

# Pins & Patterns

## Beachbag Malte

0908



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Hello there!

Nice that you want to sew the beach bag. It really is a sweet project that you can finish in a few hours and I really use mine quite a lot.

The bag was a cooperation project with Selfmade, where I also have the fabrics from. The pattern is based on their Freebie Pattern DIY7003 which you can find here:

<https://www.selfmade.com/fr-lu/free-sewing-pattern-shopper-large-tote-bag-with-strap-diy7003/>

The screenshot shows the Selfmade website interface. At the top, there's a dark blue header with navigation links: 'Delivery 5-8 working days', 'Shipping from • 9.99 €', and 'Trustpilot'. Below this is a white navigation bar with the 'Selfmade' logo, a search bar, and links to 'Find store', 'Sales flyer', 'My account', 'Favourites', and 'Basket'. A secondary navigation bar lists categories: 'Fabrics', 'Patterns', 'Haberdashery', 'Hobby', 'Yarn', 'New arrivals', and 'Outlet'. There are also buttons for 'Free DIY' and 'Inspiration'. The main content area is titled 'Home / Free DIY' and features a large image of a green and leopard-print tote bag. To the right, the product title 'Free sewing pattern: Shopper / large tote bag with strap' is displayed, along with the product number 'DIY7003' and a 'DOWNLOAD HERE' button. Below this, there's a 'Select size' dropdown menu set to 'One Size'. A shopping cart is visible on the right, containing two items: 'Webbing ribbon 38mm grey 5m' (€5.50) and 'Cotton canvas dusty green' (€7.67). The total price is €13.95.

They have many more patterns (also a few free ones) so check it out if you like.

I made some changes to the sewing pattern (smaller height) as well as a lining and an inner- and an outer pocket, a key fob and a quilted layer. I have described the steps below so you can make the exact same version if you like :)

## Level of difficulty



If you have ever sewn something small before, try your hand at this beachbag!

## I. Materials

You will need a certain amount of basic equipment for all sewing projects. This usually consists of a sewing machine, matching thread in the color of the fabric, scissors for cutting the fabric, thread scissors and tailor's chalk. All other special materials for this project are listed below:

- 55 cm outer fabric (fabric width min. 120 cm)
- 55 cm lining fabric (fabric width min. 120 cm)
- 55cm batting (width min. 120 cm)
- 3m Webbing (38mm width)
- 1 Zipper (20cm)
- 1 snap fastener
- interfacing (small leftover pieces will do)

I used the following products:

(for transparency: i do not get any commission if you buy any of them)

- outer fabric  
<https://www.selfmade.com/fr-lu/yarn-dyed-light-blue-wide-stripe-820382/>
- lining fabric  
<https://www.selfmade.com/fr-lu/luxury-cotton-unbleached-4200/>
- batting  
<https://www.selfmade.com/fr-lu/batting-white-9512/>

- webbing (I used this color but with 38mm width, which i currently dont see online)  
<https://www.selfmade.com/fr-lu/ribbon-woven-32mm-offwhite-3m-21342/>
- 1 zipper  
<https://www.selfmade.com/fr-lu/ykk-zip-4mm-closed-end-20cm-white-4050120/>
- 1 snap fastener  
<https://www.selfmade.com/fr-lu/prym-snap-fastener-17mm-silver-col.-4pc-46629/>
- Interfacing  
<https://www.selfmade.com/fr-lu/vlieseline-fusible-interfacing-for-light-to-medium-weight-fabrics-white-g405-9635/>

## 2. Pattern pieces

| Abbreviation | Size          | Quantity | Material      | Remark                    |
|--------------|---------------|----------|---------------|---------------------------|
| Bag          | 54 cm x 60 cm | 2        | outer fabric  | 54 cm height; 60cm width  |
| Bag          | 54 cm x 60 cm | 2        | lining        | 54 cm height; 60cm width  |
| Bag          | 54 cm x 60 cm | 2        | batting       | 54 cm height; 60cm width  |
| Outer Pocket | 17 cm x 23 cm | 1        | outer fabric  | 17 cm height; 23 cm width |
| Inner Pocket | 34 cm x 22 cm | 2        | outer fabric  | 34 cm height; 22 cm width |
| Key fob      | 4 cm x 20 cm  | 1        | lining fabric |                           |

### 3. Final measurements

With my changes, the bag had these final measurements:



### 4. Choice of fabric

In general, you are quite free in your choice of fabric. That's the beauty of sewing your own piece. However, as fabrics differ in terms of strength, elasticity, stiffness and many other properties, here are a few fabrics that work particularly well with the garment:

- all non-elastic fabrics such as
- canvas
- corduroy
- cotton

- crepe
- fleece
- viscose
- ...

