

Helen Howes Textiles



Workshop Pincushion Bag Pattern

Workshop Pincushion Bag

This handy little bag sits by your sewing machine (or on the arm of the sofa) and holds those little necessities that need to be at hand - your scissors, pins and needles, threads, remote control or whatever...

Cut:-

Eighteen 3-inch squares of cotton fabric for the outer bag

One piece approx 16 by 10 inches for the lining (cut this when you need it...)

One piece 2-1/2 inches by 7 inches for the straps

One piece 6-1/2 by 7-1/2 inches for the pincushion (make this bigger if you like, or your contents are going to be heavy)

You will also need:-

Plastic strapping tape to stiffen the edge - this is easy to find lying around..

Something heavy to put in the pincushion. Rice, birdseed, lentils, or dry sand....

A hand sewing needle to finish off the bag

A few pins

Cotton thread to match your fabrics

Sewing machine with a regular foot, or you can make this by hand

Finished size is approx 10 inches by 5-1/2 inches in use

I try to make my patterns as well as possible, but as materials and procedures can vary, I cannot guarantee the final result.

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If you wish to make bags for sale please contact me for permission..

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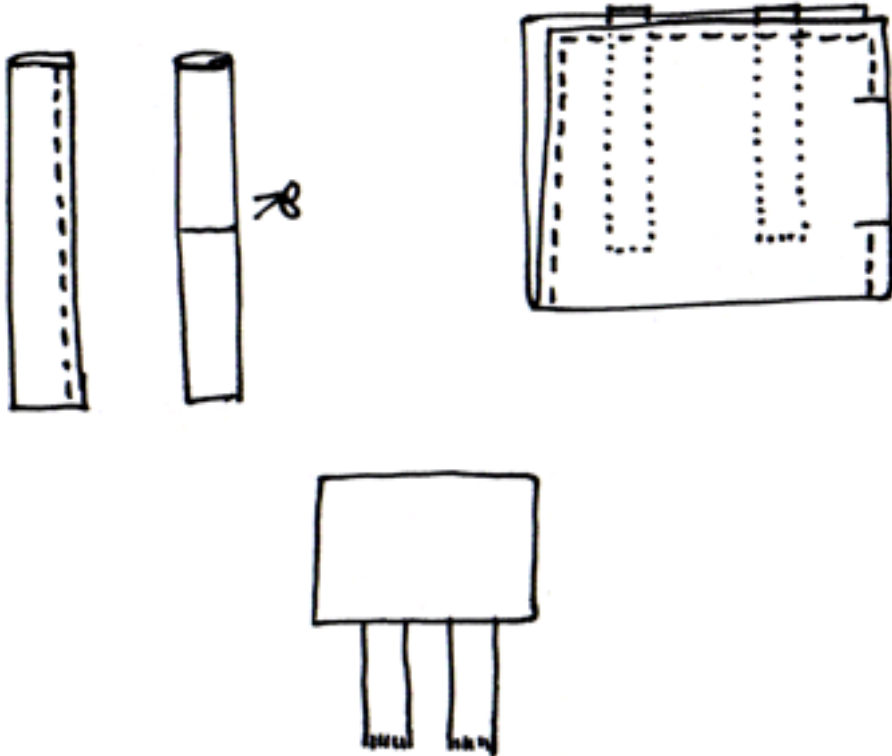
Workshop Pincushion Bag

Use 1/4 inch seams throughout

First, make the straps:- sew the 7 by 2-1/2 inch piece as shown, right side in, and turn the right way out. Press with the seam on the edge, and cut into two equal pieces.

Take the piece 6-1/2 by 7-1/2 inches, this is for the pincushion.

Pin the strap pieces on one of the short sides of the pincushion piece, on the right side and about 1 inch in from each end as shown. Fold the fabric over to enclose these pieces and sew round as shown leaving a 1-1/2 inch gap on one side to stuff the pincushion later. Turn out the pincushion but DO NOT stuff it yet...

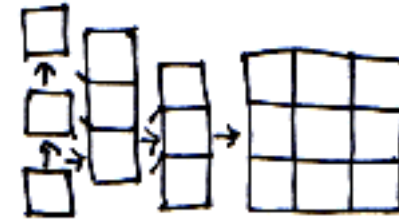


Take the eighteen 3-inch squares for the outer bag.

Set out the squares as shown and when you are pleased with the arrangement, sew together into rows of three, then sew the rows together to make the bag outer.

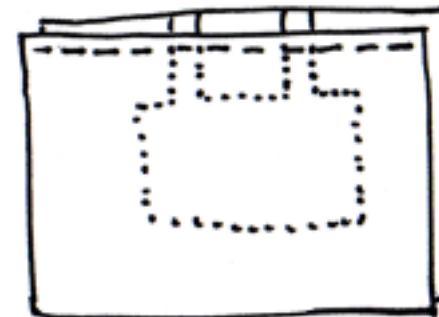
Press the seams to one side each time, alternating directions on each row.

