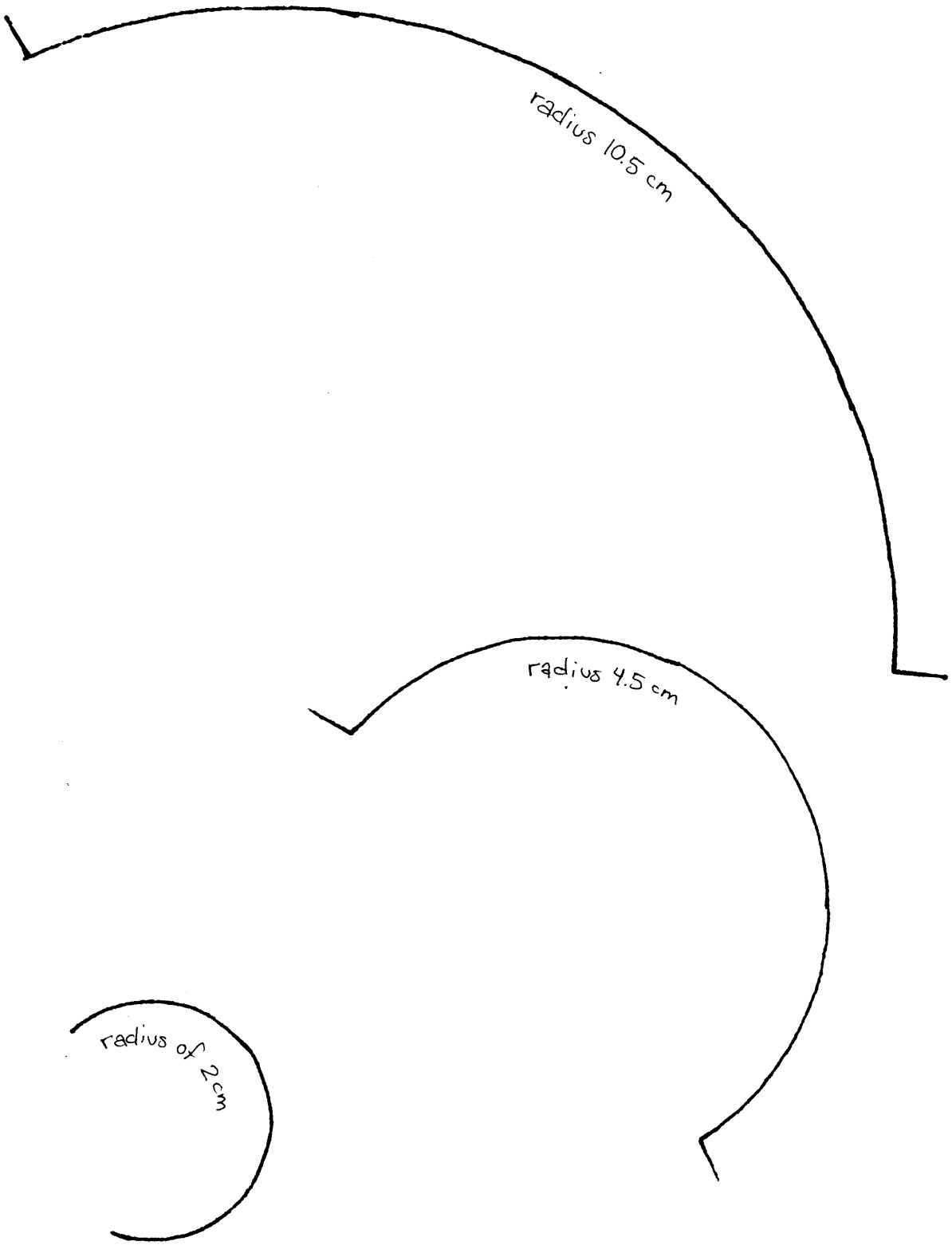
WRITING ON CIRCLES AND CURVES WITH DEBBY REELITZ

LETTERINGDESGN.COM


radius 10.5 cm
radius 4.5 cm
radius of 2cm

THE EXPLANATION

Equation to determine the circumference of a circle $C = 2\pi r$

Circumference = (2)(3.14) Radius

= (6.28) Radius*

C = ○ distance around edge of the circle

C = baseline

C = length of text you want on your circle

→ distance between the compass points

* this is what we want to calculate

↔ radius!!

