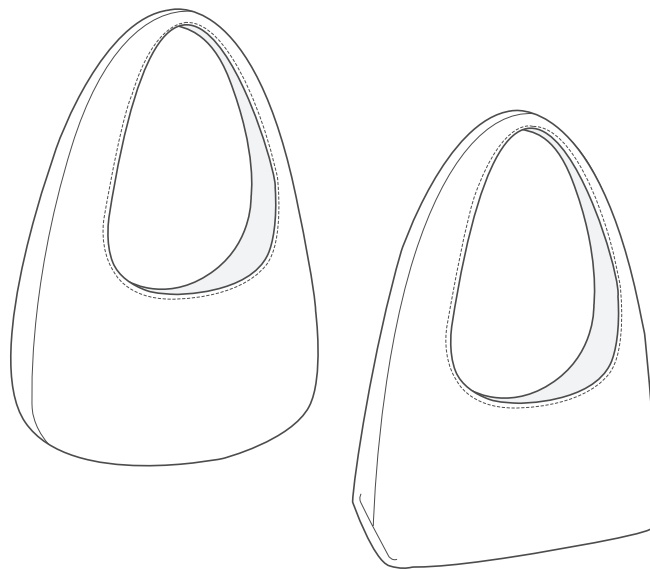




THE  
WOVEN  
WOLF



## MARKET TOTE

ROUNDED / BOXED CORNERS | BEGINNER

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## PROJECT DESCRIPTION

An adorable and *reversible* tote bag – big enough to hold it all with a small zippered pocket for the essentials. Choose either a round bottomed bag or a square bottom with boxed corners.

The perfect bag for heading to the beach, shopping the farmers market or cruising around the city!

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## SUGGESTED FABRICS

**Easier:** quilting cotton, cotton canvas, waxed canvas

**More challenging:** leather, suede, medium weight home decor / upholstery fabric

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## MATERIALS REQUIRED

**Self:** 1 yard (45" - 55" wide)

**Lining:** 1 yard (45" - 55" wide)

\*Note that we will call the fabrics "self" and "lining" to differentiate but this bag is totally reversible!\*

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## NOTIONS REQUIRED

7" or longer nylon coil zipper

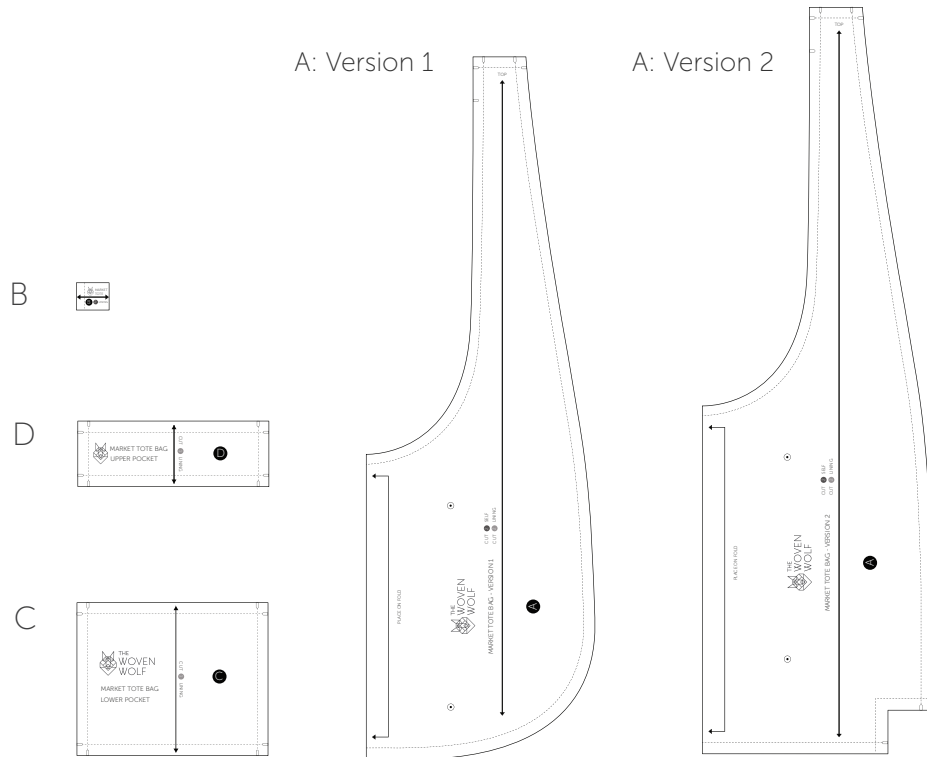
(we can shorten nylon coil zippers if they are longer than 7")

