



DESIGN & MAKE

BY HEATHER LUKE

Bread Bags

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Take the bread out of the oven and pop it into this bag, and fold the lid over top transport it to the picnic table. Once you open it up and roll back the sides, the bread will stay warm for quite some time- how perfect is that ?

Working on the same principle as a hand warm or bed hottie, the base is filled with cherry stones, hemp seeds or wheat all of these are odourless and will retain heat for some time. An option for wild camping and picnics is to make an inner pad - which sits into the base - to be heated up on a barbecue or the car engine.

Or you could make the whole bag double skinned with both the sides and the base filled with seeds or stones contained within stitch channels. The most effective fabrics will be slow conductors of heat and tightly woven, so wool or hemp, both if you're making it double skinned.

These bread bags can be made in any size you choose and put together totally by hand or part hand sewn and part machine sewn.

The two sizes we mostly use are :

A. 30 cm (12") diameter base x 35 - 40 cm (14" - 16") high - enough to fold over and fully enclose a cottage loaf, a country ring, bread rolls or short baguettes.

B. 25 cm (10") diameter base x 25- 30 cms (10" - 12') high - big enough for a medium sized round loaf and a few croissants.

A quick bread and cheese lunch at the back of our house- no one ever comes when they are called so the bags are perfect for keeping the bread lovely and warm straight from the oven



Keeping the bread warm.....

Make

MATERIALS

Choose fabric which is not too bulky to sew, or if you want a really thick jacket then prepare to either bind the top edge, pink it or leave it raw - for a good heat retaining felted fabric either would be fine. The antique hemp, one of the fabrics we have used here and which is the perfect material for both washing and heat retention can be very difficult to stitch when the fibres have melded together with years of washing. To overcome this we used the selvedge for the bag top. To make a fully hand sewn bag, choose a wool melton or tightly woven tweed or tartan, even flat weave carpeting; something woollen, easy to stitch and heat retaining.

PREPARATION

Cutting Out

1. For the smaller size :

For the inner and outer bases: Cut two circles 28 cms (11 1/4") diameter - this is the finished diameter of 25 cms (10") plus 1.5 cms (5/8") for each seam allowance.

For the side: Cut one length 40 - 45 cms (16" - 18") high x 81.5 cms (32 5/8") - which is the finished circumference plus 1.5 cms (5/8") for seam allowances.

2. For the larger size:

For the inner and outer bases: Cut two circles 33 cms (13 1/4") diameter - this is the finished diameter of 30 cms (12 ") plus 1.5 cms (5/8") seam allowance

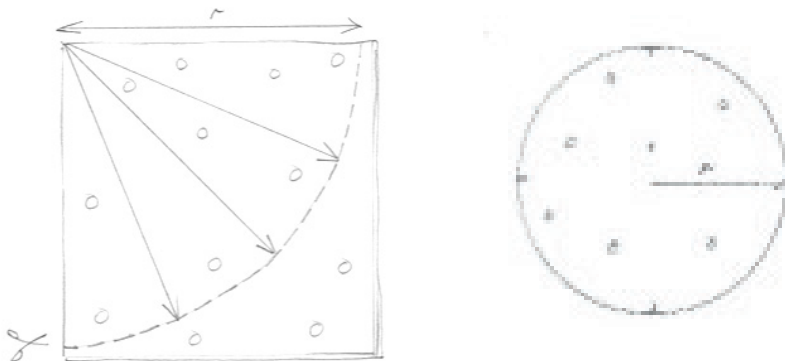
For the side: Cut one length 97.5 cms (38 1/2") - the finished circumference plus 1.5 cms (5/8") for seam allowances.

3. For the loose inset extra 'hottie' to fit in the base, or over the top...

Cut two more circles the same size as the base - this can be in a different fabric, one which both withstands and retains heat - so hemp, wool or denim, or a foil-backed commercial fabric.

