

# Halloween Bag

This is a basically tote with a rounded bottom and darts to give it volume. Every Halloween bag should have plenty of room for all tricks and treats! This pattern is also useful as just a general tote as well. For this project I used cotton fabric, but other fabrics could be used except fabrics containing any stretch or spandex.



## **Material & Supplies Needed**

Half yard of the following:

1. Exterior fabric
2. Lining fabric
3. Fusible fleece

Sewing machine, matching thread, pins, scissors, ruler, markers, etc.

## **Cutting**

Using the template at the end of this tutorial, cut out two pieces of the fusible fleece, exterior and lining on the fold of the fabric.

For the handle straps, cut 2 pieces of fabric 24 inches long and 4 inches wide. Cut two strips of fusible fleece 24 inches long and 3 inches wide.



## **Bag Assemble**

Press your exterior fabric to the fusible fleece. Trim off any excess fleece if needed. Sew the two darts together at about  $\frac{1}{4}$ " seams. Repeat with the other side of exterior fabric and with both pieces of lining.

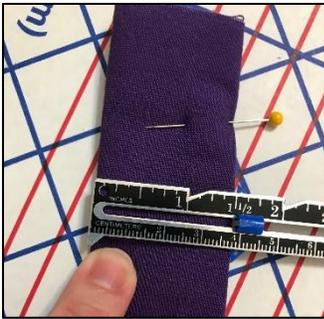
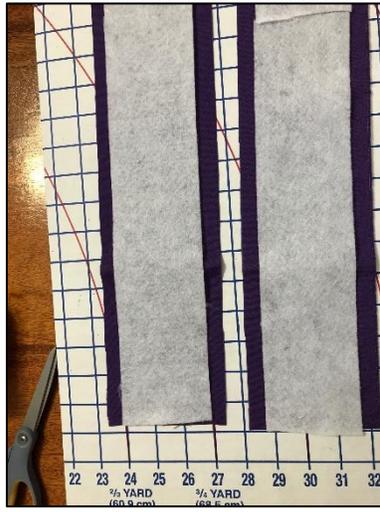
Place right side of the exterior pieces together – right side to right side. Match up the top edges and the darts together and stitch around the bag.

Follow the same instructions for the bag lining, but leave a 4-inch opening along one of the sides. You'll need this later...



## **Strap Assemble**

Take your two strips of fabric and two strips of fusible fleece. Iron the fleece in the center of the fabric, leaving a  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch of fabric along each side. Fold the sides over the edge of the fleece and iron down.



Now fold the entire strip in half with the fleece inside. The strip should be about 1 1/2 inch wide. Pin along the open edge. Stitch along the open edge with a very close seamline. Add a similar stitch along the other edge. Feel free to add couple more lines down the center of the strap. Do the same for both straps.



### **Place the Straps**

Place the straps about 1 1/2 inches from the side seams of the bag exterior. The loop of the strap should dip down and then place on the other side of the bag.

Repeat on the other exterior side of the bag. Pin the straps into place.

### **Attaching the Lining**

Slip the lining over the exterior bag—right side to right side. Now pin round the top of the back, all the way around. It looks a little weird this way, but stitch all around the top of the bag, using a 5/8-inch seam. Catch the strap ends as well.



## **Turning Out**

Remember that section of the lining that you didn't stitch? Here's why. Pull the exterior part of the bag out through the lining hole. Move slowly so as to not tear the rest of the seam.

Now you've got the inside outside of the bag. This is your time to seal up the whole you used to turn the bag. Sew the hole in the lining up—either by hand or with your sewing machine.



## **Finishing the Bag**

Tuck the lining into the bag. Iron along the top seam, so that the lining and the exterior has a nice edge.

To keep both sides neat, run a top stitch along the top edge of the bag. Run another stitch if you want.

