

# So Sew Easy

## Turning Japanese Bag

Never sewn a bag before or just looking for a quick and easy project? The use of metal handles in this bag means there is no need for fiddly zippers or closures, but the bag still looks super cute and just like something you could have bought in a nice store.

If you don't like the handles, you can achieve the same look simply by following the cut out from the pattern piece and binding those edges with a bias binding tape instead.

This bag pattern is perfect for adding your own touches. Watch out in the future for some variations on this bag to come.

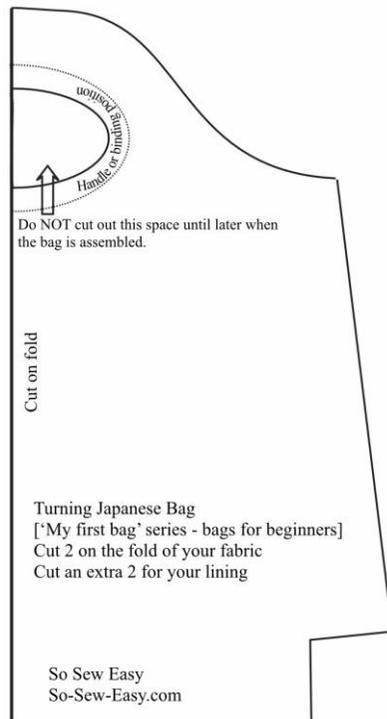


## To print your PDF pattern

Your pattern and instructions come as one file to make printing easy. The pattern is at the end of these instructions. Please make sure you are using the latest version of Adobe for best results. You can [download the latest version here](#) if you need to.

Open the PDF file in Adobe Reader. Select File → Print and the print dialogue box opens. Under Page Sizing and Handling, select SIZE, then select ACTUAL SIZE. Orientation for this pattern is PORTRAIT.

When assembled, your pattern should look like this:



## Skill level – Beginner.

You can take an excellent video class from Craftsy that covers in detail the techniques used in the construction of this bag, and allow you to design your own bag patterns. Check out [Design Your Own Handbag](#).

**Read through all of these instructions before starting your project and cutting your fabric.**

## Useful tutorials

You can find a range of useful sewing tutorials and videos at [So Sew Easy – tutorials page](#).

## Materials needed

Fabric

Interfacing/fleece/stabilizers of your choice

Matching thread

[Grommet style metal handles](#) or bias tape

Find more great sewing patterns at So Sew Easy – <http://so-sew-easy.com>



## Fabric requirements

Cotton fabrics without stretch. Home décor weight or stable cottons will work best. Lighter weight cottons such as quilting cotton can be used with a firm interfacing.

Outer fabric – 14 x 30 inches

Lining fabric – the same

**This sewing tutorial is also available as a video.**



You can watch at YouTube –click the links to be taken to the tutorial. Once the video starts, you can get a clearer picture by clicking on the little 'gear' icon to select a higher video quality.

## [VIDEO TUTORIAL LINK](#)



## Directions

**Seam allowances are 1/2 inch (1.25cm) throughout unless stated otherwise.**

**Abbreviations used** – RST – right sides together.

### Let's start to sew !

1. Print and assemble your pattern. Cut out your pattern pieces, 2 pieces for the outside of the bag and 2 pieces for the lining.
2. Add your interfacing, fleece and stabilizers according to your preference and according to manufacturers instructions. You can double up interfacing and fleece etc for a more sturdy bag that will stand up on its own.
3. If you want to add any pockets to the inside of your bag, do this first. You can find a tutorial [HERE](#) about how to add a simple slip pocket.

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- Match the right side of the outer fabric with the right side of the lining fabric, pin and stitch around the top edge. Repeat for both pieces.



- Clip into those curved seams so that the bag will curve smoothly once turned the right way. Careful not to cut into your stitching!



6. Match up the two pieces RST and match the side seams where the outer meets the lining. Pin all around both the outer and the lining layers.



