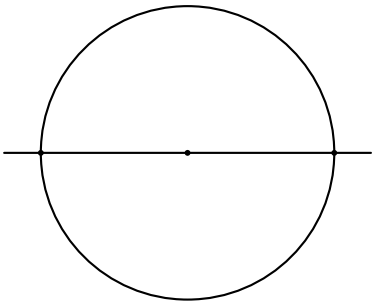
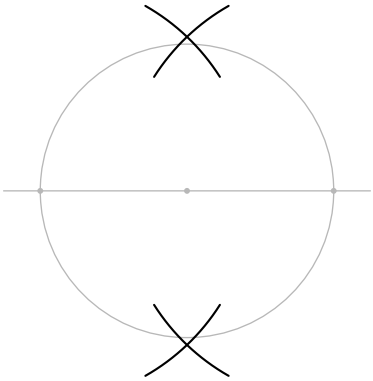
How to draw the khatam

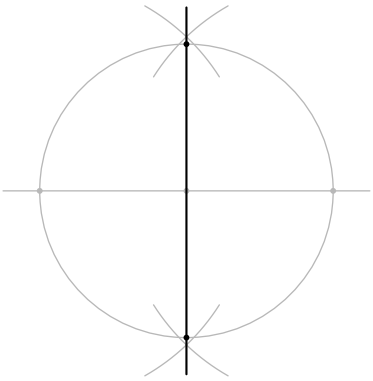
With a compass, a ruler and a pencil. Press lightly: construction lines are erased at the end.



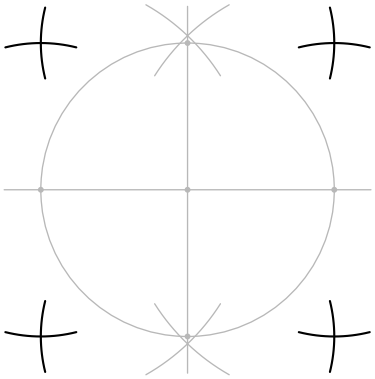
1. Draw a circle and mark its centre. Rule a line through the centre: it meets the circle at two points.



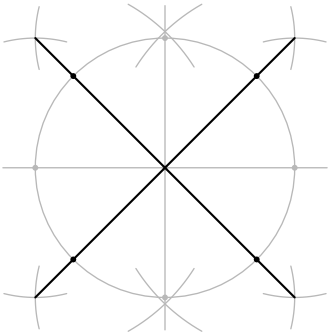
2. Open the compass wider than the radius. From each of the two points, draw an arc above and below.



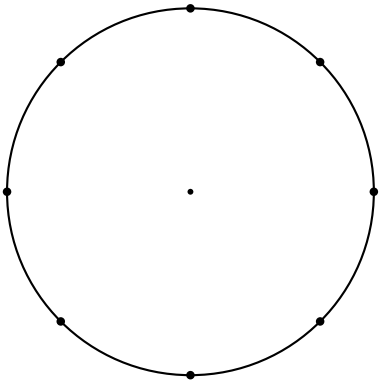
3. Rule a line through the two crossings. It passes through the centre at a right angle: four points.



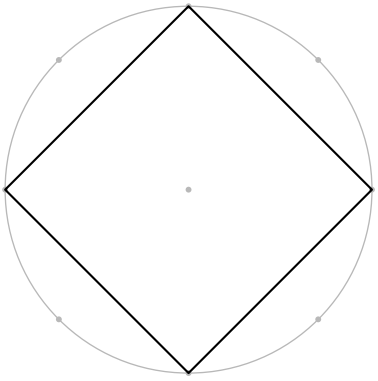
4. Set the compass to the radius. From each of the four points, draw arcs outside the circle: neighbouring arcs cross in four corners.



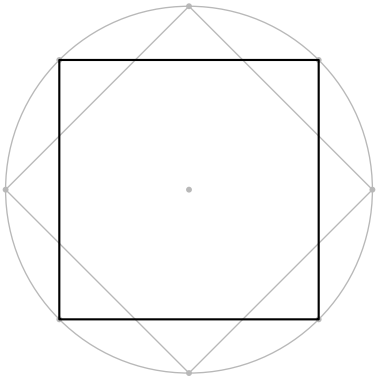
5. Rule the two diagonals from corner to corner through the centre. They cut the circle at four more points.



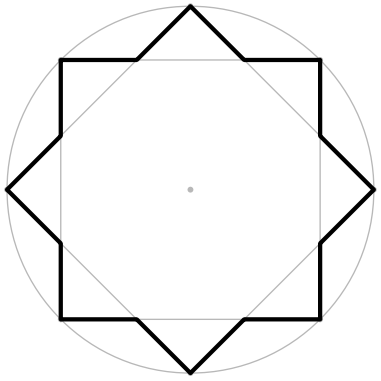
6. Eight points, exactly 45° apart: the starting point of every eight-fold star.



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



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



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

The khatam (eight-pointed star)

Colour the eight triangles one colour and the octagon another: the two squares show.

