

Mini tote bag - with bunny-sized pocket

By Jen Hogg



Simple patterns for children to develop sewing skills.

This bag is sewn by machine, with options to decorate and embellish. There's a pocket which fits the hand stitched bunny. Basic pattern markings are explored along with simple machine stitching.

If embellishing with buttons, an adult should check they are securely attached to avoid any choking hazard.

Supporting video online [➔](#)

What you will need

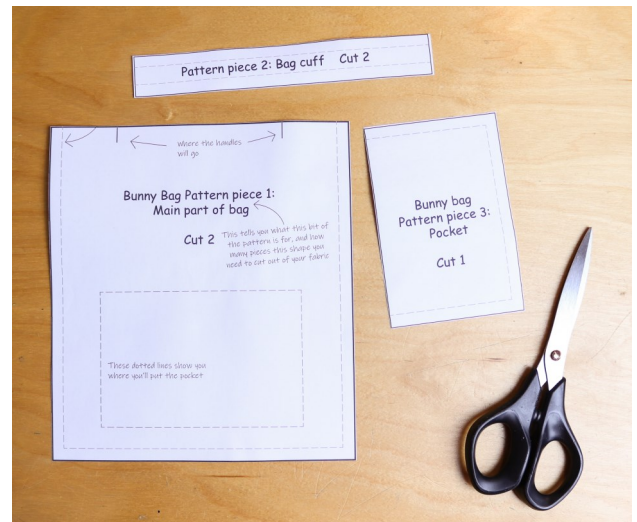
- Felt for the main bag, 20cm x 40cm, and matching thread
- Felt for the bag cuffs, 20cm x 6cm
- Felt for the pocket, 12cm x 8cm
- Ribbon for the handles, 50cm



Cutting out the pattern

Print the pattern and cut round the outside of all three pattern pieces.

There are some guidelines drawn onto the pattern. These are to help you work out where to sew the bag handles and where to sew the pocket.



Pin the pattern pieces to your felt and cut round them.

The pattern pieces tell you how many you need to cut.

You should have 2 large pieces of felt for the body of the bag, and two narrow pieces for the bag cuff. That's the piece which will go along the top of the bag to make your handles look neat.

Then there will be 1 small piece for the pocket.

You also need to cut your ribbon in half so you have 2 handles, each 25cm long.

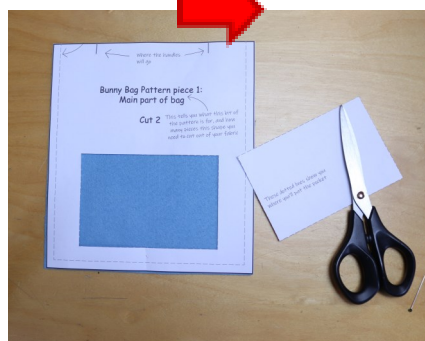
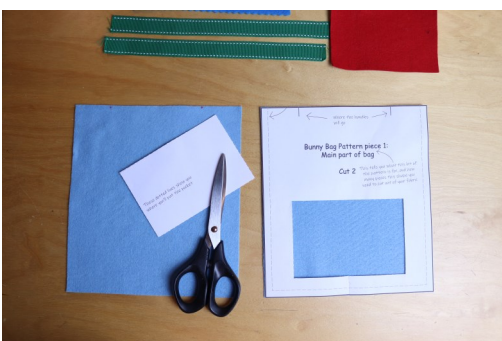
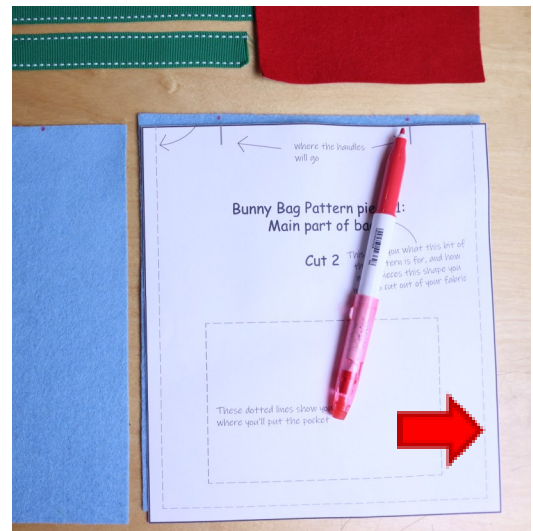
Transferring the pattern markings

