



Sewing 101: Grain Bag Totes

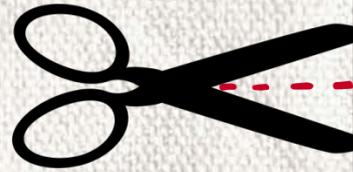


Order of operations! (Illustrations on next slides.)

- Clean the bag, measure and cut.
- Sew handles.
- Sew top bag hem.
- Attach handles.
- Sew bottom seam.
- Sew corners to create rectangle bottom.

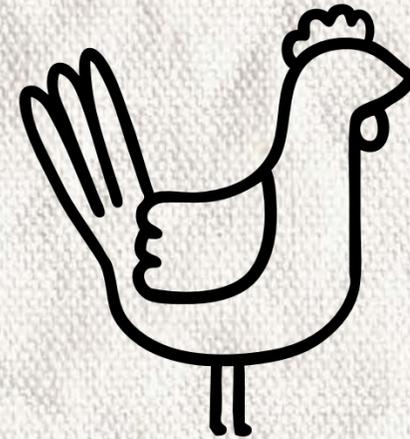


Measure & cut!



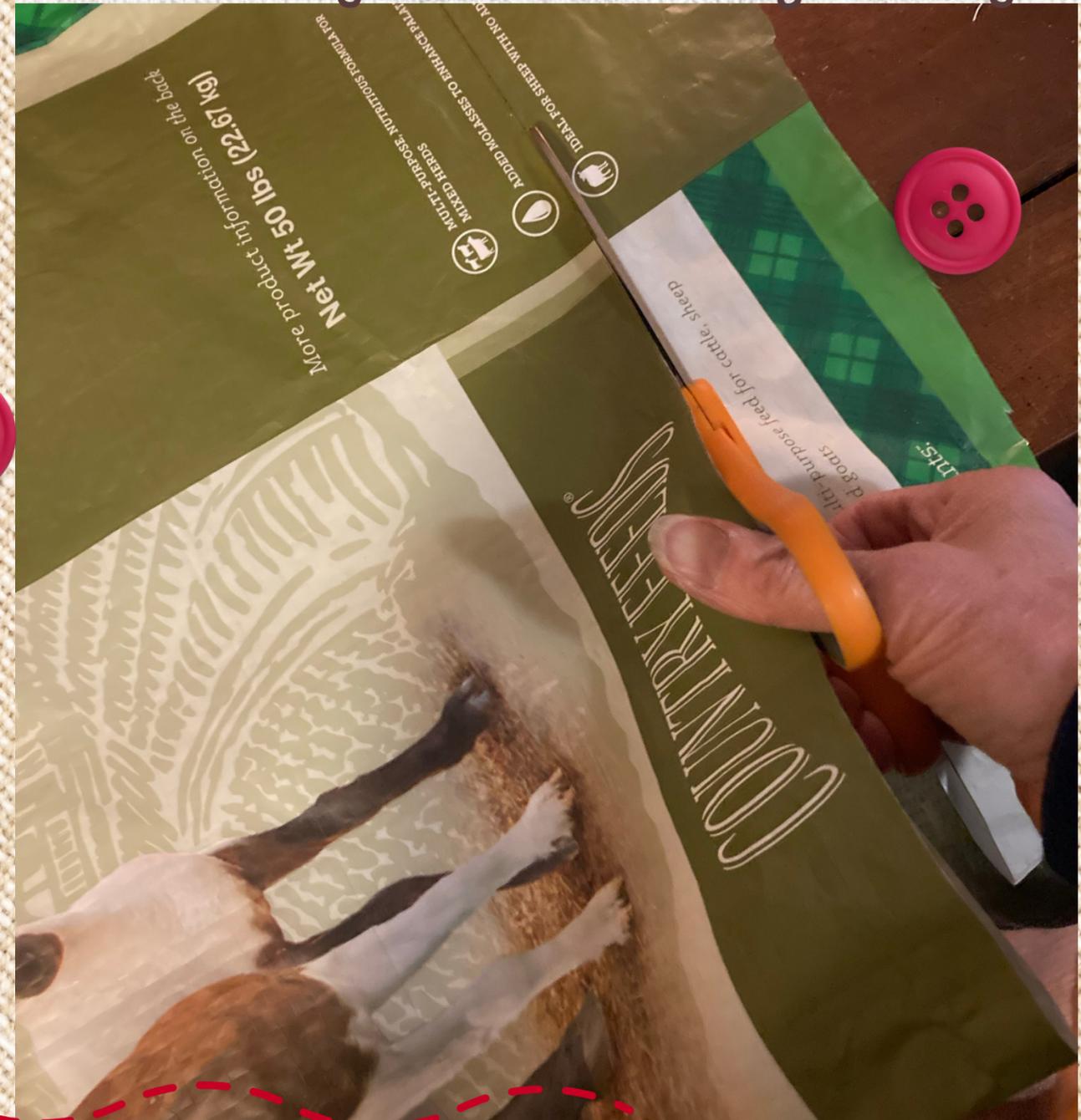
20 inches

3 inches for
the handles



17 inches for
the bag

Measure a 3 inch strip for straps,
draw with a straight edge and cut,
leaving 17 inches for your bag



Measure 20 inches, where you want
your design. Draw with a straight
edge and cut.

Sew handles first.

- Cut your three inch piece in half to be one long three inch strip.
- Fold and crease it in thirds. You can crease it easily along the table/counter edge.
- Sew straight seam along the outer edge so you sew through all layers. It won't fray.
- Fold the sewn piece in half and cut to make two equal size handle strips.

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Sew top of bag hem

- Turn bag inside out.
- Use up to two inches for your top hem.
- Fold over a half-inch and crease, and then fold and crease again.
- This will create a finished edge.
- Sew a straight seam along the folded edge, all the way around.
- This is easier if your machine has an arm but can be done (as shown) on a machine without one with a little extra care.



Attach the handles

- Lay bag flat and measure evenly on both sides where you want your handles, approx 6 inches in, on a full size grain bag.
- Top stitch the first handle end on the inside of your top hem, making a square, as shown.
- Make sure your handle is turned the correct way before you sew the second end so it doesn't have a twist!