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## TOOLS REQUIRED

- an awl / a sharp pencil / seam ripper
- tailors chalk / fabric marker
- weights (we use soup cans!)
- straight pins
- fabric scissors
- measuring tape / ruler
- hand sewing needles
- matching thread
- contrasting thread
- iron
- press cloth
- zipper foot

## PATTERN INVENTORY



- A. Main Bag
- B. Zipper Tabs
- C. Lower Pocket
- D. Upper Pocket

### PATTERN PREP.

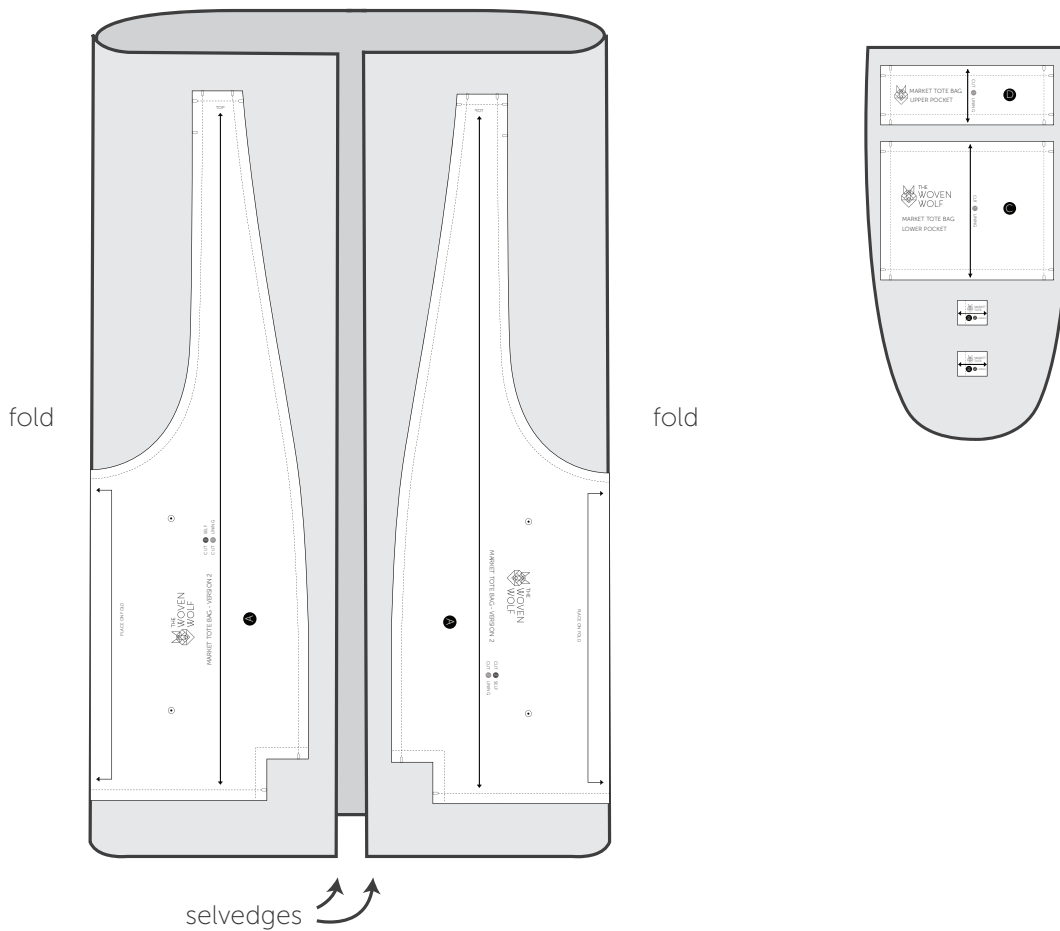
Print out the pattern using our printing instructions. Cut your pattern out with paper scissors. Don't use fabric scissors, it will dull the blade.

Punch holes in your pattern pieces at the drill holes (the little encircled dots). An awl is the correct tool to use for this. If you don't have an awl, a stitch ripper or a sharp pencil will work as well.

## CUTTING LAYOUT

Self and Lining are each laid out as shown:

Lining:



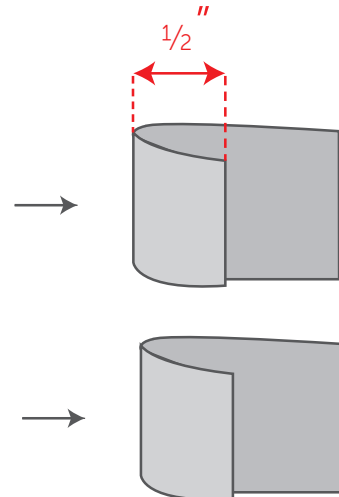
**Self + Lining:** Lay your fabric right sides together with a fold on either side and the **selvages** in the middle. If your fabric is **directional**, be sure that you've placed your pattern with the right side up.

