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DIY Mini Tote Bag & Bird Drawstring Pouch Tutorial



This complete sewing tutorial is based directly on the pattern measurements and sewing methods shown in the graphic guide. Everything is explained step-by-step in clear English so beginners and experienced crafters in the USA can successfully make both projects from start to finish.

Step 1: Pattern & Cut

Step 2: Sew Body & Handles

Step 3: Attach Handles

Finished Tote

Step 1: Pattern & Cut

Step 2: Appliqué Face & Sew Body

Step 3: Create Casing & Drawstring

Finished Bird Pouch

USA Sewing Methods



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You will learn how to make:

- A structured mini tote bag with handles
- A cute bird-shaped drawstring pouch with appliqué details

Both projects can be sewn with a regular home sewing machine.

Materials & Tools Needed

For both projects, prepare:

- Medium-weight cotton fabric, canvas, denim, or quilting cotton
- Matching sewing thread
- Fabric scissors
- Sewing pins or clips
- Fabric chalk or washable marker
- Measuring ruler or tape
- Iron and ironing board
- Sewing machine
- Safety pin or bodkin (for threading drawstring)
- Drawstring cord, ribbon, or cotton rope
- Optional interfacing for extra structure

Recommended seam allowance:

- Use approximately 1 cm (3/8 inch) seam allowance unless otherwise stated.

Sewing Stitches Used

The tutorial uses these sewing methods:

- Straight stitch → for seams
- Hem → folded finished edge
- Appliqué → attaching decorative fabric pieces
- Casing → folded tunnel for drawstring

Mini Tote Bag Tutorial

Step 1: Cut the Fabric Pieces

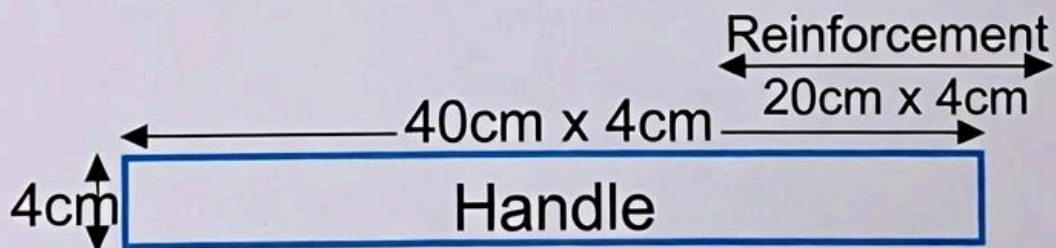
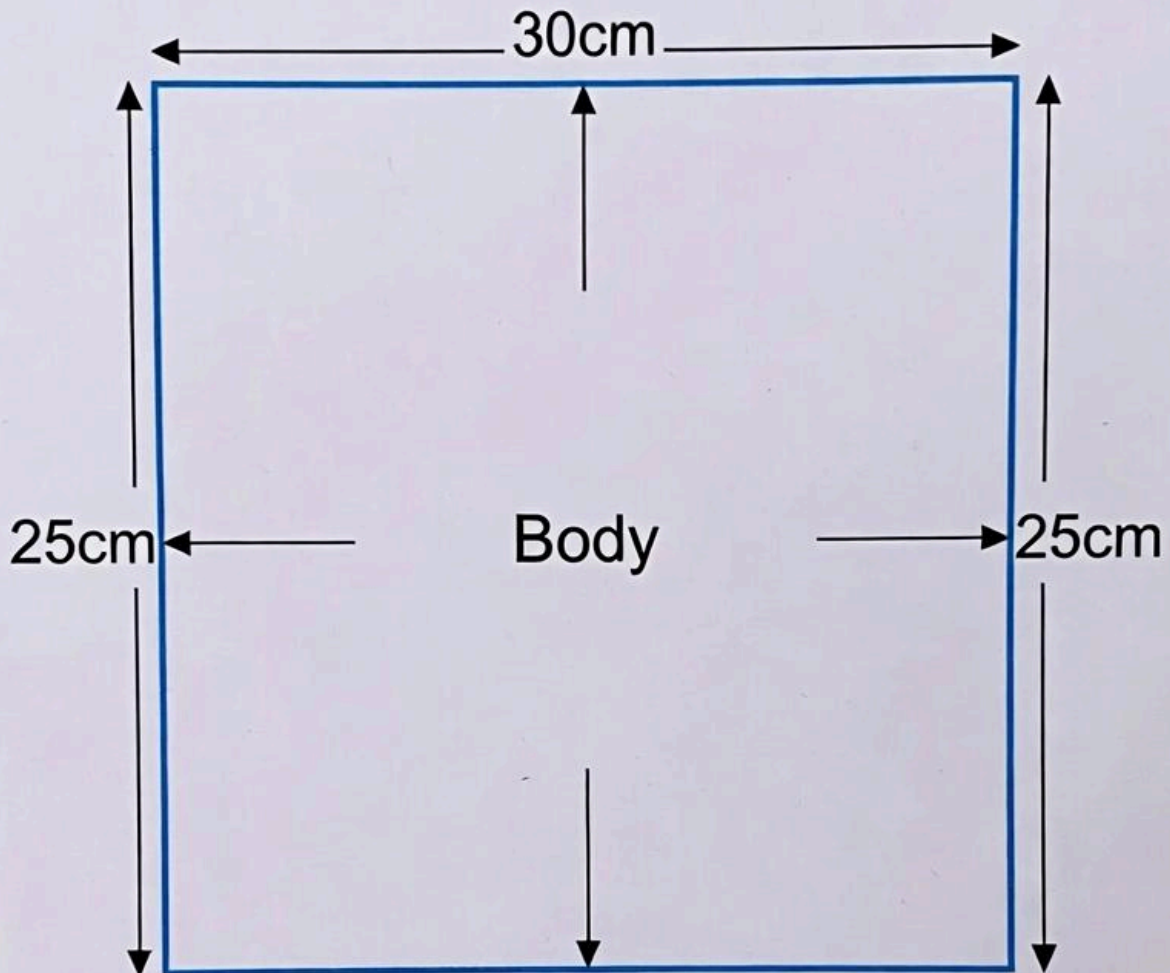
Cut the following fabric rectangles exactly as shown in the diagram.

