

Make it... The Reversible Bucket Bag

Half the fun of making this cheerful bag is choosing three fabrics that all look fabulous together. Once you have chosen the fabrics you'll find this bag just kind of makes itself! The more you piece it together (like a colourful jigsaw) the more you'll want to see the yummy finished result. Pop a pretty fabric flower onto the button closure for an extra touch of cuteness.



Front view A fabric flower embellished self-cover button with a brooch pin makes an eye-catching bag closure, and the pretty contrast binding does double duty – it binds the lining and the exterior bags together and it forms the bag handles too.



Reversed Fancy a change? Reverse the bag for a different look. Pin the button closure to whichever side you happen to be using today.



Bottom view For a smart and cohesive look use the same contrast fabric as the binding for the bag base.

NEED TO KNOW

- Heavier weight fabrics for the exterior are not recommended; medium weight fabric is best because there will be quite a few layers to work with at the top edge of the bag.
- Choose three fabrics that are all the same weight.
- As long as you are consistent, it doesn't matter which fabric is interfaced with the fusible interfacing and which fabric is interfaced with the fusible fleece.
- All seam allowances are 1cm ($\frac{3}{8}$ in) unless stated otherwise.
- Pattern pieces are given in the pull-out section and include the 1cm ($\frac{3}{8}$ in) seam allowance.



- 1 piece of medium weight fabric for exterior, 50cm (2yd) x 112cm (44in) wide
- 1 piece of medium weight fabric for lining, 50cm (2yd) x 112cm (44in) wide
- 1 piece of medium weight fabric for contrast binding, base and button closure, 50cm (2yd) x 112cm (44in) wide
- Medium weight woven fusible interfacing, 50cm (2yd)
- Fusible fleece, 50cm (2yd)
- Sewing threads to match the fabrics
- 50mm bias tape maker
- 1 self-cover button, 4cm (1½in)
- 1 safety pin, 2cm (¾in)
- Disappearing marker

Cut the fabric and interfacing pieces as follows:

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From The Reversible Bucket Bag
(main body) pattern piece (see
pull-out section)

- 2 x exterior fabric
- 2 x lining fabric
- 2 x fusible fleece
- 2 x fusible interfacing

From The Reversible Bucket Bag (base)
pattern piece (see pull-out section)

- 2 x contrast fabric
- 1 x fusible fleece
- 1 x fusible interfacing

Transfer all pattern notches and markings to the fabric with a disappearing marker

Also cut:

- 2 bias-cut strips of contrast fabric, 86 x 10cm (34 x 4in), for the side top edge trim and bag handles
- 2 bias-cut strips of contrast fabric, 29 x 10cm (11½ x 4in), for the centre top edge trim
- 1 strip of contrast fabric 30 x 6cm (12in x 2½in), for the button loop
- 2 pieces of fusible interfacing, 5cm (2in) square, for the button reinforcement

Funky fabrics ...

For a striking and graphic looking bag try this fabric combination - two different coloured plain fabrics with a contrasting bold plain or patterned fabric for the binding and base.



1 Make the binding – take the four bias-cut contrast fabric strips and follow the instructions on page 141 to make your own bias binding.

1 Make the binding – take the four bias-cut contrast fabric strips and follow the instructions on page 141 to make your own bias binding.

2 Make the button loop – take the button loop contrast fabric and follow the steps on page 102 to make one open-end strap. With the short raw edges pointing upwards fold the strap in half widthways. Form a triangle tip at the bottom fold. Stitch the triangle tip in place (at the base of the triangle) onto the button loop. See **Fig a**.

3 Make the self-cover button – take a scrap of contrast fabric and follow the instructions on the pack to make the self-cover button. Decorate the self-cover button with a pretty fabric yo-yo flower if desired, following the product manufacturer's instructions (see page 147). Insert a pretty button in the middle and glue it to the self-cover button. Insert the safety pin through the shank of the self-cover button at the back and set aside.



4 Interface the fabric pieces – match the fusible interfacing pattern pieces to their partner exterior pattern pieces and iron them to the WS of the fabric pieces. Select a main body exterior piece to be the bag front and iron one of the button reinforcement squares to the WS centre, 4cm (1½in) down from the top edge. Repeat with the lining fabric pattern pieces, fusible fleece pattern pieces and button reinforcement square.

