

BOOK BAG

BAG WITH HANDLE

Skill level: Familiarity with sewing terminology needed
(Sample bags are available from Roundabout Canberra at Holt)



CHOOSE YOUR MATERIALS

Fabric

Fabric should be good quality, clean and similar weight to patchwork or polycotton (heavier weight fabrics such as corduroy or upholstery fabrics are too thick for the required snap closures).

Please make sure any patterns or images are suitable for children and/or teenagers.

CUT YOUR PIECES



Book bags are a single rectangle of fabric and have short fabric handles.

The following table lists the **sizes to cut your fabric** for the bag and the handles.

	Width	Height
BAG	84CM / 33"	51CM / 20"
HANDLES (CUT 2)	30.5CM / 12"	10CM / 4"

FOLD, IRON & STITCH



Handles (make 2)

- 1 With the wrong side of the fabric facing up, fold each handle in half along the long sides and press to create the centre fold.
- 2 Open out and fold the raw edges of the long side to the centre fold and press again.
- 3 Fold once more along the centre fold and press well. This gives you four layers of fabric with no raw edges along the long side of the handle.
Top sew along both long edges.



Body of the Bag

- 1 Fold the large rectangle of fabric in half by bringing the two short sides together - the right sides of the fabric will be together.
- 2 From the top of the bag, sew down the side seam, pivot at the bottom and continue to sew along the bottom of the bag.
- 3 Finish your seam - a simple zig zag stitch is fine. Leave the bag inside out.

Attaching the handles

Leave your bag inside out to attach the handles. These will be attached on both sides of the bag as you sew the top hem.

- 1 Fold the top of the bag down 2.5cm (1") and press. Fold again and press, **but don't sew yet!**
- 2 To ensure the handles are centered, find the centre of each side of the bag and mark 5cm (2") either side of the centre (a simple template as pictured is included on the last page of this document to help). Your handles will be positioned on the outside of these marks.
- 3 Tuck the ends of the handles under the one-inch hem on the inside of the bag, just outside of the marks you just made.
- 4 The handles will be lying on the wrong side of the bag and looping down against the body of the bag. Sew around the lower edge of the hem incorporating the handles. Flip the handles up and top sew around the top edge of the bag to secure the handles.



Your handles should be secure and neat, and centred.

FINISHING



Finishing

Give your bag a final press, trim any stray or uncut threads and check you have removed all pins.

Closures

Please don't add any closures - we will attach plastic snaps when you bring the otherwise finished bag back to Roundabout Canberra.

Returning to Roundabout

Bring your finished bags back to Roundabout and hand to staff or drop them in the donation trolley at the door.

THANK YOU!

The bag or bags you have sewn bring such delight to our volunteers when they pack essential items into them, and the recipients of these packs will be delighted to receive a pack made with such care and love.

Did you know?

In 2023, Roundabout Canberra gifted more than 4000 cloth bags!

TEMPLATE FOR HANDLE POSITIONING

To assist in the placement of the handles, this page can be printed at full size to create a template as pictured in the instructions..

After printing, quickly measure the template to check that the distances indicated are correct

