

## Blue Lotus Tote

This is a bag for all seasons! This classic mid-sized over-the-shoulder tote features 6 deep outer pockets to hold all your everyday essentials. There's a pocket for everything, and still heaps of space inside. Choose a favourite fabric for the contrast pockets, and get started today!



Bag Dimensions are 10 inches wide at the base and 15 inches wide at the (blue) top x 12 inches high and 7 inches deep.

### **You Will Need:**

1 metre (1¼ yards) fabric for bag outer, lining and handles (we used a light cotton canvas)

1 metre (1 yard) contrast fabric for pockets

1½ metres (1½ yards) medium-weight fusible interfacing

¾ metre (1 yard) light-weight fusible pellon

Piece template plastic at least 11 x 8 inches for base stiffener

### **Bag Construction:**

Please read all instructions fully before beginning. All measurements are in inches, and unless stated otherwise, a ¼ inch seam allowance has been used.

Referring to the attached Cutting Guide, carefully cut the required bag pieces from the bag fabrics, interfacing and pellon as required. Fuse the interfacing and then the pellon to the wrong side of the bag outer pieces as indicated in the Cutting Guide. The lining is just interfaced.

### **Handles:**

Start with the handles. Fuse the strip of pellon down the wrong side centre of each handle. Using your iron, then fold up and press a ½ inch seam allowance down each of the long sides of each handle strip. Fold in half lengthways with wrong sides together and pin.

Topstitch down the length of both sides to secure and complete each handle. Put aside for now.

### **Pockets:**



First, join three pocket pieces together in a row as shown above. (Either 3 interfaced, or 3 un-interfaced.) With right sides together, join the panels down the long side edges. Sew four sets of three panels. Press seams open.

Next, sew two sets of panels (one interfaced, one un-interfaced) together to make the pockets for one side of the bag. As shown above, with right sides together, sew across the top of the pieced panels. Clip the seams near the panel joins and turn right sides out. Press.

Topstitch along that top seam. The next rows of sewing are to keep the pocket panels together. First pin and sew down over the two vertical seams that join the 3 panels together. Then sew a scant seam down both sides and across the bottom.

Repeat for the second set of pockets.

### Assembly:



Now sew a set of pockets to each of the two bag side panels (with pellon).

Line up the lower edge of the pockets with the bottom of the bag side panel and pin and sew with a scant seam.

Then, arrange the pocket panel so that the joining seams between the pocket panels come up from the bottom edge at right angles. Pin and topstitch in place, along the seams.

Finally, align each of the side edges of the pockets with the straight sides of the bag side panel, and sew with a scant seam. This gives the shape to your oversize pockets.

Repeat for the other side.



Then add a handle to each bag side.

Matching bottom raw edges, lay each end of one handle over the seams that join the pocket panels together as shown. Make sure the handle is straight, and not twisted, and pin in place.

Topstitch from the bottom up one side of the handle, across the top just above the pocket, then back down the other side, following the previous lines of sewing on the handle.

Repeat for the other side.

From here it's quick and easy to finish this bag. With right sides together, sew both of these bag side pieces together down the sides.

Lay the un-interfaced base piece on the wrong side of the base piece with pellon, and sew down each side with a scant seam. Make sure to keep one end open as this forms the 'pocket' for your template plastic base stiffener.

Fold the base in half one way and mark the centre points with pins, then fold the other way and mark the other centres. Align those four points with the side seams and the centre of each bag side panel. Pin the base in place, and sew together.

Trim the template plastic to fit, before inserting it into the base pocket and turning bag right sides out.

### **Lining:**

Make the lining in exactly the same way as you did the outer bag.

With right sides together, sew the bag lining side panels together, taking care to leave most of the middle of one side unsewn, to turn the bag through later.

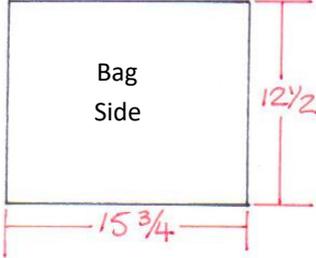
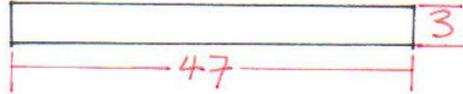
Pin and insert the base as you did for the bag outer too.