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Square

A4 Paptr

Cut 2x Body



Cut 2x Handle

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Tote Body

Cut:

- 1 rectangle measuring 30 cm × 25 cm
- Approximately 12 in × 10 in

This piece forms the main body of the tote bag.

Tote Handles

Cut:

- 2 strips measuring 40 cm × 4 cm
- Approximately 16 in × 1.5 in

These become the handles.

Step 2: Prepare the Handles

Take one handle strip.

Fold the long edges inward toward the center.

Press with an iron.

Fold the strip in half lengthwise again to hide the raw edges.

Topstitch along both long sides using a straight stitch.

Repeat for the second handle.

You now have two finished handles.

Step 3: Sew the Tote Body

Fold the main body fabric in half with the right sides facing together.

Align the edges carefully.

Sew both side seams using a straight stitch.

Backstitch at the beginning and end for durability.

Turn the bag right side out.

Step 4: Create the Flat Bottom

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To help the tote stand upright, flatten one bottom corner so the side seam aligns with the bottom fold.

Sew straight across the corner approximately 3–4 cm from the tip.

Trim excess fabric.

Repeat on the opposite corner.

Turn the bag right side out again.

The tote should now have depth and structure.

Step 5: Hem the Top Edge

Fold the top edge inward about 1 cm.

Press with an iron.

Fold inward again to hide the raw edge.

Sew around the top opening using a straight stitch.

This creates a clean finished hem.

Step 6: Attach the Handles

Place the handles evenly on the front and back of the bag.

Position each handle approximately 7–8 cm apart.

Pin securely.

Sew a square or rectangle shape at each handle end for reinforcement.

For extra strength, sew an X inside the square stitching.

Finished Tote Bag 🎉

Your mini tote bag is now complete.

It is perfect for:

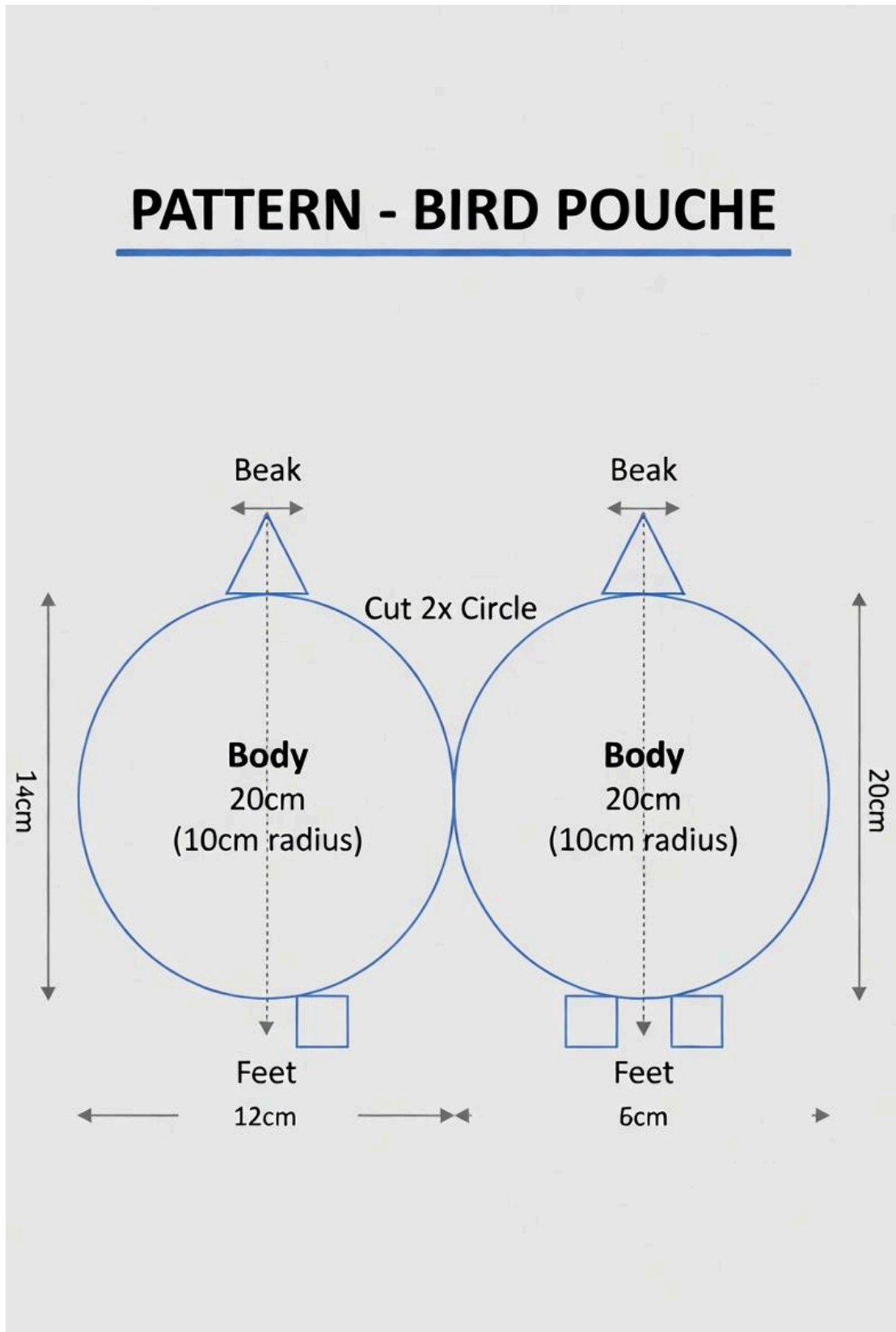
- Lunch bags
- Small shopping trips
- Gift bags
- Kids' accessories
- Craft storage

