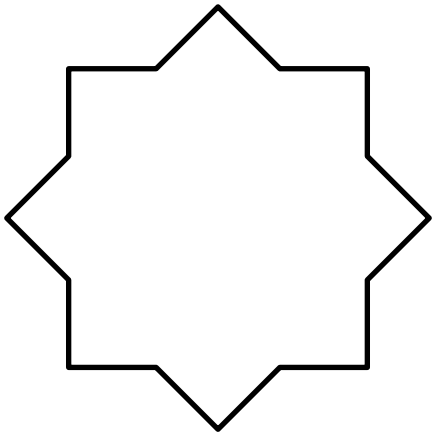


Draw Your Own Islamic Stars

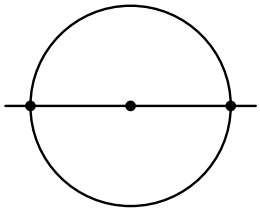
A Step-by-Step Compass and Ruler Workbook

Eight-, sixteen- and ten-pointed stars and Moroccan star patterns

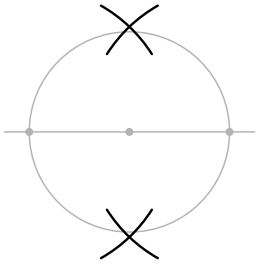
PatternSouk

Divide a circle into eight

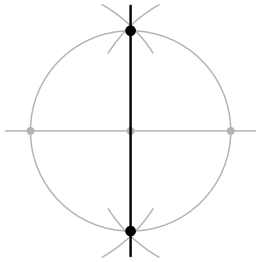
Every eight-pointed star begins with eight points spaced evenly around a circle. You only need a compass and a ruler: no protractor, no measuring.



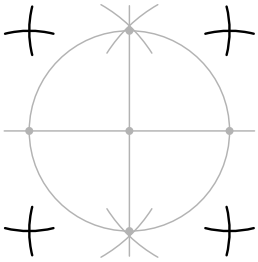
1 Draw a circle and mark its centre. Rule a line through the centre: it meets the circle at two points.



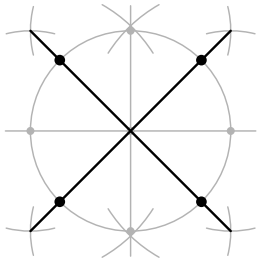
2 Open the compass wider than the radius. From each of the two points, draw an arc above and below.



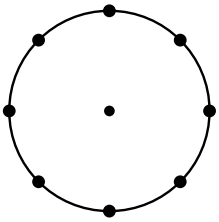
3 Rule a line through the two crossings. It passes through the centre at a right angle: four points.



4 Set the compass to the radius. From each of the four points, draw arcs outside the circle: neighbouring arcs cross in four corners.



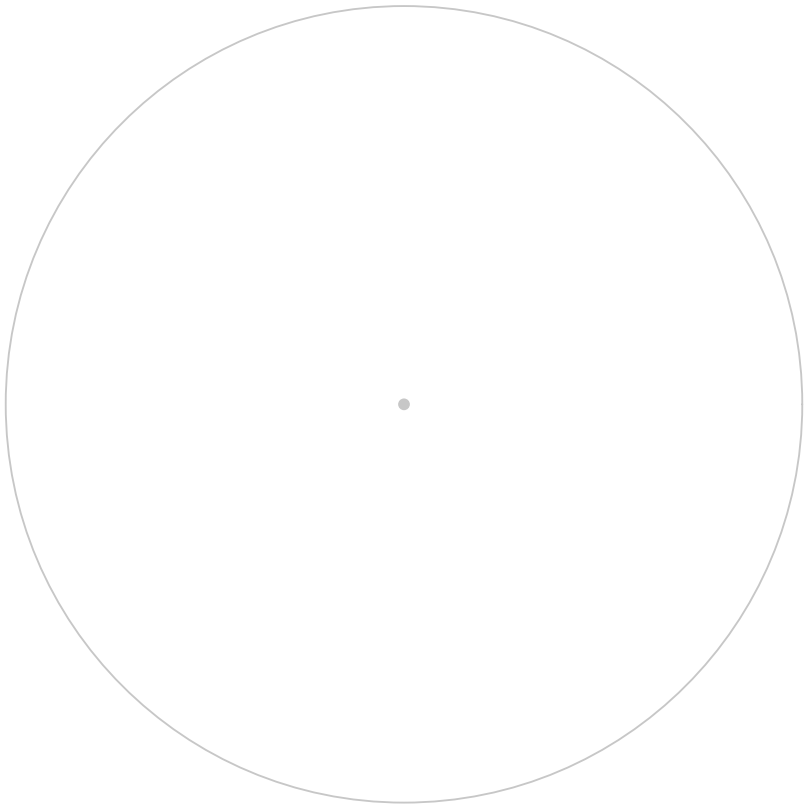
5 Rule the two diagonals from corner to corner through the centre. They cut the circle at four more points.



