

Block Keeper

Supplies:

any UFO block

some fabric to surround the block in any way that is pleasing to you (a total of $\frac{3}{4}$ yd of fabric: $\frac{1}{4}$ for a border and $\frac{1}{2}$ yd of a main focus fabric)

at least a $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{2}{3}$ yd of flannel (this is the magic part)

batting scraps

Foam board (you will need two of the size you choose)

ribbon, yarn, binding scraps, (anything that you can use for a tie and handles)

hot glue and a hot glue gun

These instructions will be for a Keeper that will hold the 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ " blocks. You can adjust the instructions to fit any size that you desire. Increasing or decreasing as needed. I tend to use scraps for these but if there is a line of pretty fabric by all means you can use that! After all you want to love your keeper and that means making it pretty!!

Cutting:

- one-1 $\frac{1}{2}$ " x WOF strip from your border fabric (or you can make this scrappy just so that it is 42" long)

- from your focus fabric (scraps) you will need-

- 1)two-3 $\frac{1}{2}$ " x 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ " rectangles (these will be used to frame out your UFO block this one measures 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ " x 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ ")

- 2)one-3 $\frac{1}{2}$ " x 16 $\frac{1}{2}$ " piece

- 3)one- 20" x 16 $\frac{1}{2}$ "

- 4)one strip that measures 4" x 16"

- cut your flannel into two- 16" x 16" blocks

Instructions:

- cut your 1 ½” border strip into four pieces. **Two** that will measure at 8 ½ ” x 1 ½ ” and **Two** that will measure at 10 ½ ” x 1 ½ ”
- Sew these onto your UFO block. You will first sew on the two shorter pieces on opposite sides and then press. Follow with the remaining two 10 ½ ” strips-these will go on the opposite sides. Your block should now measure at 10 ½” x 10 ½” when pressed.
- You will take the two 3 ½” x 10 ½” rectangles from your focus fabric and sew them one on top and the other on the bottom of your framed block.....press. Your piece should measure 10 ½” x 16 ½” at this point.
- Next you will sew onto the **right side** of your center block; the 3 ½” x 16 ½” from your focus fabric.....press
- Next you will sew onto the **left side** of your center block; the 20” x 16 ½” from your focus fabric.....press
- Place this completed piece **Right side Down** on your cutting table. You can now center your scrap of batting on top of this. Trim down to a measurement of 30” x 14”.
- Carefully fold over one inch of the fabric onto the batting all the way around. Pin into place. Do not iron – you may melt your batting depending on which one you choose to use.
- Next you will take your focus fabric that measures 4” x 16” (we will be using this to make a pretty center that can be seen after we put the flannel broads on) and fold over the 4” side about a ½” . Please use your best guess-you want this to be even with the top and bottom of the keeper. After folding and ironing then place it in the center of completed piece. It will look funny because you see the batting but it will be ok. Once you have it where you want it.....pin into place on top and bottom.
- You can now top stitch all the way around your completed piece.

- Next we want to take whatever material that you have chosen to use as ties and Center the length plus 26” down the middle of the piece. This should give you about 13” for each side to use as a tie. **Please remember we are still working from the wrong side/right side is face down on the cutting table.** Glue this into place. You can also sew it, just remember though that your stitches will show on the front of your Keeper. This could be a design opportunity to use that fancy thread that you have. :)
- Now we are going to make the handles. The suggested measurement is about 14”-16” however, this is entirely up to you. Think about how you want to carry it etc...over your shoulder, in your hand. Then take that measurement (I use a tape measure to get this number) and cut two pieces. Pin the handles on each side giving yourself at least an inch that will be in the seam. These can get heavy so you need that extra for strength. So when you are looking at each side you have a piece that forms a **U** sewing the open end into the seam, do this on both ends. Stitch in the ditch to secure. I also, like to do a 'cross in a box' on the inch that I gave myself. This is just me over killing the strength. You do not have to do this at all.
- Set this completed piece aside just for now. We are going to work on your flannel broads now. You will need to cut two 14” x 14” squares of foam broad. I am lucky and my local Dollar store carries these. But any craft store will have this product.
- Next place the 16” x16” piece of Flannel **Right side down** on your work table. Center the foam broad onto the piece. Using a hot glue gun – fold over the edges and glue into place. You will do this to both pieces of flannel. So now you have two foam broads covered in flannel. Almost done!!:)
- At this point you can add a pocket, a pen pocket, a felt needle holder, anything goes really. It is up to you to embellish the Block Keep however you see fit. Both inside and out side. This is the time to embellish the outside as well. I often put yo-yo's and buttons on mine. But if you want to get fancy and do some fun stitches; machine or hand work this is the time to do it now.
- Next Glue the covered foam broads to the panel, **wrong sides together**. Keeping in mind your edges. You want to get as close as you can to the edges...it gives a more finished look.
- Allow the glue to dry completely before using.
- **Now lets have fun making blocks to fill it!**

I sincerely hope that you have fun with this. Have fun making one or twenty. I would love to see what you have done. Show n' Tell is the best part of any sewing project. Don't you agree. :)