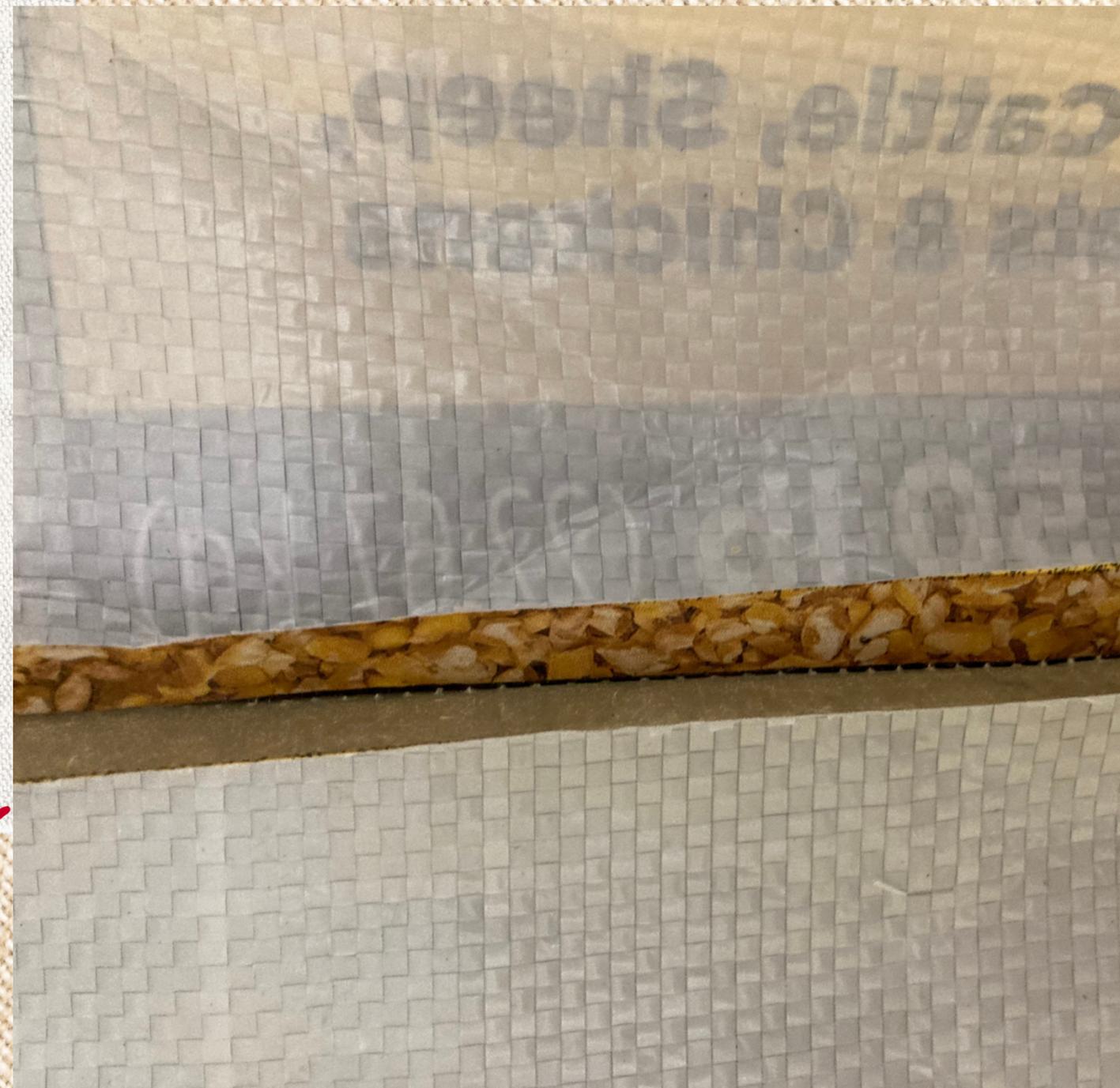


