

The Hanukkah Menorah

The Hanukkah menorah (also called, *hanukiah* pron. *ha-noo-ki-yah*) is an eight branched candelabrum used during the eight day celebration of Hanukkah which begins on Kislev 25th each year.

The *hanukiah* carries an additional candle called the *shamash* which is separated on the menorah from the eight Hanukkah candles. The *shamash* is not one of the Hanukkah lights; its purpose is to light the Hanukkah lights and to provide additional light as a “service” candle since the Hanukkah lights themselves are not meant to be “utility” lights—their function is to display the miracle of Hanukkah.

According to the Talmud, it is prohibited to use the Hanukkah lights for anything except to publicize the miracle [of Hanukkah] or for meditation (*Shab.* 21b–23a). For this reason the Hanukkah menorah is usually placed in a prominent place for all to see, for example, in a window of a home or a public place.

The menorah lights are lit in the order of the days of Hanukkah.

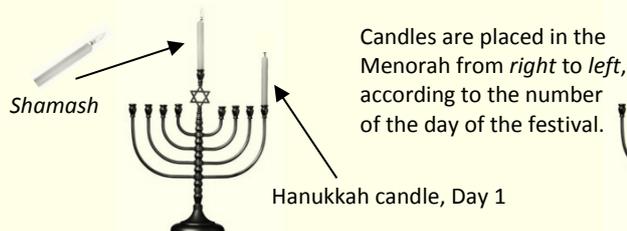
For Example: On Day 1 only one candle is lit, on Day 2 a second candle is lit making a total of two Hanukkah lights, on Day 3 the third candle is lit etc. The candles are arranged in the menorah from the *right to left*; each additional candle is lit, however, in the order *left to right* so that the candle for the Day is the first to be lit, followed by the other candles on its right.

The lighting of the Hanukkah lights is accompanied by blessings (see over leaf).



Each candle is lit the evening *before* the day i.e., the 1st candle is lit at nightfall before Hanukkah Day 1 and the 8th after nightfall Day 7.

A special candle, the *shamash*, is used to light the Hanukkah menorah. The *shamash* (attendant) candle, however, is **not** counted as one of the eight candles of Hanukkah.



The candles are kindled from *left to right*. For example: If it is the 6th day of Hanukkah there will be 6 candles in the menorah counting from the *right to left*.

The order of lighting, however, will follow *left to right*, beginning with the sixth day's candle first.



Hanukkah Blessings

The kindling of the Hanukkah lights is accompanied each evening by the recitation of blessings. On the first evening an additional blessing, the SHEHECHIYANU (“*Who has given us life*”), is recited.

THE BLESSINGS ~ בְּרָכוֹת לְחֲנוּכָה

SHEHECHIYANU

[Recite the first evening of Hanukkah.]

English: Blessed are You, Lord our God, Sovereign of the universe, who has kept us alive, and sustained us, and enabled us to reach this moment.

Transliteration: *Baruch atah Adonai Eloheinu Melech Ha-olam Shehehchiyahnu vekiyamanu vehagianu lazman ha-zeh.*

Hebrew: בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם שֶׁהַחַיָּנו וְקִיַּמְנוּ וְהִגִּיעָנוּ לְזֶמַן הַזֶּה

BLESSING FOR KINDLING HANUKKAH LIGHTS

Blessing 1. [Recite each evening for all eight days.]

English: Blessed are You, Lord our God, Ruler of the universe, who has sanctified us with Your commandments, and has commanded us to kindle the lights of Hanukkah.

Transliteration: *Baruch atah Adonai, Eloheinu Melech Ha-Olam, asher kiddeshanu b'mitzvotav, vitzivanu, lehadlik ner shel Hanukkah.*

Hebrew: בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתַיִךְ וְצִוִּינוּ לְהַדְלִיק נֵר שֶׁל חֲנוּכָה

BLESSING FOR THE MIRACLES

Blessing 2 [Recite each evening for all eight days.]

English: Blessed are you, Lord our God, Ruler of the universe, who wrought miracles for our fathers in days of old, at this season.

Transliteration: *Baruch atah Adonai, Eloheinu Melech Ha-Olam, she-asah nissim la-avotaynu bayamim ha-hem bazman hazeh.*

Hebrew: בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם שֶׁעָשָׂה נִסִּים לְאַבוֹתֵינוּ בַּיָּמִים הַהֵם בְּזֶמַן הַזֶּה

