

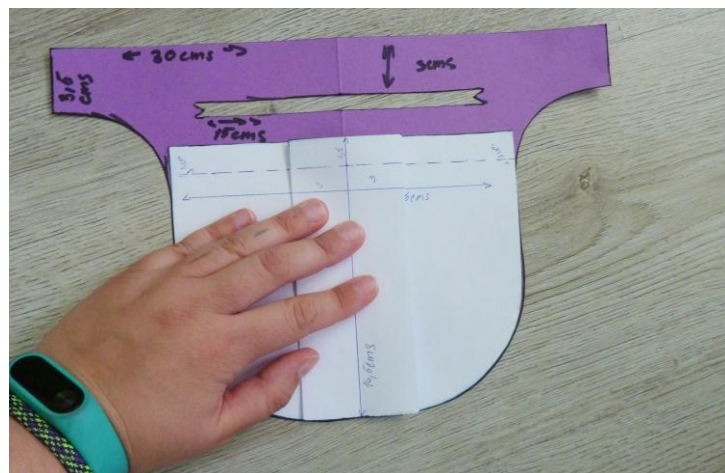
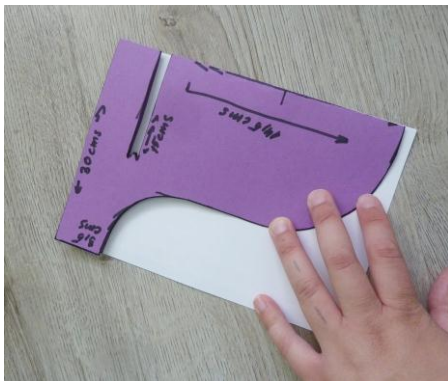
How to: dog training treat bag