The bag exterior

5 **Stitch the main body pieces together** – bring the exterior main body pieces RST. Match all the edges, pin and stitch together at both side edges.

6 Stitch the base to the bag – bring the exterior base to the exterior bag RST. Match all edges and match the base notches to the notches on the bottom edge of the bag. Pin and stitch all around. See **Fig b**. If there is excess fabric at the curved edges of the base make small pleats at the curves and stitch through them – they will form attractive gathers at the sides (see page 50). Clip the curved edges. Turn RSO.

The bag lining

7 Make up the lining bag – make the lining bag in the same way as the exterior bag (steps 5 and 6).

Assembling the bag

8 Bring the lining bag and the exterior bag together – place the lining bag WSO into the exterior bag RSO. The wrong sides of the bags should now be touching each other. Neatly match the raw top edges of both bags and pin together all around, 4cm (1½in) down from the top edge. See **Fig c**

The bag lining

9 **Stitch the button loop to the bag** – take the button loop RSU (with raw edges pointing upwards) and place it onto the centre top edge bag back (on the lining side). Match the top edges and stitch the loop to the bag (through all layers) with a 5mm (3/16in) seam allowance.

10 **Stitch the centre top edge binding to the bag** – take one of the centre top edge from bias binding strips and bind the centre top edge of the exterior bag front – see bound edges on pages 142–143 (except there are no overlapping edges to work with). Repeat with the other centre top edge binding piece and the back of the bag. On the back of the bag, lift up the button loop (so the triangle tip on the loop is pointing upwards) and stitch the loop in the up position to the top edge of the bag (through the binding) 3mm (1/8in) down from the edge. See **Fig d**.



The side top edges and handles

11 Bind the side top edges of the bag back – take the side top edge bias-cut contrast fabric strip RSU and start binding the side top edges of the exterior bag back. See steps 1–2 of bound edges on pages 142–143 (and the rest of this step). Working from left to right start pinning and stitching the binding to the bag 5mm ($\frac{1}{4}$ in) to the left of the side seam. See **Fig e1**. When your binding stitches reach the top edge of the curved centre top edge, stop stitching and secure with several backstitches. Take the other end of the binding and pin and stitch it to the other side of the bag (begin 5mm ($\frac{1}{4}$ in) to the right of the side seam and work right to left).

12 Complete the binding process – see step 4 of bound edges on page 143 (and the rest of this step) to complete the binding as follows. Fold up the binding over the top edge of the bag and pin. From the points where the binding curves away from the top edge of the bag, fold the binding perfectly in half to form a bag handle. You may need to iron a new centre fold in the binding to do this. Pin the bag handle edges together. Topstitch the folded binding to the bag. Stitch over the curved top edge corners again to strengthen the base of the bag handles. See **Fig e2**.

13 Bind the side top edges of the bag front – bind the bag front in the same way as for the bag back except you need take the binding RSU and fold the short edges under to the WS 5mm ($\frac{1}{4}$ in) before you begin binding. Begin pinning and stitching the binding at the side seams – the folded short edges of the binding (at the side seams) should overlap the raw short edges of the binding from the back side of the bag. See **Fig f**.

14 Finishing touches – decide which bag side you prefer today and pin the button to the front of the bag.

Fig f Place the short edges of the front binding over the top of the short edges of the back binding so they overlap.

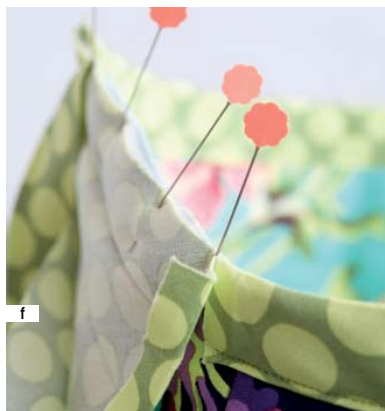


Fig e1 Begin pinning the binding to the top edge of the bag 5mm ($\frac{1}{4}$ in) before the side seam.



Fig e2 The topstitching along the side edge binding should flow smoothly into the bag handle. Topstitch again at the bag handle base to strengthen the stress area.