## 5. Preparation

After you have decided on a fabric,

1. Wash the fabrics. (Just the outer fabric and the lining, not the batting and interfacing!) Use the same temperature at which you want to wash the bag. A washing temperature is usually indicated on the fabric. If you don't wash the fabric before cutting it, your garment may shrink and become too small on the first wash. For the bag it would not be dramatic, but it's good to get used to it.
2. Iron the fabric. If there are still creases in the fabric when you cut it out, this will distort the result.
3. Lay the fabric flat on the floor or on a large table. It is best if the surface is completely smooth (e.g. avoid using carpet as a surface if possible).
4. Next, cut out all the pieces. For the bag there is no pattern, as all pieces are rectangular. The dimensions are described at 2. Pattern pieces.

## 6. Seam Allowance

### 6.1 What is a seam allowance?

The seam allowance is the distance between the actual seam line (i.e., where two fabric pieces are sewn together) and the edge of the fabric. It's important to ensure that the sewn pieces are securely joined without the fabric fraying or being too narrow.

You can think of the seam allowance as a buffer or safety margin that is sewn along but no longer visible from the outside – because it lies inside the garment or between the layers.

### 6.2 How much seam allowance is used?

A standard seam allowance of 1 cm is used for the bag

This means: All pattern pieces already contain an extra 1 cm on top of the actual seam line. So you don't need to add anything when cutting the fabric. Later when sewing, just follow the 1 cm marking on your sewing machine or use a seam guide.

### 6.3 Why is it important?

If you sew with less than 1 cm from the fabric edge, the seam may not be strong enough – the fabric could tear or come loose. If you sew significantly more than 1 cm, the piece might end up smaller than intended and may no longer fit properly.



# Tip

If you prefer to use a different seam allowance make sure to adjust the pattern pieces accordingly before cutting, and to sew with the appropriate distance.

## 7. Miscellaneous

If you don't have any sewing experience yet, it doesn't matter! Everyone starts small and I try to explain the steps in as much detail as possible! Here are a few tips for getting started with sewing.

### 7.1 Sewing machine

Take the time to familiarise yourself with your sewing machine. How do you thread it correctly? You can find information on this in the instruction manual and certainly on YouTube. Then, before starting each project, always sew a test seam with the appropriate thread!

### 7.2 Needle

The right needle must be used for each project.

1. Always use a jersey needle for stretchy fabrics!
2. Most other fabrics can be sewn with a universal needle. Just pay attention to the thickness:

use a larger needle size for thicker fabrics and a finer one for thin fabrics.

Otherwise, the needle may break easily or tear fine fabrics.

3. It is generally advisable to replace needles regularly (even if they still look good).

This will prevent tears and small holes in your fabric and increase the longevity of your garment.

## 7.3 “Locking” the thread

To prevent the thread from becoming loose, “lock” at the beginning and end of each seam. To do this, sew two stitches forwards and then sew two stitches backwards again using the reverse gear on your machine. This ensures that the thread is sufficiently secured and you can simply cut off the ends.