The Algebra!!

$$C = (6.28)R$$

$$\left(\frac{1}{6.28}\right)C = (6.28)R\left(\frac{1}{6.28}\right)$$

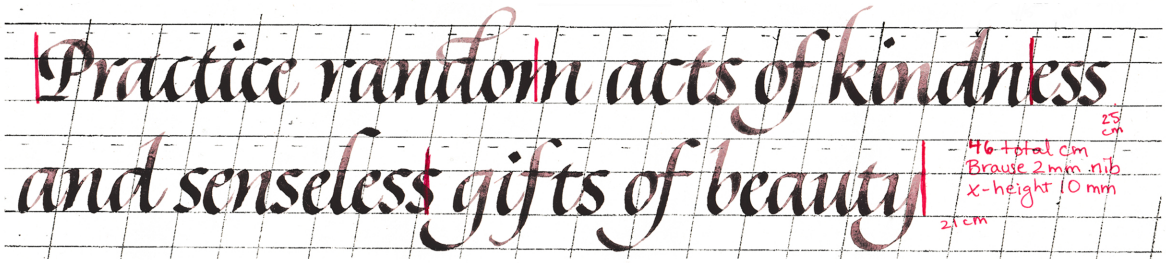
$$\frac{C}{6.28} = R$$

To Letter in a Circle

1) Write text on a straight line. Since consistency is extremely important, I highly recommend using a baseline and waistline and writing it 2-3 times. Make notes about x-height, nib size and brand, paper.

2) Measure the length of your text.

3) Divide the text into four equal parts, marking each section.



4) Use the formula:

$$\frac{\text{Circumference (a.k.a. length of text)}}{6.28} = R \text{ (a.k.a. distance between compass points)}$$

5) Set compass to radius length

6) Draw circle, this is your baseline

7) With a ruler, mark your waistline. Be as precise as possible. This second larger circle is the waistline.

8) Divide the circle into 4 equal sections.

9) Letter your text. Be patient. Don't try to finish lettering the circle at one time. I am extremely likely to smudge if I try going much more than half way around at one time.