Right Have fun chopping and changing your fabric choices to make completely different looking bags. Try making a petite version of this bag (see page 23) in deep coloured velvets and satins for a sweetly sophisticated evening bag. Or try inserting an easy-to-make slip pocket onto the bag (see page 124). The time to do this would be between steps 4 and 5 (page 43).



Pleats

Pleats not only add volume to your bags, they also add a lot of visual interest giving you a great opportunity to play with your fabric choices and pleat position. If you think the look is right, you can add pleats to any bag or purse.



You will need

- Ruler
- Disappearing marker
- Extra contrast fabric if making peek-a-boo pleats (see page 28)
- Pressing cloth

NEED TO KNOW

- Pleating fabrics means building up layers, so unless you are sewing with fine fabric that needs stabilizing, choose a lighter weight interfacing or it will get too bulky for your sewing machine.
- Pleats can run from top to bottom, or you can choose to pleat just from the top of the bag and let your pleats flare out towards the bottom.
- When pattern making, remember to add width/length to your pattern piece(s) to accommodate your pleats.
- All seam allowances are 1 cm ($\frac{1}{2}$ in) unless stated otherwise.
- Insert your pleats BEFORE you assemble your bag exterior/bag pockets.

1 Decide on the pleat number and position and mark your pattern – after deciding on the number, size and position of your pleats, mark the pleats on your bag pattern. I usually draw pleat notch markings on my pattern so I know where to fold my fabric concertina folds. See **Fig a**.

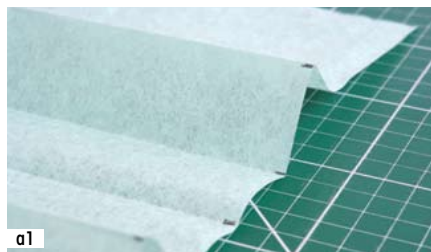
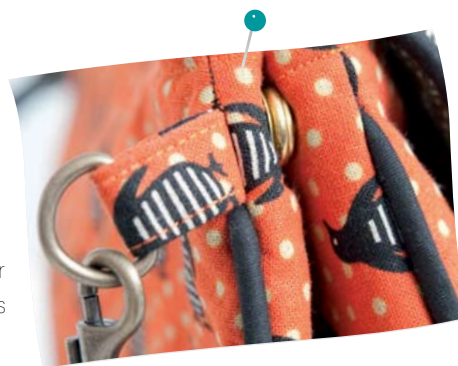


Fig a1–a2 Make notch markings for your pleat folds so you know where to concertina fold the fabric ... like so.

Open-End Straps

These straps are quick and easy to make and are strong. Make smaller and shorter versions of this type of strap for handle loops – used for attaching certain types of bag handles to your bags. You can add metal rings to handle loops if desired. Open-end straps/handle loops are sewn in between the bag lining and exterior.



You will need

- Your choice of fabric in your chosen length (plus two lots of your chosen seam allowance). See Need To Know for how to gauge the width of your strap fabric
- The appropriate interfacing or padding for your choice of fabric (see page 31)
- Fusible fleece (optional). See Need To Know for how to gauge the width of your strap fleece

NEED TO KNOW

- To gauge the width of your strap fabric, first decide how wide you want your finished strap to be. Take that measurement and multiply it by four. If you want your finished strap to be 4cm (1½in) wide, your strap fabric needs to be 16cm (6¼in) wide.
- For comfort, add a little fusible fleece padding to the inside of your straps. To gauge the width of the fleece take the finished width measurement of your strap and divide it by two. If your finished strap is 4cm (1½in) wide, your fleece needs to be 2cm (¾in) wide.
- All seam allowances are 5mm (¾in) unless stated otherwise.
- Make up the bag lining, the exterior and the open-end straps/handle loops. Then stitch the handles in place to the RS of the exterior BEFORE you stitch the lining and the exterior together.

1 Prepare your bag strap fabric – ensure the strap fabric has been ironed, then iron the fusible interfacing (if using) to the WS of the bag strap fabric. Then iron the fleece strip (if using) to the centre WS of the bag strap.

2 Fold and iron your strap – with your strap fabric WSU fold the strap so that it resembles a book jacket cover as follows. With the strap fabric WSU fold the fabric in half lengthways and iron the centre crease. Open out and fold the long edges of the fabric to the centre crease and iron. Fold the whole strap in half lengthways again. See Fig a.