## 8. Instructions

Now let's finally get started! ✂️

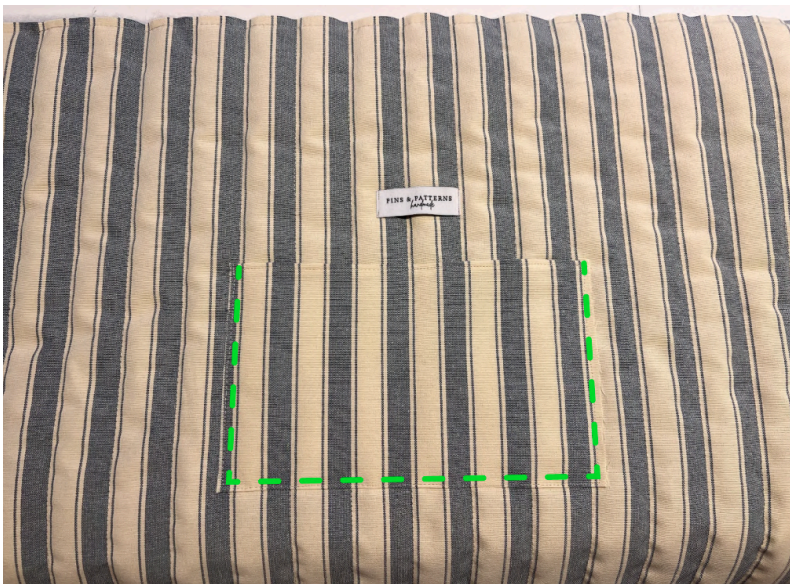
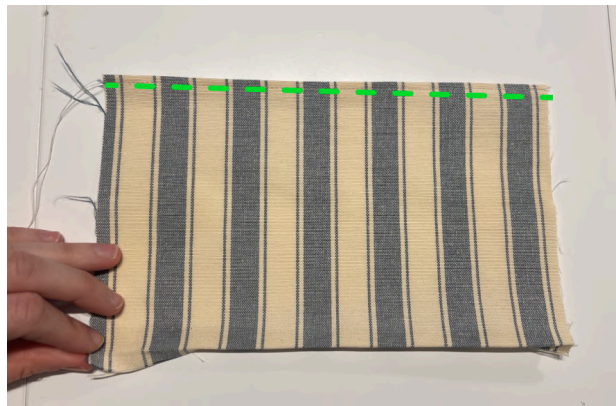
### 1. Preparation & Cutting

- **Cutting:** Cut out all pattern pieces according to the templates in "Part 2. Pattern pieces."
- **Quilting:** For a quilted look, place the batting (fusible fleece) on the wrong side of the outer bag pieces and quilt them. I followed the pattern design here with a seam spacing of 3.5 cm.



## 2. Preparing the Outer Pocket

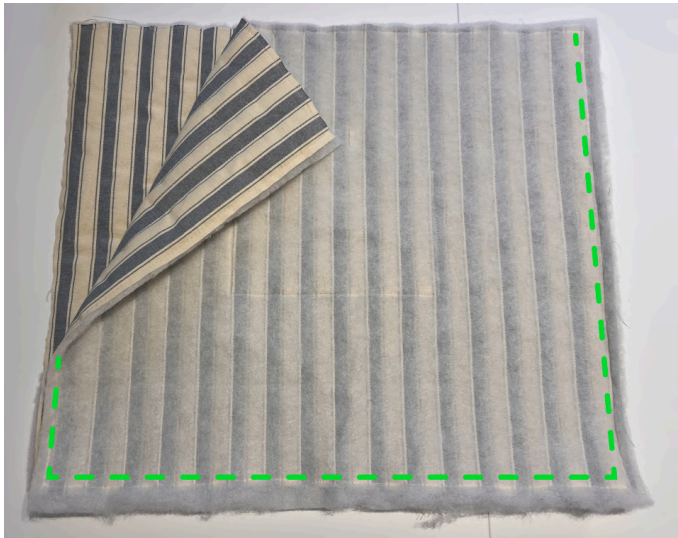
- **Pressing edges:** Fold the top edge of the outer pocket inward twice by 0.5 cm and press. Fold the bottom edge inward once by 1 cm and press.
- **Securing:** Edgestitch the top hem in place.
- **Positioning:** Place the pocket centered on the front panel of the main bag (12 cm down from the top edge). Pin well and sew along the sides and the bottom edge.
- **Label:** If desired, place your label in the preferred spot now and sew it on.





### 3. Sewing the Bag Body

- **Assembling:** Place the front and back panels right sides together. Pin and sew the sides and the bottom.
- **Boxing the corners:** Measure and mark 6 cm at each of the bottom corners (on the wrong side).
- **Sewing corners:** Align the bottom seam precisely with the side seam. Sew across the mark at a 90-degree angle to the seam (green line) to create the bag floor.
- **Check:** Turn the bag right side out and check the result. If you are satisfied, trim the excess fabric at the corners, leaving a 1 cm seam allowance.



