

GARDEN CANDLE 2.0

by HomePro Hero

A Simple Two-Day DIY Build

Project Description

In this project, we're building a garden candle — a decorative post topped with solar “flame” lights that flicker and glow like real fire (your neighbors might do a double-take). It's an easy two-day build, and most of that time is just waiting on concrete to cure. These candles aren't really meant to light up the yard — they're for looks — and they truly come alive when you pair them with path lights and tree uplighting.

Video Link: <https://youtu.be/CVHYNq7uvVU>

Original 1.0 Build: <https://youtu.be/UwiyGPVcjtq>

I'm John, the HomePro Hero, and I want to extend a huge thank you for your purchase! Your support means a lot, and I'm excited to be a part of your DIY adventure.

Here to Help!

If you have any questions or need further information, feel free to drop me a line at homeprohero1@gmail.com. I'm here to assist and make sure you have everything you need for a successful and enjoyable project. Your satisfaction is my top priority, and I'm committed to helping you every step of the way.

Striving for Five Stars!

Your feedback is incredibly important. If you're happy with your purchase, I'd greatly appreciate it if you could leave a five-star review on Etsy. Positive reviews help our community grow and enable me to continue offering high-quality DIY guides.

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For additional tips, insights, and detailed looks into various DIY projects, check out my YouTube channel, HomePro Hero. Be sure to subscribe for the latest updates and content!

Tools

- Post Hole Digger or Shovel → <https://amzn.to/4n9BOdT>
- Miter Saw or Circular Saw and a Speed Square → <https://amzn.to/4m7VugZ>
- Drill → <https://amzn.to/487coYH>
- Compact Driver → <https://amzn.to/4su333S>
- Tape Measure → <https://amzn.to/4jQIEBK>
- 4 Ft Level → <https://amzn.to/4ubWHrD>
- Caulk Gun → <https://amzn.to/4pqCxli>
- Allen Wrench (Hex Key)

Lumber (Cedar Tone / Pressure Treated for Outdoor Use)

Heads up: "cedar tone" is AC2 ground-contact treated lumber — the brown stuff — not actual cedar. It's what I use for all my outdoor builds.

- 1 — 6x6 Post (8ft) (about 2ft sets in the ground, ~6ft stays above)
- 1 — 2x8 Board (8ft) (cut into the two cross arms)

Building two at once like I did in the video? Just double the materials.

Supplies

- Fast-Setting Concrete — 1 bag (locks the post in place)
- Regular Concrete — 1 bag (fills the rest of the hole)
- Decorative Hardware Kit — <https://amzn.to/4aGyhyn>
- Standard Liquid Nails → <https://amzn.to/3DDAf1O>
- Exterior / Deck Screws, 3"-3½"
- Decorative Chain — <https://amzn.to/4otre1N>
- Cap - <https://amzn.to/4ekgput>
- Fox Flame Solar Flame Torches → <https://www.foxflame.com/HOMEPROHERO>
→ Use coupon code **HOMEPROHERO** at checkout to save.

Before You Start

- Safety First: Wear protective eyewear and gloves. Ensure your work area is clean and well-lit.
- Measure Twice, Cut Once: Double-check all measurements before cutting to reduce waste and ensure accuracy.

Build Instructions

This is a two-day project — Day 1 you set the post in concrete, Day 2 you add the cross arms, hardware, and lights. I built two candles at once in the video to balance out the yard, but the steps are exactly the same whether you build one or two.

DAY 1 — SET THE POST

1. **Pick your spot and dig the hole.** Choose where the candle will be seen from — I put one close to the house so we can see it from inside. Dig the hole about 2 feet deep and roughly twice the width of the 6x6 (around 10 inches).
2. **Set the post height and angle.** Drop the 6x6 in and leave about 6 feet sticking out — don't go too tall or it looks awkward. Turn the post about 45° (a corner facing you) so your two cross arms will reach out to each side and a light can hang on each.
3. **Mix the concrete in the hole.** Add water to the hole, then mix in about half a bag of fast-set concrete to lock the post. Spray the dust off the post so it doesn't stain. Check that it's plumb and let the fast-set grab — about 30 minutes.
4. **Fill and let it cure.** Top off the hole with regular concrete almost to the rim, double-check your level one more time, then let everything cure overnight (a full day is even better).
- 5.

DAY 2 — ARMS, HARDWARE & LIGHTS

6. **Cut the cross arms.** From the 2x8, cut two arm pieces with a $22\frac{1}{2}^\circ$ angle on the end that meets the post. Mine came out around 18" on the long point. Dry-fit them around the post so they angle out evenly with the post centered.
7. **Attach the arms.** Pre-drill so the wood doesn't split, then fasten each arm to the post with three 3"- $3\frac{1}{2}$ " exterior screws.
8. **Add the decorative plates.** Line up the metal accent plates and attach them with the small black screws from the hardware kit. Pre-drilling makes this easier.
9. **Cap the post.** Set the post cap on top. Leave the screws a little loose at first so you can line it up square, then snug them down.
10. **Add the faux bolt covers.** Mark your spots — about 2" down from the top and 2" up from the bottom on each face. Add a dab of Liquid Nails, set each faux bolt, drive a deck screw inside, and tighten the cap with an Allen wrench (not included with the bolts).
11. **Hang the lights.** Attach a length of chain to each arm — I used 6 links on one side and 3 on the other to stagger the heights. Clip a Fox Flame solar light to each chain and press the on button. No wires, no batteries, just sun.
12. **Wait for dark and enjoy.** Let the lights charge through the day, then watch them at night. They really pop when you pair them with path lights and tree uplighting.

What It Cost Me

From the video — for the two-candle build (four lights total). Prices vary by region and supplier, so feel free to delete this section.

- Hardware: \$57
- Lumber + concrete: \$115
- Lights (4 total): \$125

That's it — another simple DIY project done. Enjoy, and tag me if you build one!

