

Australian Inspired Shoulder Bag

My daughter was given a bag by a friend who had just been to Australia. I thought it was a useful bag and liked the shape, but before I could work out how it was put together my daughter took it back to university with her. The bag I have designed looks similar – but having looked at the Australian bag again, the construction is completely different.

Finished size – 10 ins x 12 ins

Materials

1 metre of patchwork fabric for the outside of the bag

1 metre of patchwork fabric for the inside of the bag.

One and a half metres of very lightweight iron stabiliser (Vilene)

Freezer paper (this for cutting the pattern out from, use greaseproof paper if you don't have freezer paper.)

Ordinary sewing thread/scissors/fabric marker pen/hand sewing kit.

Sew in velcro 4 1/2" long.

To scale the pattern up to full size you need a trip to your local photocopiers and enlarge by 190 % or draw out onto greaseproof/freezer paper according to the measurements on the pattern.

This bag is basically two bags, one inside the other, with one handle each. There are three pockets in it and the handle is tied at the top. You could adjust the length of this to suit your height. You can decorate the outside of the bag with applique or machine embroidery or add a seminole strip round it. If you want to do, this mark the bag shape with a water soluble pen onto the fabric you are going to use as the outside of the bag. Complete any decoration and check the marked dimensions before you cut the bag front out as sometimes surface decoration shrinks the fabric.

Please note that the bag pattern includes 1/4" seam allowances.

If you have photocopied the pattern up to full size butt the edges of A and B and sellotape together. Trace off a pattern for the handle. Transfer the pattern onto freezer paper so you can iron the pattern to the fabric to make it easier to cut out, or use greaseproof paper. **Note the pattern needs to be placed on a fold on one edge.**

Cut out two bag outsides and two bag insides.

Cut two outside straps and two inside straps.

Cut out two lightweight iron on vilene bag shapes (you do not need vilene in the straps)

Cut two rectangles 6 1/2"x 7 1/2" from the inside fabric. This makes a pocket.

Stitch the two inside straps to the two inside bag pieces right sides together. Repeat with the outside straps and bag pieces. See diagram 1

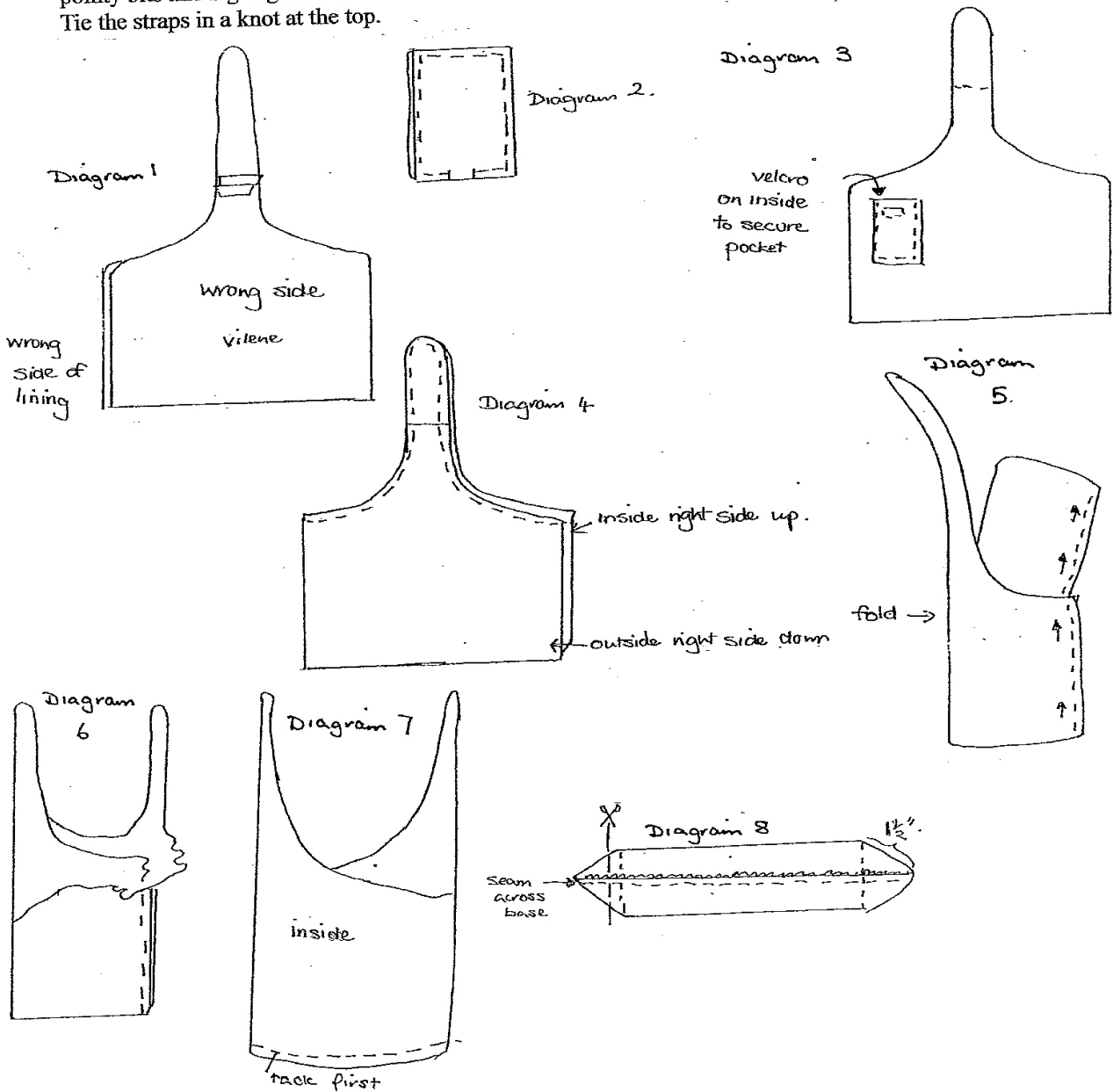
Fuse the vilene to the inside bag pieces on the wrong side. I did not put the vilene on the straps as it would make them difficult to tie. Stitch the two rectangles right sides together and leave a gap to turn through. Turn through and press. Stitch the 4 1/4" piece of velcro half an inch down from the top, see diagram 2. Position the pocket 2 "down from the top on the inside of the bag and stitch a corresponding piece of velcro on the inside fabric. Stitch the velcro onto the bag lining. Stitch right round the pocket first then stitch round three sides with the velcro fastening at the top see diagram 3.