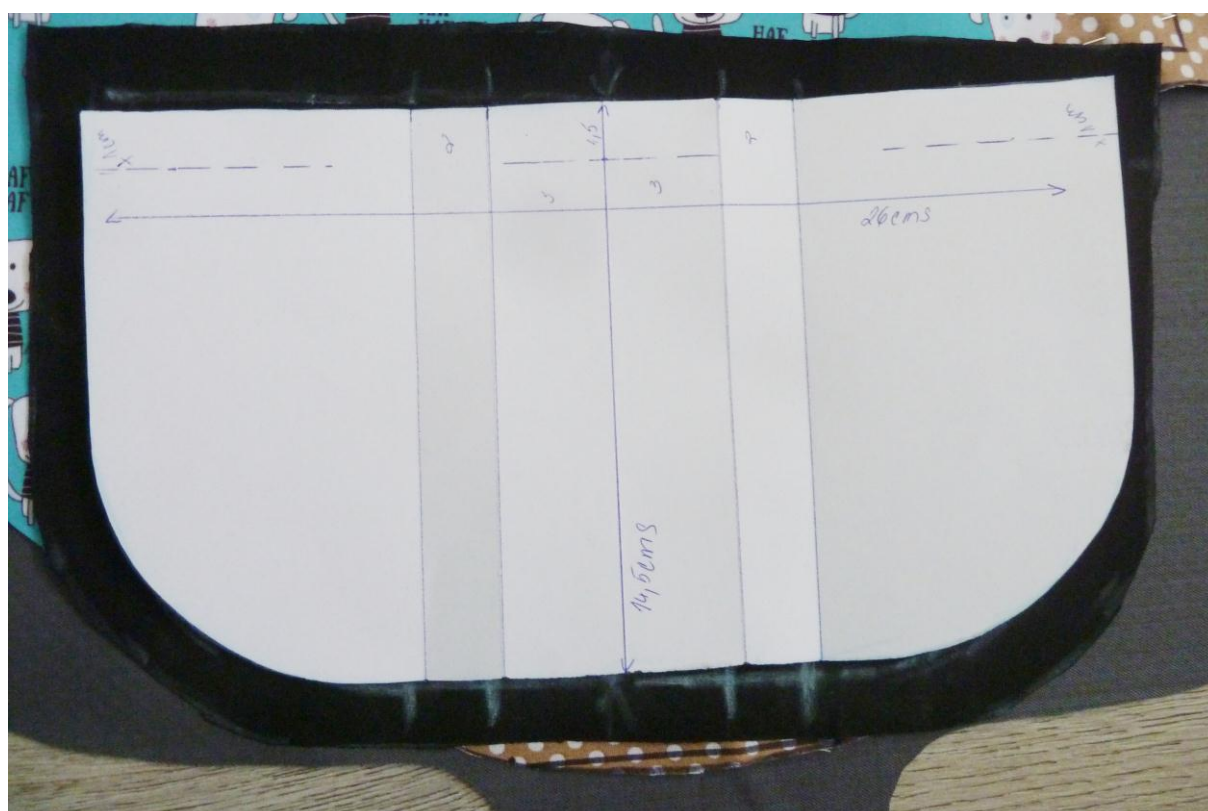
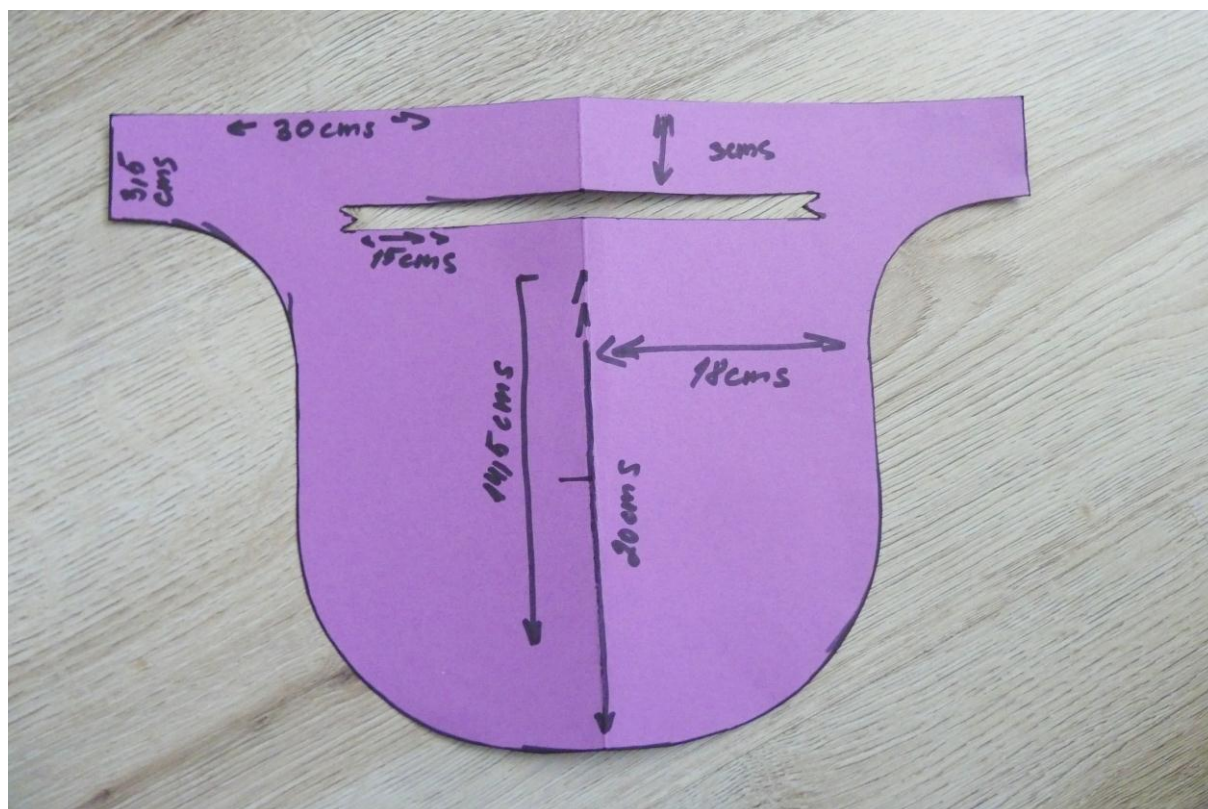
I am a beginner, so this is going to be a very easy treat bag, just sewed together to hold for a bit. I am using a very old machine my mom gave me to practice on five years ago and until now pretty much all I sewed on it were dog collars – and even those I could not keep very straight. So bare with me and I am sorry for how rustic and handmade this all looks like ;)

Even though it is simply made, I wanted the treat bag to be functional and practical. I used spring softshell for the main peace, regular cotton fabric for the lining, a piece of nice printed winter softshell for the treat part and a waterproof PUL fabric for the lining of the treat part.

