRCLE OR SPIRAL LETTERING

You can create a template for circle writing by using a simple drawing program (like Illustrator) on your computer (see example templates). Or you can go the old school way using a compass with pencil attachment. "Old school" is the method you'll need if working on black or very dark, opaque papers.

Spirals are a little more difficult and the template I have made for you is worth holding on to, unless you want to dig out your calculator to figure curves, line length etc. I'm not a mathematician so I tend to eye-ball lines of lettering and can usually come out pretty close by trial and error!

The real secret for consistent letters is to continually turn the paper so that your letters stay directly in front of you at the correct angle.

These templates I've provided help with these problems as they have been printed with vertical and italic guides. However, if you find you want to create a larger circle or curve, you can do so by enlarging the template prints and piecing them together like a puzzle. When lettering, remember to constantly check to make sure your paper is directly in front of you and

turned to the correct angle to assure that all the letters are consistently upright or slanted the same. The key to this is to work slowly and check the angle and placement of the letters as you work.

If you print out templates on which to letter directly, be sure to use good laser copier paper such as Hammermill Laser paper. You can even letter on the back so that the guides won't show. (Sam's carries good laser paper, reams of 750 sheets, which are great for practice and printing and will last forever.)

Other tools include a good ink that doesn't feather or smear, various sizes of nibs to accommodate the size of the lettering on the template. You can dictate how large the lettering will be when you make your own template.

Once again, if you need larger artwork, xerox-enlarge your lettered work, tape the piece together for the finished size you want to achieve use as the model and trace/re-letter on your final paper or material of choice.

CURVED LETTER USING CUT AND PASTE METHOD

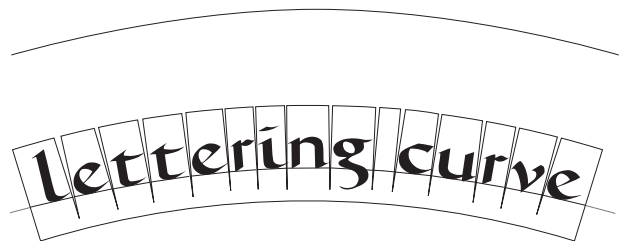
Writing on curves or circles can be achieved by using templates and light boxes, or by starting with a single straight line of letters written on a clearly defined base line. Then cut the line of lettering into a narrow strip of paper. (You will want to allow a little extra spacing to accommodate the tightening curve of the lettering).

Next, cut between the letters with an x-acto from the top through the base line, but DO NOT cut all the way through the paper strip. You will need to leave a "spine" of paper at the bottom (or top if you making a downward curve).

Draw a curved base line you want the letters to rest upon onto another sheet of paper. Lightly dab some stick glue onto the back of the letters that you have cut for "curving".

Carefully glue the "cut" line of letters matching their base line with the base line drawn on the "carrier sheet"

After you have secured the letters on the carrier sheet, use a light table to re-letter on your final paper.



Materials for curved letter set up:

Various nib size(s) of your choice (parallel pens are fine)
Glue stick
Cutting surface
Grid paper or good layout bond

X-acto knife
Mechanical pencil or pigma pen for drawing base lines
Ruler

CURVED CERTIFICATE CALLIGRAPHY *(advanced)*

First Christ Church

From this to



THIS

First Christ Church

#1

Add interest by "flaring" the title on the certificate. Draw a straight base line as above then cut them apart as described above. Match and glue them to a drawn line curved to your need. If you want to keep the letters straight as in the 2nd sample below, simply draw your curved base line and straight line at the top. Letter the copy to the margins of base and top lines as below.