Fudenosuke brushpen

Put the right letters together to make a brighterh

4mm

Put the right letters together to make a brighter day. Prince

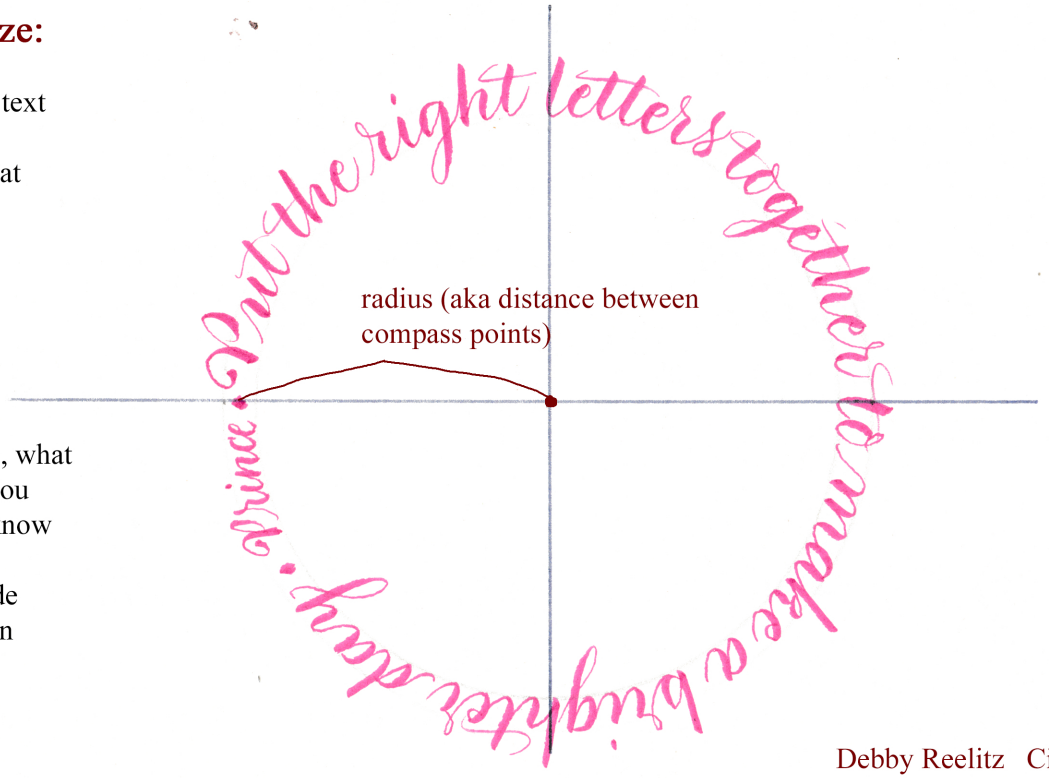
4mm

Put the right letters together to make a brighter day. Prince

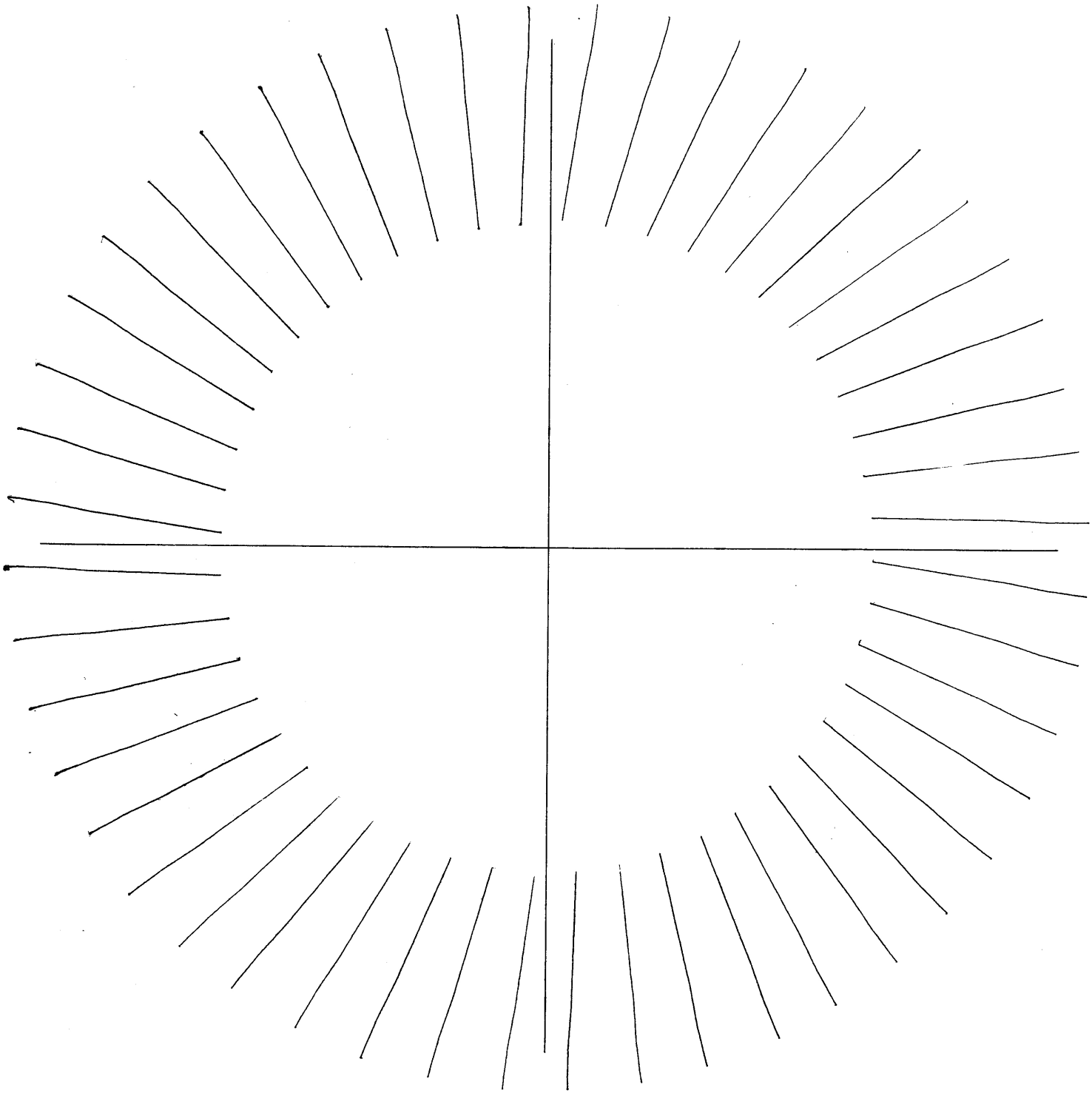
4mm

When the circle has to be a set size:

