

## Hashtag Tote

What fun! Try some simple modern improv piecing to make the outer fabric for this great mid-sized quilted tote. This stylish over-the-arm or over-the-shoulder tote is fully lined with both cell phone and zippered pockets, and is finished with a magnetic clasp and neat binding around the side panels.



This tote measures 12 inches wide x 16 inches high and is 4 inches deep.

### **You Will Need:**

1 metre/yard navy blue fabric for the outer

Small amounts of 6 (or more) assorted fabrics to piece the outer

1 metre/yard fabric for lining

Piece of batting measuring at least 14 x 38 inches

Fabric for the outer panel backing – measuring 14 x 38 inches

$\frac{3}{4}$  metre/yard medium-weight fusible interfacing

½ metre/yard light-weight fusible pellon (You could use batting here too, but we chose pellon to try and reduce the bulk.)

Piece template plastic measuring 11 x 3¾ inches for strengthening the base

1 x magnetic clasp

Scraps of heavy-weight fusible interfacing for inserting the magnetic clasp. Medium-weight will work too if you don't have any heavy-weight.

1 x 6-7 inch zip

You will find a jeans needle helpful, as some of this is bulky

Needle for hand sewing

#### **Notes:**

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. Iron the interfacing to the wrong side of all pieces, and fuse the pellon to the back of the bag outer side panels and the handles.

#### **Pieced Blocks:**



You need to piece 27 of these hashtag blocks in total. They are easily made with a fun ruler-free improvisational method.

Cut 27 squares measuring 5 x 5 inches.

We cut 15 blue squares and 12 squares from our assorted coloured fabrics.

Cut sufficient 1 inch strips of your blue and coloured fabrics also, to piece with.



Use your rotary cutter to slice vertically through each block twice, so you have three pieces as shown. The lines do not have to be strictly parallel, but try to keep the lines straight and not curved.



As pictured, sew two lengths of one of your coloured fabrics to the right side of two of the strips.

Press.

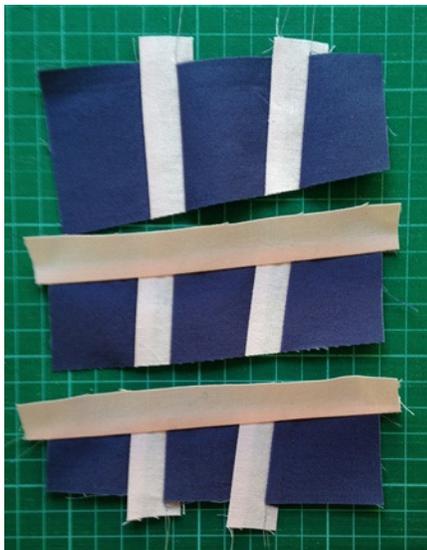


Join the pieces back together, so you have inset the two coloured strips.

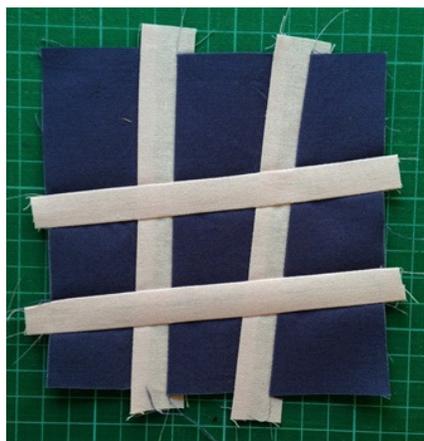
Press well.



Now cut your block twice the other way.



Insert two more of the same coloured fabric strips and press.



Finally join the pieces together, to make your hashtag block.



Trim your block to measure  $4\frac{1}{2}$  x  $4\frac{1}{2}$  inches square.



Make 26 more blocks using your 5 inch squares.

Put coloured strips on the blue blocks, and blue strips on the coloured blocks.



Tip – to try and get your lines matched up as well as possible, line up the top corner of the piece you're joining with the point where the colour ended before the inset strip.



