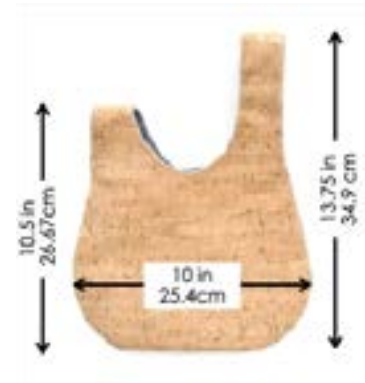


HOW TO MAKE A JAPANESE KNOT BAG

The Japanese Knot bag is an easy sewing project for all levels. However, because of the nature of the pattern, you will need to sew curves. But don't be discouraged! Just go slowly on the machine. The most challenging curve to sew in this bag is the "J" shape between the two handles. If you really don't feel confident, walk your machine with your hand (by turning the handwheel on the right with your hand) as you go around this area.

Another tip for beginners is to use 100% cotton fabric as this fabric is very easy to work with. If your fabric is a little slippery and light weight, you can also apply fusible interfacing to add a little bit of stiffness. Interfacing also helps prevent the fabric from stretching, which is a common problem when sewing curves.

For a video tutorial, [click here](#).



MATERIALS AND MEASUREMENTS

Height

13.75" (34.9cm) – from the top of the long handle to the bottom of bag

10.5" (26.67cm) – from the top of the short handle to the bottom of bag

Width

10" (25.4cm) – widest part of bag

Fabric

I recommend using 100% cotton fabric, especially if you consider yourself a beginner (100% cotton fabric is very easy to work with). Canvas or medium weight denim are other good fabric choices. Suede or vinyl would also work well.

1/2 yard for one side (Fabric A)

1/2 yard for second side (Fabric B)

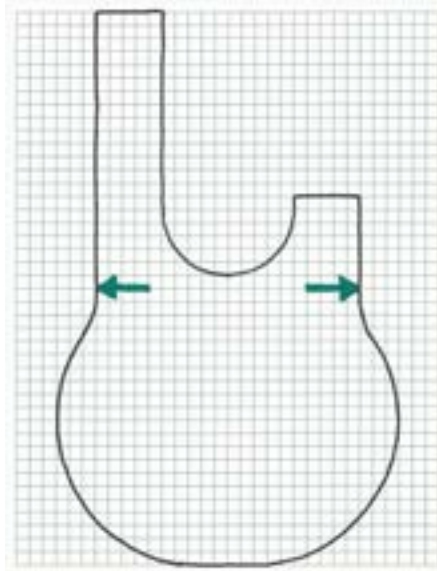
Fusible Interfacing – Optional



CUTTING PATTERN FOR JAPANESE KNOT BAG

LEFT: Cut out the Japanese knot bag pattern on fabric of choice.

RIGHT: Place Fabric B right sides together and stitch the handles together at 3/8" (9.53mm) seam allowance.



SEWING JAPANESE KNOT BAG TOGETHER

LEFT: Sew knot bag handle together.

RIGHT: Press open seams with iron. Repeat for Fabric A.

Place right sides of Fabric A and Fabric B together. We will be sewing together the opening between the bag handles.

Pin opening between bag handles together and sew at 3/8" seam allowance.

Clip curves.

Turn Fabric B in through opening you just sewed so that right side of Fabric A is exposed.

The wrong side of Fabric A and Fabric B will be facing each other after Fabric B has been turned in.

Match right sides of Fabric A together.

Place the right sides of Fabric A together and the right side of Fabric B matching together.

Pin and sew bag part of Fabric A together from notch to notch. Make sure to back stitch at the notches.

Pull long strap of Fabric A towards the middle of the bag to reveal the long strap of Fabric B.



Pin bag of Fabric B right sides together, as you did for Fabric A. Make sure to backstitch at the notches.

Clip curves.

Turn Fabric B into Fabric A through the opening.

You will now have a bag with two openings: One at the long bag strap and one at the short strap.

Turn Fabric A to right side through opening of long strap and turn Fabric B into Fabric A.

Tuck Fabric B into Fabric A, and press the handle and top of bag.

Top stitch bag handle and top of bag with matching thread, 1/8" (3.175mm) from edge.

LEFT: Push seam allowance in (3/8" or 9.53mm) at side of bag straps.

RIGHT: Press down seam allowance with iron on Fabric A.

LEFT: Press seam allowance in on Fabric B.

RIGHT: Pin and top stitch opening closed, sewing 1/8" (3.175mm) from edge. Alternatively you can close the hole with invisible ladder stitch if you do not want the stitches to show on top of the bag.

LEFT: Repeat (ironing seam allowance, pinning) on short strap of bag.

RIGHT: Close opening by top stitching or using invisible ladder stitch. I find that it's a lot easier to close the opening by hand on short strap of bag as there isn't as much room to slide the short strap under the sewing machine to top stitch.

THE END