

Basic Log Cabin Quilt Block Construction & Links to Resources

A basic log cabin quilt block consists of a centre square and a series of strips sewn in sequence around the centre square. Traditionally, the centre square was red to signify the hearth of a home, or yellow, to signify the light in a home's window. The strips around the square signify the log walls of the home. Traditional log cabin blocks are composed of light and dark colours in a distinct pattern, forming a diagonal colour contrast through the block. The blocks can then be arranged in a variety of ways to make distinctive patterns in the finished quilt.

There are four basic factors that determine the look of the traditional block - the size of the centre square, the number of logs around the square, the size of the logs around the square, and the fabric and colours you use.

An additional factor is the aesthetic approach that you take - will each block be carefully measured and square, and all look alike? Will each block be different, and maybe not so carefully measured or square. Will every block be machine pieced, or stitched by hand?

Regardless of the approach that you take, all fabric pieces should be cut on the grain to prevent distortion. This is true when using clothing as well as yardage. This is where a ruler or template comes in handy, but is not strictly necessary. Many modern quilters use a free hand approach to cutting.

All of your seams should be $\frac{1}{4}$ " inch wide, whether machine or hand stitched.

All seams should be pressed after they're sewn. They can be pressed open or to the side.

Links:

Here are two approaches to constructing a simple log cabin block:

Instructions by “Quilts by Jen”

[How To Make The Basic Log Cabin Quilt Block | Quilts By Jen](#)

Instructions by Carolyn Forster

[How to Make a Manx Log Cabin Quilt | LoveCrafts](#)

Instructions by “Stitched in Color”

[Quilt-As-You-Go Log Cabins tutorial — Stitched in Color](#)

Written instructions from Lea Heinrich of Freshly Pieced Quilts, using templates:

Here’s a bit of info from the Edmonton and District Quilter Guild

[Part 10: The Log Cabin Quilt | EDQG](#)