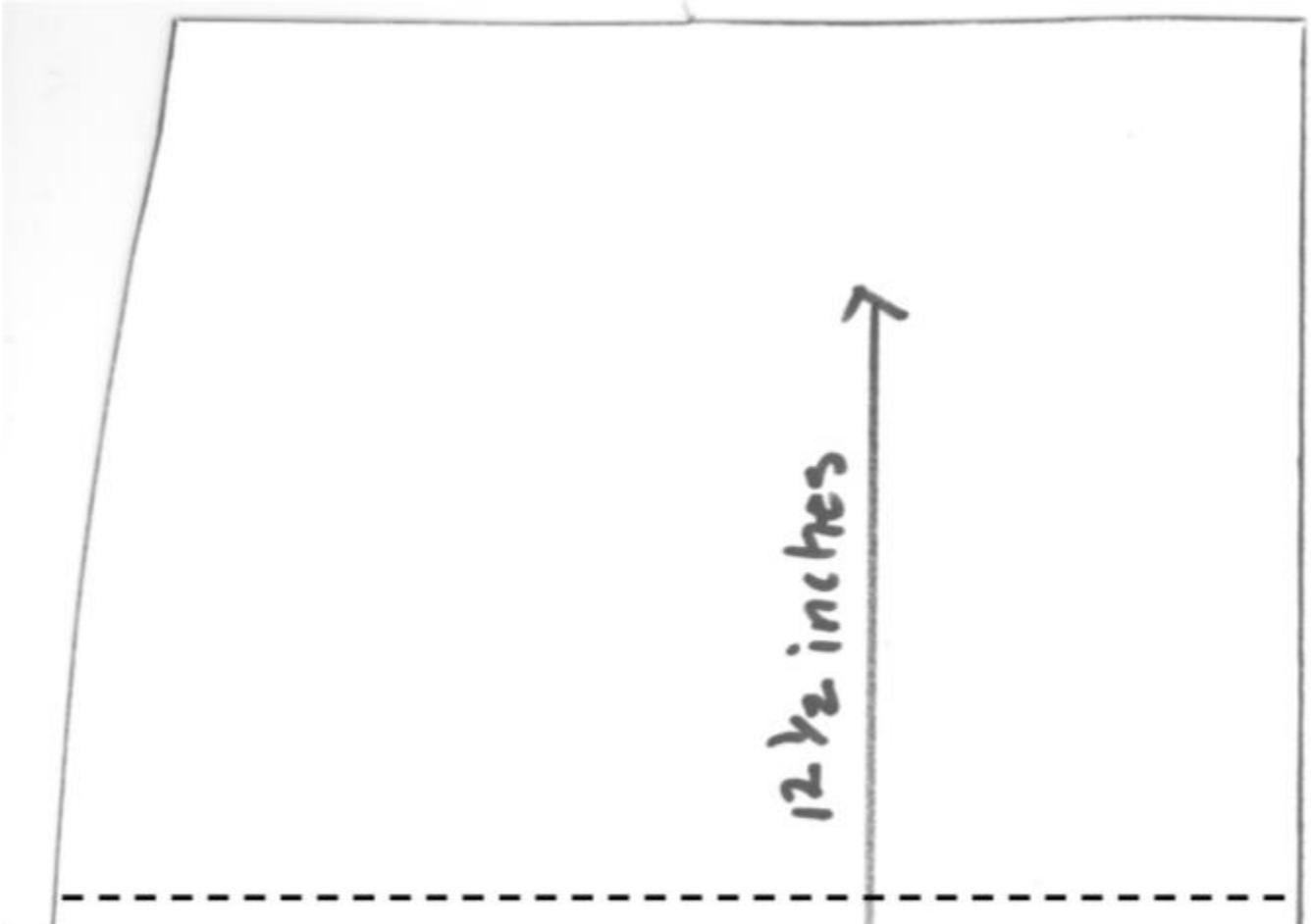
That's it—a nice little round bottom bag that works very well as a trick-or-treat bag. It also makes a great bag for scriptures, for library books, etc. Make the straps longer or shorter, add decoration (better than mine, I hope) to the exterior. Enlarge the template, shrink it—lots of variations are possible.

