

South Bedfordshire Craftivists

Instructions for Foodbank Tote Bags

Use either imperial OR metric measurements as the two are not always directly comparable

1. Cut or tear 3 pieces of fabric, or join smaller pieces together to create these sizes: the bag 19" x 40" (50cm X 110cm) and two handles each 18" x 3" (45cm X 7.5cm).
2. Fold the bag piece in half across its width (Diagram 1) and sew the two side seams then neaten the seam allowances by overlocking or zig-zag stitching. Alternative use a french seam (see instructions at end). Turn bag right side out.

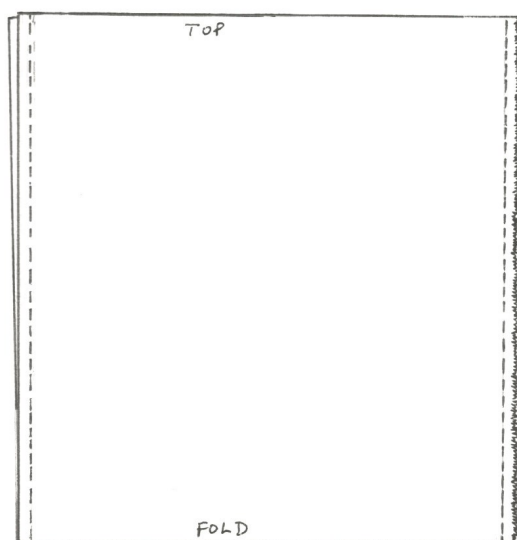


Diagram 1



Diagram 2



Diagram 3

3. Fold handles in half lengthways and sew a 0.5" (1.5cm) seam along the long edge (Diagram 2). Turn right sides out and top stitch both long edges (Diagram 3).
4. Next attach raw edges of handles to raw edges of each side of bag top in turn, equidistant from centre and about 4" (10cm) apart and sew for about 2" (5cm) as shown in Diagram 4.

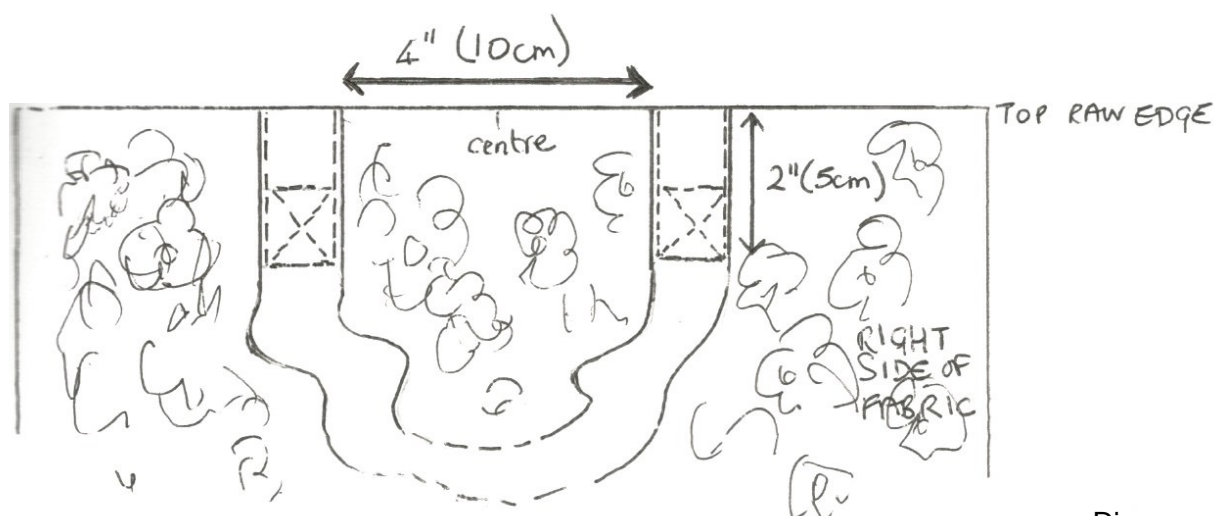


Diagram 4

5. Turn under 1" (2.5cm) along top edge of bag and then a second turn of 1" (2.5cm) this flipping handles up and to inside of bag. Stitch along top and bottom of hem (Diagram 5).