**Lining:** Once you cut out the main bag pieces, use the leftover piece to cut out the Upper Pocket (D), Lower Pocket (C), and two Zipper Tabs (B). Mark the drill holes onto the good side of ONE of the (A) bag pieces using a fabric marker or chalk.

## SEWING THE POCKET

### Step 1

Fold the zipper tabs in  $\frac{1}{2}$ " on each side and press.

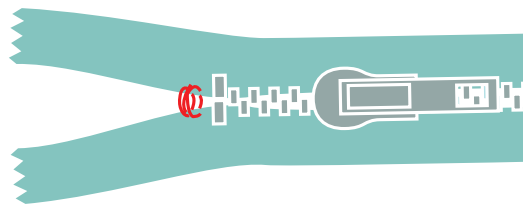


### Step 2

Unzip the zipper a few inches. At the top of the zipper, hand stitch the two sides together, very close to the metal stoppers.

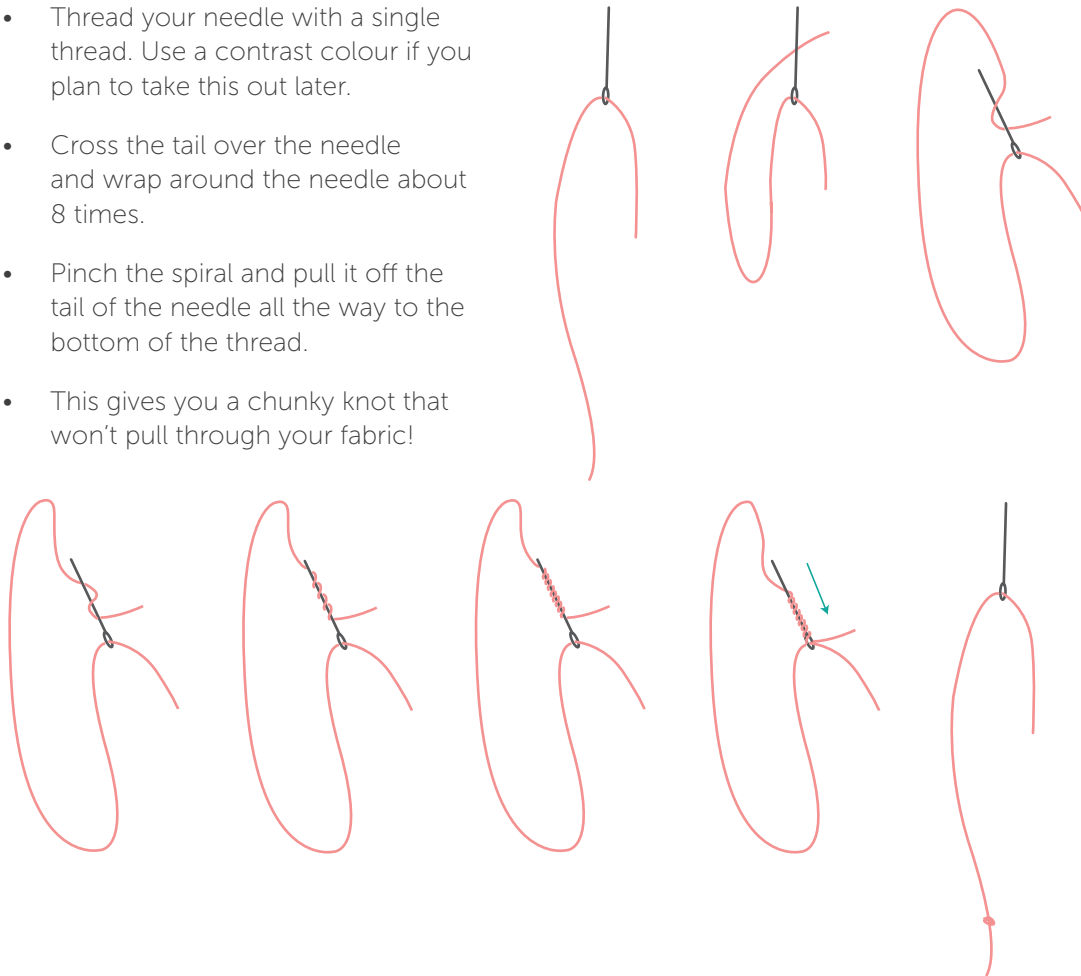
See below for instructions on tying a knot in your thread.

Once you've sewn a few stitches here, create a loop, thread your needles through the loop and pull tight to create a knot.



