PRINTABLE QUILT PATTERN

Christmas Bell Block

A step-by-step patchwork bell with a tied bow, a scrappy flared body, and a small gold clapper. Print these pages, cut from the charts, and sew one square that is true.



25 × 25 cm
Finished in a quilt. That is 9⅞ inches.

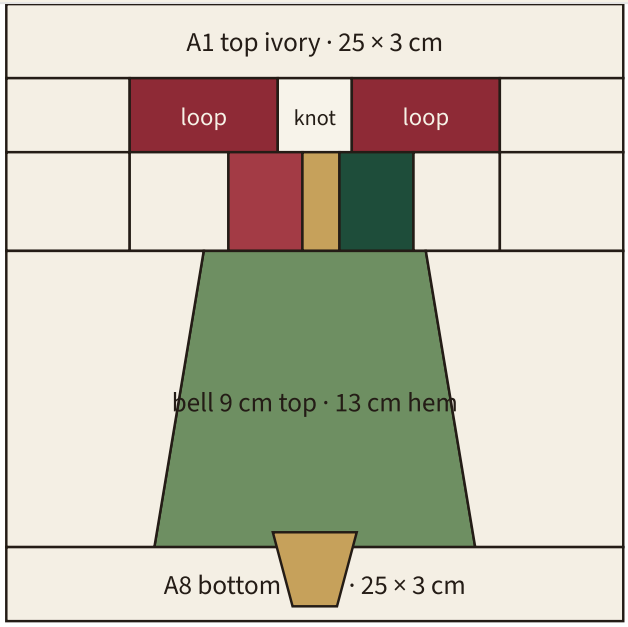
26.4 × 26.4 cm
Unfinished, the size you measure on the table.

0.7 cm seam
A scant ¼ inch. Keep it the same on every seam.

Level: confident beginner. Plan three to four quiet hours for one block. Straight seams only — no set-in corners and no curves.

Read this before you cut

The block is five full-width rows. Join them from the top down. The drawing shows finished sizes, before the outer seam allowance.



Top row A1 is ivory, 3 cm tall.

Tail row is 4 cm: red tail, gold spacer, green tail.

Bottom row A8 is ivory, 3 cm, from the plate.

Loop row is 3 cm: two 6 cm loops and a 3 cm knot.

Bell row is 12 cm: 9 cm at the top, 13 cm at the hem.

The gold clapper is appliquéd on the center seam.

Do not trim the block to 25 cm. When the rows are joined it must measure **26.4 × 26.4 cm** from raw edge to raw edge. The extra 0.7 cm on each side is the seam you need for binding or for sewing the block into a quilt. After that seam is taken, the bell finishes at 25 × 25 cm.

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Tools, cloth, and thread



Use 100% cotton. Press and starch it before you cut so the bias edges do not stretch.

Rotary cutter, mat, and a ruler with a 0.7 cm or ¼ in line

Sewing machine, 75/11 or 80/12 needle, cotton thread 50 wt

Pins or clips, iron, washable marker, paper for templates

Stitch length 2.0 mm. A shorter stitch holds the slants.

- Ivory background and knot
- Forest tips, bar, and right tail
- Holly green, left edge of the bell
- Berry print and burgundy plaid
- Cranberry loops and crown
- Antique gold spacer and clapper
- Red holly print, left tail and bell
- Cream print with small gold stars

Buy this for one block

Ivory: one fat quarter (about 45 × 55 cm)

Cranberry: 25 × 30 cm

Forest green: 25 × 30 cm

Antique gold: 15 × 15 cm

Five print scraps, each at least 8 × 16 cm

Pressing rule

Press seams toward the darker cloth, or press them open where the knot and the tails meet so the center does not become a lump. Press down and lift. Do not drag the iron across a bias edge.

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Cutting chart — background and bow

Centimeters are the master numbers. “Finished” is the size inside the seams. “Cut” already includes 0.7 cm on every side. A piece listed 3.0 finished is cut 4.4. Width is written first, then height.

Ivory background

ID	PIECE	FINISHED CM	CUT CM	QTY	FABRIC
A1	Top strip	25.0 × 3.0	26.4 × 4.4	1	Ivory
A2	Loop-row side	5.0 × 3.0	6.4 × 4.4	2	Ivory
A3	Tail-row side	5.0 × 4.0	6.4 × 5.4	2	Ivory
A4	Left tail pad	4.0 × 4.0	5.4 × 5.4	1	Ivory
A5	Right tail pad	3.5 × 4.0	4.9 × 5.4	1	Ivory
A6	Bell side filler	8 top / 6 hem × 12	10.0 × 13.4, trim	2	Ivory
A8	Bottom strip	25.0 × 3.0	26.4 × 4.4	1	Ivory

