

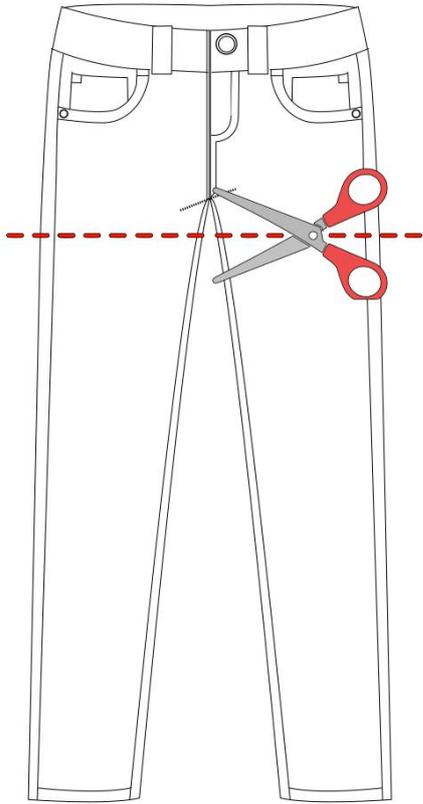
Upcycled Tote Bag



(Approximately 4 hours)

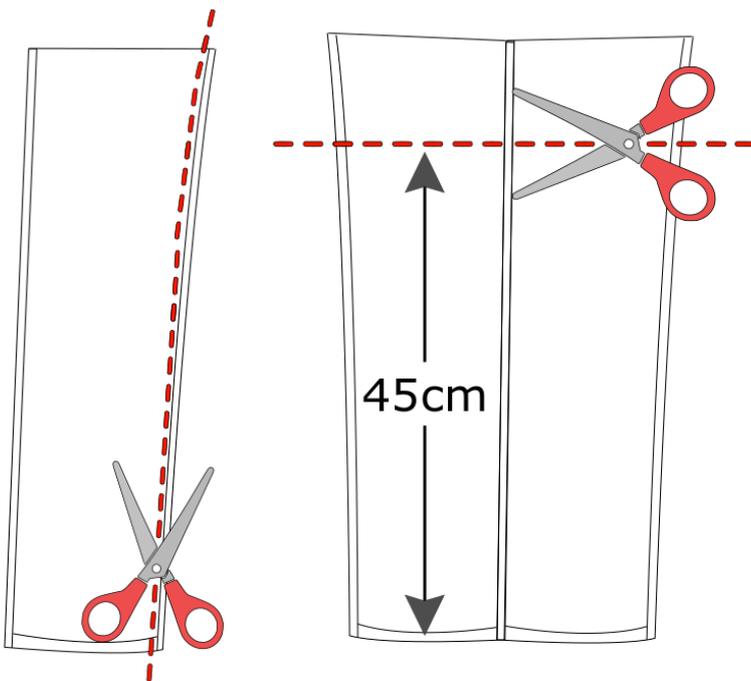
For this project you will need:

- **One pair of old jeans.**
- **Two 20cm X 47cm pieces of contrasting material (for the side panels).**
- **Black/navy blue cotton thread**
- **Hand sewing needles**
- **Dressmaking pins**
- **Tape measure**
- **Safety pin**
- **Sewing Machine (optional)**
- **An Iron (optional)**



Step 1 – Cut off the legs

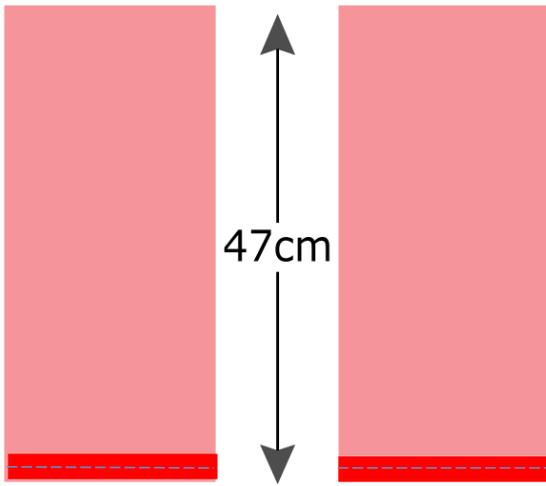
Cut the leg off below the crotch to give yourself as much material to work with as you can.



Step 2 – Create the front panel

Cut down the inside seam to open up the material. Measure approximately 45cm from the ankle seam and trim the top to the correct length.

Do this with the other leg also to create the front and back panels of the bag..

