

## HOW TO: The Family Photo Wall Activity



### 1. Select the wall.

Try to have it out of direct sunlight to protect your photos and avoid glass glare. Lacking wall space? Ungainly spaces like stair wells and hallways make great spots because the viewer is always standing, like in an art gallery...

### 2. Select your images

Let your heart guide your selections. You're telling your story, so you may wish to choose several central images around which others will revolve. This is the most time-consuming part of the process, but under the circumstances I'm hoping you find this less a chore than a soul soothing walk down memory lane.

### 3. Create your layout

Start laying out your photos on a floor approximately the same size as your wall. Add, delete and refine. Assign each keeper a number. Remember digital images can be printed to any size, and old analog images can be digitalized and printed. (Need help with digitalizing?: I've used [EverPresent.com](http://EverPresent.com) and they are currently offering discounts and contactless pickups) I favor at least three different sizes of photos in any asymmetrical grouping. Or if you want a very modern look, I suggest images be the same size and displayed in a symmetrical grid or row (which might also be the way to go in families with rivalry issues, just saying...) Next cut a paper template for each image to the expected framed size, remembering to add the photo's number to the template, and affix to your display wall for a test run.

#### 4. Framing and Installation

The internet is full of companies selling prepackaged photo wall framing kits, from IKEA to Pottery Barn. None of these are of particularly great quality, but they will do the trick if you stay really simple. All black or all white frames are your best bet. Since you will be working with predetermined frame sizes, you will need to plan your photo printing accordingly. Some kits come with matting, but one great hack is to forgo the matting altogether on several of the photos, printing them to fit your frame edge to edge, which when combined with some matted images results in a very artistic arrangement. Which brings us to installation. I have to laugh when I recall clients (usually a good natured husband) saying the best part of working with me is not needing to install their own art. Well the gig is up, and you can do this, I swear.

#### 5. Professional Assistance.

I am available to consult on your Family Photo Wall, via Facetime and Zoom, with anything from a few questions to detailed plans. It would be a great pleasure to assist you with this personally meaningful project.