Of course place the corner correctly, on the image just folded to show you that its the wrong side



#### 4. Attaching the Straps (Webbing)

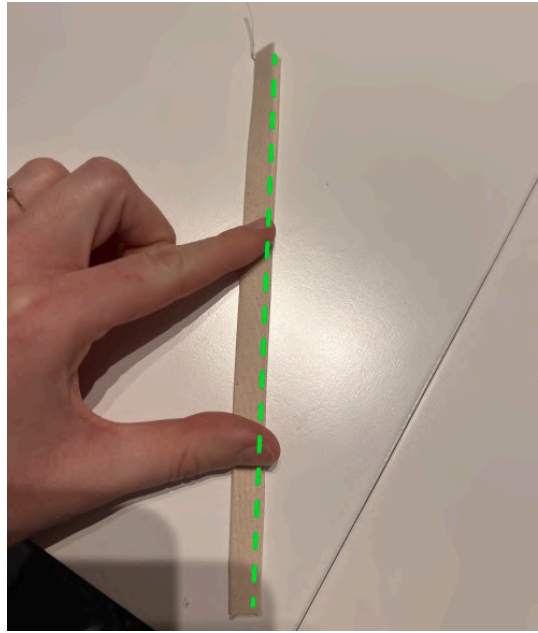
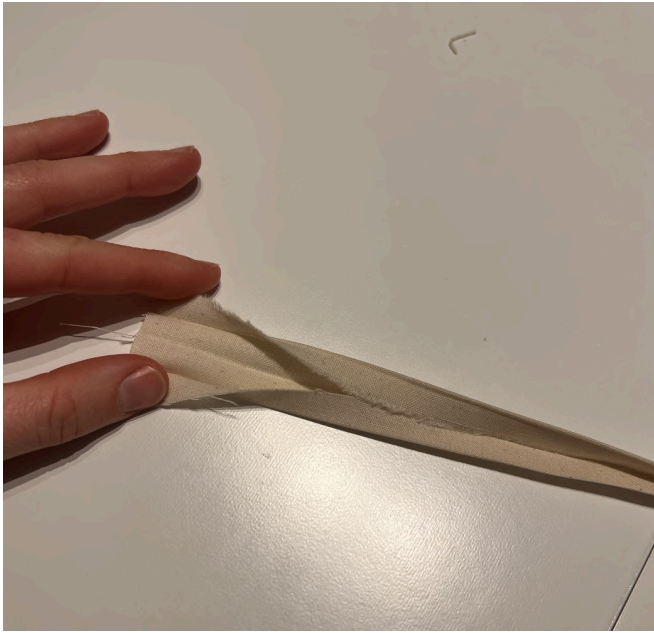
- **Mounting:** Layout the webbing on the bag so that it runs completely around the body. Ensure that both handles are exactly the same length (e.g., 65.5 cm when using a total of 3 m of webbing).
- **Important Note:** Stitch the webbing down (both left and right edges), but leave a gap of approx. **1.3 cm from the top edge** (do not sew all the way to the top of the outer fabric).



## 5. Preparing the Lining

- **Key Fob:** Fold the long edges of the fabric strip inward by 1 cm each, fold in half again, and edgestitch from the outside.
- **Zippered Inner Pocket:**
  - Place the zipper right sides together with the top edge of the inner pocket piece and sew using a zipper foot.
  - Fold the bottom end of the fabric up to the other side of the zipper (right sides together) and sew. Turn right side out and press so that approx. 2.5 cm of fabric stands above the zipper. For a flatter finish, you can open the zipper fully and topstitch the fabric next to the zipper to keep everything in place.
  - Fold the pocket right sides together again, pin, and close the side seams.