Arrange your 27 blocks in a 3 x 9 grid layout. Join together in rows, (pressing seams in opposite directions between rows), and join the rows together to finish your pieced tote outer. Press well.

Lay your backing fabric face down on a flat surface, then lay the batting on top. Place your pieced outer panel on top and pin baste the layers together. Quilt as you like. We used our walking foot and simply quilted parallel lines down the long length in the ditch, and  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch either side of that.

#### Construction:



To make the handles, iron the pellon strip down the centre of the wrong side of each strip.

Using your iron, fold up the  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch seam allowance down each side, then fold the strip in half lengthways with wrong sides together and pin.

Topstitch around all sides and once down the middle to finish. Make two.



Measure in 2 inches from each side and position the handles one on each end as shown.

Pin and sew in place with a scant seam.

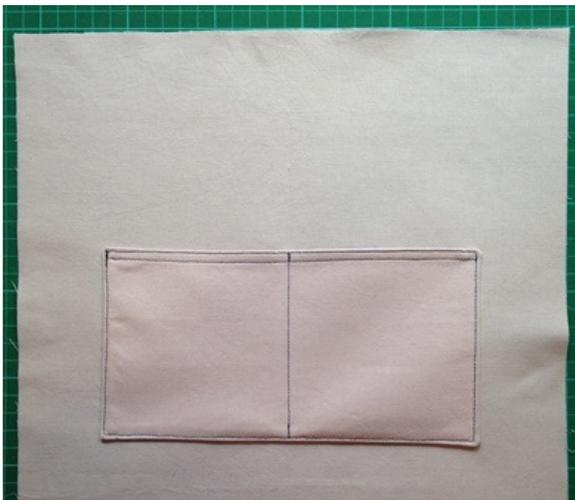


Next, prepare the side panels.

Pair one outer strip with one lining strip and with right sides together, sew across the top short end.

Flip over so right sides are out, and topstitch across that top seam.

With a scant seam sew around the remaining three edges so that the pieces stay together as one. Make two.



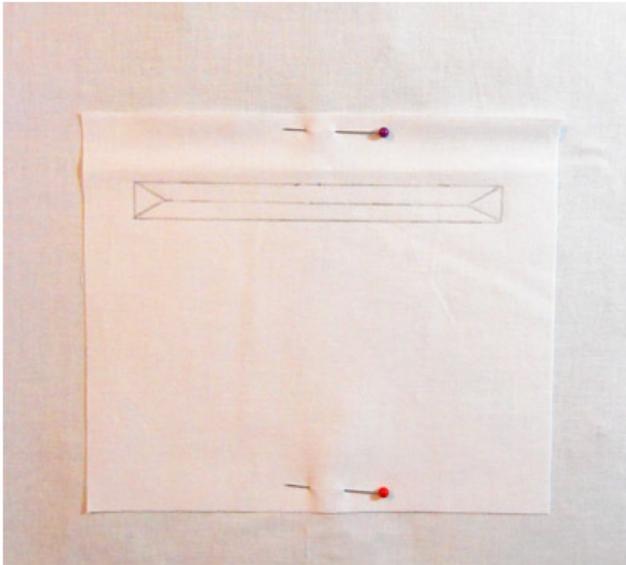
To make the cell phone pocket, with right sides together sew around three sides of the cell phone pocket pieces. Trim corners and turn right sides out. Tuck in the remaining seam allowances and press well.

Topstitch along the top edge of the pocket.

Now add the pocket to the lining. Position the cell phone pocket so it is centred and 5 inches down from one end of the long lining panel. The top opening must be closest to the nearby edge of the lining panel.

Pin and topstitch down both sides and across the bottom.

