

Candle Quilt Block Tutorial

Finished block size: 12" x 12"

Unfinished block size: 12 1/2" x 12 1/2"

This candle quilt block is a lovely choice for Christmas quilts, winter wall hangings, table toppers, and holiday samplers. The design features three candles with flames and bows, set on a soft background, and it works beautifully as a single block or repeated in a full quilt.

Materials

You will need:

- Background fabric - light green
- Candle fabrics - 3 red prints
- Flame fabric - yellow or cream-yellow
- Bow fabric - dark green print
- Basic sewing supplies - rotary cutter, ruler, mat, pins or clips, iron, sewing machine

Fabric Cutting

Background fabric

Cut:

- 2 pieces 3" x 12 1/2" for the side panels
- 2 pieces 1 1/2" x 12 1/2" for inner background fillers if needed during layout
- 3 small rectangles 1 1/2" x 2" for the space behind each flame
- 6 small squares 1 1/2" x 1 1/2" for the bow corners
- Additional background pieces as needed to square up the block to 12 1/2" x 12 1/2"

Candle fabrics

Cut:

- 1 piece 2 1/2" x 6 1/2"
- 1 piece 2 1/2" x 7"
- 1 piece 2 1/2" x 5 1/2"

Flame fabric

Cut:

- 3 flame shapes approximately 1" x 2" finished
- The easiest method is to cut:
 - 3 rectangles 1 1/2" x 2 1/2"

Trim into flame points during assembly if preferred.

Bow fabric

Cut:

- 6 squares 1 1/2" x 1 1/2"
- 3 small center triangles or connectors if you want a more detailed bow look

Suggested Layout

Arrange the block in three sections:

Section Description

Top Flames with background around them

Center Three candle bodies

Bottom Green bow units under each candle

The candles can be slightly different heights for a more playful and natural look.

Step 1: Make the Candle Tops

Sew each yellow flame onto its background section.

You can do this in two ways:

- Pieced flame: create a simple pointed unit with small side background pieces
- Applique flame: applique the flame shape onto a background rectangle

Press carefully so the flame stays crisp and centered above each candle.

Step 2: Make the Candle Bodies

Take your three red candle rectangles and pair each one with a flame unit.

Sew the flame section to the top of each candle body. Press seams open or to one side, depending on your preference.

At this stage, you should have three candle units.

Step 3: Make the Bow Units

For each candle base, create a bow using the dark green fabric.

An easy method is to make a simple bow shape with diagonally placed pieces on both sides of the candle base. This gives the effect of ribbon loops.

For each bow:

- Place one green triangle or corner unit on the left side
- Place one green triangle or corner unit on the right side
- Add a small background connector between or below if needed

Press and trim each bow section so it matches the width of its candle.

Step 4: Join Candle and Bow Sections

Sew one bow unit to the bottom of each candle.

You should now have three complete candle units with:

- flame
- candle body
- bow at the base

Press well.

Step 5: Add Background Pieces

Place background fabric between and around the candle units until the layout measures 12 1/2" x 12 1/2" unfinished.

Make sure:

- the candles are evenly spaced
- the top edges align nicely
- the bottom bow sections sit level
- the outer edges are squared up

Sew the background sections in rows or vertical sections, whichever is easier for your construction style.

Step 6: Assemble the Block

Join the sections together and press flat.

Trim the completed block to:

12 1/2" x 12 1/2" unfinished

This will give you a 12" x 12" finished block once sewn into a quilt.

Pressing Tips

Good pressing makes this block look polished.

- Press after every seam
- Use a dry iron first, then steam lightly if needed
- Avoid stretching the flame points and bow edges
- Square up often during assembly

Color Ideas

This block looks beautiful in many palettes:

- Traditional Christmas - red, green, gold
- Soft vintage - cream, sage, dusty rose
- Modern holiday - white, charcoal, deep red
- Scrappy version - mixed reds and greens from your stash

Ways to Use This Block

You can use this block for:

- a Christmas quilt
- a holiday pillow
- a table topper
- a wall hanging
- a festive mini quilt

Make several blocks and alternate them with plain or star blocks for a larger quilt.

Beginner Notes

If you are a beginner, this is a very friendly project because:

- it uses simple piecing
- the shapes are easy to adjust
- it is great for practicing layout and balance
- it works well with scraps

The only part that may need a little extra care is keeping the flames centered and the bows symmetrical.

