

Orchard Lantern

Orange-peel blocks glowing like segmented fruit



1. Finished size

Finished quilt: 78 in × 90 in (approximately 198 cm × 229 cm)

Block grid: 6 blocks across × 7 blocks down

Block size (unfinished): 12 in × 12 in

Four-patch cornerstones: 1 in blocks at every block intersection

Quilt top construction: Each orange-peel block contains appliqué fruit shapes over a warm-white “lantern glow” ground, framed by slim cornerstones formed into the repeating grid.

2. Materials and yardage

All yardages are for quilting-weight cotton fabrics with usable width ~42 in (106 cm), cut with the grain. Include a little extra for sample cuts and trimming.

Use	Fabric & color notes	Yardage
Background / lantern glow	Warm white solid or blender	4.0 yd
Orange peel appliqué (3 prints)	Tangerine, clementine, persimmon (fruit-segment prints)	1.0 yd each (3.0 yd total)
Lime leaf green edging	Lime-leaf green fabric (for leaf outlines)	0.75 yd
Cornerstones	Small dark print or coordinating solid (slim four-patch feel)	0.75 yd
Backing	Solid or subtle texture to complement navy binding	5.5 yd (for ~92 in × 104 in)
Batting	92 in × 104 in (choose low-loft or cotton)	1 pack
Binding	Navy binding, low-contrast from piecing	0.60 yd (approximately 1/2 yd; cut strips)

Notions

- Appliqué thread (tangerine and lime green) and a medium-weight hand sewing needle or a machine appliqué needle.
- 1 spool coordinating quilting thread for piecing seams and quilting (or use a neutral).
- Lightweight fusible web (for appliqué templates) such as 1/2 yd.
- Optional: wash-away marker or chalk for tracing templates.
- Pressing tools: steam iron, clapper or dry iron for crisp edges.

Thread color guide: Use a bobbin-neutral thread for construction. For appliqué stitching, use thread slightly darker than each appliqué print so the curved quilting echoes the glow.

3. Cutting

Cutting is written for a **6 × 7 block** grid. Each 12 in block is composed of a background center with appliqué “orange peel” segments and cornerstone framing created by corner units at intersections.

A. Background (warm white) pieces

- **Block centers:** Cut **12 in × 12 in** background squares for each block: **42 squares** (6 × 7).
- **Corner framing strips (if you prefer strip assembly):** Not required if using pre-cut 12-inch block backgrounds with appliqué only. If you like to build the grid with units, see option below.

Simplest method: Create each 12×12 block as a finished background square; appliqué fruit onto it; then assemble blocks with cornerstones using the 1×1 corner units described below.

B. Cornerstones (slim four-patch feel at every intersection)

At each intersection where 4 blocks meet, you’ll stitch a small corner unit that reads as a “four-patch” sparkle.

- Finished cornerstone size: **1/2 in × 1/2 in** (with seams).
- Cut corner patches: **1-1/8 in × 1-1/8 in** (allowing 1/4 in seams).
- Number of corner patches: **4 per interior intersection**. For a 6×7 block grid:
 - Intersections horizontally: 5 internal lines between 6 blocks → 5
 - Intersections vertically: 6 internal lines between 7 blocks → 6
 - Total interior intersections = 5 × 6 = 30
 - Corner patches for interior only = 30 × 4 = **120 pieces**

Edge intersections: At the quilt outer edge, you don’t need interior corner units. You’ll frame the perimeter with background and border/binding instead.

C. Appliqué (orange peel segments + lime leaf edging)

Each 12×12 block contains:

- 3 orange peel segment pieces in mixed prints (tangerine/clementine/persimmon)
- 1 lime-leaf edge outline set (one continuous arc-like edging broken into 3 curves for stitching)
- Optional: 1 small “seed dot” accent per block (use tiny scraps)

Template sizes (ready to cut):

- Segment A: 6 in long arc, max width 3 in (cut 42 pieces)
- Segment B: 5-1/2 in long arc, max width 2-3/4 in (cut 42 pieces)
- Segment C: 4-3/4 in long arc, max width 2-1/2 in (cut 42 pieces)
- Lime leaf edging: 3 arcs per block (cut 126 pieces) using fusible web
- Seed dots: 1 per block (cut 42 small circles)

Template usage: Trace each arc onto fusible web, add seam allowance only if your fusible method requires it (most fusible appliqué uses a small turn-under or raw edge with stitch). For this pattern, use **raw-edge appliqué** with fusible placement, then stitch with a tight satin or blanket stitch.

D. Backing and batting

- Backing: cut a single panel approximately **92 in × 104 in** (or piece carefully).
- Batting: same approximate size.

E. Binding

- Cut navy binding strips: **6 strips × 2-1/2 in** width.
- WOF (width of fabric) requirement: approximately 6 × 42 in = 252 in (sufficient for an ~336 in perimeter after joining and trimming).
- Join strips with diagonal seams, press and bind finished quilt.