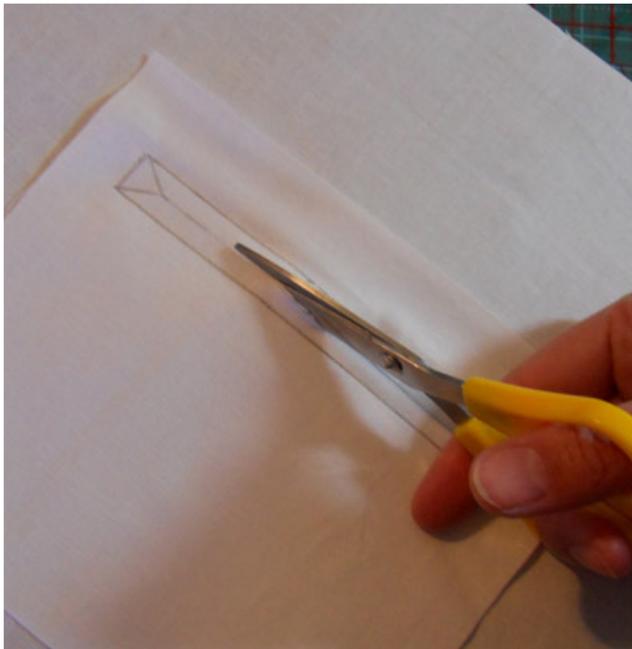
We chose to divide our pocket in two, and stitched a vertical seam down the middle.



Now insert the zippered pocket on the other end of the same lining panel. To start, mark and make a hole for the zip. To do this, use a fabric marking pen or lead pencil on the wrong side of one pocket piece and draw a rectangle 5 inches long and 3/8 inch (1cm) high as shown. This rectangle needs to be drawn at least 1 - 1½ inches (2.5 -4cm) down from the top of your pocket piece.

Then draw a centre line along the rectangle, with a 'V' shape at each end as shown.

Position the pocket piece on the right side of the other end of the same lining panel (turn the panel end for end), centred and 3 inches down from the top raw edge.



Sew together along the marked outside lines of the rectangle.

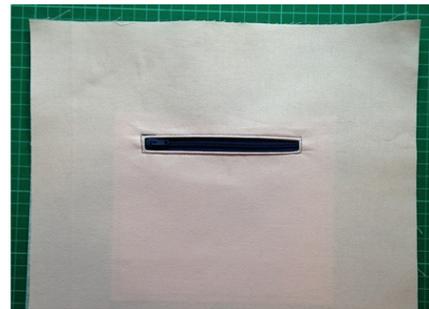
Taking care not to cut the stitching, then cut along the marked centre line and along the 'V' shapes to the corners of the rectangle.



Pull the pocket piece through the hole to the wrong side of the pocket panel and carefully press seams on both sides to flatten.

With right sides up, then position the zip carefully under the hole, (so that the zip is also facing up), and pin in place. Using your zipper foot, topstitch around all four edges of the rectangular hole to secure the zip in position.

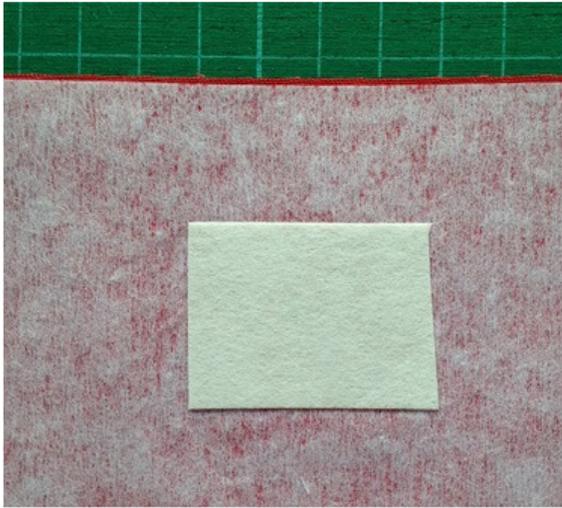
(Note – the zip is slightly longer than the hole, so you will need to centre the zip and trim the ends after sewing in place.)



To finish the pocket, turn the panel over so that the wrong sides are facing up, and lay the remaining pocket piece face down on top of the first.