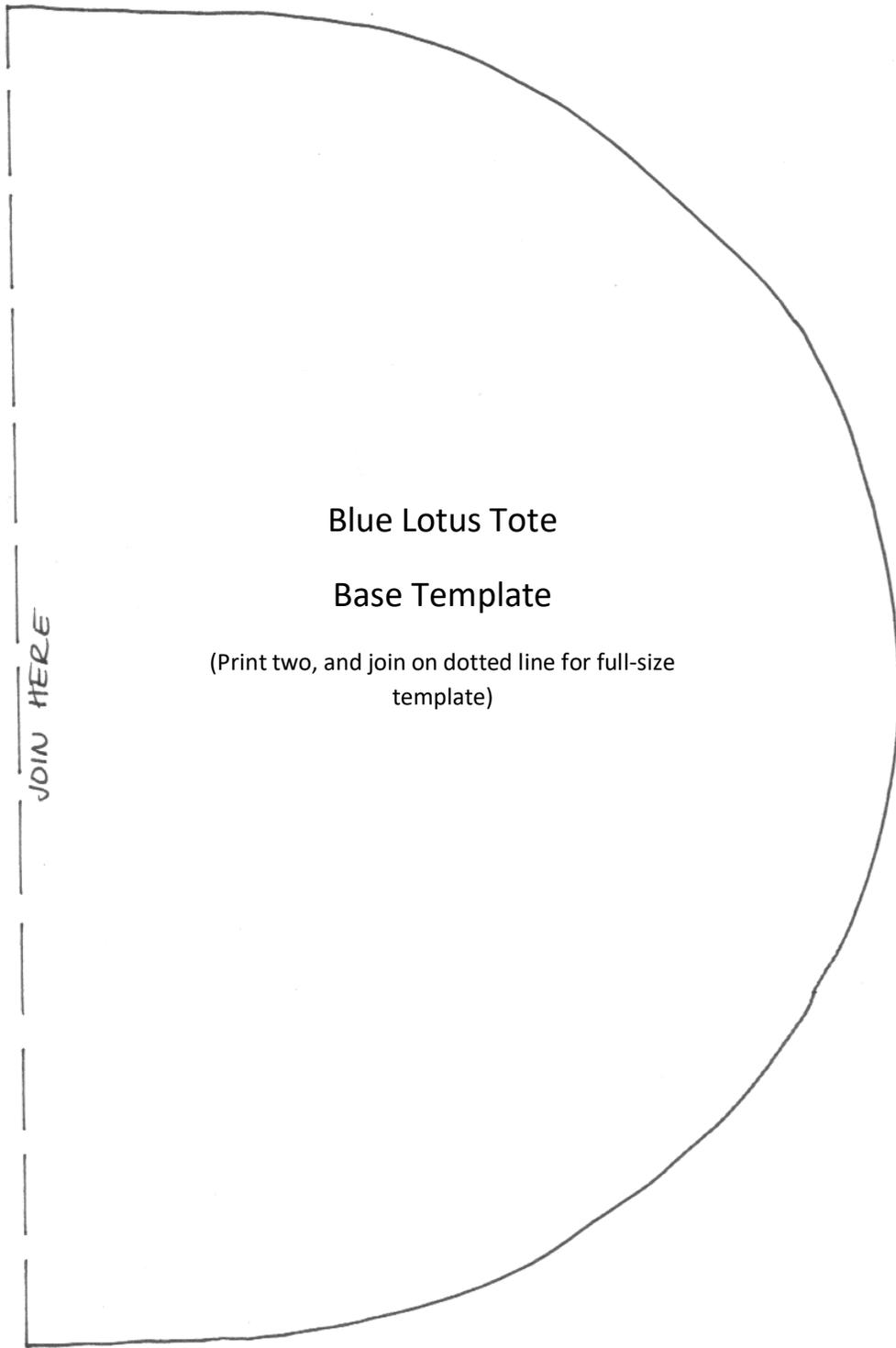
Place the outer bag into the lining bag so that right sides are together and the pockets and handles are tucked in between the layers. Pin and sew around the top of the bags.

Turn right sides out through the gap left in the lining side. Tuck in the seam allowances and topstitch that gap closed. Push the lining bag into the outer bag and topstitch around the top edge to finish.



