

# Make your own PATCHWORK TOTE BAG

HAND OR MACHINE SEWING





# **MATERIALS**

#### You'll need:



- Paper pattern printed
  A4 paper
- 2. Sticky tape
- A needle and thread or a sewing machine
- 4. Pins

- 5. Instructions
- 6. Various scraps of fabric for patchworking
- 7. Paper scissors
- 8. Fabric scissors
- 9. An iron and ironing board

TEST SQUARE

5CM

5CM

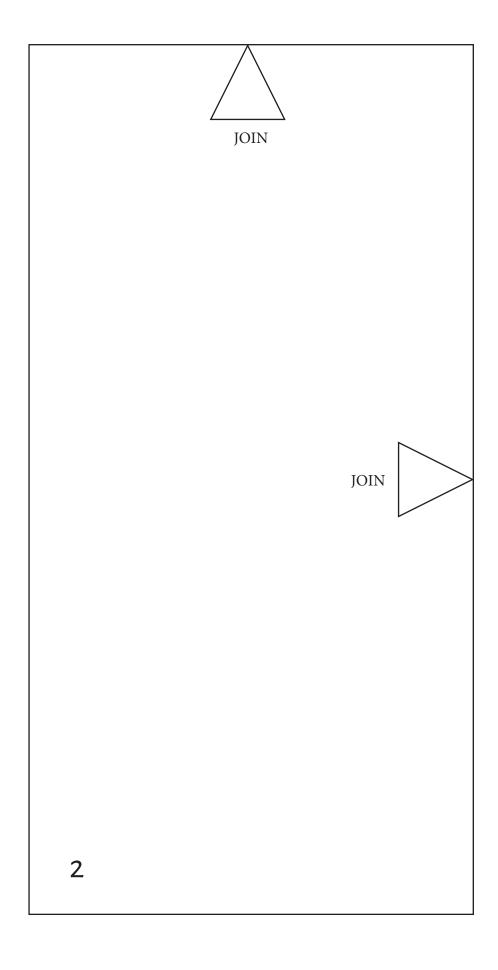
Print these pattern pages onto A4 paper, selecting the 'original size' or 'actual size' option.

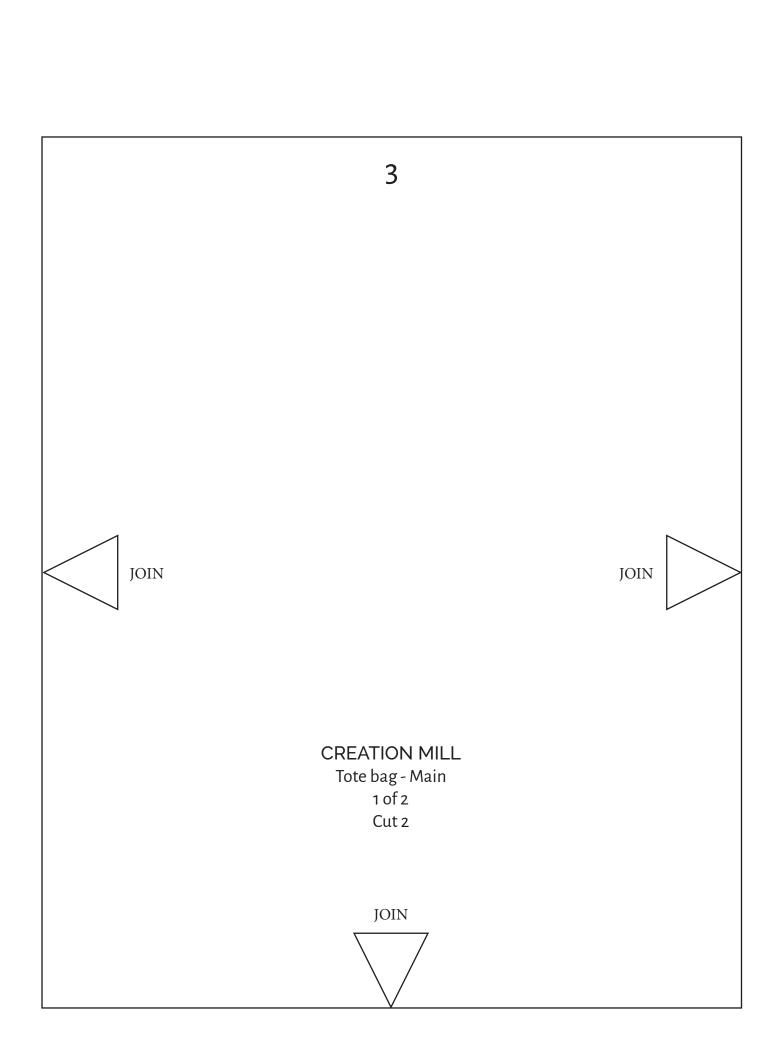
Measure the test square to make sure the size is right.