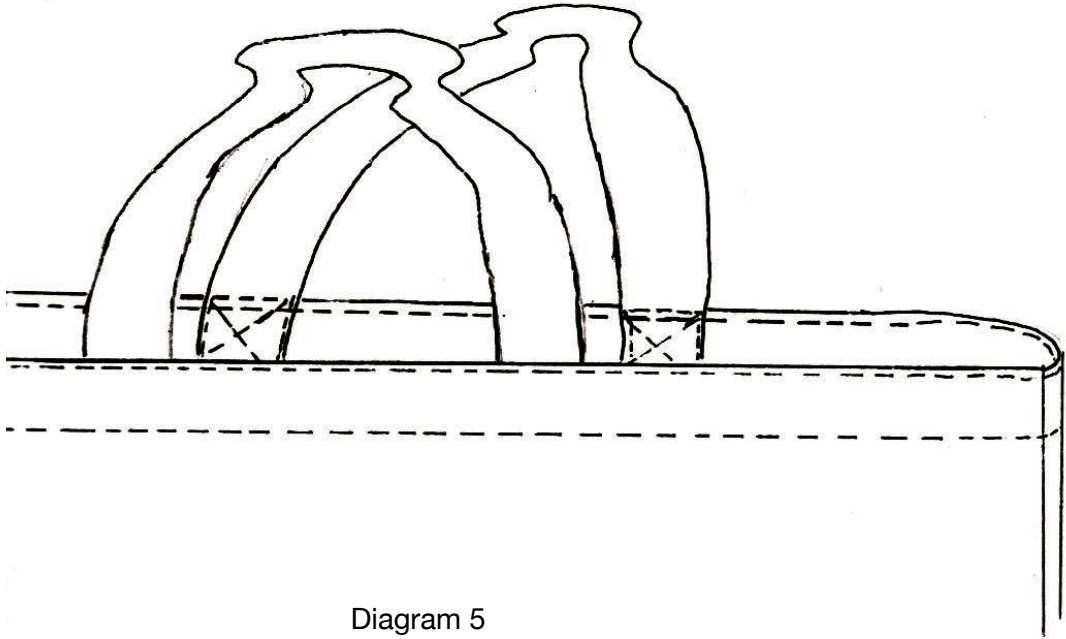


Diagram 5

6. A further refinement (optional) creates a base to the bag. Turn bag inside out and fold so that side seam lies along base fold forming a triangle at the end of the seam. Sew across the triangle about 1" (2.5cm) in from the point (Diagram 6). Turn bag back to right side.

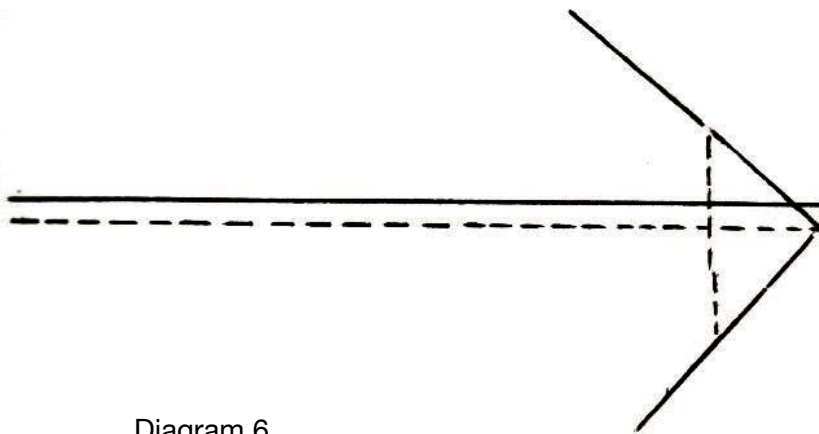


Diagram 6

French Seam instructions see: https://www.seamwork.com/sewing-tutorials/sewing-french-seams?srsId=AfmBOoodNuoOcrOwaAB0FPov_9axn-g21RHDAF5XdHqJ6dxve3x9oBVo

However I would not bother with the trimming (we are not making fine lingerie!) but first fold with wrong sides of fabric together and sew a seam slightly less than 0.25" (0.75cm), then turn so right sides are together and sew a further seam of just over 0.25" (0.75cm) thus trapping the seam allowances, hopefully without any frayed threads showing on the right side - but you can always trim these with a fine pair of scissors if you want.