



# Repeat pattern workshop

**Creating your own repeat pattern tile is a simple skill that's applicable to hundreds of fun projects including creating wallpaper, book covers, posters, gift wrap, or your phone lock screen. The possibilities are endless.**

You will need:

- A4 paper cut into 21 x 21 cm square (use Square Paper tutorial)
- Pencil
- Black marker/pen
- Ruler
- Tape
- Scissors
- Objects to draw from - to inspire your drawing. Found objects are great!
- Tracing paper or grease proof paper is optional

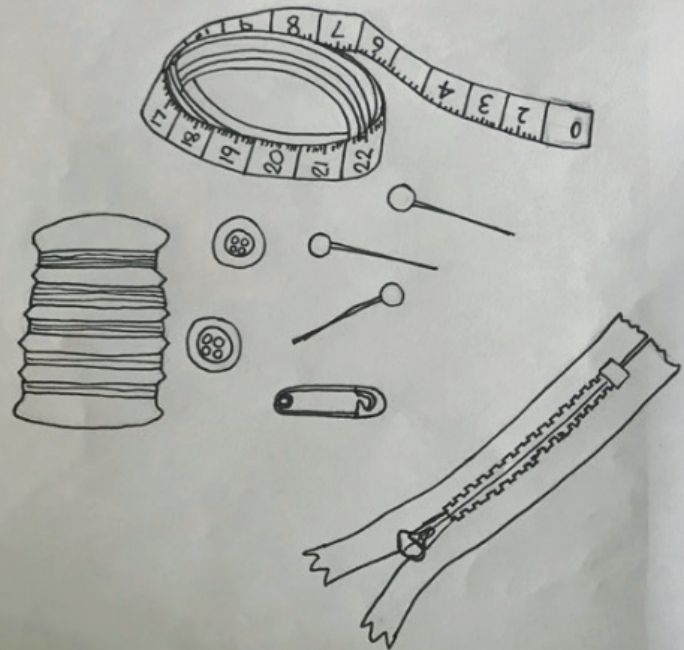
## Repeat patterns:

A pattern is a repetition of a motif.

There are lots of different ways to create a pattern:

- **Basic Repeat** – where you arrange the motif so that it is the same over and over again – this is sometimes called a square repeat print.
- **Half Drop Repeat Print** – this is where the pattern is dropped by half a print on every line
- **Mirror Image Repeat** – Where you arrange the motif so that it is mirrored on every line. You can also rotate instead!

You can also experiment with repeating different motifs!



## Initial design (15 mins)

1. Draw a design from your chosen objects. Start in the middle of your paper using a pencil to sketch your design. Once happy with the layout go over your lines with a black marker or pen (this makes it easier to copy). Make sure to keep your drawings in the centre of the paper.
2. Trace your drawing onto a new sheet of paper twice (always keep your original sketch for reference as this will allow you to go back and create more of the same tiles). You can trace by placing a new square of paper over your design and holding up to the window. You can then draw the lines you see onto the new sheet of paper.



## Measure, cut, flip and stick design (5 mins)

### 3. Cut, flip, tape.

- Using a ruler and pencil flip your drawing over and mark out the middle sections of your drawing.
- Cut your drawing in half using scissors.
- Once you have your two pieces, flip them so the original outer edges touch, back to back. Then, tape your two halves together. Tape on the backside so your drawing stays clean.

### 4. Repeat: cut (the other way), flip, tape.

- Rotate your page and cut it in half again (the other way, so that the two cuts form a cross).
- Flip these two new halves, and tape them back together. Again, the tape should go on the back.

- Measure in half.
- Cut in half.



- Flip sides over.
- Tape sides together.



- Turn the page 90 degrees.
- Measure half way.
- Cut and flip the sides over.
- Tape together on the back.



## Draw in centre of your design (10 mins)

### 4. Draw in the blank spaces.

- Your design is now on the outer edges with a blank space in the middle. Fill it in! Draw in all the empty spaces to finish your drawing. As before, don't draw on the edges.
- Trace your design you have just drawn in the centre onto your other squared traced design.

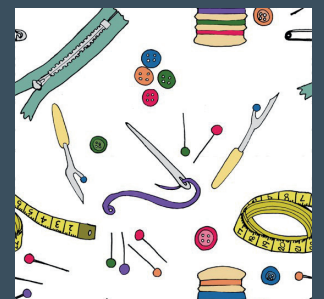
**Note:** After you have finished your first tile you can now use tracing paper or grease proof paper to trace your design as a repeat.



When you're done drawing, place your drawn tiles together to form your repeat pattern.



You can now colour your repeat pattern by hand or digitally.





# Final thoughts

## Now that you have your tile, the possibilities are limitless!

You can draw your design at different scales by hand or you can photocopy it and assemble it for wallpaper, book covers, posters, or gift wrap.

You can add colour, textures or embellishments. You can scan it and edit it in Photoshop or Illustrator for final touches including adding colour and changing the scale of your design.

Cath Kidston uses repeat pattern in her designs, as well as many other textile artists, visual artists and printmakers.



Here is an example of a set of tiles that have been designed using repeat pattern.



Here is an example of how repeat pattern could be used within textiles.



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