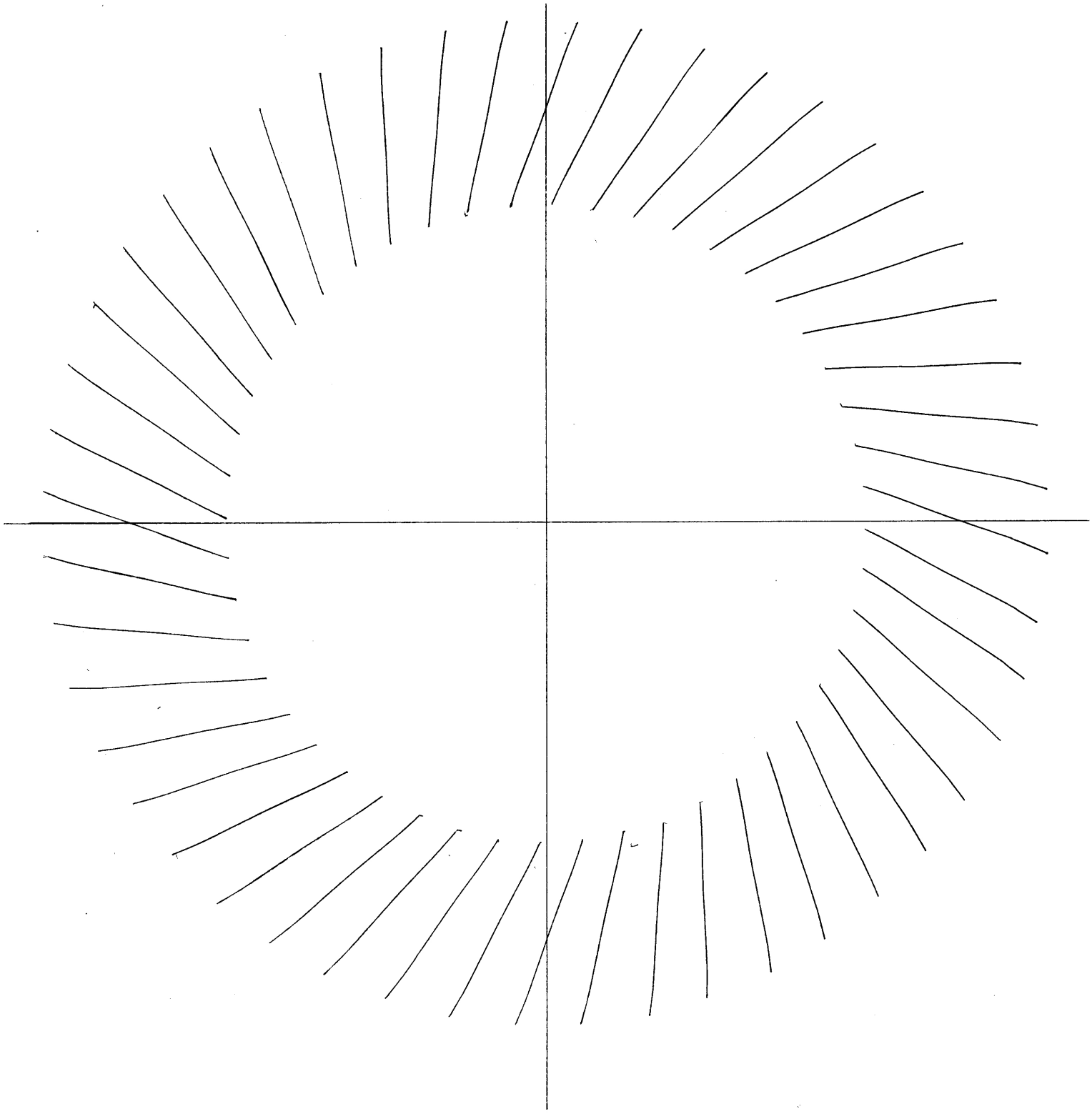
1. Measure the radius (R) of the circle
2. Multiply R times 6.28 = the distance your text needs to be
3. Modify the lettering as needed to create that specific length. Variations can include:
   - *nib size
   - *x-height
   - *kerning (spacing between characters)
   - *decorative elements in the circle
   - *thickness of the letters
   - *density of the letters
4. Be sure to take notes of all your variations, what nib, brand, size, paper, x-height, etc. When you find a combination that works, you want to know how you created it!
5. To improve accuracy of the lettering, divide circle and text into segments, quarters or even eighths