Bow, knot, and tails

ID	PIECE	FINISHED CM	CUT CM	QTY	FABRIC
B1	Loop frame, top & bottom	3.7 × 0.9	5.1 × 2.3	4	Cranberry
B2	Loop window	3.7 × 1.2	5.1 × 2.6	2	Ivory
B3	Inner loop bar	0.8 × 3.0	2.2 × 4.4	2	Forest
B4	Outer tip (cut diagonally)	3.0 × 3.0	4.4 × 4.4	2	Forest
B5	Knot	3.0 × 3.0	4.4 × 4.4	1	Ivory
B6	Knot crown	3.0 × 1.1	4.4 × 2.2	1	Cranberry
B7	Left tail	3.0 × 4.0	4.4 × 5.4	1	Red holly print
B8	Tail spacer	1.5 × 4.0	2.9 × 5.4	1	Antique gold
B9	Right tail	3.0 × 4.0	4.4 × 5.4	1	Forest

> **Label every piece** on the wrong side the moment you cut it: A1, B7, C4, and so on. The two loops are mirrors. On one loop the forest triangle goes on the left end. On the other it goes on the right end.

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Cutting chart — bell and clapper

Sew C1 through C7 into one panel, left to right, in this order. The red, gold, and forest strips sit in the middle so they continue the tails. Cut the strips a little long, then trim the panel.

ID	PIECE	FINISHED CM	CUT CM	QTY	FABRIC
C1	Left edge	2.0 × 12	3.4 × 14.5	1	Holly green
C2	Next	1.7 × 12	3.1 × 14.5	1	Ivory botanical
C3	Under left tail	2.2 × 12	3.6 × 14.5	1	Same red print as B7
C4	Center	1.2 × 12	2.6 × 14.5	1	Antique gold
C5	Under right tail	2.2 × 12	3.6 × 14.5	1	Same forest as B9
C6	Next	1.8 × 12	3.2 × 14.5	1	Burgundy–gold plaid
C7	Right edge	1.9 × 12	3.3 × 14.5	1	Cream with gold stars
D1	Clapper	4 top / 2 bottom × 3	trace + 0.7 cm	1	Antique gold

How to add seam allowance to a traced shape. Trace the finished outline. Draw a second line 0.7 cm outside it. Cut on the outer line. The inner line is your sewing line. Use this for the clapper and for any piece you trace from the last page.

Side fillers A6. Cut two ivory rectangles 10.0 × 13.4 cm. You will trim them after they are sewn to the bell. Do not try to cut the perfect slant in the air.

What the last page is for

The template plate is the line drawing of this same bell. Trace from it, but cut from this chart so the rows finish at 25 cm. On the plate, the 25 × 3 cm strip is A8, the 3 cm square is the knot, and the small gold shape is the clapper. The three tall trapezoids are another way to cut the bell: bottoms 4, 5, and 4 cm, tops 3 cm, height 12 cm. Joined, they make the same 9 cm top and 13 cm hem.

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Step 1 — Cut and keep order



Group the pieces the way you will sew them: loops, tails, bell strips, ivory frame, clapper.

Starch the ivory, cranberry, forest, and gold. Let them dry, then press flat. Starch stops the side slants from stretching.

Cut the straight pieces from the charts on pages 4 and 5. Square one edge of each fabric first, then cut widths from that edge.

Cut the two B4 squares once on the diagonal. You need only one triangle for each loop. Keep the spare triangles; they are useful if a tip is cut short.

Trace the clapper from the plate: 4 cm across the top, 2 cm across the bottom, 3 cm tall. Add the 0.7 cm outline and cut one from gold. Set it aside. It is sewn last.

Stack each row with a pin and a note. Do not mix the 4.4 cm squares: B4 is forest, B5 is ivory.

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Step 2 — Make the two loops



The finished bow. You are making the loops and the knot on this page. Tails come next.

For one loop, sew a B1 cranberry strip, a B2 ivory window, and the other B1. The ivory is in the middle. Press both seams toward the cranberry.

Trim that striped unit to 5.1 × 4.4 cm. The 4.4 cm side is the height.

Sew a B3 forest bar to the inner end (the end that will touch the knot). Press toward the forest.

Sew a B4 forest triangle to the outer end, long bias edge against the cranberry. Press toward the cranberry.

Trim the loop to **7.4 × 4.4 cm**. Keep the height at 4.4. The forest tip must sit inside the trim, not get cut off.

Repeat for the second loop, with the triangle on the opposite end. Lay them side by side. The tips point outward. If they both point the same way, one bar is on the wrong end. Unpick that bar now.

The knot

Sew B6, the cranberry crown, to one edge of B5. Press the crown outward.