First Christ Church

#2

Basic Blackletter

abcdefghijklm

nopqrstuvwxyzz

abcdefghijklm

nopqrstuvwxyzz

Foundational

abcdefghijklm

nopqrstuvwxyzz

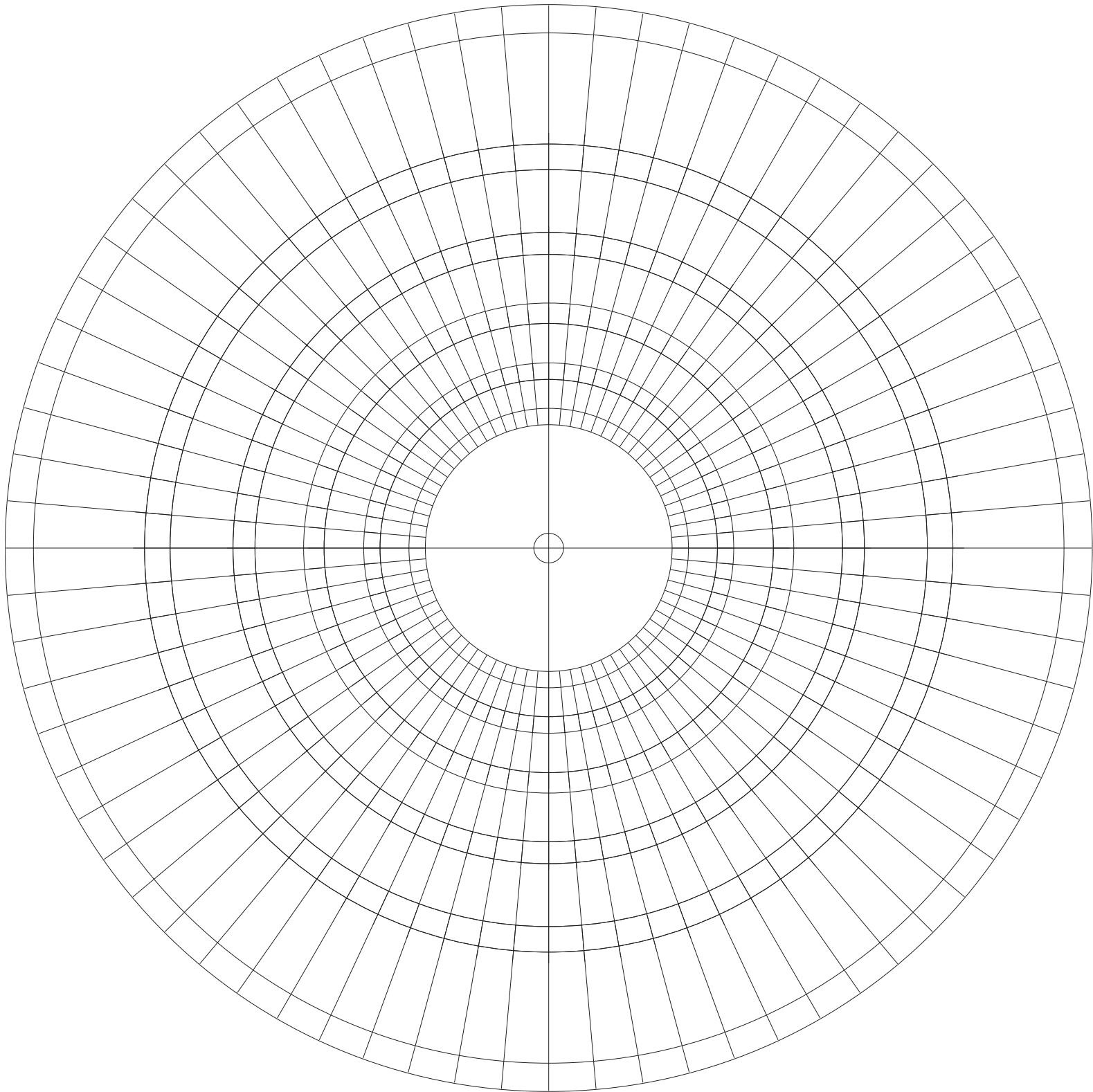
Circle writing template(s)

