

# SUMMERTIME ILLUMINATED LANTERNS

By Heidi Proffetty

With the warm days and long nights of summer we often find ourselves relaxing in our favorite outdoor spaces. Charming by day and cozy by night, lanterns add that perfect amount of ambience. This DIY Illuminated Lanterns project doesn't cost a lot of money or time to make. Whether you make just one to add a splash of colorful texture to an outdoor table or if you make several to set you patio and backyard trees a glow you will be pleasantly surprised how these simple lanterns transform your outdoor space.

**Skill Level: Beginner/Intermediate**

**Makes: 1 Lantern 9.5" Tall**

**Time: 1 ½ hour**



## **Project Supplies:**

- 3 – 18.5" x 28.5" Assorted rolls of Kraft-tex Designer Colors: Marsala, Blue Turquoise & Moss
- 2 – 8" plastic buckets with lids for lantern
- 1 – Spool of contrasting white thread preferably a 3 ply, 50 wt.
- 2 – 4 mm eyelets or grommets
- 1 – Small tube of E6000 craft or your favorite adhesive glue
- 1 – Roll of 16 gauge galvanized steel wire
- 18 - Wonder Mini clips by Clover
- 1 – LED Battery Powered Tea Light
- 1 – Can of your favorite temporary spray fabric adhesive

- 1 – Sheet of Transfer paper (in lieu of using a digital cutter)
- 1 – Can of Metallic silver spray paint (optional)
- 1 – Adhesive glue strip (optional)

**Note:** You can purchase Kraft-tex fabric paper at [www.ctpub.com](http://www.ctpub.com)

**Tools:**

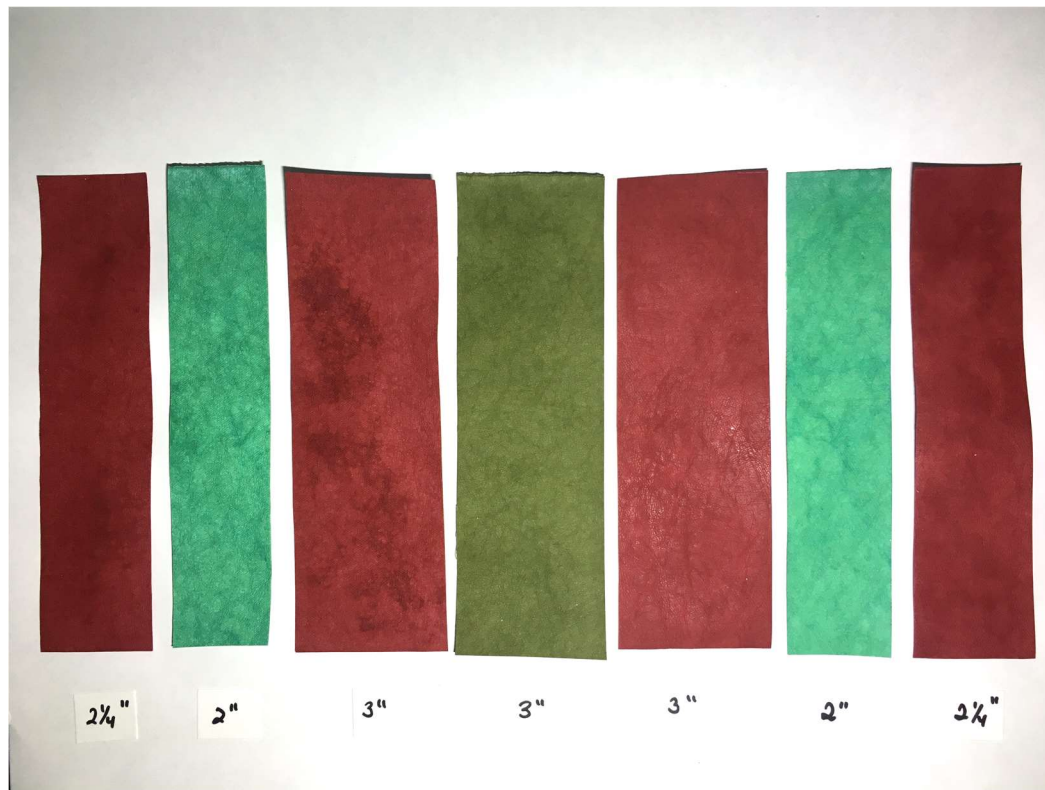
- Eyelet or grommet pliers
- Metal cutters to cut wire to length
- Heavy duty utility scissors to cut inner plastic rim
- Leather hole punch
- Cotton swab
- Cutting Mat & Rotary Cutter
- Digital Cutter or X-Acto knife
- Sewing Machine