Pattern and cutting your fabric:

The pattern fits on the folded A4 paper, I am sorry, I don't have a scanner at home, so I just took pictures of the pattern. All measurements are provided so you should be able to recreate the pattern at home easily.





Next, you need to cut your pieces. Start with the main panel (spring softshell), fold it over and mark your pattern on the wrong side, including the zipper pocket – don't forget to add seam allowance. Do the same with the lining piece. If you wonder how to keep the zippers in the right place, just do it

like me to make it simple: mark the outside fabric on the wrong side, but with your lining fabric, face the right side up – it will be stitched later, so it doesn't really matter and won't show. This way, the openings for the zippers (which you can cut right now) will be placed in the right spot for both fabric to fit together.



Next cut the treat part: add your usual seam allowance to the bottom, but to the top, I like to add 2 cms to both fabrics. The waterproof lining fabric you can mark on the right side – the chalk will wear of, and you need to see your middle. Also make sure you mark your folds on your lining.



Sewing the zipper:

I like to start with the hardest parts. I was sure I would not be able to wing the zipper with the first sew, so I had to make it in steps. First I sewed the zipper to the cotton lining of the main pocket. I am right-handed, so I was sure I would be wearing the bag on my right hip, to easily distribute treats with my right hand. Therefore I also wanted the zipper to open from front to back for more convenience. If you want the same scheme, sew the zipper to the lining

like I did. If you wish it differently, just think on it before sewing and flip the zipper to the other side.



After you have secured the zipper to your lining, pin the main fabric on top and sew. This way you will get nicely sewed on the zipper on the top (if you are not me, lol).

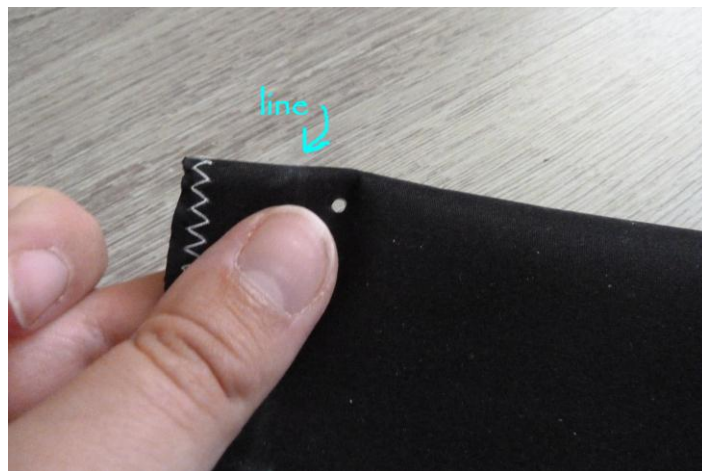


Treat part of the bag:

For the treat part, I just pinned the two panels wrong sides together, and basted as close to the top as possible, to secure them together.



Then fold the pocket in half (right sides together) and find your middle line – so it is nice and even. When making your holes remember to place them under the line which marks your pocket's height – you want those two centimetres you added to fold over and create a tunnel for your rubber.



Then hammer on your eyelets – I used regular eyelets I found in the local fabric store.



Then I sewed the tunnel – some people prefer to first add their rubber, but I find that the treat pocket is pretty short, so it is ok to first sew my tunnel and then feed the rubber through.