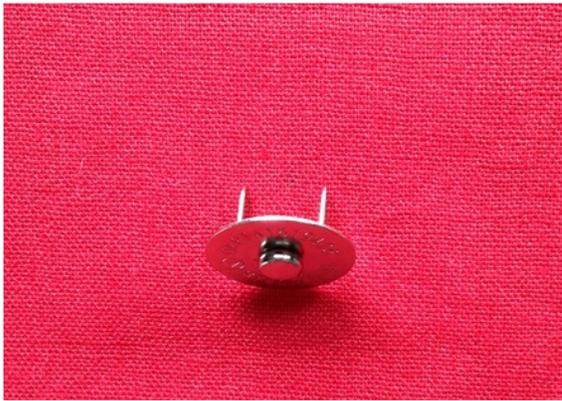
Pin all edges together and carefully sew all sides of the pocket together, taking care not to catch the bag panel as you go.

The next step is to attach the magnetic clasp at each end of the lining panel. Fold the end of the panel in half vertically to make a crease up the centre. From the top edge measure down 1¼ inches on that line and mark that point with a lead pencil.



Cut a square of heavy interfacing approximately 1½ inches square and iron it to the back of the lining piece on top of the light weight interfacing and centred over the marked dot.

This will help protect the fabric in your bag and stop the clasp from wearing through with repeated use. (You can use the medium weight interfacing here if you do not have any heavy weight, although the heavier weight gives better protection.)



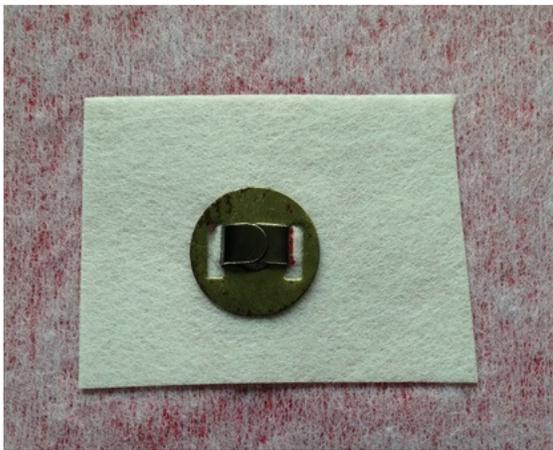
Push the two prongs of the top half of the clasp (with the centre part raised) into the right side of the fabric to create indents.



Use your unpicker tool to make two tiny slits in the fabric there, to push the clasp through. Make the slits smaller than the width of the prongs.



Push the clasp prongs through to the back.



Turn the lining side piece over, slip on the 'washer' provided with the clasp and fold the prongs over onto themselves, over the back of the clasp if you can.

(If you splay them out, you run the risk of them eventually piercing through the bag fabric.)



Cut an approximate 2 inch square of the medium weight interfacing and place it over the top of the folded prongs on the wrong side of your lining side. Use the iron again to fuse it in place, as another safeguard to protecting your bag fabric.



Repeat this with the other half of the clasp on the other end of the panel.



### Assembly:



Trim to round the corners of your template plastic, then fold the fabric template plastic cover around the plastic, and sew together as closely as you can to the plastic edge, to make a sleeve.

Turn right sides out and move the seam to the middle of one side. Press.

Insert the plastic into the sleeve.

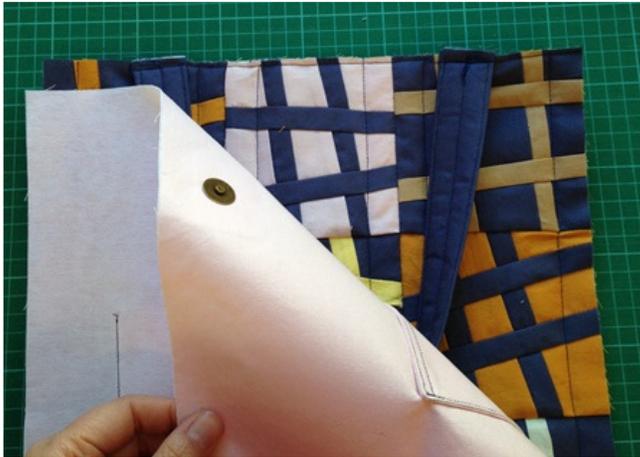


The template plastic sleeve needs to sit behind the base strip of the pieced bag outer. The tote sides are 4 rows deep, so the middle (5<sup>th</sup>) row is the base row.