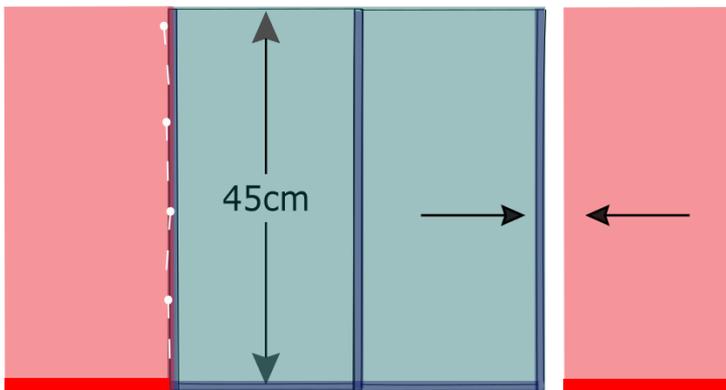


Step 3 – Create the side panels

Cut out approximately 2 x 20cm x 40cm pieces of your contrasting material.

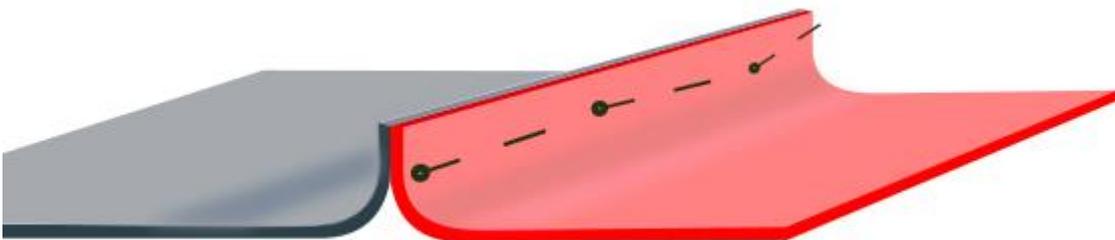
Match the 45cm length of your contrast material with the same length on the front panel of your bag (as shown below).

Sew a 2cm hem on the top raw end of the panels by folding and pinning/ironing the material then sewing the hem in place.



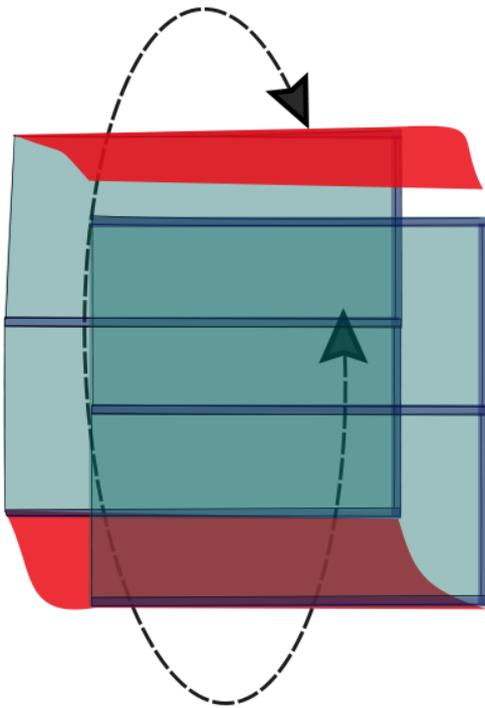
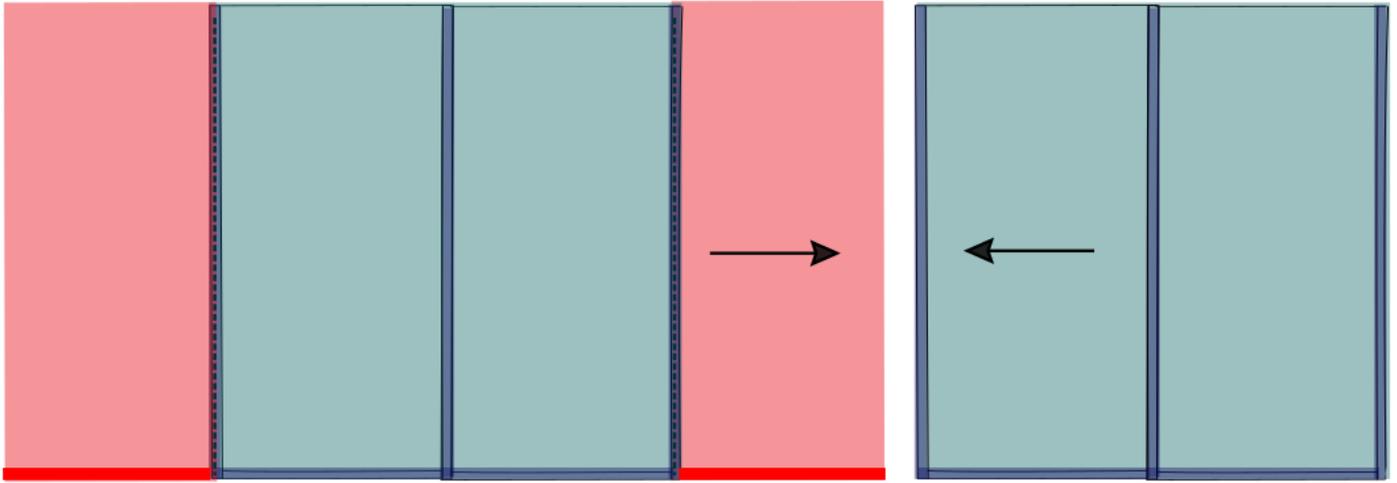
a) Bring the front panel and the side panels together

b) Ensure to create an inside seam by folding the denim and contrasting material together to create a lip. Make sure your hemmed



Pin the two side panels on either side of the front panel together and sew down both sides of the front panel.