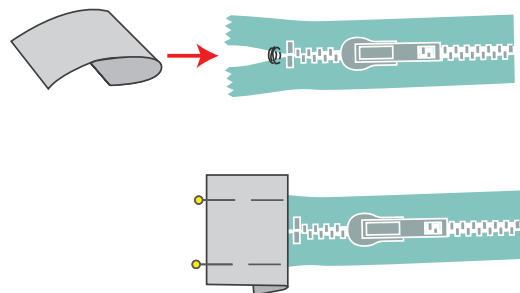
### TIP – Tying a Knot for Basting or Sewing (our favorite sewing trick!)

- Thread your needle with a single thread. Use a contrast colour if you plan to take this out later.
- Cross the tail over the needle and wrap around the needle about 8 times.
- Pinch the spiral and pull it off the tail of the needle all the way to the bottom of the thread.
- This gives you a chunky knot that won't pull through your fabric!



### Step 3

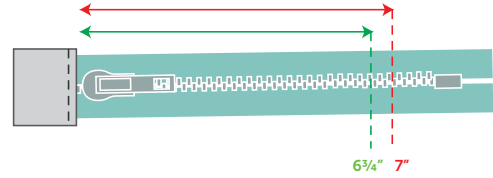
Now that the zipper is tacked together, attach the zipper tabs: line up the folded end of your tab with the zipper stoppers and pin in place.



#### Step 4

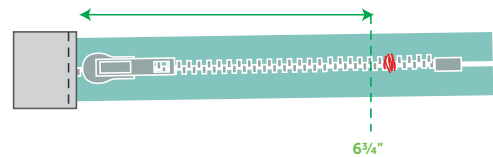
Your zipper should be  $6\frac{3}{4}$ ". If your zipper is longer than that you will have to shorten it.

To shorten your zipper measure both  $6\frac{3}{4}$ " and 7" down from the metal stoppers and mark with fabric marker.

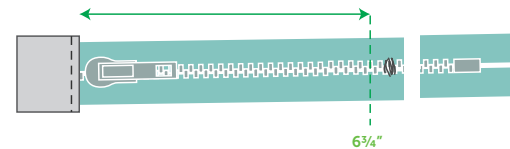


#### Step 5

At the 7" mark, hand sew over the zipper as we did before.

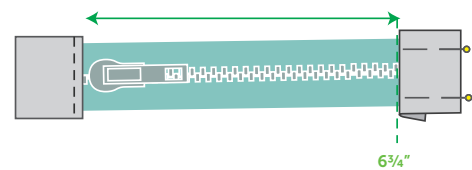


Cut off the excess just below the hand stitching.



#### Step 6

Line up the folded edge of your second tab with the  $6\frac{3}{4}$ " mark. Pin in place.





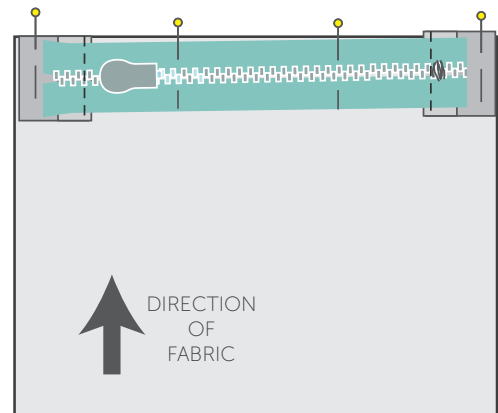
### Step 7

Sew across the folded edge of the tab at  $\frac{1}{8}$ ".  
Do not backstitch.



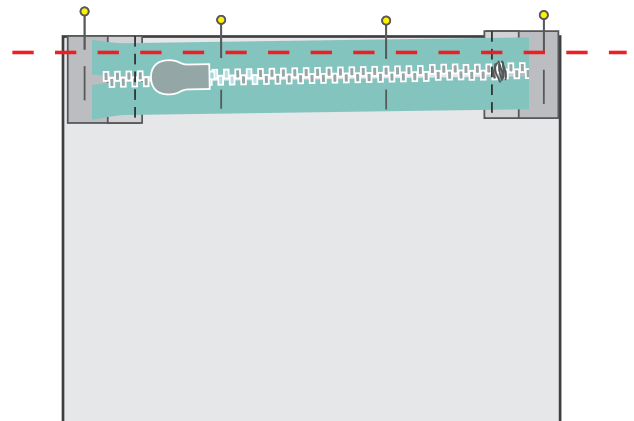
### Step 8

Attach zipper to pocket pieces:  
Place zipper face down on the top edge of the (C) lower pocket piece and pin.  
If fabric is directional, put the zipper at the top.



### Step 9

Hand baste the zipper in place.