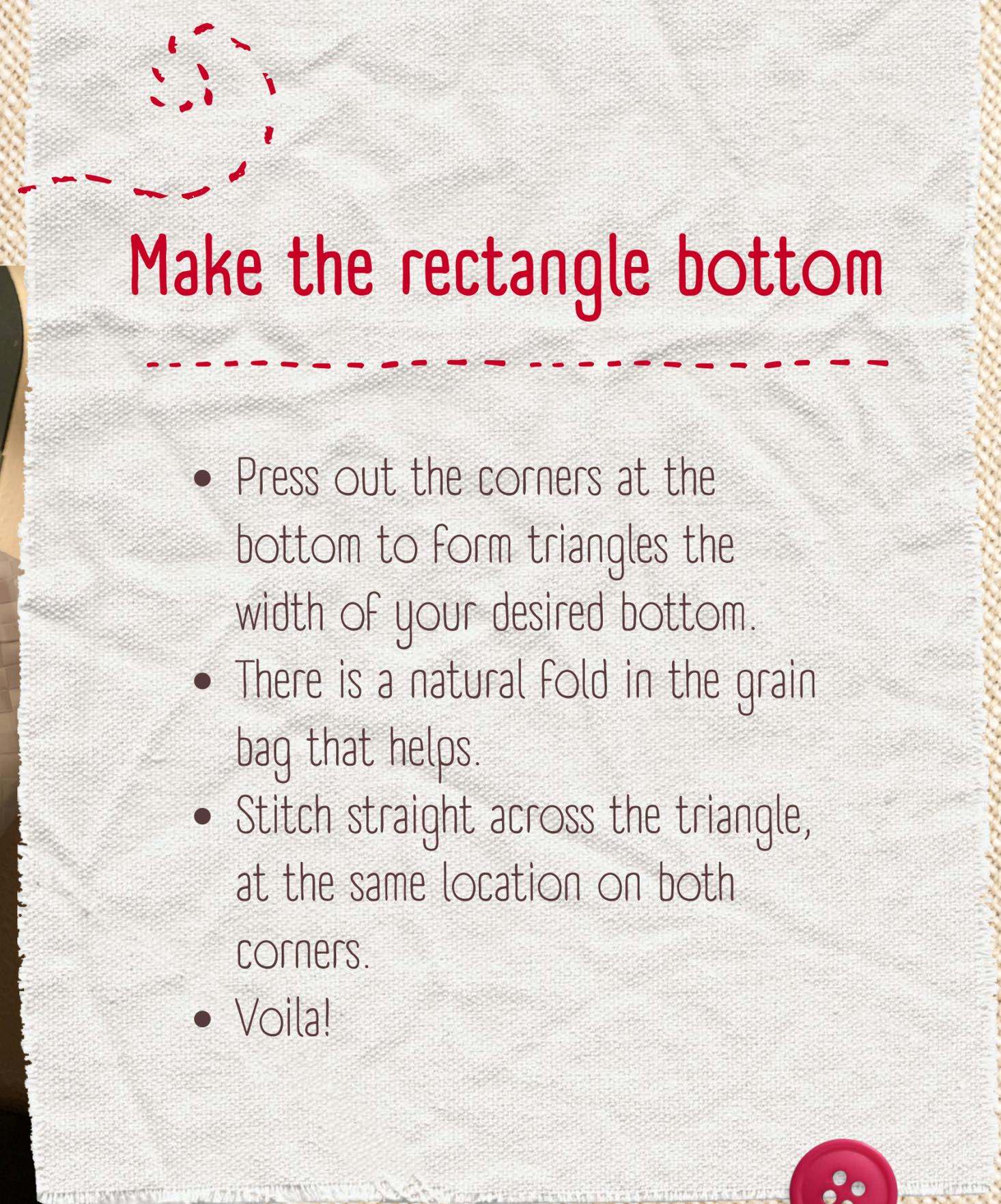
You are almost done!

