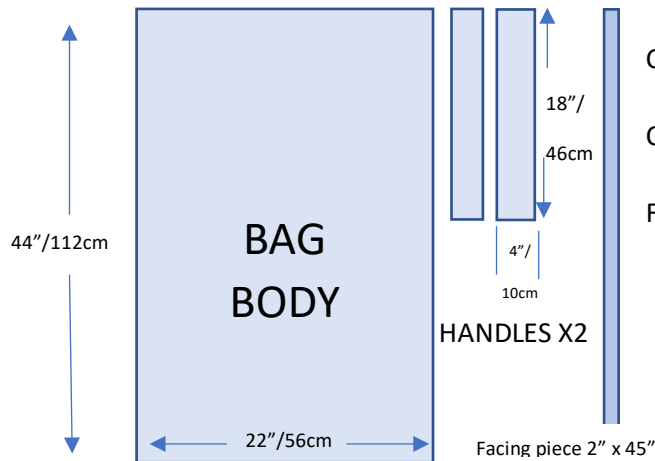


QUILTS FOR CARE LEAVERS NI

MORSBAG PATTERN

This pattern is an adaptation of the Morsbag pattern (www.morsbags.com) and is intended as a supplement to the instructions and illustrations on the [Q4CL Morsbag Facebook](#) site.

1. CUTTING

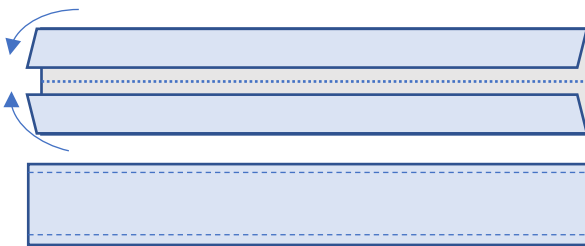


Cut one bag body piece 44" x 22" and 2 handles 18" x 4"

Cut a facing piece for the bag top 2" x 45"

Fold the bag body in half and press the bottom seam.

2. HANDLES

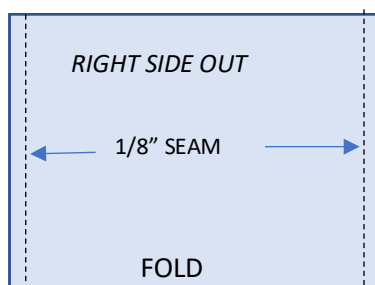


Fold the handle in half and press.

Open out and then fold each outside edge towards the centre line. Press.

Fold the handle in half again and press well, ensuring the edges align. Top stitch each side, close to the edge.

3. BAG BODY – FRENCH SEAMS

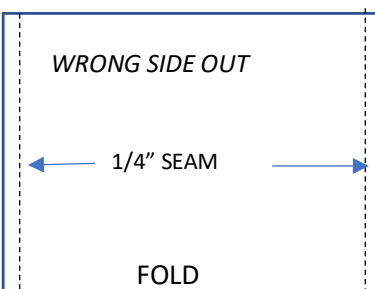


With the bag body folded in half and right side facing out, sew a narrow 1/8" seam along each side.

If you find this difficult, sew a wider seam and then trim it back to 1/8".

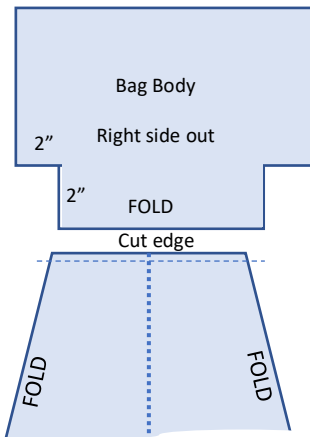
Trim away any loose threads to avoid these showing through the final seam.

Turn the bag wrong side out and press the seams carefully – slotting the bag over the end of the ironing boards helps to get the seam pressed out evenly.



Sew a generous 1/4" seam up each side, enclosing the raw edges of the first seam. Turn right side out and press seams well so that they are even and flat.