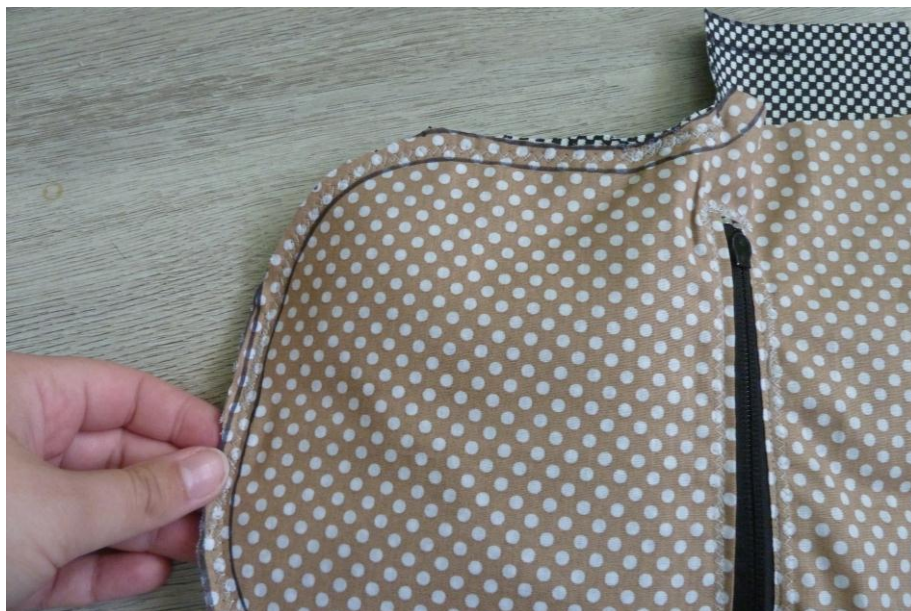


Now that you are done with the upper part, find your fold marks and fold the treat part and pin. Make sure it fits nicely to the main panel. To fit it to the main panel, you also need to adjust the rubber – pull it out of the tunnel a bit to fit the treat part to the rest of the bag. And pin the sides – a little away from the border, so you can sew around. You can also pull some part of the rubber through your stopper – so if you wish, you could open the treat pouch up a bit more. Then I like to baste the treat part – to make sure I catch my rubber and it stays in place, and to secure my folds.



Sewing the treat bag together:

Personally, I first pinned the treat part to the main and sewed around, then cut off the excess fabric. I was afraid I would not be able to pin all layers nicely together.



After this is done, go ahead and prepare your strap. I already mentioned I am right-handed and I like to wear it on the right, I also like to close the buckle with my right hand holding the bag so I sewed one half of the buckle close to the

bag, the other has a longer strap and a slider to be adjustable. If you are like me and you are not sure how to fit the straps on the bag so it ends up in the right direction, just try it first and pin the straps in place where they should be. Now it's time to open your zipper and your buckle and feed the straps through your zipper pocket.



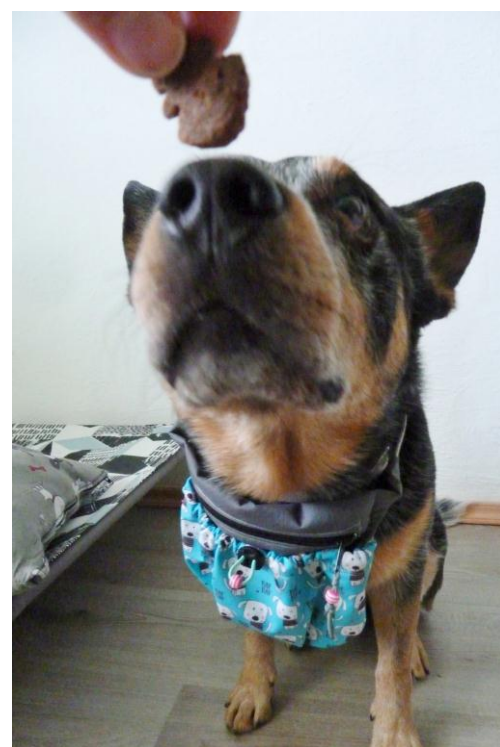
Then fold the bag over wrong side up and pin around to hold the layers together. I prefer to cross-stitch around, cut off the excess and then straight stitch where my lines are, then cross-stitch around again. Make sure you sew securely your straps, rubber and folds, just in case.



Now turn the bag inside out through the pocket and push on the seam and you are done – unless you cut off the strap part of the lining like I did, I had to top sew through the sides to make sure my lined pocket is closed up.



Enjoy your treat bag with your furry pal ☺



Just in case you were wondering: my little helper's name is Gordon (aka Gordi) and he is an Australian Cattle Dog („blue heeler“).