

BLOCK OF THE MONTH FOR JANUARY 2013 (revised)

CHINESE LANTERN BLOCK

The Chinese lantern is the first ever portable lighting. It is the unique traditional folk craftwork of China. Besides being an illumination tool, the lantern also became a source of artistic expression. Fine materials and design would go into crafting lanterns. Calligraphic characters, historical figures, deities, and landscapes would adorn their lanterns. At times artistic contests would be held to crown the best lantern craftsmen. Though electricity has replaced the lantern, festivals such as the Lantern Festival bring back the beauty of this illumination tool. Now with this little bit of history, let's begin to make a fantastic Chinese lantern.

FABRIC



White fabric



Oriental fabric



Black

CUTTING:

- Cut 4 – 2" x 4^{1/2}" – White
- Cut 4 – 2" x 3^{1/2}" – White
- Cut 4 – 2" x 2^{1/2}" – White
- Cut 2 – 1^{1/2}" x 3^{1/2}" – White
- Cut 2 – 2" x 6^{1/2}" – Oriental
- Cut 2 – 2" x 8^{1/2}" – Oriental
- Cut 2 – 2" x 10^{1/2}" – Oriental
- Cut 2 – 2" x 4^{1/2}" – Black

ASSEMBLY:

Sew a white 2"x4^{1/2}" to a black 2"x4^{1/2}" to a white 2"x4^{1/2}", making a 2"x12^{1/2}" strip. Make 2 of these. This'll be the top & bottom of the lantern.

Sew a white 2"x3^{1/2}" to an oriental 2" x 6^{1/2}" to a white 2"x3^{1/2}", making a 2"x12^{1/2}" strip. Make 2 of these.

Sew a white 2" x 2^{1/2}" to an oriental 2" x 8^{1/2}" to a white 2" x 2^{1/2}", making a 2"x12^{1/2}" strip. Make 2 of these.

Sew the 2 oriental rectangles 2" x 10^{1/2}" together on the long sides, making a 3^{1/2}"x10^{1/2}" strip. Sew a white 1^{1/2}" x 3^{1/2}" at each end of the oriental 3^{1/2}"x10^{1/2}" strip, making a 3^{1/2}"x12^{1/2}".

Sew the completed strips together as shown. The completed block will be 12^{1/2}". (Finished size 12")

--Kika Hutchings & Diana Hamilton, Knotty Threads