September 2011 BOM
Magic Lanterns

This is an easy block that creates a tessellating design.

Material Requirements for 1 Block:
Note: This block is made from 2 equilateral 60° triangles for the lantern plus 4 right angle 30° triangles for the background. Cutting triangles for only one lantern will result in waste fabric.

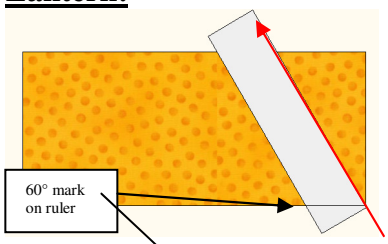
Lanterns - 1 strip of focus fabric 14" wide X 8 ½" high.
Background – 2 rectangles 5 ½" wide X 8 ½" high.

Cutting Instructions:
A 60° ruler is very useful in cutting this design. Creative Grids and Clearview Triangle by Alicia's Attic are two brand names but there are probably many others available. Your local quilt store will be able to help with your selection.

This block is also easy to cut with your acrylic ruler if it has 60° markings. A 24" ruler is a good length.

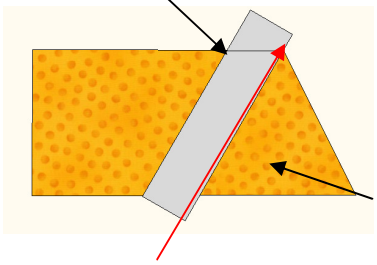
Cutting Instruction Using a 24" Acrylic Ruler:

Lantern:

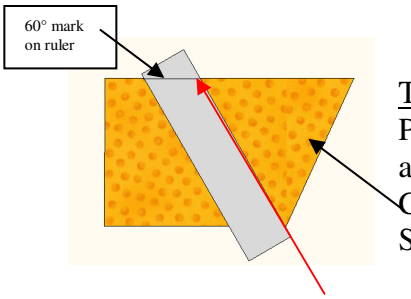


First Cut
Place the 60° marking exactly along the bottom edge of the 8 ½" X 14" strip of focus fabric. Ruler must cross the entire strip as shown.

Cut along the right side of the ruler.



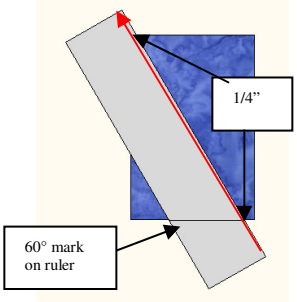
Second Cut:
Place the 60° marking exactly along the top edge of the strip so that it meets the angle created by the first cut.
Cut along the right side of the ruler.
First triangle has been created.



Third Cut:
Place 60° marking exactly along the top edge of the strip so that it meets the angle created by the second cut.
Cut along the right side of the ruler.
Second triangle has been created.

Repeat steps two and three when cutting more than one block.

<u>Background Triangles – *Important* –</u> Place 5 ½" X 8 ½" rectangles with wrong side together for cutting.



Place your 5 ½" X 8 ½" rectangles on your cutting mat with wrong sides together.

Place a ¼" mark on the bottom right edge of the rectangle.
Line the 60° marking with the bottom edge of the rectangle at the ¼" mark. The ruler should be crossing the top of the rectangle at ¼" from the top left edge.
Cut along right edge of ruler.
Four background triangles made. Two will be right facing and two will be left facing.

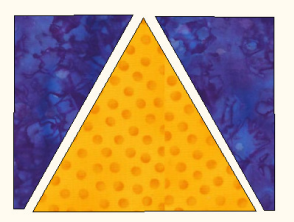
Tips: Here are a couple of things that made the job easier when I was cutting several blocks..

- ***A couple of little pieces of ¼" tape such as Tiger Tape placed in the bottom right corner and the top left corner were more accurate and faster than trying to mark the dark fabric.***

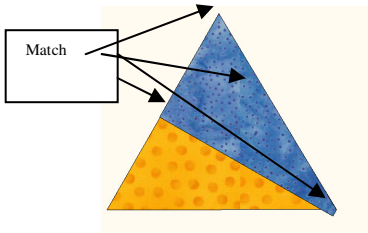
- ***Because these are equilateral triangles with all angles and sides being the same I cut my 8 ½" strips down the length of my fabric and experienced very little waste.***

<u>Sewing the Block.</u>

Make 2 units exactly the same.
All seams are a scant ¼".



Place a background triangle on each side of lantern triangle as shown.



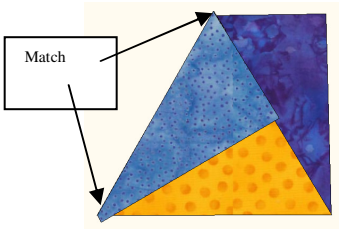
Flip one side triangle over onto the lantern triangle with right sides facing. Line up the long diagonal edges matching the sharp corners at the apex and the corners at the bottom. There will be a little piece jutting out at the bottom.

The short side of the background triangle should line up with the opposite side of the lantern triangle.

Sew down the long side of the lantern triangle. There will be a little point sticking up at the top of the lantern triangle. Do not cut it off at this time.