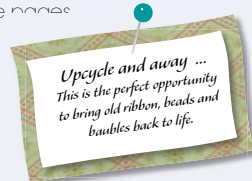
3 Stitch the strap – take the folded strap, give it an iron and pin along the long open edge. Topstitch along both long edges of the strap. The strap is now complete and ready to sew onto your bag (see Need To Know).



Fig a Fold the strip of fabric so that the folds look like a book jacket cover.

8:EDGINGSANDTRIMMINGS

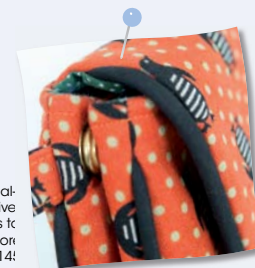
The saying goes that it's the small things that make all the difference and sometimes that definitely rings true. In the same way that it's nice to adorn ourselves with pretty bracelets and necklaces we can also have fun adorning our bags. This chapter is all about edging and accessorizing your arm candy. The pages that follow look at two different ways of professionally trimming the edges of your bags, and after that we're going window-shopping for some ready-made bag trimmings.



EDGE/TRIM TYPE	APPLICATIONANDBENEFITS	VARIETIES
Binding: page 142	Sewn along edges to cover raw edges. Use in matching or contrasting tones and use different textures for tactile interest. Reinforces edges.	Straight or bias. Shop-bought or homemade (see opposite).
Piping: page 144	Sewn between two layers so that the trim runs along the edge. Reinforces edges and defines shapes.	Thick or thin, matching or contrasting, twisted cord. Make your own piping for a huge choice of colours (see pages 144–145).
Ready-made Trim: page 146	Sewn along edges of bag or bag flaps. Adds eye-catching movement and gives an instant effect.	Beaded, pom-pom, feather boa, sequin fringe.
Ribbon: page 146	Very versatile sewn straight as binding, or decorative bands of colour, or used as embellishment (made into tassels, bows and corsages).	Silk, velvet, georgette, chiffon, wired, metallic, grosgrain, sequin, beaded, embroidered.
Jewellery: page 147	Pin corsages or brooches onto flaps or handles. Add lengths of beads to corsages or make your own bag charms. Make interchangeable wrist handles from colourful bangles. Items can be swapped to vary the look.	French beaded flowers, modern or antique brooches, hatpins, enamelled badges, beaded necklaces/bracelets, bangles.
Embellishments: page 147	Apply anywhere you want to zhush up your creations.	Tassels, buttons, beads, yo-yo, appliqué patches, sequins, fabric flowers, self-cover buttons.



Bound Edges You've probably seen how effective binding looks on quilts; well it also looks very cool on bags. Binding adds an attractive picture-frame effect. Try binding your pocket tops for starters. See pages 142–143.



Piped Edges Piping is an attractive and professional-looking way to trim seams. It is also an effective way to reinforce the seams, helping your bags to maintain their shape. The thicker the piping the more support it will provide. See pages 144–145.

Two types of binding – straight or bias

In order to bind or pipe your edges you need some fabric binding tape. You can use binding tape that is cut on the straight grain or tape that is cut on the bias. The choice of binding you use is determined by the shape of the edge that you want to bind. Curved edges need to be edged with binding that is cut on the bias. This is because bias-cut tape can be applied to curved edges without it wrinkling up. Shop-bought binding is usually pre-folded satin or cotton tape cut on the bias – which is why it's called bias binding. You can also make your own bias binding (see box). If you are only edging straight edges you can cut your own binding strips along the straight grain. If in doubt, stick to bias binding, which is perfect for both curved and straight edges. All the techniques and the project in this chapter will make use of bias binding.

MAKING YOUR OWN BIAS BINDING

It might be faster to buy bias binding, but you will be limited to the colours and the widths available in the shop. Why not try making your own pretty bias binding in fabrics of your choice?