4. BAG BOTTOM

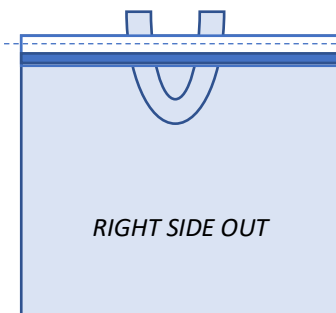


With the bag body facing right side out, cut a 2" square from both bottom corners. Do not include the seam in this measurement.

Fold the bag bottom down so that the side seam of the bag is aligned with the bottom fold. Each side should match and the fold should lie flat. If it doesn't, double-check that the cut-out section is square and that the side seam and bag bottom fold are aligned.

Sew a 1/8" seam along the raw edge. Repeat for the other side. Trim away any loose threads. Turn the bag wrong side out and press out both seams well. Sew a generous 1/4" seam, enclosing the first seam. Turn the bag right side out and push out the corner seams and press flat.

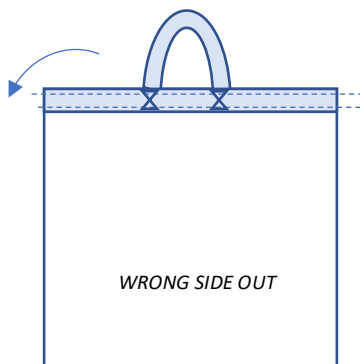
5. ATTACH HANDLES & FINISH



Take the bag top facing piece and turn under one long edge 1/4". Press well.

Fold the piece in half and measure it against the width of the bag. Mark and then sew a seam in the facing piece, so that it will fit snugly around the inside top of the bag. Trim and press the seam open.

With the bag right side facing, place the looped facing piece right sides together to match up with the top of the bag. Offset the seam of the facing piece from the bag side seam by about an inch, to reduce bulk.



Find the centre of the bag and insert the handles between the facing and the bag 3 1/2" away from the centre point. The raw edges of the handles should stick out about 1". Check that there is a space of 7" between the handles and that they are not twisted. Pin the handles and facing in place. Then sew a 1/4" seam around the top, backstitching over the handle ends.

Turn the bag wrong side out. Fold the facing downwards, so that the handles point up. Press the top seam well. The handle ends should be enclosed in the facing – trim if necessary. Top stitch the top and bottom edges, backstitching over the handle ends. Top stitching a square or hourglass shape over the enclosed handle ends for additional strength.

NOTES

1. Light décor-weight fabric works well for these bags. Denims, light cotton canvas, heavier muslin are all great. Remember that you will have to sew through 6 layers of fabric, so consider whether your machine will be able to cope with the weight of fabric you are thinking of using.
2. When re-purposing fabric, ensure that it is clean and odour-free. When choosing fabric, remember that these bags are a gift for a young person.
3. Woven cotton tape, 1" – 1½" wide, can be used as a handle alternative.
4. It may be necessary to seam the bottom of the bag, when using a directional fabric or creating a bag from smaller pieces. Cut 2 bag body pieces 23" x 22" to allow for the extra fabric on the bottom seam. The corner seams at the bottom of the bag will be very bulky, so consider trimming away a small piece of the French seam on each side, before sewing the corners.
5. Shorten stitch length for strength on side seams (2.2 or less). A longer stitch length looks better for top stitching (3-3.5). Thread weight should be at least 40 – synthetics are fine.
6. For heavy-weight fabrics, seams can be serged or zig-zag stitched rather than using French seams. An additional straight seam should be sewn, to prevent the sides from stretching.
7. A top-stitch foot really helps to get an even top-stitched line close to an edge. Pressing well at all stages really makes a difference to the final finish.
8. There are other methods of sewing the seams and/or the handles. Feel free to use your preferred method, as long as that the dimensions of the finished bag are as stated here, and the bag is robust enough to be re-used for other purposes, such as shopping.