



Instructions for Gardening bag



This roomy, hardwearing gardening bag is ideal for storing tools etc. You can also use the pattern to make an everyday bag in any size.

You will need:

- Firm fabric for outer bag & base (amount will depend on the size of the bag you choose to do) I used ½ metre of hessian, ¼ metre of cotton drill & ½ metre of polycotton for lining.
- Webbing for handles (or anything suitable; old belt, fabric handles)
- Newspaper, magazines, Sellotape & thread

1. A 1.5cm seam allowance is included unless stated. Decide on how big you want your bag. I used an old magazine to make the pattern. I made mine 50cm x 50cm then cut a 10cm x 10cm square from the bottom of each corner (this should always be square), if you want a bigger base you can cut the squares bigger; 20cm x 20cm? Fold your outer fabric in half & pin & cut two pieces.



2. To make the contrast base, fold your paper pattern in half & cut as picture (or make another pattern), there is no exact size as your contrast base can be as big as you choose. Cut two pieces in contrast fabric. Cut a pocket the size of your choice allowing seam allowance & extra 1" at top for turning.



3. To make the pocket turn under approx. $\frac{1}{2}$ " to wrong side then turn back 1" to right side, press & sew $\frac{5}{8}$ " each side of turn. Turn top edge back to wrong side, press remaining edges in, sew down top edge. Your pocket will be added later.



4. Place contrast base on right side of each outer fabric, pin & zigzag around raw edges matching centre of foot with raw edge, I just did the edges with zig zag to connect it to the main fabric and the other outer edges with a straight stitch as you will be sewing the other sides later. Repeat with back piece. Pin pocket in place and sew close to edges.



5. I chose to do a French seam on the bag to strengthen it and to stop fraying (hessian frays a lot!) but you can just sew it together with a normal seam if you are adding a lining? To sew a French seam pin wrong sides together down each side and across the bottom. Sew with normal seam allowance. Turn inside out and then pin again enclosing first seam, press if preferred, sew with a 2cm seam allowance to ensure you can't see any frayed edges on outside. To sew corners, bring seams together, match raw edges and sew across, I did mine twice to strengthen.



6. If you would like to line your bag cut two pieces of lining fabric the same size as you outer fabric (you can just piece your paper pattern pieces together if you cut them). Sew together as outer leaving a gap at the centre of the bottom seam to turn bag in right way. but using a normal seam, the lining will be inserted later. Cut and add a handle, matching raw edges onto right side of fabric, sew close to edge to secure. If you are not adding a lining turn the top edge under twice and sew around the top, over handles so all raw edges are inside. You may want to reinforce stitching on handles.



7. To add lining, place outer bag inside lining, the outer bag should be in the right way and lining inside out (so you have right sides together), handles should be between two layers. Sew around top edge. Turn through opening in lining and topstitch around upper edge. Sew up hole in bottom of lining and enjoy!