Next you need to mark the felt with the guide lines on the pattern. This is called "transferring" the markings.

First put a tiny felt tip dot where the bag handles are to go.

Then pin the pocket into place. The easiest way to do this is to cut the pocket out of the paper pattern, line the pattern up with one bag piece and put the felt pocket piece over the gap. Once you're happy, you can pin it in place and take the paper pattern away.

There's a video of this bit on the website.



Sewing on the pocket

Put the bag and pocket under the presser foot of the sewing machine.

Put the presser foot down, and the needle down into the fabric.



This is the presser foot. Guess what it does... presses down on the fabric!

Start off by dancing on the spot. So, take 2 or 3 stitches forward, then 2 or 3 back again.

Stitch down the side of the pocket, along the bottom and up the other side.

Finish off by dancing on the spot again.

Dancing on the spot means your line of stitching won't come apart.



By the way...

You can change this bag by adding decorations to the pocket. The best time to do that is before you pin the pocket onto the bag.

Remember not to add anything too close to the edges of the pocket or it will get in the way of the presser foot



I sewed buttons onto this pocket for flowers, and drew the stems with a green marker pen. The buttons aren't too close to the edge

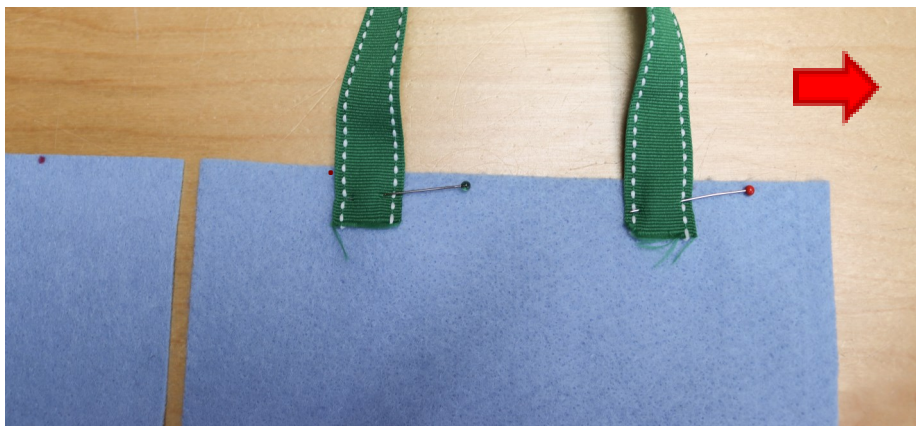


I sewed the pocket onto the bag then added the green felt grass, and sewed that on top.

Sewing on the handles

Remember the felt tip dots marking the position for the handles? Line your ribbon up with those. The edge of the ribbon should just cover the dot.

Pin the ribbons in place and sew them down



This doesn't look very neat. But that doesn't matter because the ends of the handles will be hidden under the bag cuff.

Sewing on the cuffs

Line the cuffs up with the top of the bag and pin them in place. Then sew them down with one or two lines of stitching.



By the way...

You can change this bag by changing the cuff. It could be wider, or in a different colour, or cut with a zigzag edge along the bottom.

Sewing the bag together

The last step!

Line up the two parts of the bag on top of each other and pin them at each corner to keep everything in place.

Stitch down the side of the bag, along the bottom and up the other side.

Remember to start and finish your stitching by dancing on the spot!



And you're finished!

