

ALTERNATIVE SEAM FINISHING OPTION (OVERLOCKER / ZIG ZAG / BIAS BINDING METHOD)

Why?

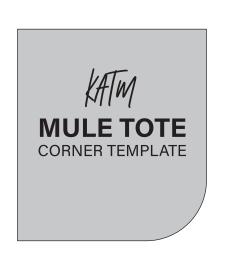
The original pattern uses flat felled seams with right angles; a fun challenge, but also time consuming. This alternative method can be used to construct the tote bag faster (hello batch sewing!) and is extremely useful if the chosen fabric is too thick for the flat felled seam method. This opens up more fabric options like upolstery weight fabrics, heavy canvas etc.

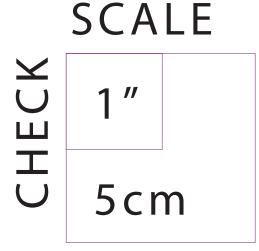
Materials Needed:

- * Corner Template (below) printed at 100% scale
- * Overlocker or Sewing Machine with overcasting stitches (zig zag or other styles)
- * Bias Binding if this option is chosen
- * Mule Tote Pattern available as a PDF Download at www.kylieandthemachine.com

These instructions replace **PART 5 and PART 6** in the original pattern instructions. Follow the rest of the pattern as written.

Another time-saving hack, is to use pre-made webbing for the straps, instead of constructing them from main fabric. If looking to purchase this, choose webbing approx 3.8-5cm (1.5"-2") wide.





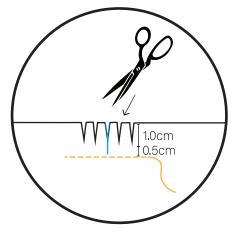
PART 5 - ATTACH CENTRAL PANEL TO FRONT (OVERLOCKER/ZIG ZAG/BINDING METHOD)

Central Panel

This piece is the backbone of the Mule Tote, it spans from the top of each side, forming the sides and base of the bag.

For these steps you will need your prepared central panel and it should look like this:

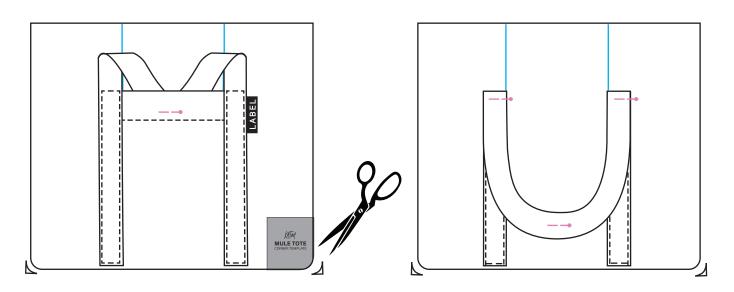




Clip Notches

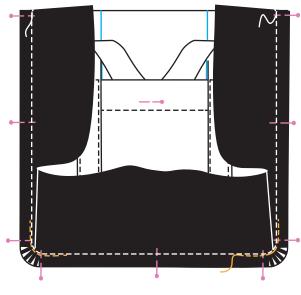
With the tip of the scissors, clip 5 notches, one on the notch and two on either side of the notch, about 0.7cm (1/4") from clip to clip. Carefully clip approx 1cm into the seam allowance, leaving 0.5cm distance between end of each cut and the stitching line.

Repeat for all four notches.



Trim

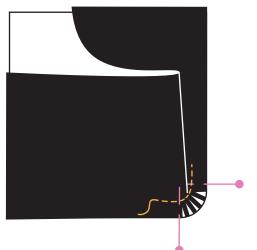
Take the prepared front and back pieces and align the **corner template** to the lower corners. Trim, following the curve of the template. Do this for all lower corners on each piece. This will allow the central panel to curve around, rather than at a 90 degree angle, which will be simpler for overlocking the raw edge.

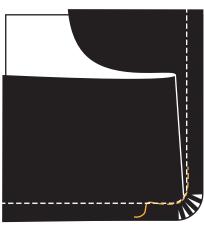


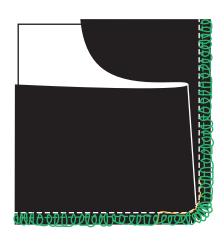
Pin

With right sides facing, line up the raw edges and pin in place, spreading the clipped fabric to accommodate the new curved corner. Continue pinning the lower edge of the tote. When you reach the second corner, spread the clipped fabric again, then continue pinning along the remaining side.

A closer view of the corner...









Sew

With a seam allowance of 1.5cm (5/8") begin to sew down one side, and around the curved corner. Rearrange the bulk of the fabric from the Central Panel piece when sewing around the curve. Continue around entire edge.

Be sure that the basting line (orange) remains within the seam allowance even if that means increasing the seam allowance width slightly, around the corners.

Finish

Enclose the raw edge using an overlocker to reduce or trim seam allowance by half and zig zag the raw edge. Pay close attention to the clips, making sure the overlocking stitches encase the raw edges. You will likely need to overlock very close to the seam at the curved corners to acheive this. *If using bias binding, enclose the raw edge salong all sides, ensuring the clipping marks are also covered by the binding.

Topstitch (optional)

Press seam towards the central panel and topstitch in place from the outside.

Repeat Part 5 to attach the Central Panel to the Back.

CONTINUE TO PART 7 OF MULE TOTE PATTERN...