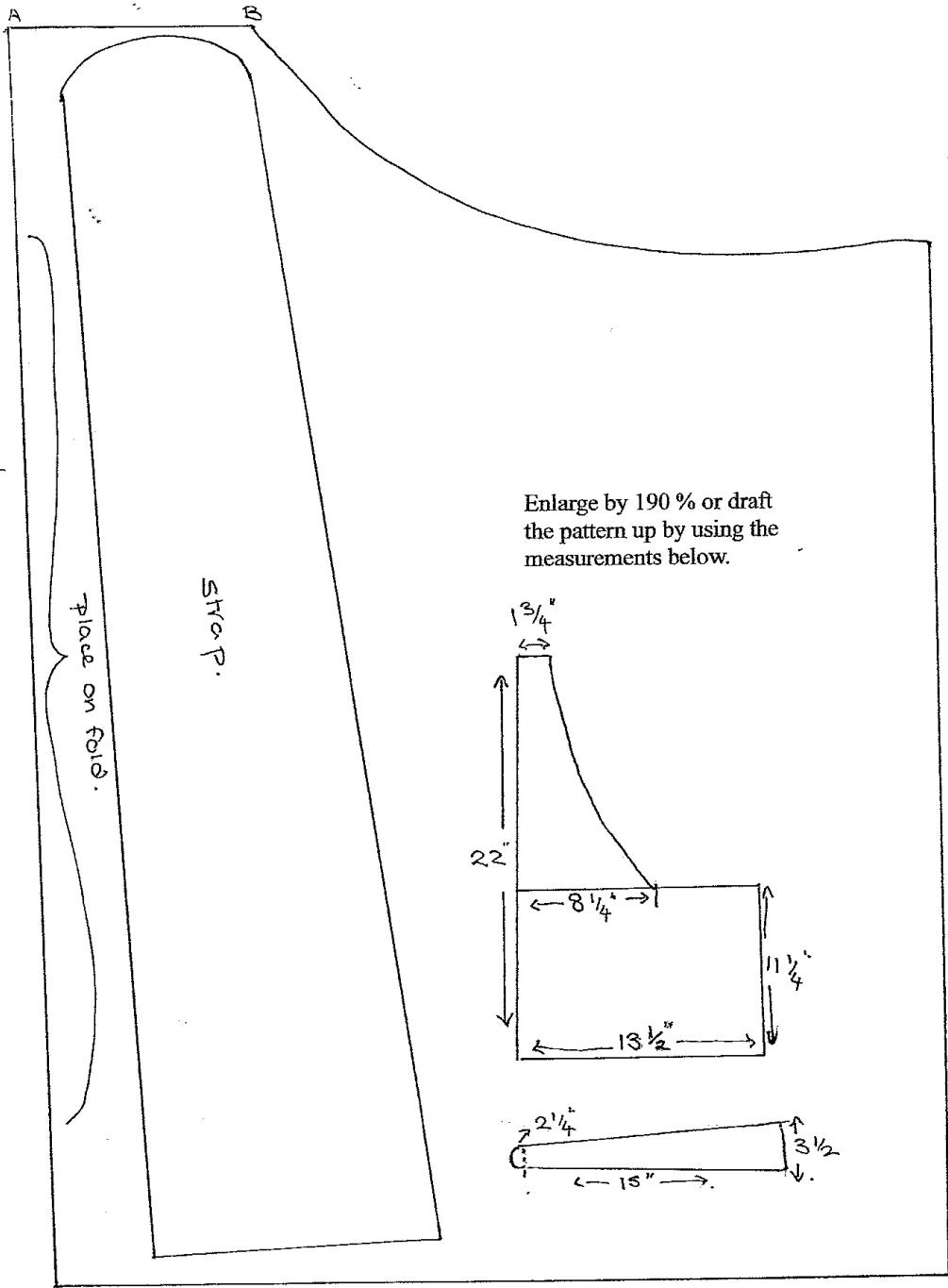
Lay the outside bag piece and the inside bag piece right sides together. Stitch the top of the bag and the handle. Repeat with the other piece. See diagram 4

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Slide one side into the other so the bag now looks like the finished bag, but without having sewn the bottom yet (that comes last). Take the side of the bag that has a seam up the outside, Pin all the layers together down that seam. Tack. Stitch following the seam line down the side so that all the layers are joined together down one side. Look at the other side. Pull the outside fabric up as if you were taking off a jumper. Pin the inside bag to the outside lining, tack. Machine down the side seam., see diagram 6.

Turn the bag inside out. Pin and tack all the four layers at the base together. Stitch across the bottom and do a zig zag stitch to finish the raw edge, see diagram 7. Now fold the corners as in the diagram 8 and machine stitch across. Go slowly there are a lot of layers to go through. Snip off the pointy bits and zig zag stitch to finish the raw edge. Now turn through to the outside of the bag. Tie the straps in a knot at the top.





Enlarge by 190 % or draft the pattern up by using the measurements below.