One thing you'll need is a bias tape maker to speed things up. Available in different widths, a bias tape maker creates the two binding folds ready for you to iron them in place. Cut the fabric strips to the height stated on the instructions of your bias tape maker. To cut the strip on the bias, cut the fabric at 45 degrees from the selvage. To

make a long continuous strip of binding trim the ends of the strips at 45 degrees. Overlap the two fabric ends RST, pin and stitch with a 1 cm (3/8 in) seam allowance. Trim off both of the small triangles of fabric that stick out from the sides. Iron the seam open and pass through the bias tape maker as per the instructions on the pack. See Fig a

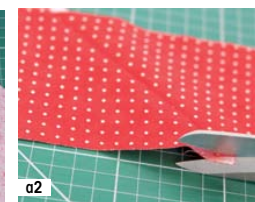


Fig a1–a3 Join the 45-degree ends of the strip RST as shown and stitch together; trim off the small protruding triangles; pass the joined tape through tape maker and iron the folds.

Bound Edges

Binding an edge has the effect of adding an attractive fabric border to the edge. This makes it a good way of adding a flash of colour and strengthening the edge. Try binding the top edges of pockets, the top edge of your bag or your bag flaps.



You will need

- 1 strip of folded and pressed shop-bought or homemade bias binding (see page 141). To gauge the height and length of your binding see **Need to Know**

NEED TO KNOW

- To gauge the height of the binding tape, decide on the height of the finished bound edge, multiply that by 4 and add 3mm ($\frac{1}{8}$ in). If you want your finished bound edges to be 1cm ($\frac{3}{8}$ in) tall, your binding will need to be 4.3cm ($1\frac{7}{8}$ in).
- To gauge the length of the binding, measure around all around the edge of the item and add 8cm ($3\frac{1}{8}$ in) for folding in.
- All seam allowances are 5mm ($\frac{1}{4}$ in) unless stated otherwise.
- If trimming pocket tops, make up your pocket and add the binding **BEFORE** stitching the pocket to your bag. Fold in both short edges of the binding at either end so as to conceal the raw edges.
- If trimming bag flaps, make up your flap and apply the binding **BEFORE** stitching the flap to your bag.



1 Fold and press the binding – take the pre-folded binding tape and press an off-centre crease across the length of the binding. See **Fig a**.

Fig a Fold the binding lengthways so that the bottom folded edge doesn't quite meet the top folded edge.

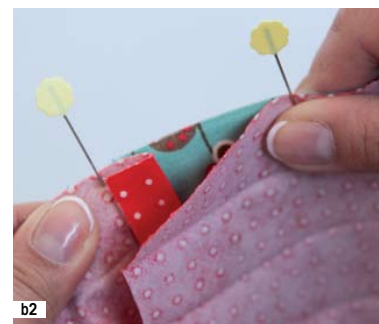
2 Stitch the open binding to the edge – with the shorter folded side facing upwards unfold the binding. With binding opened and WSU, fold in the short edge at the start of the binding. Place the top edge of the opened binding WSU onto the RS top edge. Ensure that you are pinning the shorter folded side (from step 1) to the item. Match the edges and pin all around. When you almost reach the end of the item, trim the excess binding so that the ends overlap. Pin in place. Stitch the binding to the top edge of the item with a 3mm ($\frac{1}{8}$ in) seam allowance. See **Fig b**.

3 Alternatively, stitch the open binding to the pocket top edge – if you are binding a pocket top, fold in the short edge first before you begin pinning. When you reach the end of the pocket fold in the short edge again as before. Stitch the binding to the top edge of the item with a 3mm ($\frac{1}{8}$ in) seam allowance.

4 Fold up the binding and topstitch to finish – fold the binding back up over the top edge of the item. The folded off-centre crease of the binding (from step 1) should butt up snugly with the top edge of the item. Pin the folded binding in position. You'll notice that the binding is taller on the WS. Stitch the binding close to the bottom edge of the binding on the RS of the item. The stitches from the front will easily catch the bottom edge of the binding on the WS because the WS binding is taller. See **Fig c**.



b1

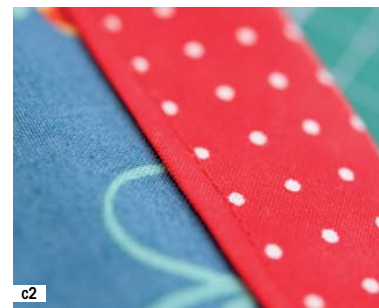


b2

Fig b1–b2 Fold in the edge at the start of the binding before pinning. The end of the binding is trimmed long enough to overlap the start of the binding thus concealing the raw edge.