6 Eight points, exactly 45° apart: the starting point of every eight-fold star in this book.

Your turn: divide a circle into eight

The circle is printed lightly. Follow the steps on the previous page.



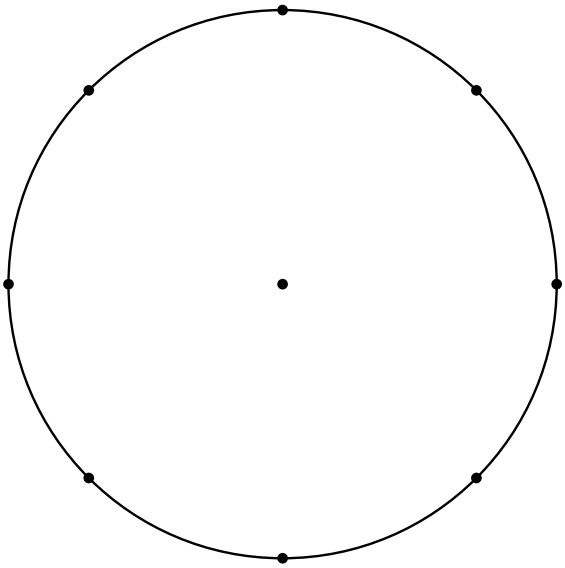
Tip: Press lightly with the pencil: construction lines are erased at the end.

On your own

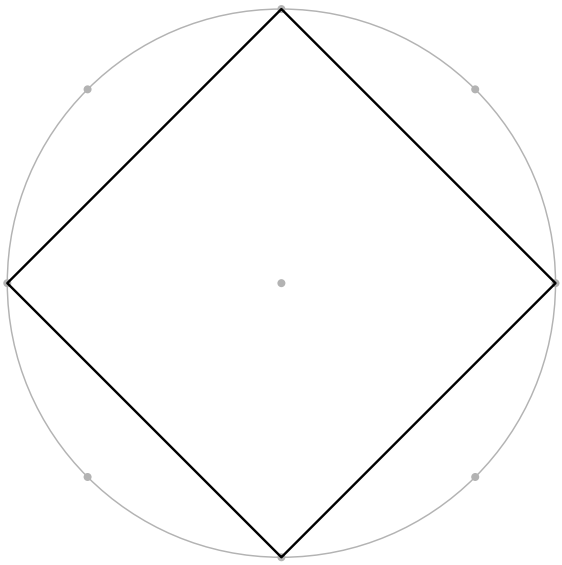
Draw a circle about 12 cm (5 in) across around the centre mark, and divide it again without looking at the steps.

The eight-pointed star (khatam)

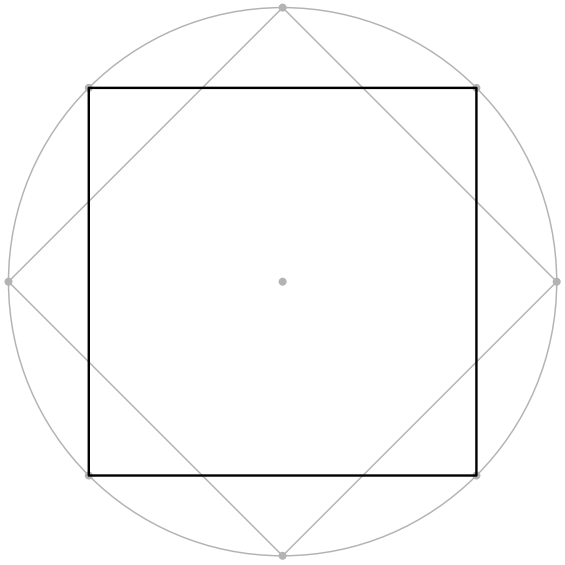
Two squares, one turned on the other: the khatam, the most common star of Islamic geometric art, from the zellige of Fez to the woodwork of Cairo.



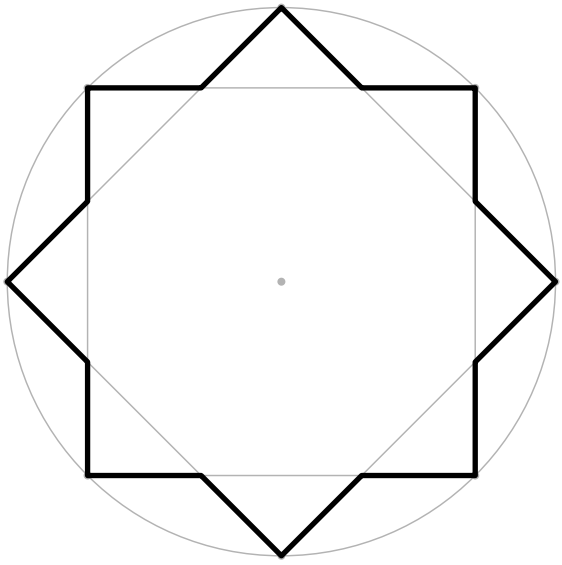
1 Draw a circle and divide it into eight (lesson 1).