**Part 1 – Creating the Motif and Cutting the Lantern Panels**

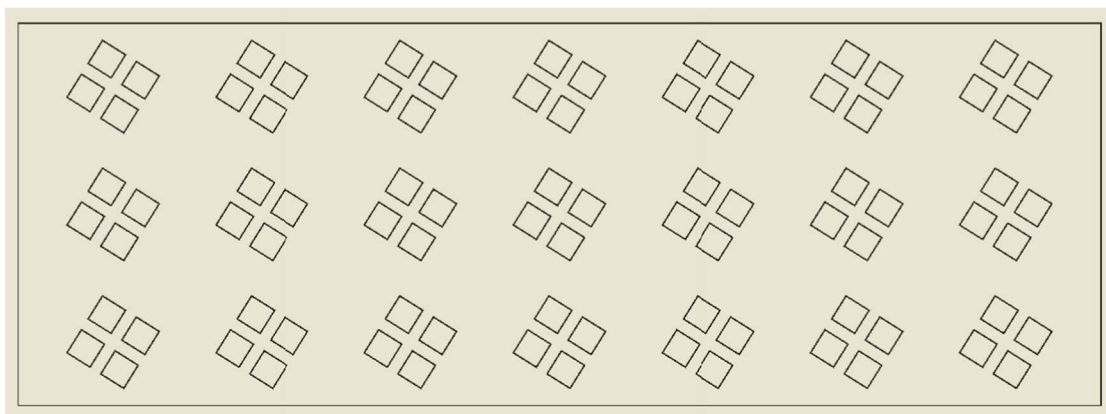
Choose 3 assorted designer colors of Kraft-tex 18.5" X 28.5" rolls to work with.



Using your rotary cutter and cutting mat, cut 17.5" length strips by the following pictured widths.

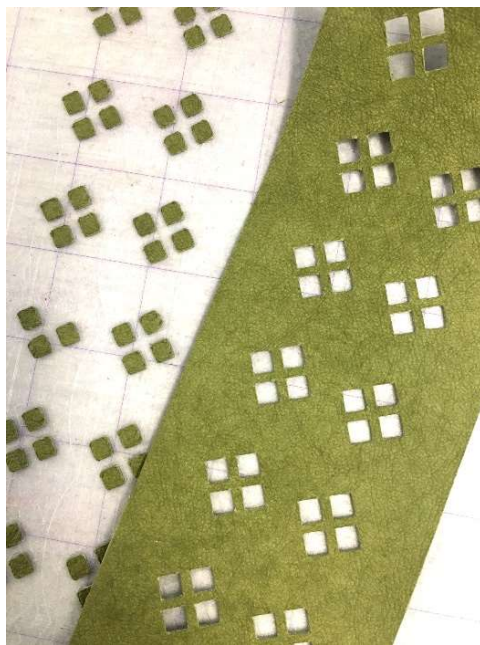


Next, create your motif using your favorite computer program, digital cutter or digitizing software or simply work from your hand drawn design using transfer paper.



Then using either your digital cutter or an X-Acto knife and cutting mat, start cutting your motif out of each of your prepared strips.





