# Cloud9 BlogHop 2016 Fractured Curves Block Tutorial By Carole Lyles Shaw 

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MATERIALS needed to make one $12-1 / 2$ inch unfinished block: Four fat quarters in colors that show good contrast. The four colors that I used are from the Cloud 9 Cirrus line: Amazon, Sky, Iris and Lilac.

This is an improvisationally pieced curve block-no templates and no pinning required. See my blog for a link to a video tutorial on cutting and piecing improvisational curves.

Step 1 Cut one 10 inch square from each of the four fabrics. Layer the four squares on top of each other, with all right sides facing up.

Step 2 Cut a quarter circle in the stacked squares. Do not use a template or measure! You will be cutting through all four layers at one time. Make sure your rotary cutter blade is sharp. You will end up with eight sections-four quarter circles and four L shapes.

When I cut the quarter circle through ALL 4 layers at the same time, I started at the upper right corner about 2 inches from the top. I aimed my rotary cutter so that I ended up approximately 2 inches from the bottom left corner. I did NOT meaure. I just eyeballed it.

Arrange the 8 pieces into 4 new pairs - aiming for variety and contrast. See next page for photos of my 4 pairings.


Do not trim or measure anything. The four pieces will be the same size-and even if they weren't, it doesn't matter. This is an improvisational process.

## Step 3 Sewing the Pairs together

You will use the same process for each pair.
Select one pair. Flip the quarter circle onto the $L$ shape, right sides together. Place the pieces under your presser foot. I use my quarter inch patchwork foot.

Do Not PIN!!! Pinning will not help you piece this curve. Just line up the tips under your presser foot. See step out photos on the next page.


When you get to the end of the curve, your two pieces will NOT LINE UP.
Don't worry-this is because it is not a template curve. The pieces are oversized and will be trimmed to size in a later step.

## Step 4 IRONING THE BLOCK

Gently iron the curve open. I usually iron the fabric towards the darker fabric.


Step 5: Trim Block to 8-1/2 inches square.


## Repeat Steps 3 \& 4 for the other three quarter circle blocks.

Step 6 Decide how you want to arrange the 4 blocks.

After pieicing the 4 quarter circle blocks together, I decided on this simple layout. Notice that the quarter circles at the top and bottom do NOT line up-this is great-you want as much asymmetry as possible. [see the arrows] But, it's unpredictable-notice that the quarter circles on the bottom seem to line up and the ones on the right and left don't line up.


> THE 4 PAIRS ARE NOW SEWN AND THEN LAID OUT ON MY DESIGN WALL-READY TO PIECE TOGETHER INTO ONE LARGE SQUARE.

## Step 7 Sew the top and bottom pairs together.

Start by sewing the top pair together. I use one pin to just make sure I align the top and bottom edges of the pairs. I do not try to match up the curves. See the $2^{\text {nd }}$ photo in this step where I flipped the pair open to show that the curves do not match up. I LOVE the asymmetry!.
Now sew the bottom pairs together.


Step 8 SEW THE TOP AND BOTTOM PAIRS TOGETHER-MAKING SURE THE CENTER SEAMS MATCH UP. This is the only matched seam in this block. And Yes, I use pins for this.


## Step 9 NOW WE START FRACTURING!!

Make 2 parallel cuts, each 3 inches from the center seam. You now have 3 pieces.


Move the right end to the left, and the left end to the right. Turn EACH ONE upside down.

Before you sew the sides back on, shift the left side up about 1 inch, and the right side down about 1 inch. By shifting, you have broken up the center line.

Sew these 3 pieces together.


The 3 pieces sewn together. Then, I trimmed the top and bottom edges. This is an interesting block...I could stop here.

But I decided to take it one step further.

## Step 10

Cut a diagonal through the block. The diagonal is about 5 inches from the top right corner and 5 inches from the bottom left corner.


Step 11 Now we will add a strip to one end of the two pieces. Make a strip as follows: Do NOT add a half inch to these sizes.

- Strip 1 is 3 inches by 8 inches
- Strip 2 is 2 inches by 8 inches
- Strip 3 is 1 inch by 8 inches
- Strip 4 is $\mathbf{3}$ inches by 8 inches


## Step 12

Cut this strip in half so it measures 4 inches long by 7-1/2 inches.

Take one of the strips and add it to the bottom of the left hand piece.



Trim the strip so that it lines up with the diagonal line.


Step 13 Sew the two halves together.


## Step 14 Trim block to 12-1/2 inches square.

Notice that because of the way I lined up my ruler, I lost one of the added pieces. (upper right) When I shifted my ruler around, I decided that I liked this section the best. And that's the magic of improv, you never know what you're going to get at the end and it's always wonderful!!


## About Carole Lyles Shaw



Carole Lyles Shaw is a modern quilt designer, author and workshop teacher. Carole started quilting many years ago for family and friends, and has always taken a modern, improvisational approach to making quilts.

Today, Carole's focus is on designing quilts for the modern quilt movement.
She teaches modern quilt workshops at guilds and shops across the US for beginning and experienced quilters from all backgrounds.

Carole serves on the Board of Directors for The Modern Quilt Guild. She co-founded and served as the President of the Sarasota Modern Quilt Guild in Sarasota, FL.

You can find out more about her workshops by visiting her website at www.CaroleLylesShaw.com.


Her first book, Madly Modern Quilts: Patterns and Techniques to Inspire Your Quilting Creativity, can be purchased at CreateSpace www.createspace.com/6008257, in local quilt shops and on Amazon.

Her second book, Patriotic Modern Quilts, will be available Winter 2016.

Her third book, Madly Modern 2: Fibonacci and More will be available in Summer/Fall 2017.