2 Join every other point with the ruler: a square.



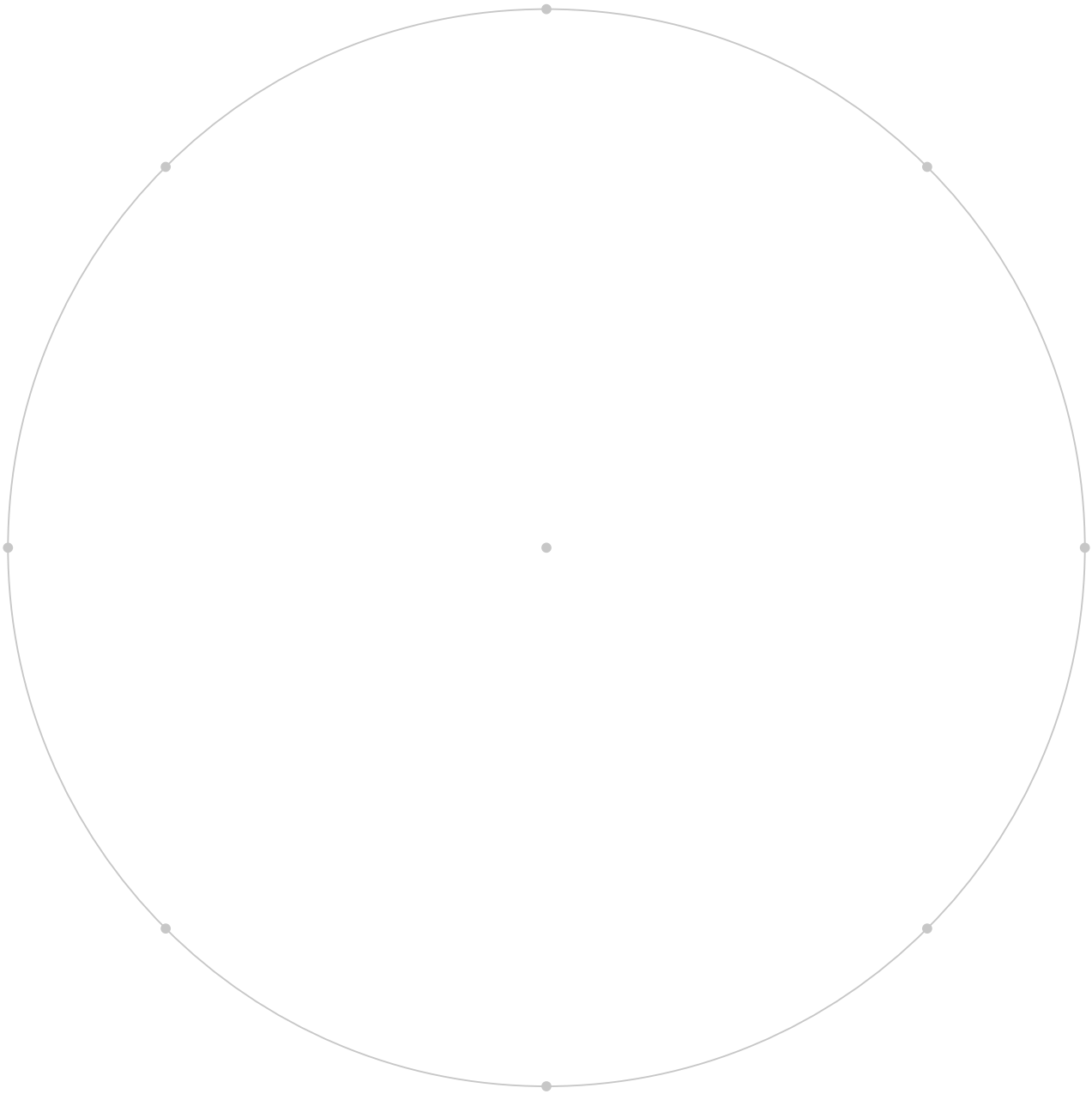
3 Join the remaining points: a second square, turned 45° from the first.



4 Go over the outer edge in ink, from point to notch to point. Erase every line inside and the circle.

Your turn: the eight-pointed star (khatam)

The circle and its points are printed lightly. Join them as on the previous page, then ink the outline.