Trim the unit back to **4.4 × 4.4 cm**, leaving the red along one edge. That red edge is the top.

Sew left loop, knot, right loop. Match the top raw edges. The seam allowance is 0.7 cm. Press seams toward the knot.

Check: the loop band measures **16.4 × 4.4 cm**. If it is wider, trim equal amounts from the two outer tips, not from the knot.

Sew one A2 ivory side to each end. The loop row now measures **26.4 × 4.4 cm**.

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Step 3 — The tail row

This row is the ribbon under the bow. From left to right the center is: ivory pad, red tail, gold spacer, forest tail, ivory pad. The gold must land on the center of the block, because the bell's gold strip will be sewn directly under it.

Sew A4, B7, B8, B9, and A5 in that order. All five are 5.4 cm tall. Press seams open so the gold stays flat.

The center unit measures 16.4 × 5.4 cm. Find the middle of the gold spacer and mark it with a pin. This pin is the center of the whole block. Do not lose it.

Sew one A3 ivory side to each end. The tail row measures **26.4 × 5.4 cm**.

Sew the tail row to the bottom of the loop row. Match the center pin to the center of the knot. The red tail hangs under the left loop, the forest tail under the right loop.

Press the seam toward the tail row.

> **Check the pair.** Loop row plus tail row should measure 26.4 cm wide and 8.4 cm tall (4.4 + 5.4 − 1.4). If the height is short, the seam was deeper than 0.7 cm. If it is tall, the seam was too shallow. Fix it before you add the bell.

Add the top strip

Sew A1 to the top of the loop row. Press toward A1. The upper unit is now top strip + loops + tails. It should be 26.4 cm wide. The height should be about 11.4 cm (4.4 + 4.4 + 5.4 − 2.8 for the two seams). Write that height in the margin if it helps you trust the next join.

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Step 4 — Piece and shape the bell



Sew C1 through C7 left to right. Pin each pair at both ends so the strips do not bow. Press the seams open.

The panel should be about 14.4 cm wide. Trim the height to 13.4 cm, taking the extra off the bottom only. The top edge stays straight and on grain.

On the right side, mark the center of the top and the center of the bottom. The gold strip should already sit on that center. If it does not, shift your marks to the gold, not the other way around.

On the top edge, measure 5.2 cm to the left of center and 5.2 cm to the right. That 10.4 cm is the unfinished top of the bell (9 cm finished, plus seam allowance).

On the bottom edge, measure 7.2 cm to each side of center. That 14.4 cm is the full hem. You should not need to trim the bottom width.

Draw the two slants from the top marks to the bottom marks. Draw a second line 0.7 cm outside each slant. Cut on the outer lines. Stay-stitch 0.3 cm inside each new bias edge so it cannot grow.

Lay an A6 rectangle against one slant, right sides together. The ivory is larger than the slant. Pin every 2 cm. Sew 0.7 cm from the bell's raw edge. Press the ivory outward.

Repeat on the other side. Then trim the whole bell row to **26.4 × 13.4 cm**. The bell stays centered. Equal ivory must show on the left and the right.

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Step 5 — Join the rows



Top to bottom: bow, bell with ivory sides, bottom strip. Match the gold in the tails to the gold in the bell before you sew.

Pin the bell row under the tail row. Match the three centers: gold spacer, gold bell strip, and the middle of A8 later. Also match both outer raw edges.

Sew with a 0.7 cm seam. The bias sides of the bell are inside this seam only at the left and right ends, so keep those ends flat and do not pull.

Press the seam toward the bell.

Sew A8, the bottom ivory strip, to the hem of the bell. Press toward A8.

Measure. The block should be **26.4 cm wide and 26.4 cm tall**, within 2 mm. If it is wide, trim equal ivory from the left and right. If it is tall, trim A1 only. Never trim A8. The bottom band stays a full 3 cm finished.

Step 6 — Clapper, press, and square



Press the finished block from the wrong side first, then the right side, with no steam on the bias.

Turn under the 0.7 cm allowance on the clapper. Clip only the bottom corners, not the long slants. Finger-press, then press with the tip of the iron.

Center it on the block. The top edge of the clapper sits 0.5 cm above the seam between the bell and A8, so it overlaps the hem. The rest lies on the ivory strip. The bottom of the clapper must not cross the outer seam allowance.

Pin. Slipstitch or blanket-stitch the edge with gold or ivory thread, about 0.3 cm apart. Do not stitch into the outer 0.7 cm of the block.

Square the block one last time to 26.4 × 26.4 cm. Check that the bow is centered: the knot should be 13.2 cm from each side edge.

