

# Make a small zipped bag or pencil case from upcycled fabric

MAKE USE OF YOUR FABRIC SCRAPS WITH THIS HANDY GUIDE. ONCE MASTERED, IT CAN BE ADAPTED TO CREATE BAGS OF ALL SIZES

FAMILY CRAFTS

3

## YOU WILL NEED

- ✓ Upcycled fabric as follows:

*Outer fabric: 1 x piece 37cm x 23cm and 1 piece 36cm x 5cm*

*Lining fabric: 1 x piece 37cm x 23cm*

- ✓ Matching zip measuring at least 25cm long

- ✓ Sewing kit
- ✓ Sewing machine
- ✓ Seam ripper
- ✓ Iron and ironing board
- ✓ Zipper foot.

**Note:** You can make a paper pattern if you find it easier than marking and cutting the fabric: 1 piece 37cm x 23cm and 1 piece 36cm x 5cm

Templates available at the end of these instructions.

## DIFFICULTY

EASY

## NOTE

We hope that you find the tips and suggestions in these videos and guides helpful and fun to follow. Please note that no guarantees are given that any particular results will be achieved when following our guides. We recommend that you avoid using highly flammable materials and if the product is intended for use by a child that particular care is taken with small parts. The products shown in our guides are not intended for use by children under the age of three.

## METHOD

1

Place the paper pattern on your fabric, ensuring you place it straight/central to the fabric pattern. You need 3 pieces in total – 2 rectangular bag pieces (1 from outer fabric and 1 from lining fabric) and a piece of outer fabric to make the handle.

2

Pin the pattern in place and then cut out the fabric.

3

Place the two pieces of rectangular fabric wrong sides together and pin in place.

### REMEMBER

Remember not to put any scraps of fabric in the bin – any offcuts that can't be used should be taken to a textiles bank





4

Using a 1cm seam allowance and a straight stitch, sew along both of the shorter edges.



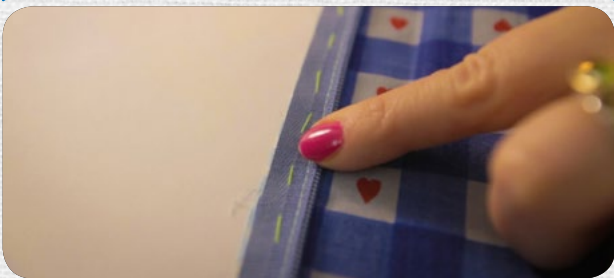
5

Fold the fabric upwards from the bottom short edge so that the outer layer is now facing you.



6

Open the zip and place it facing downwards about 0.5cm below the edge of the fabric. Pin carefully into place then hand tack in place using a brightly coloured contrasting thread (so it's easy to see), removing pins as you sew.



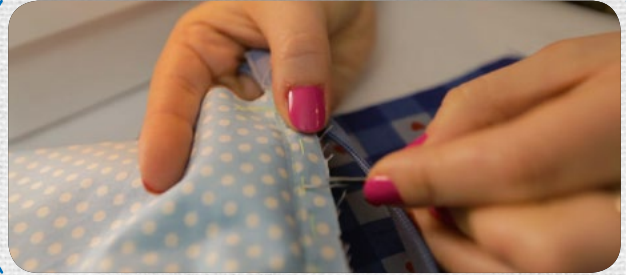
7

Attach a zipper foot to your sewing machine and machine sew the hand tacked side in using a straight stitch.



8

Carefully unpick your tacking stitches with a seam ripper or small scissors.



9

Change back to a standard sewing machine foot and topstitch along the right side of the bag close to the teeth of the zip using a straight stitch. Use thread that matches your fabric for neatness.







10

Fold the fabric in half ensuring that the outer fabric is on the inside. Close the zip and match the unsewn side of the zip with the unsewn side of the fabric. Place the zip about 0.5cm below the edge of the fabric then pin and hand tack in place.

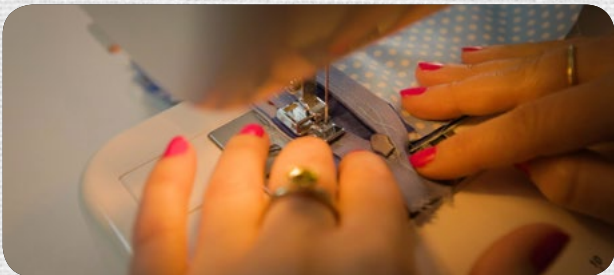


11

Open the zip up to enable you to sew it in.

12

Put the zipper foot on to the sewing machine and sew the second side of the zip, then remove the tacking stitches.



13

Put the standard sewing machine foot back on to your sewing machine and topstitch from the right side (like you did for the first side).

14

To create the handle, fold the length of fabric in half length-ways and then fold each half again in to the middle (with the wrong side on the inside). Press carefully with a hot iron. Stitch along the folded edge close to the edge.



15

Turn the bag inside out and flatten out, ensuring the zip is approx 3cm down from the top fold. Place the handle inside the bag above the zip, leaving the raw ends sticking out slightly. Pin in place through all of the layers and then pin both side seams together.



16

Using a 1cm seam allowance and a straight stitch, machine sew the first side seam closed. This should be the side with the handle slotted into it. You want to make this strong so after you have sewn your first seam go back over it again for strength.





17

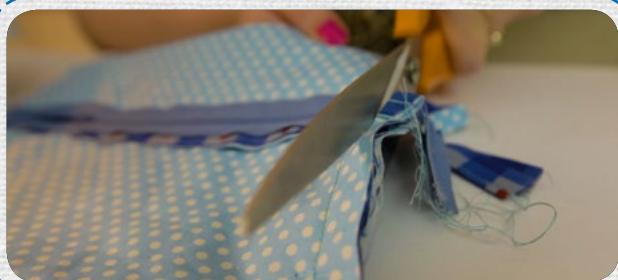
Open the zip half way, so you can open the bag up when you have finished sewing, then sew the second side seam using a 1cm seam allowance and a straight stitch.



18

Trim any excess fabric away from the side seams, leaving approx 0.5cm.

Tip: if you have a zig zag stitch on your sewing machine, use it to sew over the raw edges of the fabric to stop them fraying.



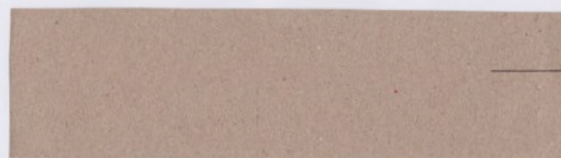
19

Turn the bag the right side out and poke the corners out carefully with a chopstick (or something similar).

Tip: if the corners are very bulky you can cut diagonally across them (ensuring you do not cut the stitching) to reduce the bulk.



## PATTERN PIECES



Scale these shapes to suit your measurements.