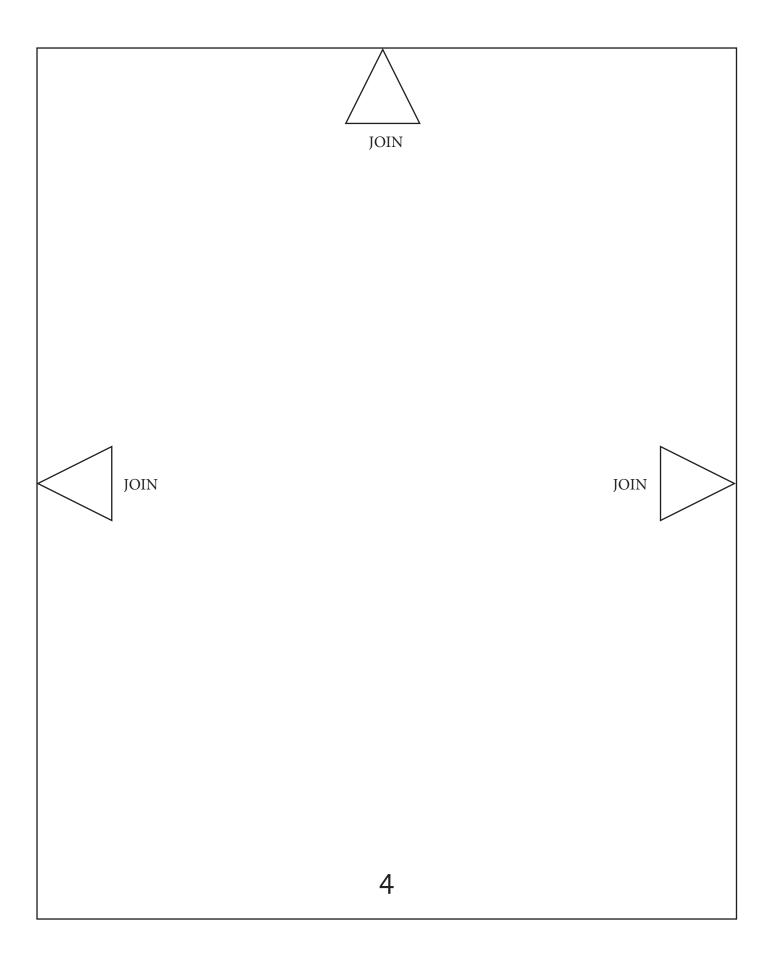
Cut each piece out and stick them together along the sides marked 'join' according the pattern layout. 1