Suggested for Gothic/Blackletter

Circle writing workshop

June 9 & 10, 2012

J. Wimberly



Xtra LARGE

suggested nibs:
Speedball C-0
Parallel 6 mm

LARGE

suggested nibs:
Speedball C-1
Parallel 3.8/2.4 mm

MEDIUM

suggested nibs:
Speedball C-2
Parallel 2.4 mm

SMALL

suggested nibs:
Speedball C-3
Parallel 1.5 mm

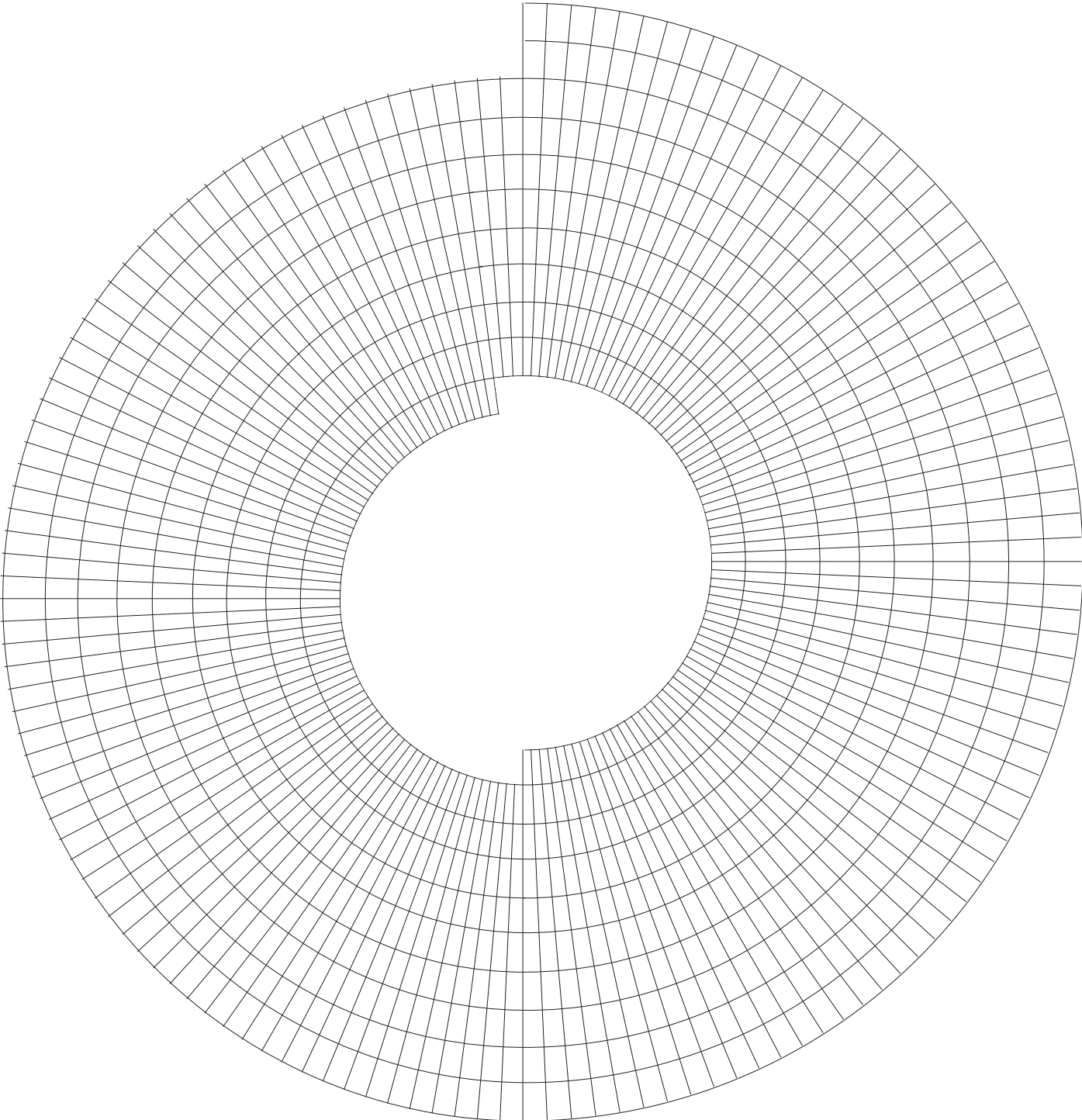
XtraSMALL

suggested nibs:
Speedball C-4
Parallel 1.5 mm

Whichever width of nib you chose is mostly a personal choice, whether you want a thin, delicate line or thick, chunky representation