Press this piece well.



Lay the bag outer face to face with the lining fabric and cut the two exactly to match.

Pin the straps from the pincushion onto the right side of the outer bag, making sure it is in the middle - it's easy to see from the squares. Lay the lining face down on top and pin all together making sure the straps are firmly held. Sew the two parts together along the top edge only.

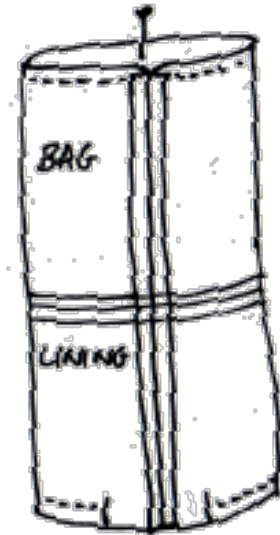
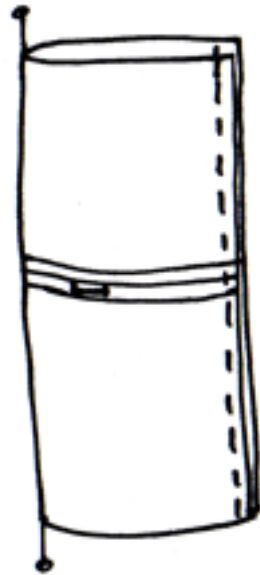


Sew Up The Bag

Fold the bag as shown and, matching the seams neatly, sew all the way along the long edge to make a tube.

This seam will be at the centre front of the finished bag. Mark the opposite side to the seams with a pin at top and bottom, then fold the tube so that the seam and the pins match up as shown.

Sew all the way across the bottom of the outer bag, and sew across the lining leaving a 1-1/2 to 2 inch gap in the middle to turn the bag out later



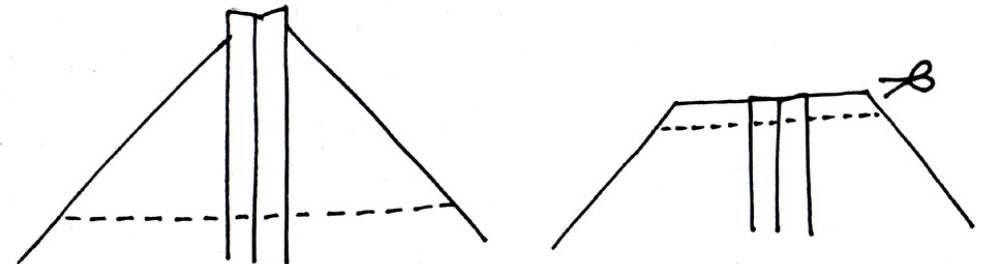
Shape the Bag Base

Now the origami bit.

Flatten the corners of the bag so that you have a triangular corner with a seam running in the middle.

Working along the first seam of the squares, sew across neatly and finish at both ends with a back-stitch or three. Repeat this on the other side of the bag, and on both sides of the lining at the same size. The bag base should now be squared off.

Trim off the excess leaving a good 1/4 inch seam



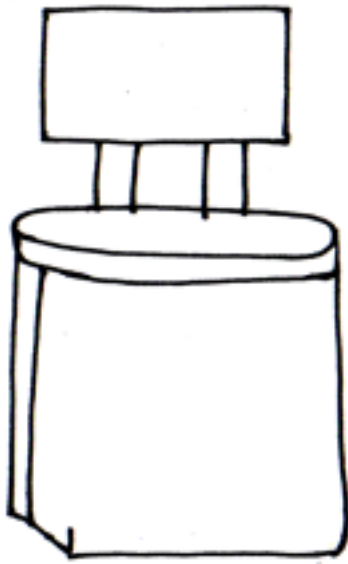
Turn the bag right side out through the hole in the lining, and push the corners into shape. Push the strapping tape between the layers and up to the top edge of the bag. Pin it into place and then sew round just below the tape to hold it in place. You don't need to stitch it into a closed ring - the tape will sit happily in its channel.

Stuff the pincushion firmly.

I use birdseed, but rice, lentils or clean sand are all suitable.

You need weight, so wool or wadding is not enough. Use a kitchen funnel to run the filling in, then close the seam firmly by hand.

Lastly, sew up the hole in the lining by hand and your bag is ready to use...



Variations

I often use oddments of "try-out" patchwork to make these, or pretty furnishing fabrics, or printed pieces.

Make the linings in a vivid contrast for a different look

As long as the lining is cut exactly to match the outer layer, it will work nicely

If you have a piece of fabric with a nice image in the middle, turn the bag round and make the seams at the back - it's easier to do this if you make each part (inner and outer) separately and completely as two bags, making the seams and corners and then sandwiching the pincushion part between the layers and sewing all round the top.. Don't forget the gap in the lining!

Also, don't forget that the front/top of the pincushion faces the lining..

I make the pincushion part from oddments of quilted fabric for better wearing, and the bag itself can be quilted if you wish...