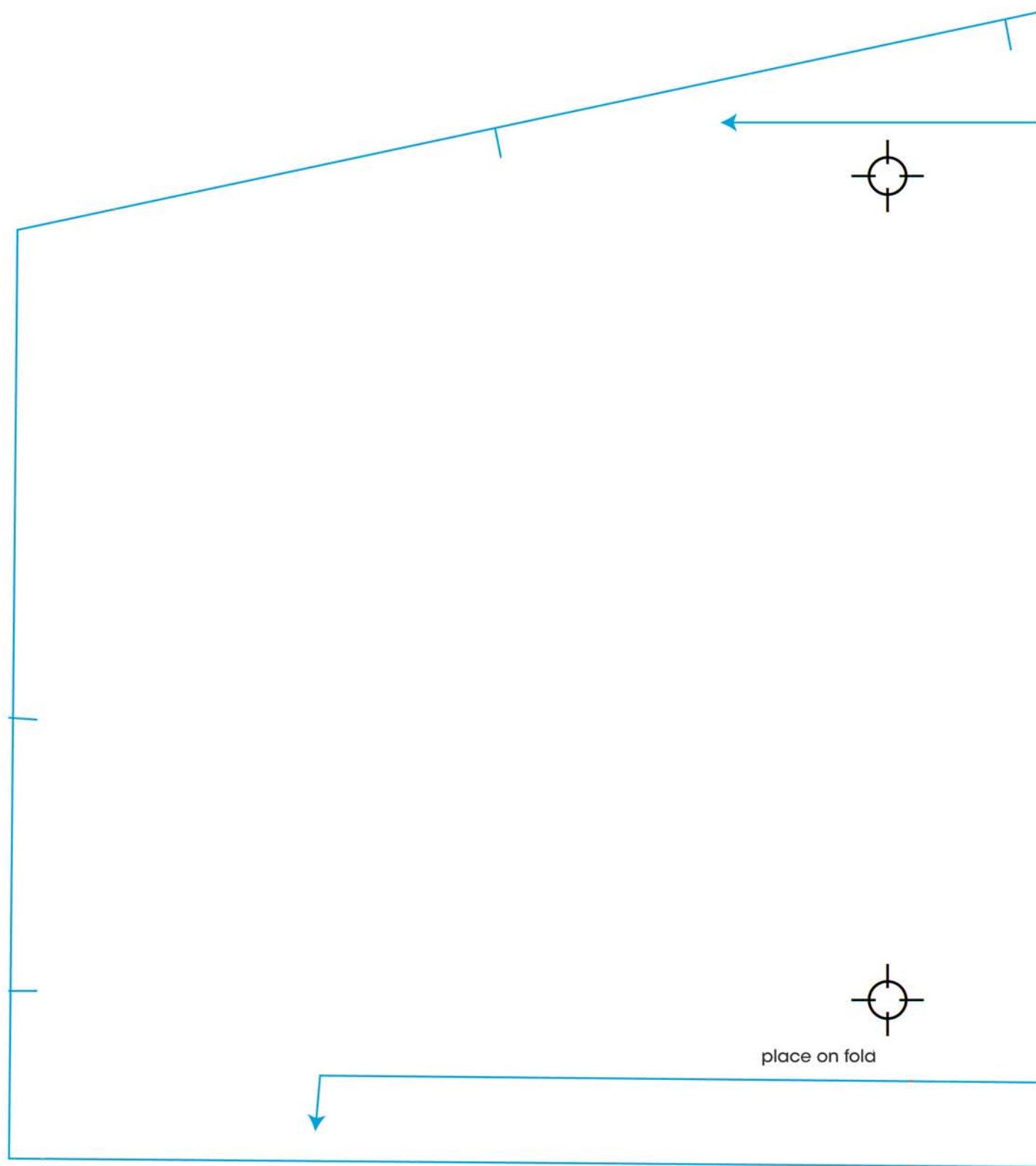


c1



c2

Fig c1–c2 The result from the front and from the back. Because the binding is taller at the back, the stitches from the front will easily catch the bottom edge of the binding at the back.





CHAPTER 2

The Reversible Bucket Bag

MAIN BODY (1 of 2 pieces)

Includes 1cm ($\frac{3}{8}$ in) seam allowance

**Print pages. Overlap
registration marks and
tape pages together to make
full-size pattern piece.**



on fold