4. Piecing / block construction

A. Build one orange-peel block (12 in × 12 in)

1. **Prepare background square:** Press the 12×12 warm white background square. Mark a light placement guide for the fruit: center a large arc across the middle, leaving about **2-1/2 in** margin to each edge.
2. **Fuse the orange peel segments:**
 - Trace and cut Segment A, B, and C from their chosen prints (mix them across the quilt for variety).
 - Apply fusible web to the wrong side of each segment. Cut cleanly.
 - Peel and position on the background according to your guide. Fuse in place.
3. **Add lime leaf edging:**
 - Cut the lime arcs and fuse them behind/adjacent to each orange segment edge so they form a narrow “leaf outline.”
 - Position the arcs so the lime reads as a thin border along the curves, not a broad band. Fuse.
4. **Appliqué stitch:**
 - Stitch around each orange segment with a tight satin stitch or blanket stitch using thread matching the orange (or slightly darker).
 - Stitch the lime edging using lime thread. Keep stitches consistent, following the curvature closely.
 - Optional seed dots: position and secure with a few tight stitches.
5. **Press:** Press lightly from the front using a press cloth, then check corners are square and the block measures **12 in × 12 in**.

B. Quilting echo plan (before assembly)

You'll quilt after basting the entire top, but it helps to plan the motif: **fine concentric lines** that echo the curve of each peel.

- For each block peel: quilt 3–4 parallel curved lines starting near the leaf edging and radiating outward.
- Stitch spacing guide: approximately **1/8 in to 1/4 in** between lines depending on your needle and thread weight.

C. Cornerstone insertion during quilt-top assembly

Assemble the quilt in a grid while placing cornerstones at intersections.

1. **Lay out blocks:** Arrange all 42 12×12 finished blocks in a 6×7 grid on a design wall.
2. **Create row strips (optional):** You may sew across rows without borders first, but you must coordinate cornerstones at intersections.
3. **Stitch block seams:** Join blocks side-by-side with **1/4 in** seams.
4. **At every interior intersection:**
 - Sew two neighboring blocks so they meet with a seam intersection.
 - Insert the 1-1/8 in corner patches to form the 1/2 in finished cornerstone at that crosspoint.
 - Backstitch carefully; press seams open or to one side (your preference) while keeping the intersection crisp.
5. **Repeat for all rows/columns:** Work systematically left-to-right, top-to-bottom.
6. **Check overall size:** After assembly, measure quilt top: should be close to **72 in × 84 in** before borders/binding. If off, trim only if needed to square; aim to keep blocks consistent.

Pressing tip for applique blocks: Press seams carefully to avoid distorting appliqué curves. A gentle iron and pressing from the back protects the stitched outlines.

5. Quilt top assembly

A. Perimeter finishing

The Orchard Lantern quilt uses the warm-white background to frame the composition, ending in a narrow navy binding rather than a wide pieced border.

- If your top measures slightly short, add a narrow strip of warm white along the perimeter to square it. Keep the additional border width **1/2 in to 1 in** (then adjust binding as needed).
- Do not add bulky borders; the navy binding frames the glow.

B. Border/binding prep

1. Trim quilt top edges square.
2. Measure perimeter and re-check binding strip calculation. Join strips to create a continuous length.
3. Press binding strips in half lengthwise with wrong sides together.

Corner handling for binding: Use miter corners. Stop stitching 1/4 in from the edge, fold binding up to form a crisp triangle, then fold back down and continue.

6. Basting, quilting and binding

A. Basting

- Layer: backing (right side down) → batting → quilt top (right side up).
- Baste using safety pins, basting spray, or thread basting. Ensure appliqué edges lie flat.
- Remove pins gradually as you quilt to keep the motif aligned.

B. Quilting: curved concentric echo lines

Use a fine needle (e.g., size 80/12 or 75/11) and monofilament or matching quilting thread.

- **Stitch length:** 2.0–2.5 mm for smooth curving.
- **Motif:** quilt 3–4 concentric curves per peel on the background between leaf edge and outer margin of the orange shape.
- **Stitch path:** follow the appliqué curvature; keep lines parallel so each segment feels like a glowing citrus “ring.”
- **Intersection consistency:** At cornerstones, slightly soften spacing (do not crowd stitches into the corner patch seam).

Practice first: Quilt 1 block on a sandwich with similar batting to test thread tension—appliqué stitches should remain secure and concentric lines should be evenly spaced.

C. Binding

1. Sew binding to the quilt top with a **1/4 in** seam allowance.
2. Press binding seam allowance toward quilt.
3. Fold binding to the back and hand-stitch (invisible ladder stitch) or machine-stitch if preferred.
4. Finish edges: ensure miter corners are crisp and fully secured.

D. Final press

Press quilt flat from the back, using steam sparingly. Allow to cool before rolling.

7. Finishing notes

A. Layout rhythm

For the “segmented fruit” look, distribute the three orange prints evenly across the grid. Avoid placing the same print in a straight column more than twice—repeat it diagonally instead.

B. Appliqué edge durability

- If you prefer extra longevity, after fusing you may tack down edges with a quick line of basting along each segment before stitching.
- Use a slightly smaller stitch length on curves for clean stitching.

C. Blocking and measurement

- Measure a few blocks before assembly—target **12 in** each.
- After joining each row, measure length; adjust by trimming only the seam allowances that are truly off (avoid trimming the block’s appliqué region).

D. Troubleshooting

- **Peel puckers:** reduce tension, use a stabilizer, and press with a cloth from the back.
- **Cornerstones ripple:** pin intersection points and keep seam allowance flat before pressing.
- **Concentric quilting waves:** mark a light guideline curve with chalk/wash-away and quilt slowly.

Suggested thread set: Quilt with a neutral thread for body quilting, and use thread colors only for appliqué outlines. This helps the navy binding frame the finished Orchard Lantern glow.