7. Sew along the bottom of the lining and the bottom of the bag. Sew top to bottom all along one side seam. On the other side seam, sew but leave a gap in the lining side seam about 4 inches long so the bag can be turned the right way out.



8. Box the corners of the bag and the lining by matching the bottom to the side seams and stitching right across. Trim to neaten.



9. Turn the bag the right side out through the hole in the lining. Press the bag and press carefully around the top curve, making sure to get a nice crisp edge with the lining fabric to the inside.

10. Top stitch around the top of the bag, to hold that nice crisp edge and keep the lining fabric in place.



11. Close up the gap in the lining side seam by hand or machine.



12. Lay out your handle and decide on correct placement. Draw around the inside and cut out the hole, just outside the line you drew.

13. Place the handle in place, and note where the screws fall. Mark and remove a little snip of fabric so that the screws can be inserted. Insert the first handle and screw on the backing.



14. Using the first handle as a template, drew and cut the same hole on the other side of the bag and insert the second handle.
- 15.



16. Yay – you did it! The bag looks great.



Thank you for downloading this Turning Japanese Bag pattern and tutorial. I hope you enjoyed making this project and remember that I love to share your creations at So Sew Easy so drop me an email with a photo at

[deby@so-sew-easy.com](mailto:deby@so-sew-easy.com)

or upload your completed projects to the pattern page on Craftsy.

You might enjoy my other tutorials and sewing patterns at So Sew Easy, including:

<a href="#">Wrap Dress</a>	<a href="#">Gathered Summer Skirt</a>	<a href="#">Sew A Skirt beginner tutorial series</a>
<a href="#">Twist Front Top</a>	<a href="#">Two Become One Dress</a>	<a href="#">Double Layer Chiffon/Lace Blouse</a>
<a href="#">Easy Summer Dress</a>	<a href="#">Nautical Mug Rug</a>	<a href="#">30 Minutes Easy Skirt</a>
<a href="#">Summer Drape Top</a>	<a href="#">Teeny Tiny Zipper Pouch</a>	<a href="#">Cheeky Panties</a>
<a href="#">Custom Fit Skirt</a>	<a href="#">Long arm oven mitts</a>	<a href="#">Custom fit leggings</a>
<a href="#">Boxy Bag</a>	<a href="#">Sew Simple Leggings</a>	<a href="#">Little Black Party Dress</a>
<a href="#">Easy Cosmetics Bag</a>	<a href="#">Easy Breezy Blouse</a>	<a href="#">On a Roll T-shirt</a>
<a href="#">Super Simple Wallet</a>	<a href="#">Padded bottle bag</a>	<a href="#">Slouchy Sweater</a>
<a href="#">Classic Straight leg knit pants</a>	<a href="#">Cool It Can Cozy</a>	<a href="#">Gathered front top</a>

<a href="#">Make it Yours Clutch Bag</a>	<a href="#">Spring Mug Rug</a>	<a href="#">Waterfall top</a>
<a href="#">Reversible Apron</a>	<a href="#">Flirty Skirty</a>	<a href="#">Carry All Bag</a>
<a href="#">Cowl Neck Top</a>	<a href="#">Expanding Nautical Tote Bag</a>	<a href="#">Wear Everywhere Dress</a>
<a href="#">Fab Felt Christmas Tree</a>	<a href="#">Sew Simple Leggings</a>	<a href="#">Easiest ever Felt tree ornaments</a>
<a href="#">Turning Japanese Bag</a>		

For the latest list of patterns available, pop on over to my [designer page at Craftsy](#).

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**Usage – you ARE allowed to use this pattern to make things to sell on a small handmade basis, such as for craft fairs and for your Etsy shop.**

**However it may not be used for larger scale commercial purposes without a commercial licence.**



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Handle or binding position

Do NOT cut out this space until later when the bag is assembled.

Cut on fold

Turning Japanese Bag

['My first bag' series - bags for beginners]

[ My first bag series - bags for beginners ]

Cut 2 on the fold of your fabric

Cut an extra 2 for your lining

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