Line it up straight, and pin in place.



Sew down each end with a scant seam to hold the sleeve in place, as shown.



With right sides together, align the tops of the bag outer and lining panels. Make sure the handle is between the layers. Pin and sew across the top.

Turn end for end, and pin and sew across the top of the panels at the other end.



Turn right sides out.

Topstitch across both seams at each end.

Pin the sides evenly together, and sew together with a scant seam down the length on each side.



Now insert the sides.

Start at the top and line up the top end of the side panel with the top of the bag outer.

WITH WRONG SIDES TOGETHER, pin the side panel in place.



Sew together carefully, down the side, across the base and up the other side.

This is a bit fiddly around the base, but take your time and sew slowly and you'll be fine.

Repeat to insert the other side panel.



Fold your binding strips in half lengthways, with wrong sides together and press.

Leave a few inches spare binding at the top edge, and pin it to the pieced bag outer. You will find it much easier to add the binding in a few steps.

Start with one side (at the top), and sew it in place until you get near the bottom edge. Stretch (without actually stretching it too much) the binding around the base, then pin and sew the binding up the other side.

You will find it easier to just hand sew the binding in place around the base of the bag. Follow the line of the binding seams down the sides and sew around the base.

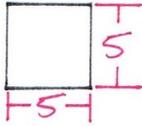
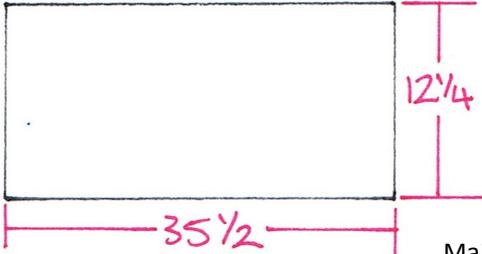


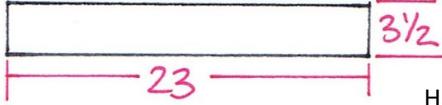
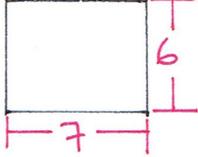
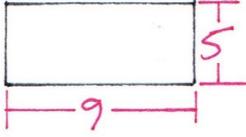
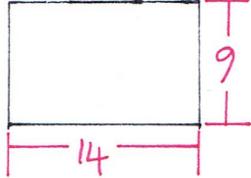
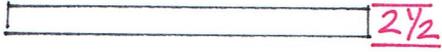
When the binding is attached properly, trim the top edges to about 1-1½ inches longer than the bag top.