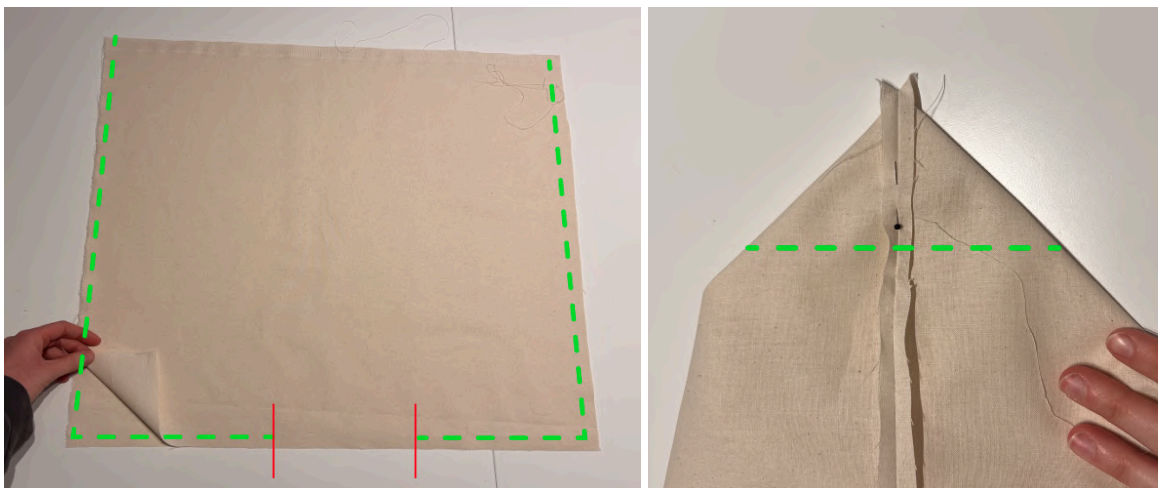




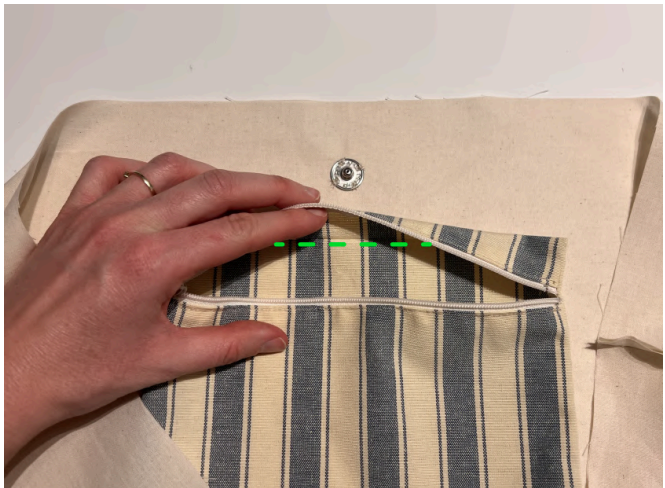
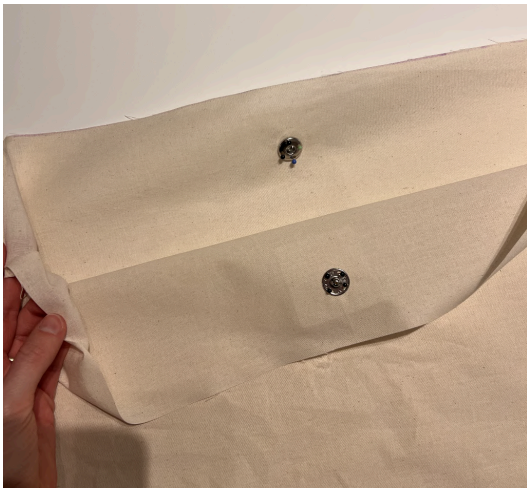


## 6. Completing the Lining Bag

- **Assembly:** Repeat the steps used for the outer bag: Place lining pieces right sides together, close side and bottom seams (**Important:** Leave a turning opening of approx. 10 cm in the bottom!), and sew the 6 cm boxed corners.
- **Reinforcement:** Iron on interfacing (Vlieseline) to reinforce the positions for the snap fasteners (centered, 3.5 cm from the top) and the key fob (7 cm from the top and 15 cm from the side seam).
- **Attaching Details:**
  - Sew the snap fasteners on by hand.
  - Form a loop with the prepared key fob strip and stitch it down (a "box-X" stitch provides extra stability).
  - Inserting the inner pocket: Either topstitch the pocket centered onto the right side of the lining or, for an invisible result, open the zipper fully and sew approx. 1 mm below the top pressed edge. Secure the corners that cannot be reached by machine by hand.













## 7. Final Assembly

- **Joining:** Insert the outer bag into the lining, right sides together. Sew around the top edge with a 1 cm seam allowance. Make sure not to accidentally catch the straps or the inner pocket in the seam.
- **Turning:** Turn the bag right side out through the opening in the lining floor.
- **Finish:** Edgestitch the turning opening closed from the outside. You're done! 🥳





That's it! I wish you lots of success with your sewing! I'm always happy to receive feedback, either on social media or by email to [info@pinspatterns.com](mailto:info@pinspatterns.com).

I'm always thrilled to see pictures of your finished project!

If you post it on social media, feel free to use the hashtag

#maltebag #pinspatterns so I can find you

Lots of love and happy sewing 💕

Julia