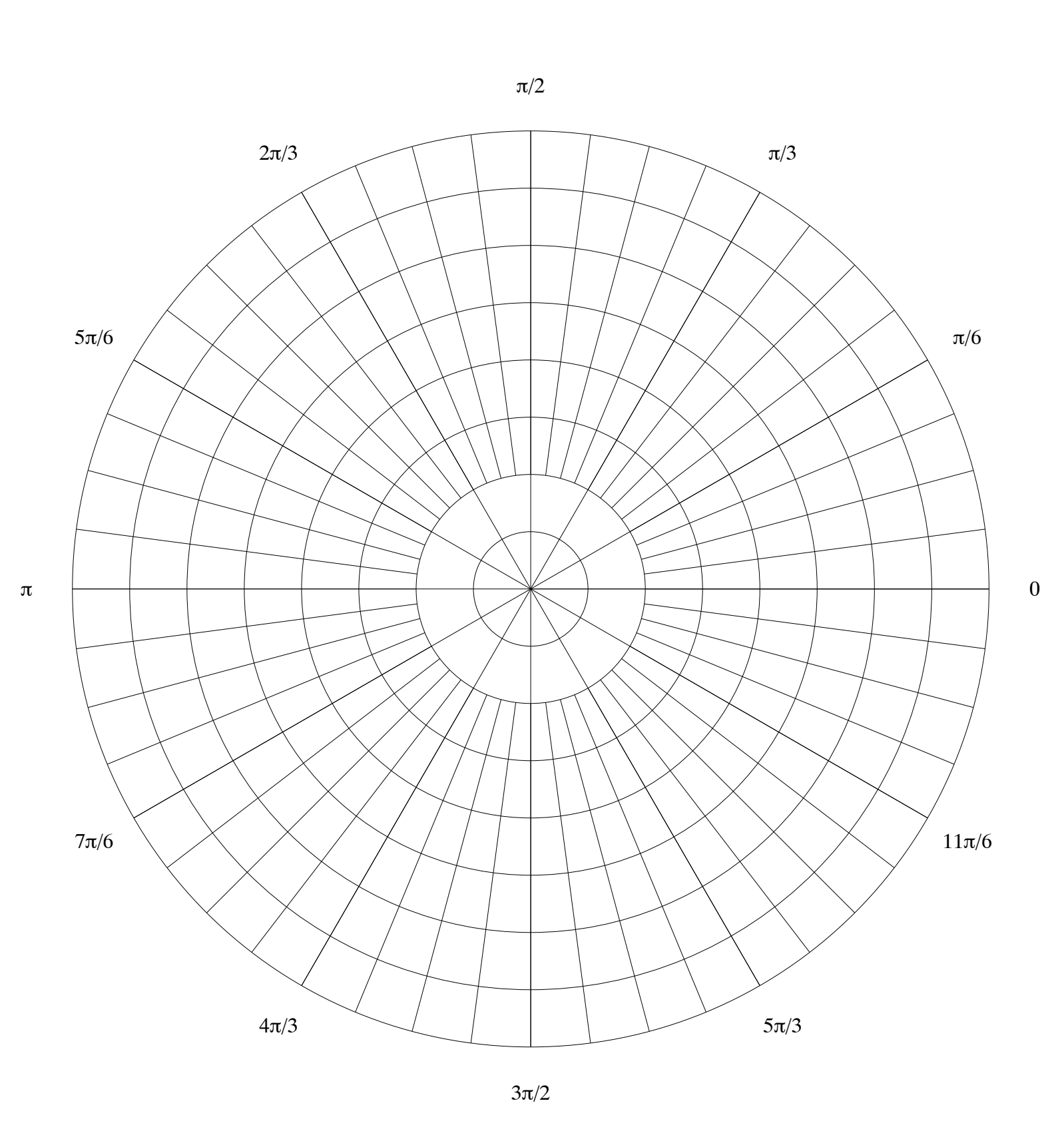


10 degree slant
by Debby Reelitz
letteringdesign.com



55 degree slant lines
Debby Reelitz
Letteringdesign.com




π/2
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π/6
π
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7π/6
11π/6
4π/3
5π/3
3π/2