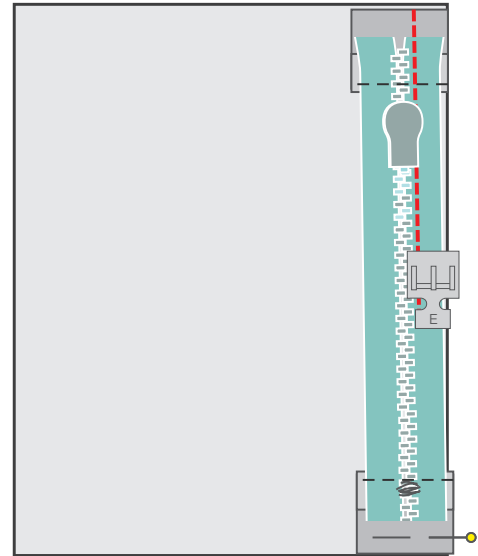


## Step 10

Using a zipper foot, sew along the basting from one end to the other. Back tack at both ends.

### \*Safety Note\*

**Keep your fingers out of the way of the needle!**



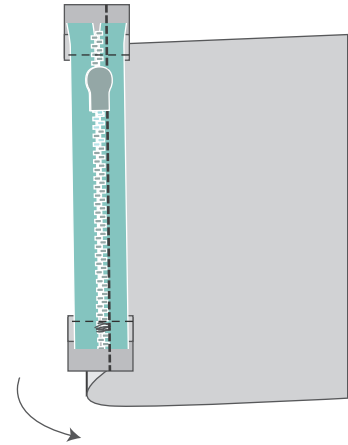
### TIP – Avoiding the Zipper Slider

Unzip the zipper a few inches before you begin sewing. Sew down to 1" away from the slider and stop. Lower needle, lift foot and reach in to zip the zipper back up, lower foot. Now you can continue sewing to the end.

## Step 12

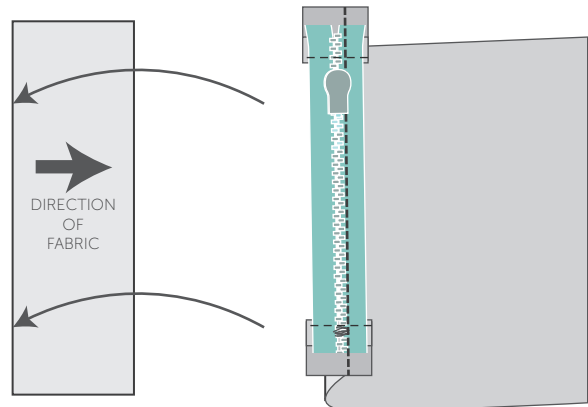
Repeat the process with the other side of the zipper:

i. flip lower pocket away from zipper

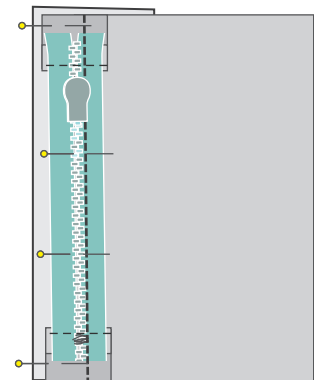


ii. place zipper right sides together with (D) Upper Pocket

If fabric is directional, place zipper at the bottom.

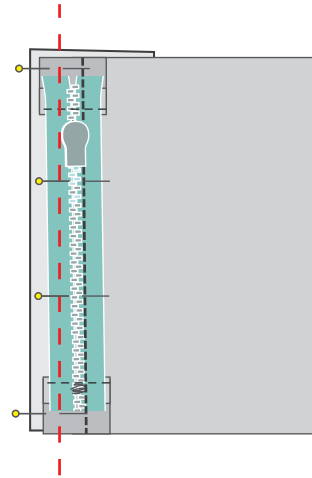


iii. pin in place



### Step 13

Baste the zipper in place here.

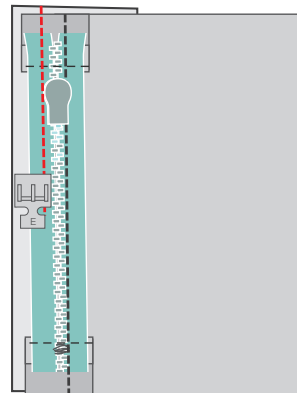


### Step 14

Using a zipper foot, sew along the basting from one end to the other. Back tack at both ends.

**\*Safety Note\***

**Keep your fingers out of the way of the needle!**

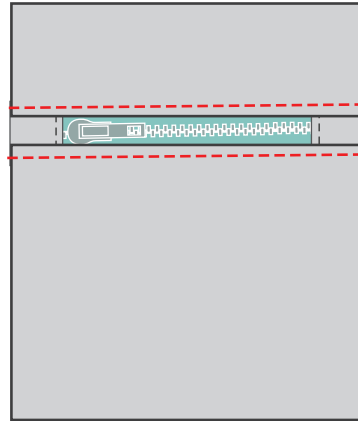


### Step 15

Press the pocket from the right side, pulling the fabric gently away from the zipper and being careful not to iron the zipper.