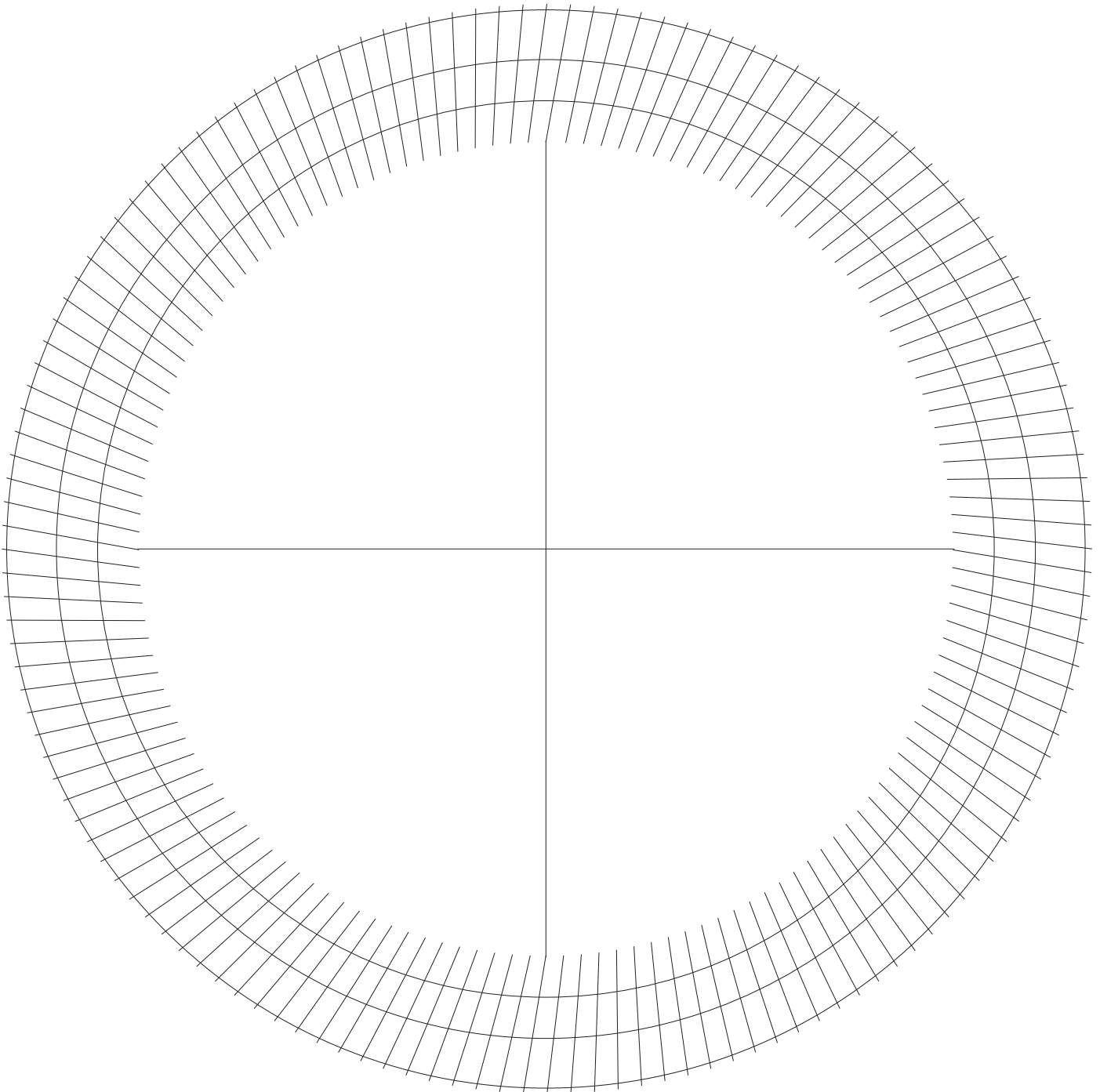
SPIRAL TEMPLATE

Circle writing workshop
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Italic Circle Template

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Tall circle layout

Circle program
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