## Part 2 – Sewing the Side Panels

Using your sewing machine's available fagoting stitch(s) along with your satin stitch or standard zig-zag foot, evenly butt two strips together and sew in-between the two strips. Back tack at beginning and end.



***Note: The fagoting stitch is most often used to join two pieces of fabric to create an open work appearance and design interest. In this case, I am using this stitch to join my strips together to lay flat.***

This is what your completed panel should look like and it should have a final measurement of 17.5" by 9.5". If necessary, use your rotary cutter and cutting mat to square up your panel.



Next, take the two shorter ends and sew them right sides together using a straight stitch to create a cylinder shape.

***Tip: When working with Kraft-tex, it is always better to adjust your stitch length a bit longer than usual because this product is actually paper and if the stitches are too close together, the paper fabric will tear along the stitched line.***

Once you have the two short ends sewn together, gently turn the entire cyclinder inside out, exposing the right side.





### Part 3. Assembling the Lantern

First, using a sharp pair of heavy duty utility scissors, cut the rims off of each bucket. The cut rims should be in tack when finished.

***Note: You will be using both the rims and lids for added support and to easily remove a lid to change out the tea light once the battery dies.***



Next, inset either the bottom or top rim (using no glue at first) into one end of the paper fabric cylinder. This helps to keep the cylinder's shape uniform making it easier to glue the rims on. Then take the second rim, apply an even amount of glue around the entire outer edge of the rim and inset it into the other end of the cylinder. Use mini clips around the entire rim to until the glue dries and the rim is secured to the cylinder. Now, remove the unglued rim and repeat the same gluing and clip process.



This image below is of some smaller sized votive holders using the same process described above, working with mini clips to hold the glued rims in place until dry.

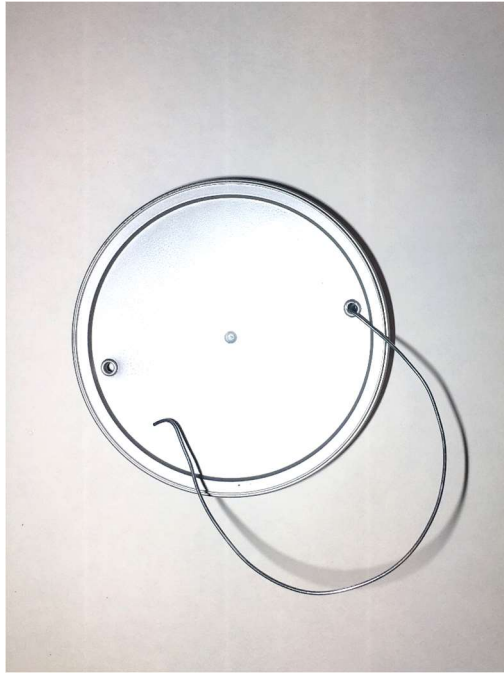


While the glue on your rims is drying, you can work on preparing the top and bottom lids. (Optional step, in this photo I spray painted my lids using metallic silver spray paint.)





To prepare the top lid, using a leather hole punch and grommet pliers, set two small grommets parallel to each other, one on each side close to the edge of the lid. Second, cut a 10" piece of 16 gauge wire and bend the ends. Afterwards, install each bent end of the wire into each of the grommet holes on the lid.



Once the glue has dried on your rims, remove the mini clips from the top and bottom, carefully snap on the bottom lid to the bottom rim of the lantern and place a battery powered tea light into the lantern. You can use an adhesive glue strip to hold the tea light in the center of the lid base.



Finally, gently snap the top lid onto the top rim and your lantern is complete.



For a fun variation...make shorter lanterns by reducing the height of your sewn panels.



For an alternative option, use this entire process with your left over scraps of Kraft-tex material to create smaller sets of 2"-2 ½" votive holders. Of course, you would need to make size adjustments based on smaller lids & rims.



Happy Sewing, Crafting and Quilting!

*Heidi*

[www.heidi@heidiproffetty.com](mailto:www.heidi@heidiproffetty.com)