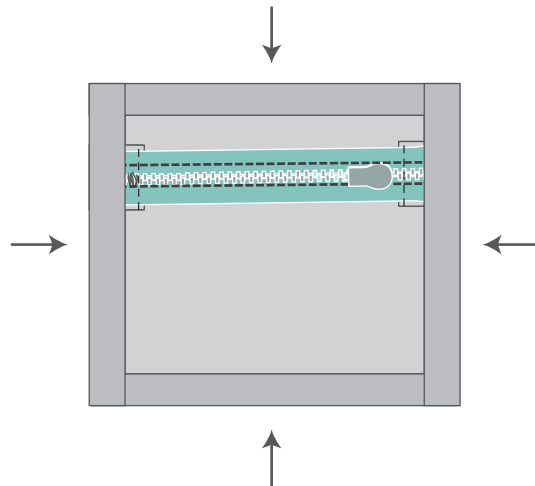
### Step 16

Topstitch along the zipper,  $\frac{1}{4}$ " away from the edge of the fabric.



### Step 17

Fold all edges in  $\frac{1}{2}$ " toward the wrong side of the pocket.



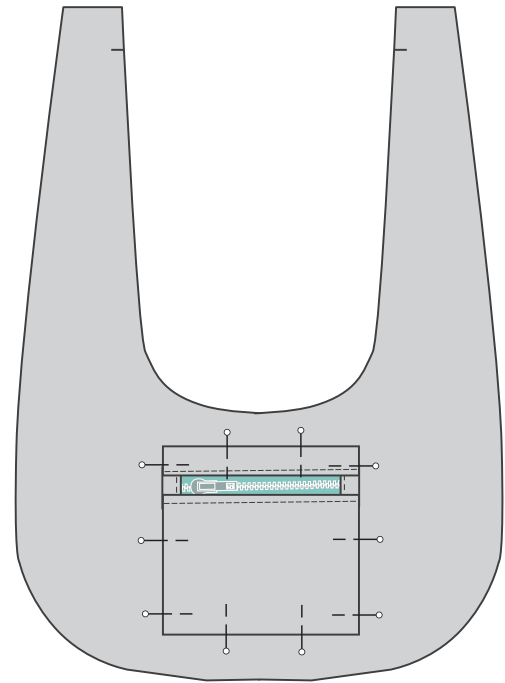
#### TIP – Getting a Perfect $\frac{1}{2}$ " Fold

Use a clear pattern drafting ruler and draw in a 1" line up from the raw edge of the fabric on the bad side of your fabric. Next fold your raw edge to the 1" line, creating a perfect  $\frac{1}{2}$ " fold! Then iron in place.

### Step 18

Place your pocket on your lining fabric, matching the corners to the drill hole marks. The drill marks should be right at the pocket corners.

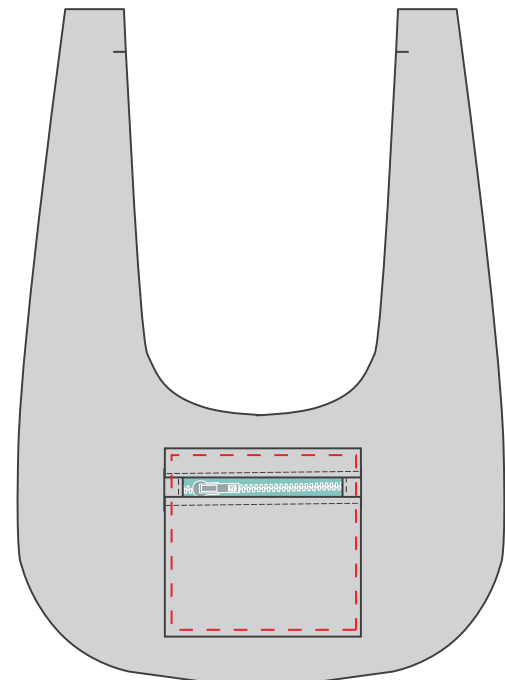
Pin in place along the folded edges.




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### Step 19

Hand baste the pocket in place along all four sides of the pocket square.

