

## Polaroid Block

This month's block is the ultra-modern, ultra-easy Polaroid block.

### Block basics:

- Finished (finished = when you hand it in, before it is incorporated into a quilt) block size is **7 1/2"** square.
- Use a neutral color thread such as white, black, or gray.
- All seams are scant 1/4" seams.



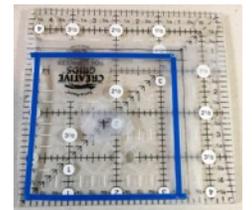
### You will need the following fabrics:

- A large-scale fabric that lends itself to fussy cutting. Any color palette will do. And yes, holiday fabrics are okay.
- Solid white fabric for the inner border.
- A black or gray patterned, solid, or batik fabric for the outer borders. A pattern including white is fine provided there is enough black or gray to contrast with the white inner border. No other colors than black, white, or gray.

**Note:** This block is incredibly easy to chain-piece, so these directions walk you through making four at once. Once you read through the instructions, you certainly adapt them to make more or fewer.

### Create a template:

This step is optional, but you may find it to be helpful. Since 3 1/2" square is an odd size, take any plastic ruler template you own that is larger than 3 1/2" x 3 1/2". Mark 3 1/2" from two edges to create a 3 1/2" square (I put clear tape down first, so to remove the marks later I just pulled up the tape). Mark a second square 1/4" inside the first one on all four sides. Finally, mark a dot or X in the center of the inner square. The inner square will help show you where the edges of your fussy cut image will be once the block is sewn while the X shows you the center of your image and the outer square will show you where your cutting lines will fall. On my template, the inside of the blue tape shows the edges of my image, the black line shows me the cutting lines and the black X shows me the center of my image. See **Figure 1**.



**Figure 1**

### Cut your fabric pieces:

1. Using the template you just made, fussy cut four 3 1/2" squares of your large scale fabrics for your "photos". You may have to have your central image slightly off-center to cut off something you don't want to include. Just think of it as an artistic photo.
2. Cut two 1" x 15" strips of your solid white fabric.
3. Cut one 1" x 19" strip of your solid white fabric.
4. Cut one 1 1/2" x 19" strip of your solid white fabric.
5. Cut three full-width strips of your background fabric that are 2 1/2" wide (full-width should be 42-44").

## **Create your Polaroids:**

1. Lay your four fussy cut squares down face down, with the top of each image furthest from you. Lay one of your 1 x 15" white strips down, face up, so it lies vertically on your work surface.
2. Place one fussy cut square on top of the white fabric strip (so they are right sides together), near the top of the strip, so the right hand edges of each align (see **Figure 2**). Pinning is optional.
3. Sew along the right hand side of the white strip just until you are 3-4 stitches past the your fussy cut piece. Do not remove from your machine.
4. Place a second fussy cut square in the same way on top of your white fabric strip just below your needle and continue sewing until all four squares are sewn onto the strip. Cut through the white strip to separate the squares. Trim off any excess white fabric.
5. Press away from the center of each square. For this block, you will always press away from the center.
6. Repeat with your second 15" strip on the opposite side of your photos. Now your photos should have white borders on both sides. Cut the units apart and press.
7. Repeat with your 1" x 19" strip on the top side of your photos. Cut apart and press.
8. Repeat with the 1 1/2" x 19" strip on the bottom of your photos. Cut apart and press.
9. Your Polaroid should now look like the one in **Figure 3**. Double-check that the wider border is on the bottom of your photo.



**Figure 2**



**Figure 3**

## **Finish your block:**

1. Using the same basic steps as you did for the white borders around your photo, add your background strips. Sew on the sides before the top and bottom, and always press away from the center of the block. Since we're using WOF pieces, you should be able to add both sides to all four blocks before you use up your first strip. In the same manner, you should be able to get all four top strips from your second strip and all four bottom strips from your third strip. If you're a bit short on your first strip, don't worry, you'll have enough leftover from the other two for one more side piece from each. You should end up with four blocks like the one in **Figure 4**. Notice trimming the top and bottom outer strips is not necessary.



**Figure 4**

Note: I found this block on countless blogs, and many pointed out that if you one side of the white border is slightly narrower than the others it won't be noticeable. What will be noticeable, though is if the white strip is even slightly wedge-shaped.

2. Place any square template larger than 7 1/2" on top of your block and rotate it to make your photo appear at an angle. See **Figure 5**. Make sure the center of your photo image is in the center of your block and that you don't rotate it so far that your photo is close to the edge of your block, you want to ensure a nice border all around even once it's sewn to other blocks. Trim the block to 7 1/2" square. Repeat with the rest of your blocks, alternating the direction you rotate your photo.



**Figure 5**

Bring your finished blocks to the guild meeting on September 30 to participate in the drawing. Remember, you get one raffle ticket for each block you turn in, so, the more blocks, the more chances you have to win them all!

Questions? Comments? Suggestions for future blocks? Feel free to email me at [smclarkson@gmail.com](mailto:smclarkson@gmail.com).