## Blue Lotus Tote Cutting Guide

		<p>Cut the required number of each piece according to the measurements on each diagram.</p> <p><b>* Please note – all measurements are in inches.</b></p>
	<p>Bag Side</p> 	<p>Cut 4 outer fabric Cut 2 pellon Cut 4 medium-weight interfacing</p>
	<p>Base Template</p> 	<p>Cut 3 outer fabric Cut 1 pellon Cut 2 medium-weight interfacing Cut 1 template plastic</p>
	<p>Pocket Template</p> 	<p>Cut 12 contrast fabric Cut 6 medium-weight interfacing</p> <p>(Leave 6 pocket lining pieces un-interfaced, unless the fabric is very light weight.)</p>
	<p>Handles</p> 	<p>Cut 2 outer fabric Cut 2 pellon – 2 inches wide Cut 2 medium-weight interfacing</p> <p>(If your fabric is not wide enough, join strips to get the right length.)</p>

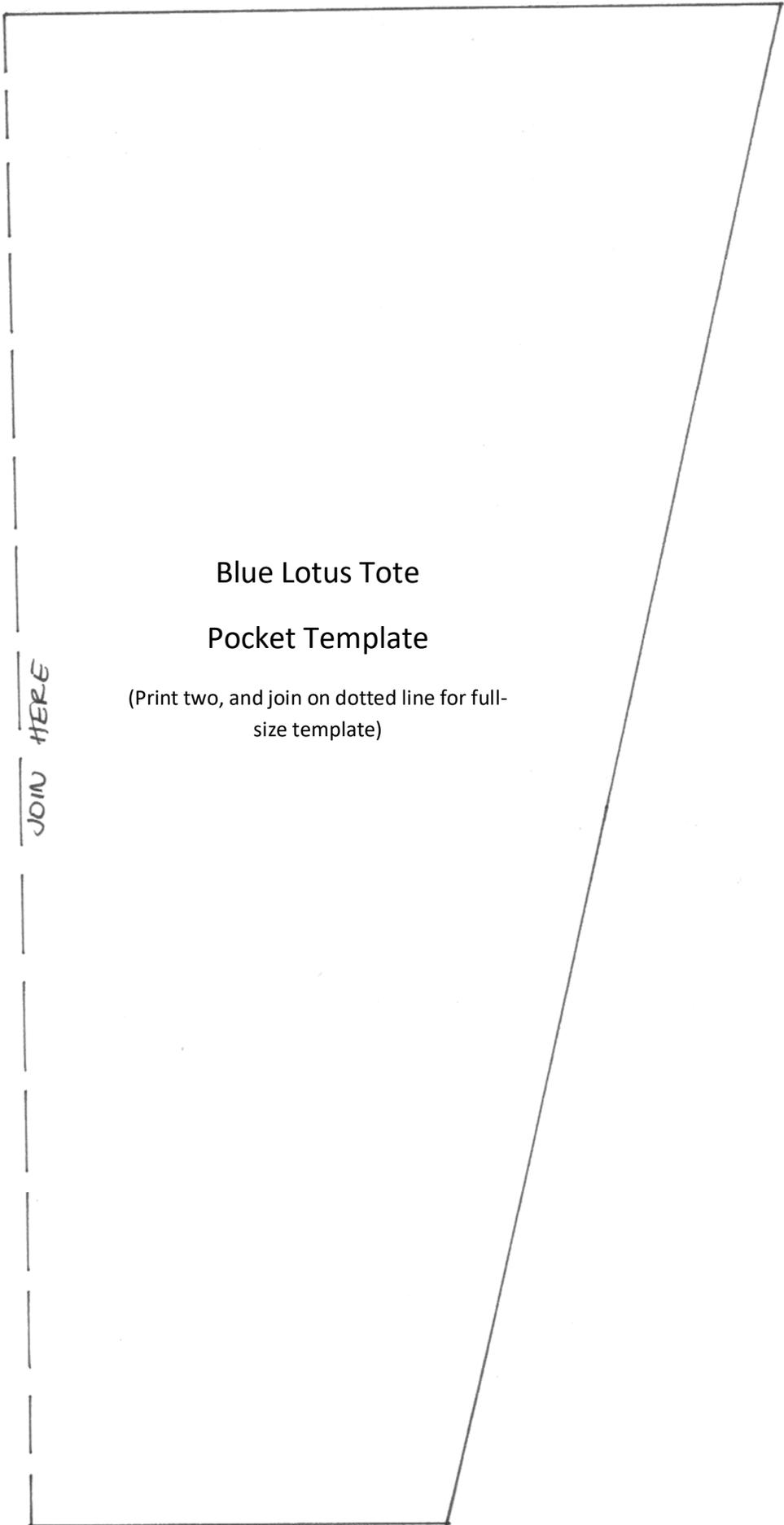


**Blue Lotus Tote**

**Base Template**

(Print two, and join on dotted line for full-size  
template)

JOIN HERE



Blue Lotus Tote

Pocket Template

(Print two, and join on dotted line for full-size template)