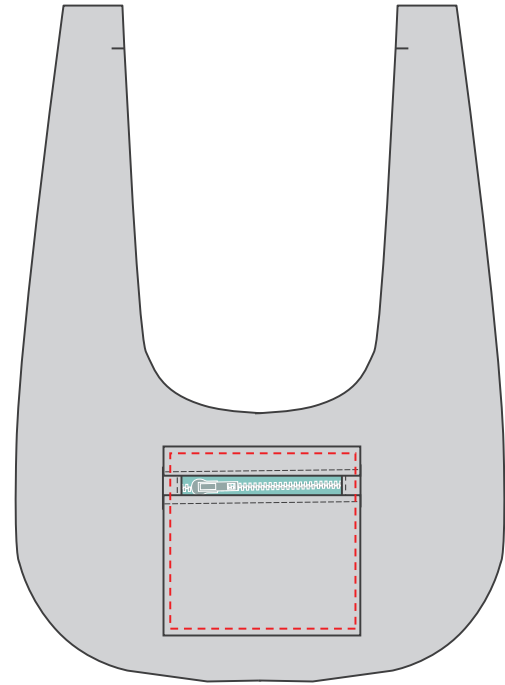


## Step 20

We will be sewing a box, along all four edges. Starting at the top right corner, sew all the way around 1/8" from the edge.

When you reach your corners, bring your needle to the down position, lift your foot and pivot your fabric. Lower your presser foot back down, and continue sewing.

Back tack at the beginning and end.



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**The pocket is complete!**  
**Now we can start putting the bag together...**

## BEGIN SEWING THE BAG: Version 1

### Step 1

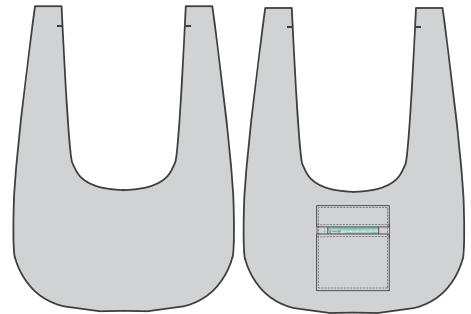
Double check that you have all your pieces:

If you are sewing in a pocket, it should already be on your lining at this point.

Self:

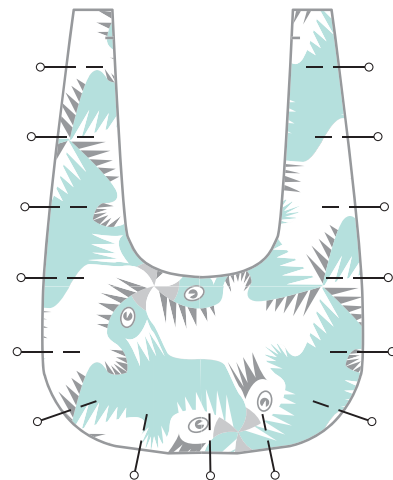


Lining:



### Step 2

Place your (A) self pieces together, right sides together. Pin along the edges with the pins perpendicular to the raw edge.





### Step 3

Sew at 1/2" seam allowance, as shown.

Backtack at both ends.

Repeat this step with your two (A) lining pieces.

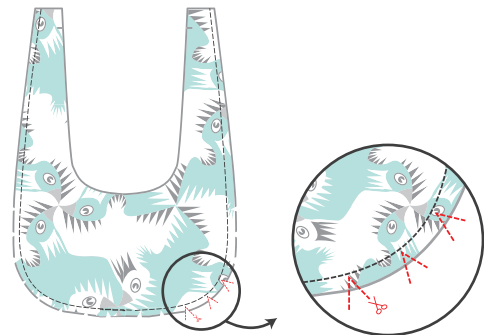


### Step 4

Because we are working with a convex curve here, we need to cut little triangles out of our seam allowance about an inch apart. This is to eliminate excess fabric, allowing our seam allowance to fold over itself without any extra bulk when we turn the bag right side out.

**Be careful not to clip into the stitching!**

Repeat this step on the (A) lining pieces.



## BEGIN SEWING THE BAG: Version 2

### Step 1

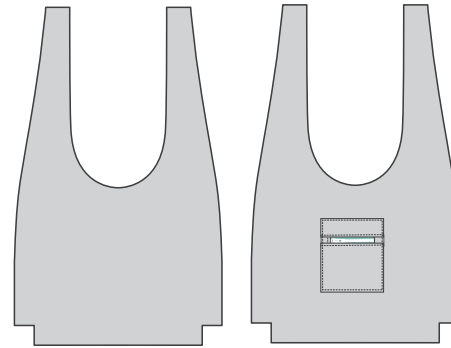
Double check that you have all your pieces:

If you are sewing in a pocket, it should already be on your lining at this point.

Self:



Lining:



### Step 2

Place your (A) self pieces together, right sides together. Pin along the edges with the pins perpendicular to the raw edge.



### Step 3

Sew at 1/2" seam allowance on sides and bottom, as shown, leaving the corners unsewn.

Backtack at both ends.



