

Festival Lantern Block

Calvert County Quilt Guild
Block of the Month
September 2020

Block seams are ¼".
Original block design by Anita Konzak Turley.

This makes a 12 ½" unfinished block.

Color 1 – Background – solid or print. Recommend either a light or dark to make the lantern stand out. *Cut 1 WOF x 2", cut 4 WOF by 1".*
Color 2 – Focus fabric for lantern – solid or print. Recommend using colors that will stand out from the background fabric selected. *Cut colors per step 2.*
Color 3 – Lantern String – 3/8" grosgrain solid or print or make a string that will complement the lantern colors. *Cut 14"; if using fabric, cut 14" x 1", fold into thirds and stitch.*

With the end of summer days still a bit crazy my relaxation comes in the evening listening to music on the deck or patio with strings of lights as the only thing brightening the area. Pure relaxation for me! This block was created with that in mind; the string across the top of each lantern should connect to the next block…a string of lights and a quilt for relaxing! I couldn't find a pattern so I am creating one for this block.

1) Background – From the 2" WOF cut two (2) 2" x 12 ½" strips. Cut the remaining piece into two (2) 1" wide strips. Using the remaining 1" wide background strips but as follows:
   8 each – 5" and then **4 each – 4 ½", 4", 3 ½", 3", 2 ½", 2", and 1 ½".**

2) Lantern – The lantern can be all one color or various colors. Cut two strips of each size which will result in the top and bottom of the lantern. For the lantern end pieces, use a dark fabric. Cut as follows:
   4 each – 3 ½" dark (end pieces) and 3 ½" lantern strip, then remaining fabric for lantern strips at **4 ½", 5 ½", 6 ½", 7 ½", 8 ½", 9 ½", and 10 ½"**. Align background and lantern strips as shown in Photo 1. The photo shows one half of the lantern and the background strips (set to one side). Cut a separate 1" x 2 ½" scrap of fabric, fold in third lengthwise and stitch together. This will be used for the lantern hook in step 5. A separate piece of ribbon can also be used.

3) Using the background strips with the lantern strip for each row, sew the background pieces to each row. Set aside until all strips are sewn and laid out. Press to the dark with the exception of pressing the dark end strip in the opposite direction. Refer to Photo 2 for alignment of the laid out pieces.

4) Begin sewing the lantern rows to each other. I found it is easiest to sew one half of the lantern together, then the other half, and finally sewing each of the halves together. When attaching each row, finger press the lantern fabric to add a crease in the center so the strips will align to the center (refer to Photo 3). PRESS EACH ROW TO ONE DIRECTION AS EACH ROW IS ADDED using ¼" seam. Attach the lantern halves to each other to complete the full lantern. Rows will be finished as ½". Trim to 9 ½" x 12 ½".

5) Lantern base and string – Using one 2" x 12 ½" strip, add it to the bottom of the lantern. Using the lantern hook made in step 2, fold in half, leaving a small loop at the fold, and tack into place in the middle of the second 2 x 12 ½" strip. Next, take the piece for the lantern string and weave it through the loop and then tacking it down (see Photo 4). Have the string end in the approximate middle of the 2" ends so it can 'connect' to the next block. Sew the assembled piece to the top of the lantern. Trim to 12 ½" x 12 ½".

Photo 1	Photo 2	Photo 3	Photo 4	Inspiration
				