> **If you are short.** A block under 26.0 cm is usually a seam that crept past 0.7 cm. Add an ivory coping strip to the top or to one side rather than stretching the bell. If you are long, trim ivory only. Never trim into the bow loops or the clapper.

The ¼ inch, said plainly

Put a stack of sticky notes or a strip of painter’s tape on the throat plate so the raw edge of the cloth kisses that guide. Sew a test seam on two ivory scraps, press, and measure the seam. It must be 0.7 cm. Adjust the guide before you sew the block. One deep seam on every row is enough to lose the whole centimeter you need.

Step 7 — If something looks wrong



A patchwork foot makes the 0.7 cm seam easier to repeat. The needle is a 75/11 or 80/12.

The bow is not a mirror

One loop's forest tip is on the inner end. Unpick that tip and that inner bar and swap them. Do this before the loop row is sewn to the tails.

The bell leans

The top was trimmed off-center. Open the side seams, re-mark 5.2 cm each side of the gold strip, and sew the ivory back on. Trim the row to 26.4 cm again.

The ribbon breaks

The gold spacer is not above the gold bell strip. Unpick the bell seam and re-pin at the gold, even if the outer edges then need a sliver trimmed from the wider side.

A slant stretched

Steam and pull will not fix it. Cut a new A6 from the leftover ivory, stay-stitch the bell edge, and sew the new piece without pulling. Starch is the prevention.

The clapper is bulky

Trim the turned allowance to 0.4 cm after it is pressed, and clip the bottom corners closer. Slipstitch, do not topstitch through all the layers with a long stitch.

> **Grain.** A1, A8, the loop strips, and the bell strips are cut on the straight grain, parallel to the selvage. The only bias edges are the bell slants, the forest triangles, and the clapper sides. Handle those three and leave the rest alone.

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Sew it into something



The same block, three ways: one hanging, one pillow, one row of blocks as a runner.

One-block hanging

Add a 4 cm finished ivory frame. Cut two side strips 5.4 × 26.4 cm and sew them to the sides. Then cut two strips 5.4 × 34.4 cm for the top and bottom. Quilt with batting cut 38 cm square. Bind with 6.4 cm strips. Finished hanging, about 33 cm square.

Pillow, 35 cm

Frame the block with a 5 cm border. Side strips: cut 6.4 × 26.4 cm, quantity 2. Then top and bottom: cut 6.4 × 36.4 cm, quantity 2. Envelope back: cut two rectangles 36.4 × 24 cm, hem one long edge of each, overlap them to 36.4 cm square, and sew around the front with a 0.7 cm seam. Use a 35 cm pillow form.

Four-block wall quilt

Make four blocks. Join them 2 by 2 with 2.5 cm finished sashing (cut the short sashes 3.9 × 26.4 cm; you need four). Join the two rows with one sash cut 3.9 cm by the width of a row. Add a 6 cm ivory border: cut width 7.4 cm. The quilt top finishes about 66 × 66 cm after binding. Backing and batting: 75 cm square. Ivory for four blocks plus sashing and border: 0.75 m if the cloth is at least 110 cm wide. Cranberry and forest: one fat quarter of each.

A row of three

For a short runner, join three blocks with two sashes cut 3.9 × 26.4 cm. Add a 5 cm border. Bind as for the hanging. The runner finishes near 93 × 35 cm.

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Sew-along checklist

Tick these in order. Do not skip a measurement. A wrong loop is cheap to fix. A wrong finished block is not.

- [ ] Cloth starched, pressed, and labeled
- [ ] Both loops trimmed to 7.4 × 4.4 and mirrored
- [ ] Loop row is 26.4 × 4.4
- [ ] Tail row is 26.4 × 5.4
- [ ] Bell top marked 10.4 cm unfinished, centered on the gold
- [ ] Three gold centers match
- [ ] Block measures 26.4 × 26.4
- [ ] Template page printed for your file
- [ ] Test seam measures 0.7 cm
- [ ] Knot trimmed to 4.4 × 4.4, red along the top
- [ ] Gold pin marks the center of the tail row
- [ ] Bell strips in order C1 to C7
- [ ] Bell row trimmed to 26.4 × 13.4
- [ ] A8 sewn and pressed toward the bottom
- [ ] Clapper slipstitched inside the outer seam

> **You are ready to use it** when the knot is centered, the bell flares evenly, the clapper sits on the bottom band, and the square still has its 0.7 cm seam allowance on all four sides. Quilt it, bind it, or sew it to the next block. The bell is the block — the project around it can change.

Personal sewing and teaching copies of this tutorial are welcome. Please do not resell the pages themselves.

Template plate

Print this page on its own. Numbers are finished centimeters. Add 0.7 cm around every piece. If the printer scaled the sheet, follow the numbers, not a ruler on the paper.