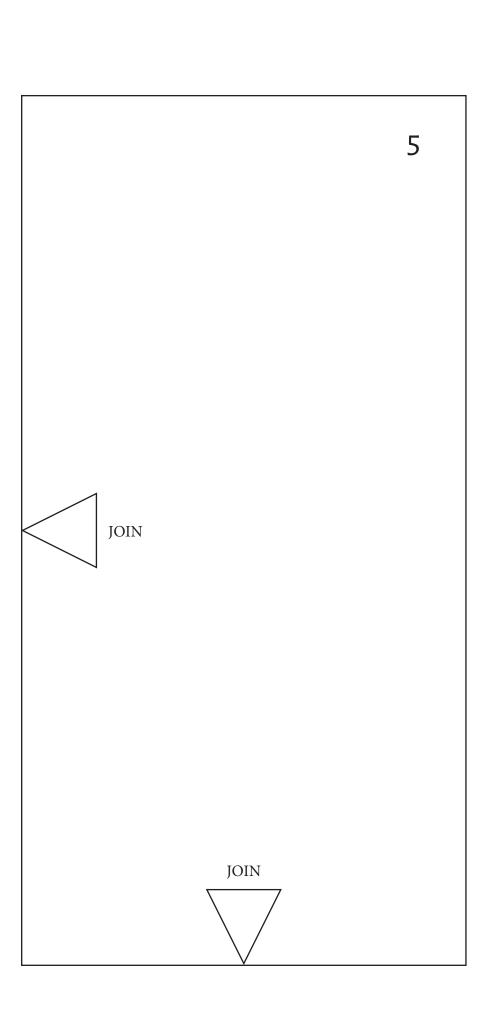


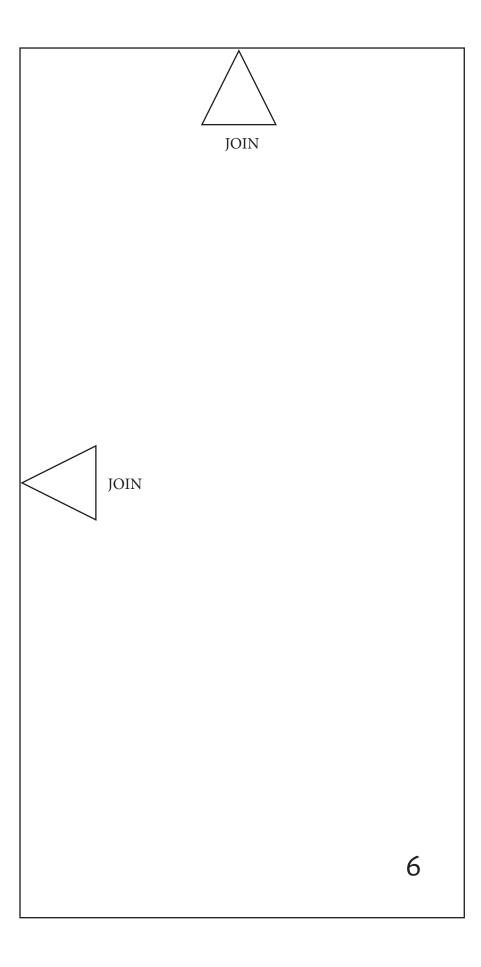
JOIN

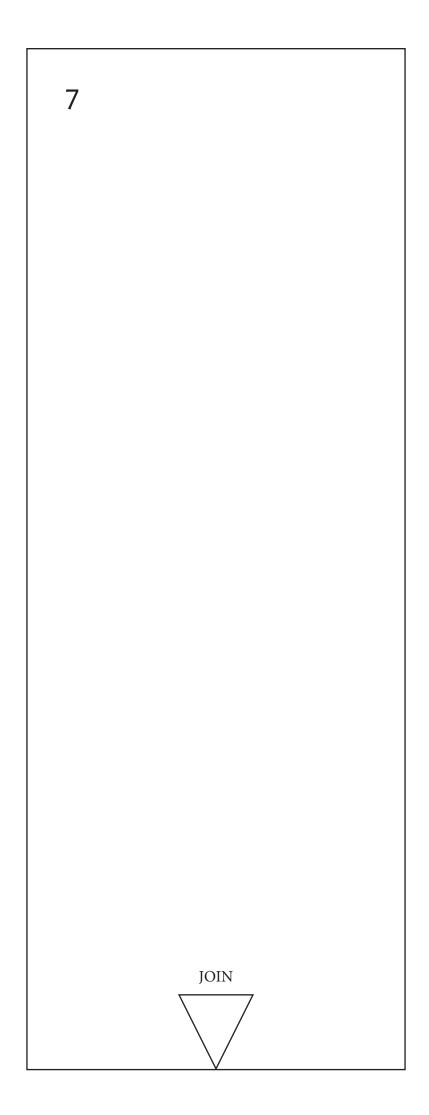


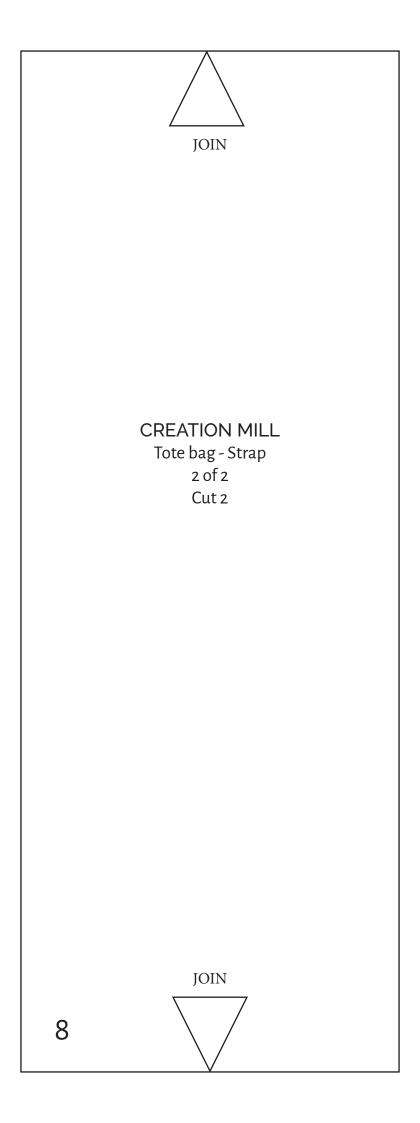


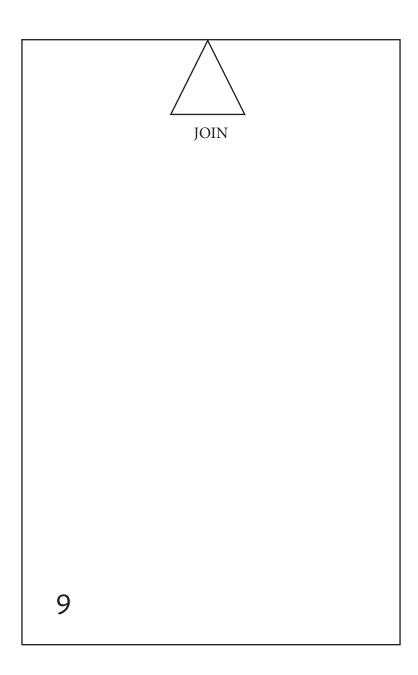












#### TOTE BAG PATTERN LAYOUT

1	3	5
	MAIN	
2	4	6

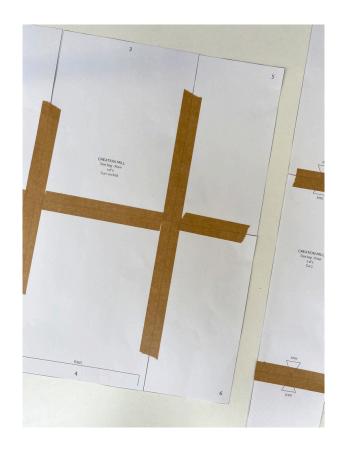
7
STRAP
8
9

You can either hand or machine sew this project. If you're hand sewing make sure to secure the start and end of each line of stitching with a knot or anchor stitch. If you're using a machine, secure with a backtack.



STEP<sub>1</sub>

Carefully cut out your pattern pieces using paper scissors.