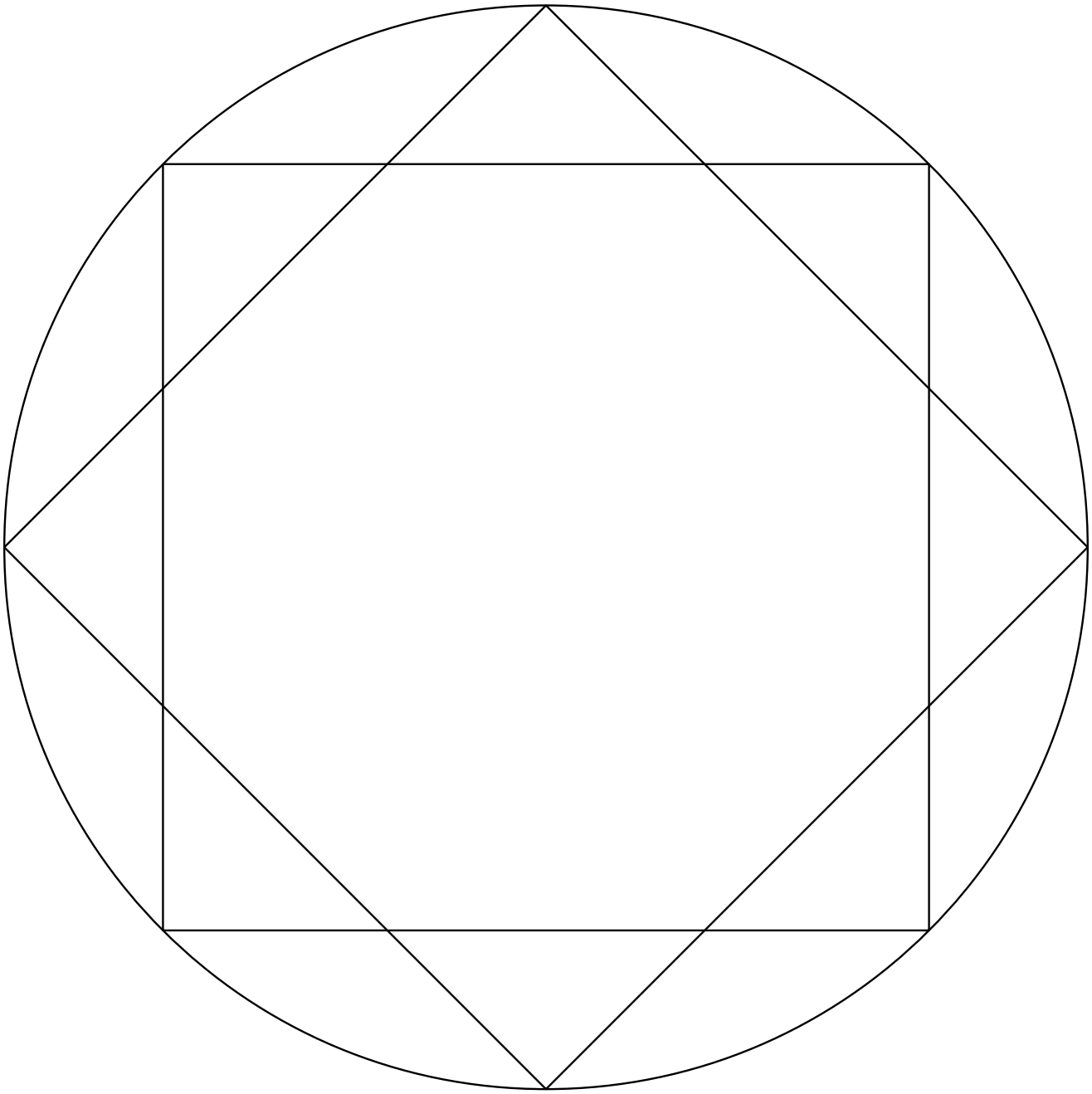


On your own

Draw a circle about 12 cm (5 in) across around the centre mark, divide it, and draw the star from memory.

Colour it: the eight-pointed star (khatam)

Keep every line this time, and colour the pieces. Pieces of the same shape in the same colour make the star stand out.



You drew your first Islamic star.

This lesson comes from the workbook Draw Your Own Islamic Stars. The full book has 12 lessons in the same three steps (follow, trace, draw on your own), a page to colour for every star, and blank grids for your own designs:

- Divide a circle into sixteen
- Divide a circle into ten
- The pointed eight-pointed star
- The sixteen-pointed star
- The five-pointed star
- The ten-pointed star
- The double five-pointed star
- Stars from a square grid
- The Fez star pattern
- A lattice of crosses

The printable workbook (A4 and US Letter), on Etsy:

etsy.com/listing/4595093053

Step-by-step videos for every lesson, and more free pages:

patternsouk.shop/draw

PatternSouk · free for personal and classroom use · please share the link, not the file