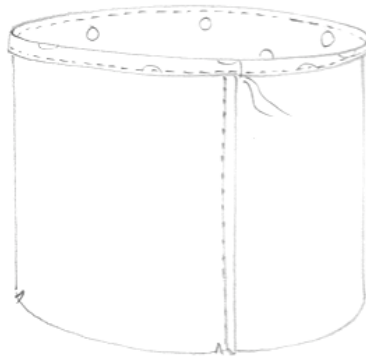
4. Marking

Fold each circle into four and mark each quarter within the seam allowance with a tailors tack or double notch.



TO MAKE THE SIDES

1. Join the short sides with a French seam
2. Fold into four and mark the top and bottom of each fold line with double notches or tailors tacks.
3. The top edge can be finished with a neat hem, or left as selvedge.



TO STITCH THE OUTSIDE TO THE BASE

1. Snip into the seam allowance all the way around the bottom edge at approx. 1.5 - 2 cm intervals.
2. With right sides together, fit the side to the base, matching the quarter markers. Pin these, then pin between them so that the side lies neatly and flat around the circle. Pin across the seam allowance regularly and between each snip, so at 1-2 cm intervals.

Watchpoint ! If the side doesn't quite fit, it's not worth re-doing the seam, just make the small adjustment now either:

a) if it's a bit too tight, just pin it so that the raw edges are within the circle - this will reduce the diameter of the base by a small amount, not enough affect the function of the finished item.

b) if it's a bit loose, ease it in place - a little bit into every section or just the first section if it's a minor amount,- by pinning as closely as needed to ease the fabrics together. Pin each section at the quarter marks, and working with one section at a time, pin half way between and then half way between again, and again, until the fabrics are eased together. The pins will be almost touching if you have a miscalculation and quite a bit to ease. The result will be a slight bow in the sides, but that's not at all unattractive, it just makes more of a bowl shape.)

3. Stitch together, 1.5 cms from the raw edge and 1 -2 mm (1/8") away from the snips. Press the seam towards the base from the inside and the outside. Snip and notch as necessary for it to lie flat.



TO FIT THE INNER BASE

1. With the inner base flat on the worktable and right side down, finger press the seam allowance over and snip so that it lies flat. Pin to hold. Pin this inner base over the outer base, to enclose all raw edges and just cover the stitched seam. Stitch with small stitches, leaving an opening of 4-5 cms (1 5/8" - 2") to manage the filling. Press.
2. Funnel in the seed or stones. Slip stitch to close - use very small stitches if you've chosen the seeds.

TO MAKE THE INSET HOTTIE

1. Stitch the two circles together around the seam allowance, leaving an opening for the filling, of approx. 10 cms (4"). Notch the seam allowance to reduce the bulk, and turn right side out. Funnel in the seeds or stones and slip stitch securely to close.

TO MAKE THE CHANNELLED BAG

1. Cut out inner and outer sides, and stitch the short sides to make two tubes. For the inner side, take a seam allowance of a touch more than the given seam allowance - so 1.6 -7 mm (3/4") so that the inner will fit snugly, but without ruckling, inside the outer.
2. Pin the two pieces together along the top edge, right sides together. Stitch along the seam line, then press it open.
3. Fold the inner piece inside the outer one, and as you do so, fold the seam line in half and pin it so that it creates the top edge. Pin the bottom edges together. Stitch channels through both layers, at 6 - 10 cm intervals (2 3/8" - 4"). Funnel 2-3 large spoonfuls of seeds into the bottom of each . Stitch along the base to close them up, 1.2 cm(1/2") from the raw edges.
4. Pin and stitch the sides to the base, as before (step 2 on previous page),
5. Continue as before - fit the inner base and fill with more seeds.
6. Make a supplementary base to fit inside if you're likely to need the extra heat.





....and then the seed filled, channelled, version keeps it warm for just that little bit longer



An interior designers guide to home furnishings, large and small, essential and ancillary, fun and serious. These bread bags are useful and they look good, they no time to make and fold flat, they launder easily and can be used as easily to wrap up food for a picnic or a long hike as in the garden like this. A hottie insert helps to keep the bread war, or make the channelled version that becomes a whole hottie to help keep bread, croissant or crackers warm outside.

The projects for the baguette bag and for the soup hottie are closely related.

PROJECT NO. Bread Bag

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