

TOY BAG

BOXED BOTTOM BAG

Skill level: Familiarity with sewing terminology and ability to follow a YouTube video needed
(Sample bags are available from Roundabout 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.

NOTE: These bags have a boxed bottom to give the bag width. If you have never made a boxed bottom on a bag, please read all of these instructions carefully and watch the recommended YouTube video before you start.

CUT YOUR PIECES



Toy 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	122CM / 48"	74CM / 29.5"
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.
- 4 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.

Making the Boxed Bottom

If you have never made a boxed bottom on a bag, please watch the following YouTube video - it provides clear and simple instructions:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=md9j5_1bG1M

You can also look at a sample bag next time you visit Roundabout!

In the video above, she is making a lining for a bag. You are not lining your bag, but the same technique is used with one additional step. You need to finish the seam (zigzag stitch) after trimming off the excess fabric. Please also note that our measurements differ from those in the video.

Measurements

In our bags, the box is 18cm (7") in total, which means you need to measure down 9cm (3.5") from the point once you have lined up the side and bottom seams. You can use a ruler as demonstrated in the video or you can make a template by cutting a 12.5cm (5") square in half along the diagonal and use that triangle as your template (a sample template is included on the last page of this document).



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). 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 have just made.

4

The handles will be lying on the wrong side of the bag and looping down against the body of the bag in a loop. 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.

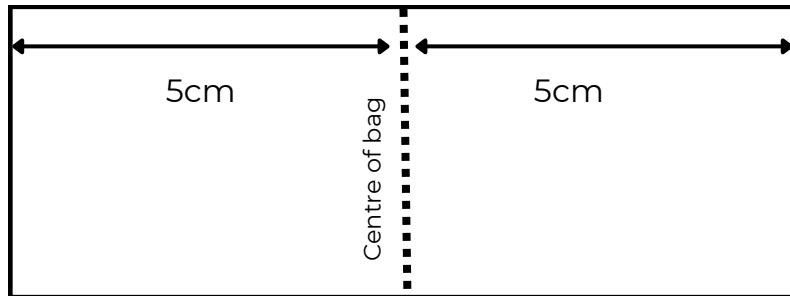
Did you know?

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



TEMPLATE FOR BOXED BOTTOM

To assist in creating the boxed bottom, this page can be printed at full size to create a template as used in some videos.

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