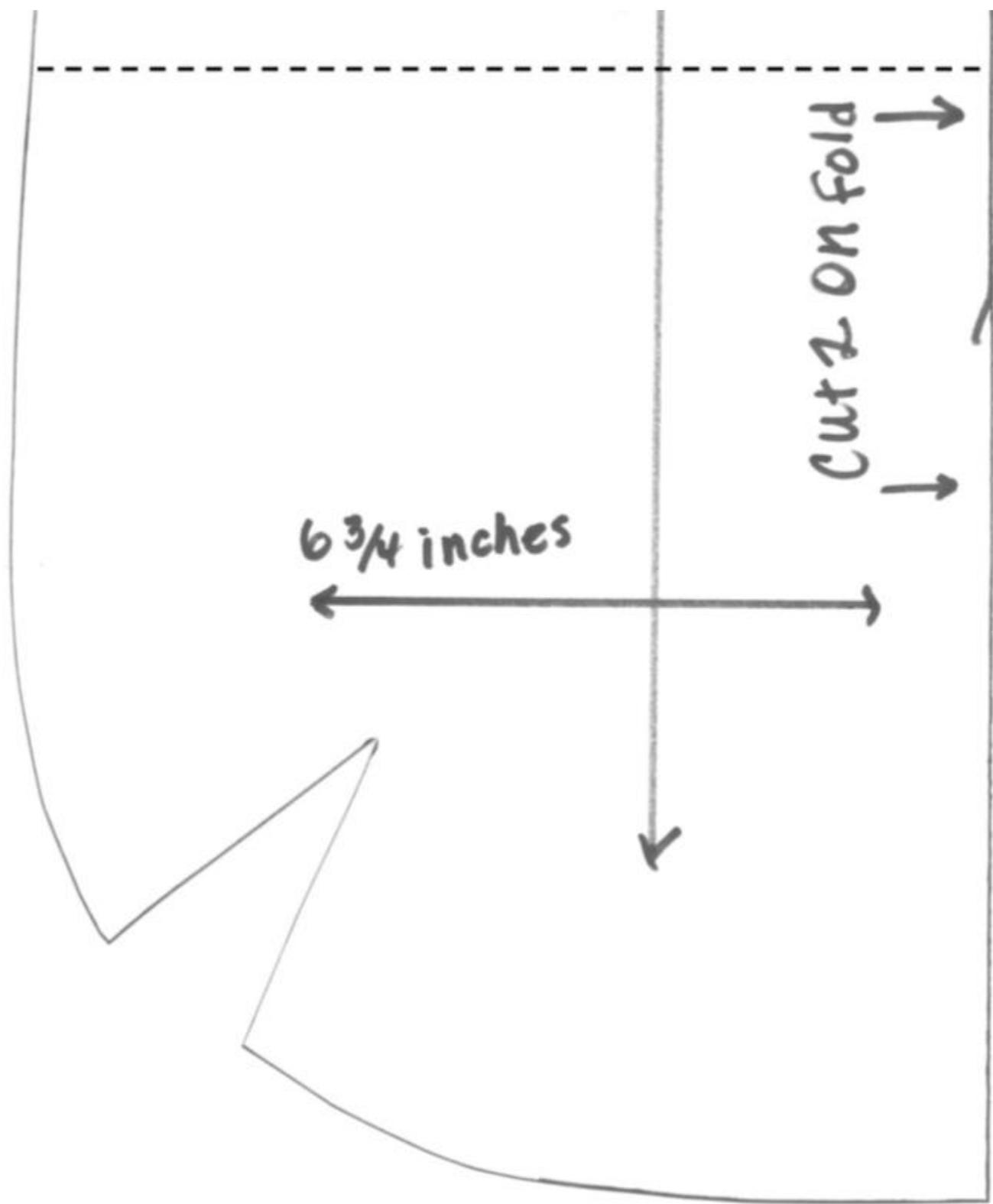
*Karen Ellis, © 2019*



## Template

The bag template is too long for standard paper, so here it is in 2 pieces. Line up the dashed line to assemble the pieces. The length and width measurements should be checked as well.





6 3/4 inches

Cut 2 ON fold