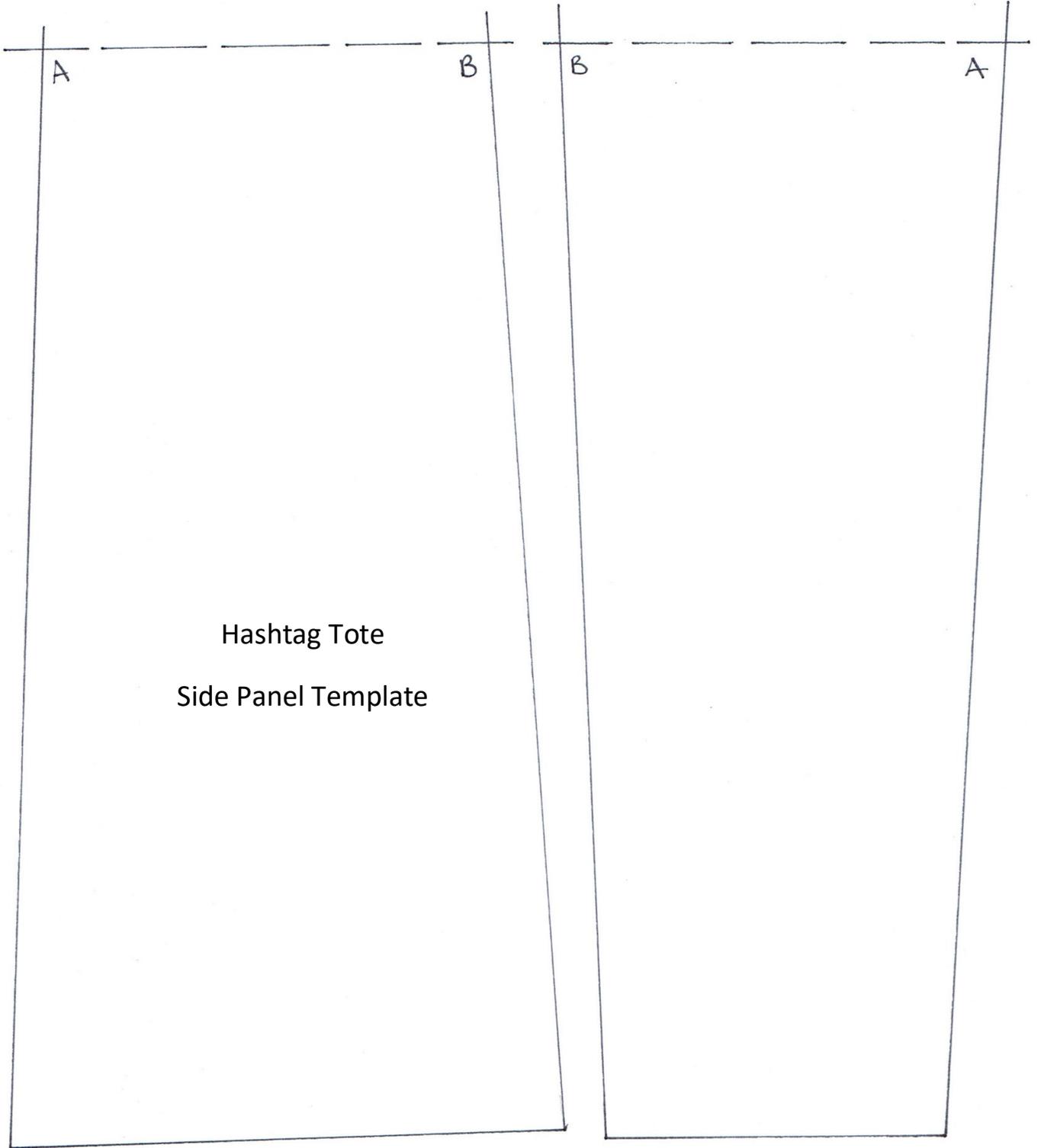
Fold the binding over the top edge neatly and then over onto the side panel. Hand sew the binding in place to cover the raw edges around the side panels neatly.



## Hashtag 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>Pieced Square Block</p>	<p>Cut 27 in total – we did 15 blue, and 12 assorted colours</p>
	<p>Pieced Square Strips</p>	<p>Cut sufficient strips to go with your squares. Blue strips on coloured squares and coloured strips on blue squares.</p>
	<p>Main Bag Panel</p>	<p>Piece 1 outer fabric          Cut 1 batting (14 x 38 inches)          Cut 1 backing fabric (14 x 38 inches)          Cut 1 lining          Cut 1 medium-weight interfacing</p>
	<p>Bag Side Panel Template</p>	<p>Cut 2 outer fabric          Cut 2 lining          Cut 2 medium-weight interfacing          Cut 2 pellon</p>

 <p>Handles</p>	<p>Cut 2 outer fabric            Cut 2 medium-weight interfacing            Cut 2 pellon (2½ inches wide)</p>
 <p>Zippered Pocket</p>	<p>Cut 2 lining</p>
 <p>Cell Phone Pocket</p>	<p>Cut 2 lining            Cut 1 medium-weight interfacing</p>
 <p>Template Plastic Sleeve</p>	<p>Cut 1 lining</p>
 <p>Binding</p>	<p>Cut 2 outer fabric - width of fabric strips.</p>



Hashtag Tote  
Side Panel Template