

How to make a simple vessel from fabric

This is the perfect project to try if you have a sewing machine which you're keen to use but not sure how. You will use a series of straight stitched seams to turn two rectangles of fabric into a three dimensional shape. These skills can form the basis of future sewing projects and provide a step into lots of creative pleasure!

You will need:

Two pieces of firm fabric - choose contrasting colours or pattern combinations.

40cm x 20cm (lining)

40cm x 25cm (outer)

Sewing machine *

Threads

Sharp scissors

Pencil and ruler

Before you start:

* Use your instruction booklet to guide you to thread your sewing machine. If you don't have one then refer to YouTube as there is a vast amount of information there - you can Google the specific model of machine to get clear video instructions.

* Take a piece of scrap fabric and fold it in half. Just practices sewing straight, then curved lines. Try reversing at the beginning and end to secure your stitches and stop them unravelling. Enjoy some time practicing and getting a feel for your machine!

Method:

1. Place your two pieces of fabric right sides together and sew the long edges together taking a 1cm seam.
2. Lay the fabric flat and press the seam open.
3. Fold the fabric in half lengthwise edges meeting so your first seam runs horizontally.
4. Sew along this edge taking a 1cm seam and press the seam open.
5. Lay the 'tube' of fabric flat with the last seam down the centre, press seam open.
6. Sew along the short edge of the longer piece of fabric - this will be the base.
7. Snip into the side seams.
8. Press base seam open and flatten it out creating two 'ears'.
9. Rule a line across each ear to form the sides - approx 8cm in total.
10. Stitch along these two ruled lines.
11. Turn the tube right side out and flatten the bulky seam on the top edge open.
12. Push lining down into vessel and push out the corners to form a base.
13. Press along top edge creating the rim of the vessel.
14. Fold over the cuff - as narrow or deep as you wish and press to shape.

Use your vessel to store a wide variety of items from cotton reels to cotton buds and balls of wool.