

Make Your Own Pattern Weights



Pattern weights are a sewing basic if you are into making clothes with patterns. Instead of pinning the pattern pieces to your fabric, you can just lay the pieces on top of your fabric and trace them. If you are cutting pattern pieces with a rotary cutter and you want to move fast, you can also position the fabric on your cutting mat, place the pattern piece on top, and carefully maneuver around the pattern pieces. Even when I'm not working with patterns, I frequently use my pattern weights on my cutting mat to prevent big fabric pieces from sliding off my cutting table or to just keep them in place.

You can buy pattern weights in a store but they are so easy to make and are great scrap busters. I simply use rice for the filling. Between leftover fabric from projects past and pantry staples, I bet you have everything at hand to get started with this little project!

INSTRUCTIONS

Gather your favorite scraps and some cute ribbon.

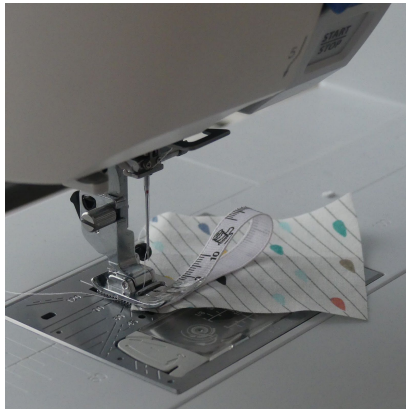
For 1 little bag you need 2 3 inch x 3 inch square pieces and a piece of ribbon of about 5 inch and about 1.5 oz of rice.



1. Cut your fabric pieces and the ribbon.



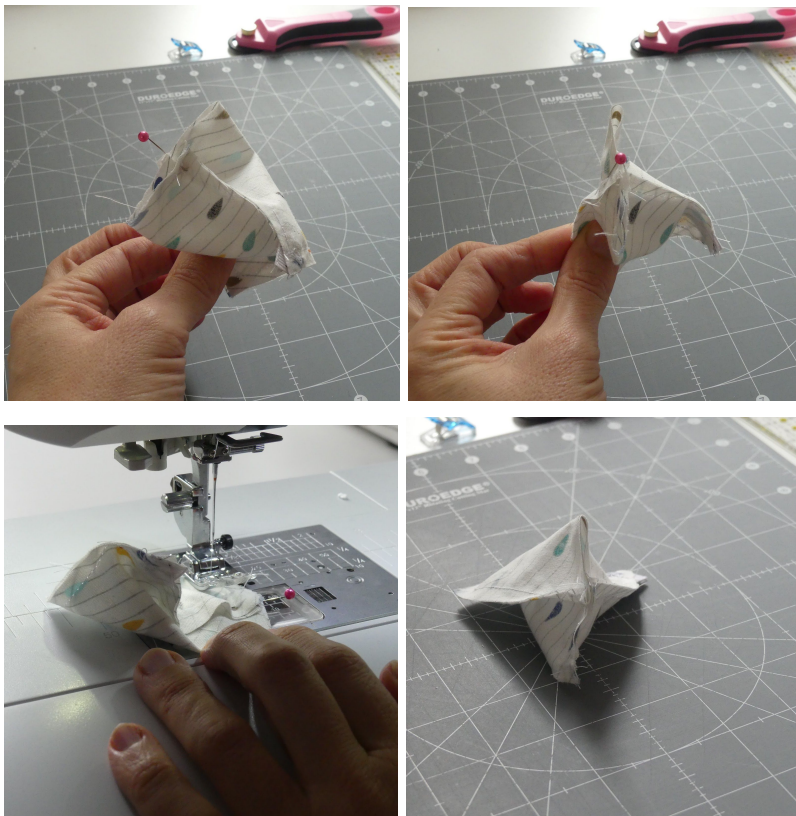
2. Fold the ribbon in half and pin or stay stitch the ribbon in a corner of a square, on the right side of the fabric piece, raw edges aligned.



3. Pin and sew 3 of the 4 edges together at 1/4 inch. Be sure to sew the 2 sides next to the ribbon.



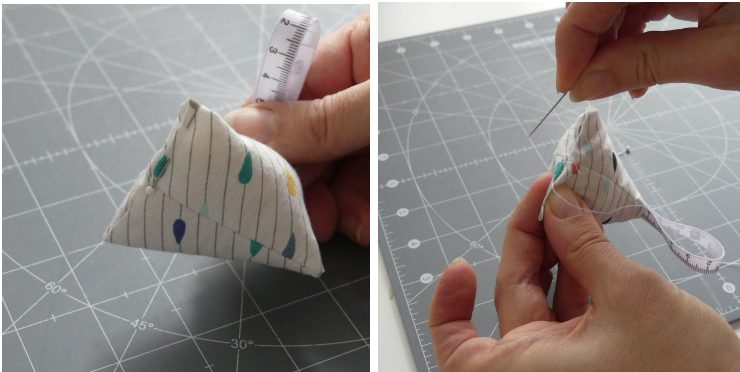
4. Open the one side that is not sewn and rearrange it so the 2 stitched seams hit the middle of the opening. Now you should start seeing the triangle shape. Pin the 2 seam ends together and sew this seam, leaving an opening to insert the rice in the next step.



5. Fill the bag with rice. If you like, you can even add a few drops of essential oil to the rice before you put it in the bag.. mmm lavender in your sewing room!



6. Fold in the raw edges of the opening and press flat. Hand stitch the opening with a ladder stitch to close the hole.



The little pattern weight is ready!



Happy sewing!
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