STEP 2

Tape the pieces together according to the pattern layout.



Choose the fabric pieces you would like to use. You'll need to allow for a 1cm seam allowance around each piece and enough fabric for a front, back and two straps.



STEP<sub>3</sub>

Lay them on the pattern to test your layout. Take a photo in case you loose track of which piece goes where.



STEP 4

Iron the fabric pieces to ensure there are no wrinkles.



Start to patchwork the pieces together to form one side of the bag.



STEP 5

Start off with two pieces you want next to each other and sew them right sides together along one edge with a 1cm seam allowance.



STEP 6

Press the seam open.





STEP 7

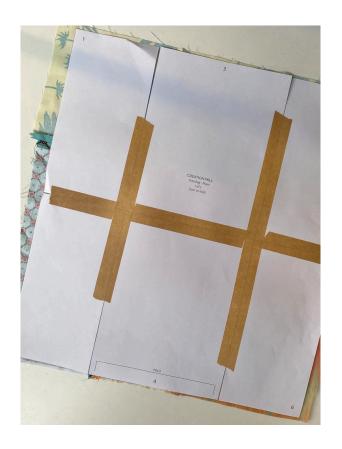
Trim off any excess fabric so that the pieces are the same length.



STEP 8

Continue sewing each fabric onto its neighboring pieces until you have a rectangle the same size or slightly bigger than your paper pattern.





STEP 9

Lay the pattern on top of your patchworked fabric and trim any excess fabric to ensure it fits perfectly.



STEP 10

Follow these steps again for the other side of the bag.



We are going to sew the pieces together using French seams. This means that the fabrics will be placed wrong sides together at first, so double check before you sew.



STEP 11

Lay your front and back pieces on top of each other, wrong sides together and pin along one of the shorter edges. This will be the bottom of the bag.



STEP 12

Sew along the edge with a 0.5cm seam allowance. Now turn the fabric inside out so that the right sides are together and press the seam.





STEP 13

Sew along the same edge again, this time with a 1cm seam allowance. You should now have a neat French seam with no raw edges showing.



STEP 14

Repeat the steps for your French seam on both of the long vertical edges of the bag. You should now have three sides sewn closed and an open top.



To create your straps, you can either choose a larger piece of fabric to cut from or patchwork pieces together until you have a long rectangle the size of the strap pattern piece.



STEP 15

Taking either a single long srtip of fabric or a patchworked piece, lay the strap pattern on top, pin, and cut out two straps.



STEP 16

Fold each strap in half long ways, right sides together. Sew along the long raw edge with a 1cm seam allowance.







STEP 17

Turn the straps through to the right side and press them flat.

STEP 18

With the main bag inside out, pin the short edges of each strap to the top edge of the bag. Each side of the strap should be 10cm in from the bag's side seams.

9 of 12

Sew along the ends of the straps to one side of the bag with a 0.5cm seam allowance.





STEP 17

With the straps now secured in place, fold the top edge of the bag towards the wrong side by 0.5cm, then again by 2cm to create a double turn. Press and pin in place.



STEP 18

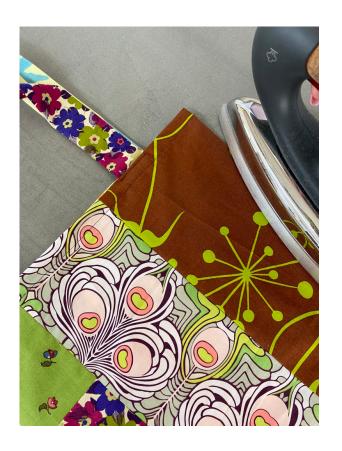
Sew along the edge of the double turn all the way around the top of the bag. Make sure your straps are pointing straight down as shown above.





STEP 17

Now press the straps up and topstitch them to the top of the bag to keep them in place.



STEP 18

Give everything a final press.





You now have your very own patchwork tote bag!

You can keep the paper pattern and use these instructions to make more from scraps of fabric you have at home.