All the edges of the triangle are on a 60° bias. Let your feed dogs move the pieces under your needle. Do not push or pull your fabric. Your fingers are placed lightly on your work to guide it against your seam guide markings only. Use an awl, long pin or a skewer to keep your seam allowance even and from wandering to the left.

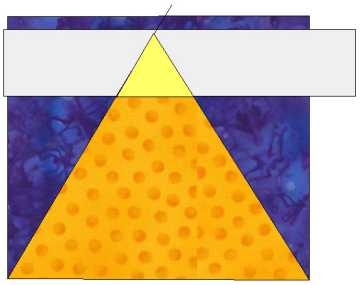
Press the seam allowance towards background.



Lay the second background triangle on the lantern piece, right sides together. Match up the sharp corner of the background triangle with the little point that was left sticking up in the previous step.
Also match up the long edges and the sharp corner of the lantern piece with the inside angle of the background triangle.
The short side of the background triangle will be along the seam allowance of the previous seam.

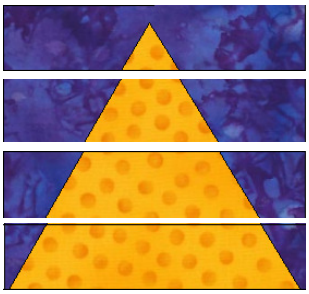
Sew along the left edge.
Press seam towards the lantern triangle.
Repeat for second unit.
Units should measure 9 ½" wide by approximately 8 ¼" high.

Trim and Straighten the Top Edge



Lay your acrylic ruler on the unit with the 60° marking lined up along one edge of the lantern triangle with the top edge of the ruler ¼" above the lantern apex for seam allowance. Trim away excess to straighten edge.

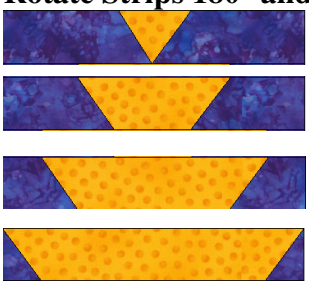
Cut Block horizontally into 2" strips



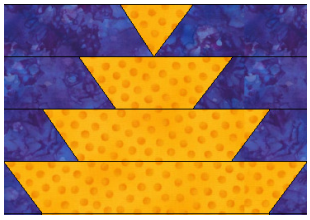
Start measuring from the top edge, cut the block horizontally into 4 strips, each exactly 2".
Discard the ¼" or so left over from the bottom edge.

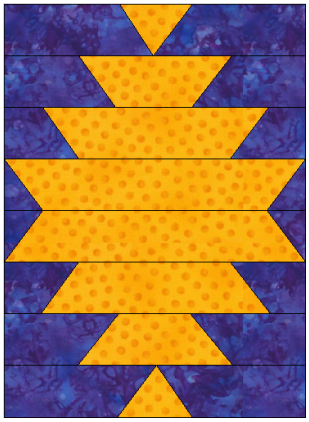
Repeat for the second unit.

Rotate Strips 180° and Sew Together



Turn each strip 180°. All lantern side angles should be pointing up.
Sew strips together with a scant ¼" seam
Repeat for the second unit.
Each unit should measure 9 ½" wide X 6 ¾" high.

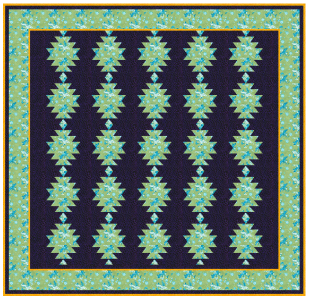




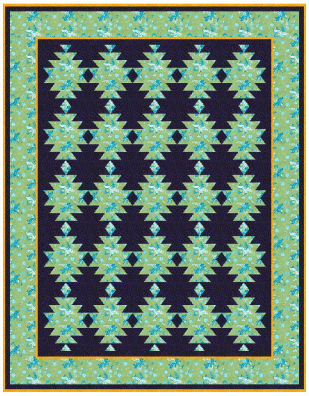
Turn one unit 180° so that you have a mirror image.
Sew the two units together.

Block should measure 9 ½” wide X 12 ½” high. (9” X 12” finished in quilt)

Possible Quilt Layouts



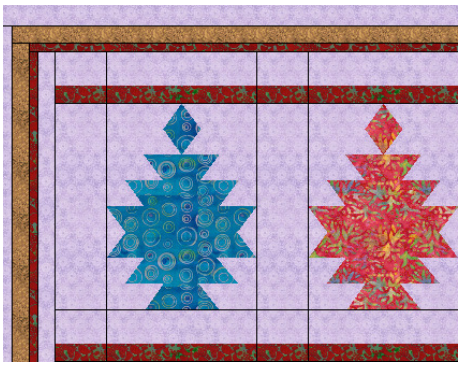
5 blocks X 5 blocks
Lengthwise sashing using background fabric between columns.



5 blockx X 5 blocks
Straight set.
Creates perfect tessellation.

5 blocks X 5 blocks
Side by side placement
Half blocks used every 2nd column.

6 blocks X 5 blocks.
Lanterns are multi coloured
Diamond shape on top of lantern is created by turning the bottom strip around and sewing to top of block.
Hanging wire is narrow sashing.
Space under lanterns is narrow sashing using background fabric.
Sashing between blocks



Close up of multi coloured quilt with background changed to show detail.