



X and Plus Block

Block directions and guidelines for the November 2015 Block Lotto

I have seen this blocks around the blog-iverse for a long time. I redrew the block so that it's proportions would work easily for a 9 inch (finished size) block.

You can make a **MAXIMUM of NINE BLOCKS** for the drawing in November.

Use the tag **XPlus** for your posts on Blocklotto.com about this block.

Choosing Fabrics

This block is made from 4 fabrics. For the November Block Lotto, two of the fabrics are quilter's choice and there are color rules for the other two.

Start by choosing the fabric for your **X**. These will be the largest (most dominant) pieces in the block. Next choose a coordinating fabric for the **+**. How it coordinates (or contrasts) is up to you.

The other two fabrics are essentially "background"—one for the Plus units and one for the X—we'll call them black and white. Here are the rules for those;

Black – can be a solid black, a black-on-black (BOB) print or a black and white (BW) print that is predominately black.

White – can be solid white, a white-on-white (WOW) print or a BW Print that is predominately white.

If you choose to use a black and white (BW) print for either the **white** or the **black**, you can't use this or another BW print for the other background in the block. To ensure we have good contrast, use **ONLY ONE** (or none) black and white print per block.

If you choose to make multiple blocks, you can use the same **black** and **white** fabrics in multiple blocks and can repeat other fabrics as long as each block is unique (no twins!)

In these blocks, a B&W print is used for the **black** in the block on the left and for the **white** in the block on the right.



The block at the top of the page is made using a WOW and a BOB fabric and has no black and white print.

Options for Cutting Fabrics and Making the Block

I think of this block as being made from X units and Plus units. These directions give you two options for each of the units. Read them through and decide which will work best for you for cutting and sewing.

X unit Options

The block has four X-units, each making one leg of the X shape in the block.

Method 1 uses a template for the X shape and doesn't create any waste (AKA bonus triangles).

Method 2 uses the familiar-to-the-Block Lotto snowball block corners and creates 8 tiny bonus triangle squares per block.

METHOD 1

Cut

- four shapes from the X fabric using the template.
- four $2\frac{3}{8}$ inch squares from the **white** fabric, then slice them in half diagonally



Sew

1. Align long edge of triangles along the long sides of the **X**- fabric.

Note, the points of the triangles will extend past the edge of the **X** fabric at both ends and form a V shape at each end with the point of the V $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch from the edge. It is where your seam with start and end.



2. Press seams toward the **X** fabric.
3. Repeat for all four X-units



METHOD 2

Cut

- four 4-inch squares from the **X** fabric
- eight 2 inch squares from the **white** fabric



Sew

1. Align one of the **White** squares in the corner of the **X** fabric, with right sides together.
2. Draw a line diagonally across the **White** square.
3. Sew ON the line
4. Trim 1/4-inch from the sewn seam
5. Press toward the **X** fabric.
6. Repeat in the opposite corner with a second **White** square
7. Repeat for all four X units



Plus Unit Options

The Plus shape in the block is made from three units.

Method 1 is constructed from 5 small squares—a good choice if you are using scraps, mini-charm squares or want to fussy cut fabrics.

Method 2 combines three squares into a long rectangle – a good choice is you don't want to break up the fabric design

METHOD 1

Cut

- five 2 ½ inch squares from **Plus** fabric
- four rectangles, 2 by 2 ½ inches from **black** fabric



Sew

1. Arrange squares and rectangles to form Plus shape
2. Sew three **Plus** squares end-to-end. Add a **black** rectangle to each end. Press seams toward **black** rectangles
3. Sew each remaining **Plus** square to a **Black** rectangle. Press toward **black** rectangle.



METHOD 2

Cut

- One rectangle 2 ½ by 6 ½ inches from **Plus** fabric
- Two 2 ½ inch squares from **Plus** fabric
- four rectangles, 2 by 2 ½ inches from **black** fabric



Sew

1. Arrange squares and the rectangle to form Plus shape, with black rectangles on the ends.
2. Sew a **black** rectangle to each end of the **Plus** rectangle. Press seams toward **black** rectangles
3. Sew each **Plus** square to a **Black** rectangle. Press toward **black** rectangle.



Putting it All Together – Assembling the Block

1. Layout the completed units to form the X and Plus block
2. Sew together the three units on each side of center **Plus** section. Press seams toward the **Plus** section
3. Sew the sewn side sections to the center **Plus** section. Press seams toward the center **Plus** unit.



Whichever options you choose for the Plus and X units, putting together the block is the same.

Measurement check: each finished X and Plus block should measure 9 ½ inches square to finish at 9 inches when it is sewn into a quilt.