You are doing great, and remember, it is just a grain bag!

Sew the bottom seam.

- Flatten out your bag, keeping the bag inside out.
- Sew the bottom seam (about a half inch) straight across, as shown.





Make the rectangle bottom

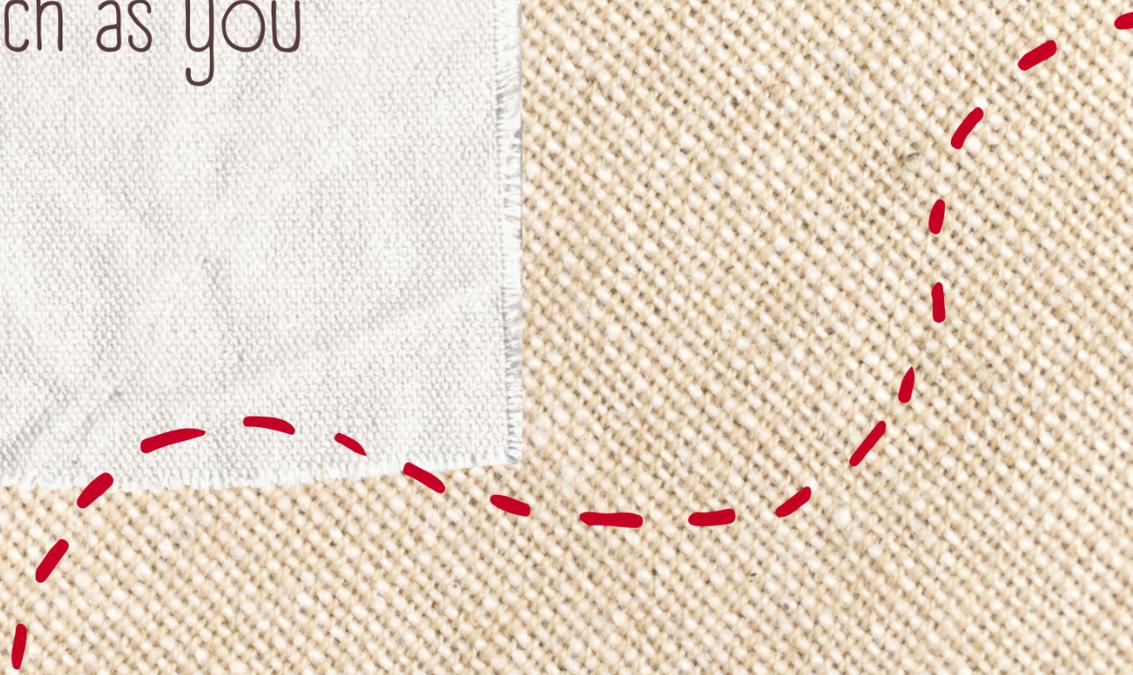
- Press out the corners at the bottom to form triangles the width of your desired bottom.
- There is a natural fold in the grain bag that helps.
- Stitch straight across the triangle, at the same location on both corners.
- Voila!





Don't expect perfection!

Our eyes are trained to see the overall pattern, and no one notices the imperfections as much as you do. So be kind to yourself!





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and sewing with your
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For more sewing fun,
check out a sewing
machine from the
library and practice
at home!