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You can decorate it with:

- Patches
- Embroidery
- Fabric paint
- Labels
- Pockets

Bird Drawstring Pouch Tutorial



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Step 1: Cut the Fabric Pieces

Main Body

Cut:

- 2 circles measuring 20 cm across
- Approximately 8 inches diameter

These form the pouch body.

Bird Beak

Cut:

- 1 small triangle shape approximately 4 cm tall

Use yellow or orange fabric for a bird beak look.

Bird Feet

Cut:

- 2 foot shapes measuring approximately 3 cm × 3 cm

Use yellow or orange fabric.

Step 2: Prepare the Bird Face Appliqué

Place the beak on the front body circle.

Pin it in place.

Sew around the edges using a tight straight stitch or zigzag stitch.

For the eyes, you may:

- Sew black buttons
- Embroider eyes
- Use fabric paint
- Apply felt circles

Attach the feet near the lower edge of the circle.

Make sure the feet point downward.

Step 3: Sew the Pouch Body

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Place both fabric circles right sides together.

Align carefully.

Sew around the curved edge.

Leave the top section open.

Clip small notches around the curved seam allowance so the fabric lays smoothly when turned.

Turn the pouch right side out.

Press with an iron.

Step 4: Create the Drawstring Casing

Fold the top edge inward about 1 cm.

Press.

Fold down again approximately 2–3 cm to create the casing tunnel.

Sew around the casing near the lower folded edge.

Leave a small opening for inserting the cord.

Step 5: Insert the Drawstring

Attach a safety pin to one end of the cord.

Thread the cord through the casing tunnel.

Pull the cord through until both ends emerge.

Tie knots at the ends.

Pull the drawstring tight to close the pouch.

Finished Bird Drawstring Pouch 🎉

Your cute bird pouch is now finished.

This pouch works great for:

- Coins
- Candy
- Jewelry

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- Small gifts
- Earbuds
- Makeup items

It also makes an adorable handmade gift for children or friends.

Helpful Sewing Tips

Iron Frequently

Pressing fabric between steps makes sewing cleaner and more professional.

Use Matching Thread

Matching thread helps hide stitching lines.

Sew Slowly Around Curves

For the bird pouch, slow stitching creates smoother circular seams.

Reinforce Stress Points

Always backstitch handles and drawstring openings.

Practice on Scrap Fabric

Beginners should test stitches on extra fabric before sewing the final project.

Fabric Recommendations

Best fabrics for the tote:

- Canvas
- Denim
- Cotton duck
- Upholstery cotton

Best fabrics for the bird pouch:

- Quilting cotton
- Felt
- Lightweight canvas
- Linen blends

Optional Customization Ideas ✨

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You can personalize both projects with:

- Embroidery names
- Decorative buttons
- Lace trim
- Fabric bows
- Quilted layers
- Printed fabrics
- Contrasting thread
- Interior lining
- Magnetic snaps
- Velcro closures

Beginner Sewing Safety Tips

- Keep fingers away from the sewing machine needle
- Iron carefully to avoid burns
- Store scissors safely
- Unplug the machine when changing needles
- Keep cords organized to prevent accidents

Final Result

You now have:

- A reusable mini tote bag
- A charming bird-shaped drawstring pouch

Both projects are beginner-friendly, affordable, and excellent for learning basic sewing techniques including hemming, appliqué, straight seams, casing construction, and handle attachment.