



You will need



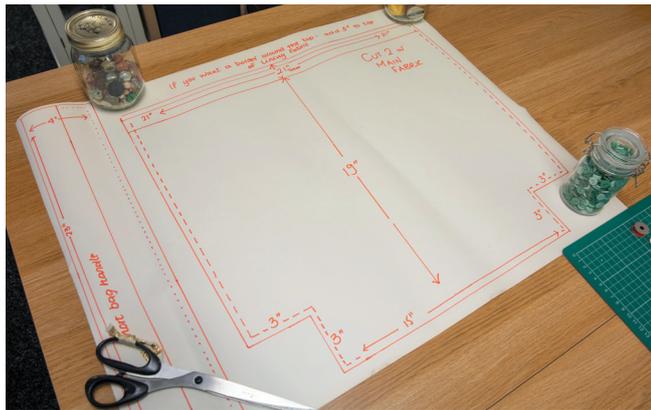
- * An old unwanted curtain
- * The use of a sewing machine
- * An iron and ironing board or protected surface
- * Main fabric for the outside of the bag... (a shopping tote will use approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ meter of fabric, this is of course, dependent on your curtain width).
- * An iron on interfacing may be required if not using heavy weight fabric - this will give the bag some structure and will need to be ironed on, rough side down, to the wrong side of your main fabric, with a hot iron
- * Lining fabric - this could be from an unused, pretty garment, if you don't want to use the curtain lining
- * The tape from the top of the curtain - this can be used to strengthen the bag handles.
- * Additional fabric for a bow or flower.
- * Scissors, or a rotary cutter and cutting mat, and pins
- * Matching thread
- * Paper to make your pattern
- * Pencil, fabric marker, ruler and tape measure

Repair and reuse



For a tote bag main fabric, your template will measure 19" high by 21" wide and you will cut out a 3" square from both bottom corners. This will form the gusset and sides of your tote bag, giving it a nice box shape, when sewn.

For the lining, your template will measure 22" high by 21" wide and you will cut out a 3" square from both bottom corners. Your bag will be made up of a front and back in your main fabric - A front and back from the lining fabric - and two bag handles



Draw your paper templates using the measurements above onto the lining paper, and then cut out the template and use this to mark your main fabric (the outside of your bag) and lining fabric

- * Pin the template to the fabric that you will use for the outside of the bag.
- * Cut around the template (seam allowances are included)
- * Repeat this process for the chosen lining fabric (remember your lining fabric will be taller than the outside bag fabric.)
- * Cut 2 strips of fabric 23" x 4" for a shopping bag size handle - for a shoulder bag will need to use a tape measure to find your desired handle length - (usually around 44" each handle including a seam allowance). You can choose either of your fabrics for the handles
- * Take out all of the pins - Now it's time to start sewing the bag together.
- * Outside of the bag - place the right sides of the fabric together, and using a 1cm seam allowance, sew down the left side of the bag, across the bottom of the bag and down the right side of the bag. Leave the top open, and don't sew around the cut-outs on the bottom corners at this point
- * Press the seams flat for a neat appearance
- * Your bag has two squares cut out of the bottom corners

- * Pinch each bottom corner together so you are matching up the seams, from the side and the bottom of the bag - secure in place with pins and sew the edges together with a 1cm seam allowance.
- * You will notice that this has formed the base and sides of your bag and given a more 3 dimensional shape
- * Repeat this whole process for the lining of the bag. The lining is taller than the outside of the bag

DON'T FORGET!

The outside of the bag has the seams on the inside



The lining of the bag has its seams on the outside!

Place the lining inside the main bag ... all of your seams with the raw edges will now be hidden between the two layers of your bag and when you look inside the bag it should be neat and tidy.

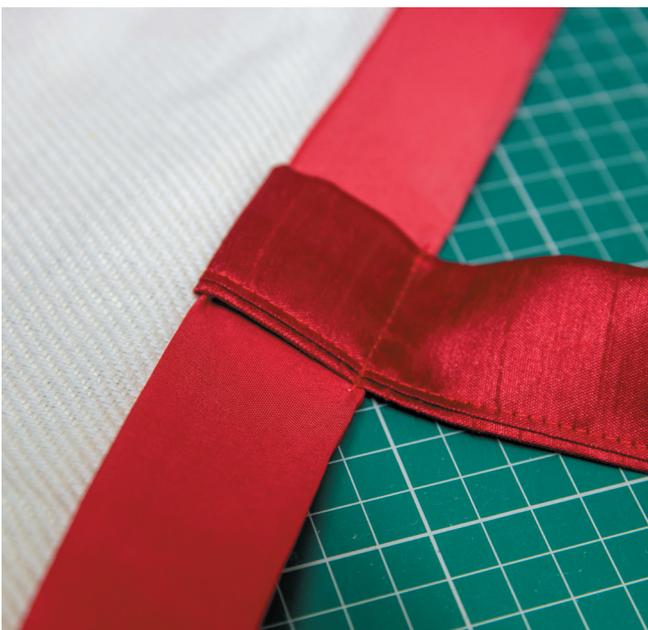
Match up the side seams of the outside and the lining of the bag and secure with a pin - the lining fabric will be 3" longer

- * This is to allow you to fold the lining over the top of the main bag fabric, and in addition, to turn under a 1cm seam allowance, totally enclosing the raw edge of the top of the bag and giving a lovely decorative border around the top
- * Now for the handles..
- * If you're using the curtain tape inside your handles (to strengthen them) it should be cut to 23" long and 1 1/2" wide. (A 3" curtain tape can be cut in half lengthways to be used for both bag handles)
- * Press the strip of fabric for the handles in half lengthways, with the right side of the fabric on the outside.
- * Place a length of handle liner (the curtain tape) inside the folded fabric, making sure it sits against the fold - this will give you a good seam allowance, (about 1cm)

Repair and reuse



- * Using an iron, press the seam allowance over the curtain tape, neatly enclosing the tape inside the strip of fabric
- * Turn the handle over and press the remaining 1cm seam allowance under, (the curtain tape is now totally enclosed)
- * Secure the length of the seam with pins ready to sew. Sew the edges closed, down the whole length of the handle. Repeat for the second handle
- * Each end will still have raw edges, but don't worry, these will be tucked away under the fold around the top of the bag when the handles are attached
- * Going back to the main bag!
- * You're now going to attach the handles to the bag
- * Form a loop with each handle piece so you can see where you would like to attach them. Ideally, they should sit around 4 - 4 1/2" from the side seams. You have two handles, one for the front of the bag, and one for the back of the bag



Lets hide those unsewn edges at the end of your handles!

- * Tuck the unsewn edge of the handles under the lining which is folded down on the outside of the bag (giving you that lovely decorative strip all around the top edge) and pin them in place so they don't move when you sew them.
- * Looking at your bag - at this point, the handles will look like a half circle hanging downwards. Don't worry! This is so an extra row of stitching can be added to make sure your handles are nice and strong!
- * Sew all the way around the top of the bag - You are sewing onto the lining fabric which has been folded over to give you a nice decorative border around the top of your bag. Sew close to the edge and make sure you sew the handles securely in place.
- * Fold the handle up, so that they are now in their correct position, and secure them in place, Your sewing line will be level with the top edge of the bag to make sure they're nice and secure

If you'd really like to define the shape of your bag further, press the base and sides with a hot iron, to give a nicely structured box shape, and topstitch along these creases.

And all that's left to do is to adorn with a lovely flower decoration. We have a **"how to"** sheet for that!