### Step 4

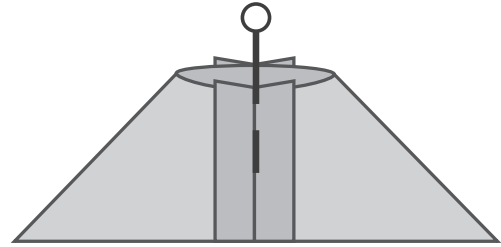
Boxing the corners:

**Pull the 2 layers of fabric apart** at the corners, so that it folds at the corner of the small boxes.



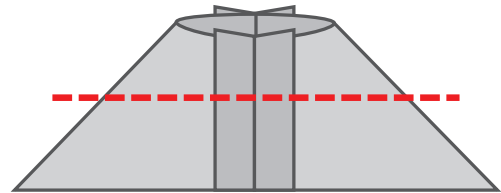
### Step 5

The side seam should be right on top of the bottom seam. Fold your seam allowances open and pin right along the seam. Make sure that your seams match perfectly, and that no extra fabric is folded in at the seam.



### Step 6

Sew at  $\frac{1}{2}$ " seam allowance from the opening. Backtack at both ends. Repeat on the other corner.



### Step 7

Repeat all these steps on the (A) lining pieces.

## FINISH SEWING THE BAG: Both Versions

### Step 1

Flip your lining right side out. Place your lining fabric inside your bag so the right sides are together.

Make sure right sides are together. Match the top of your straps and give the bag a shake.

Pin along the inside edge, as shown. **One layer of self fabric pinned to one layer of lining fabric.**

Pins go perpendicular to the raw edge.



### Step 2

Sew from notch to notch at  $\frac{1}{2}$ " seam allowance.

Backtack at both ends.



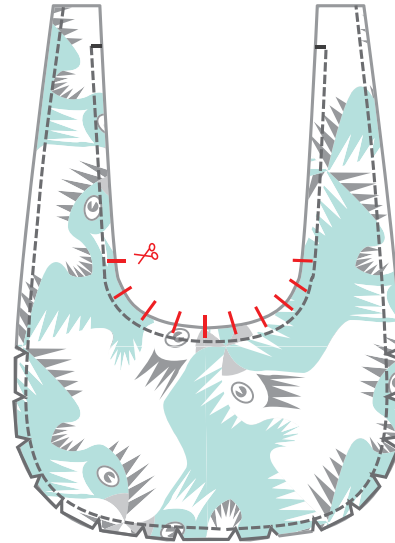
### Step 3

We need to clip the curve:

Because this is a concave curve we don't need to cut triangles here. On a concave curve we have to clip to allow the seam allowance to open up when the bag is flipped right side out.

Along the curve clip into the seam allowance every 1/2".

**Don't clip into stitch line.**




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### Step 4

Flip your bag right side out:

Reach into the opening at the top of the strap. Reach in all the way until you grab the other strap and pull it out. If you are using heavy fabric, this may be more difficult but trust us, it will fit!

Put the lining fabric on the inside and give it another shake.

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### Step 5

Sew the straps together:

Match lining straps along the top edge, right sides together and pin. Push your seam allowances in opposite directions.

Sew at 1/2" seam allowance across the top.

Repeat on the top of the self straps – this one is always a little more awkward. You will need to twist them to get them right sides together.

## Step 6

When you reach the top of your strap you will have a gap on either side. Tuck your seam allowance in  $\frac{1}{2}$ " and iron over your gap so it matches the rest of your seams.

## Step 7

Iron the rest of the straps and bag opening as well:

Fold your lining  $\frac{1}{8}$ " back so it doesn't show. If you want to make your bag reversible, iron so the seams sit right at the edge.

## Step 8

We close the gaps with topstitching:

Sew  $\frac{1}{8}$ " from the edge, all the way around the opening. Backtrack at both ends.





**Congrats – Your Tote is Done!**

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## GLOSSARY

### Self

Self refers to the main fabric you are working with. Sometimes patterns will say "2 self". This means you are cutting 2 layers of your main fabric, as opposed to a "contrast" fabric, "lining", or "fuse".

In our case, "self" refers to the exterior fabric of the tote bag.

### Selvedge

This is the finished edge of the fabric; it doesn't fray. It is a result of how the fabric is made. The width of any fabric is measured from selvedge to selvedge.

### Directional (Fabric)

Fabric, whose pattern has a direction. For example, a fabric with kittens has one direction and should only be seen from this direction, otherwise the kittens will be upside down or sideways. Whereas an abstract print like polka dots looks the same from all directions.

### Baste

A basting stitch is a long stitch in a bright contrasting colour done by machine or by hand. It is used to hold pieces together temporarily and it is easy to remove if necessary.

For example, it can be used instead of pins to hold a pocket in place to test the look or while sewing.

### Backstitch / Backtack

This is an extra 3 to 5 stitches on top of your line of stitching, at the beginning and end to secure it. It is done by sewing backwards. Your backstitch only needs to be 3 to 5 stitches or about 1/2" long.