Step 4 - Add the back panel in the same way. So you will create a formation (as below) that will make all all four sides of your bag.



Step 5 – Finishing the main body

Lay out your strip of panels and loop them around so that your contrast panel meets with your denim back panel.

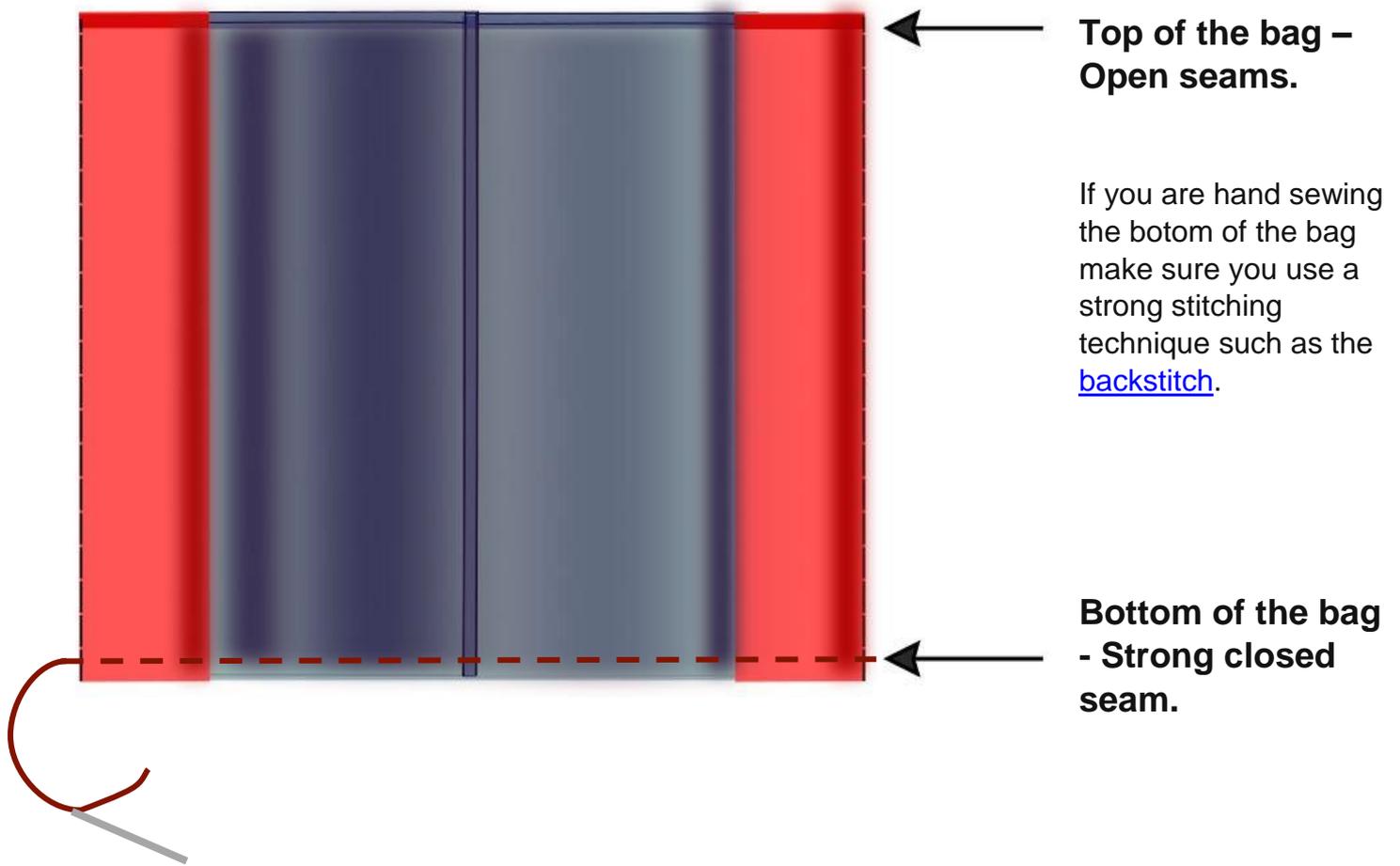
Make sure all of the seams are on the outside at this point.

Using the same technique as before pin and sew the panels together to make a loop.

You have now put together the main body of the bag

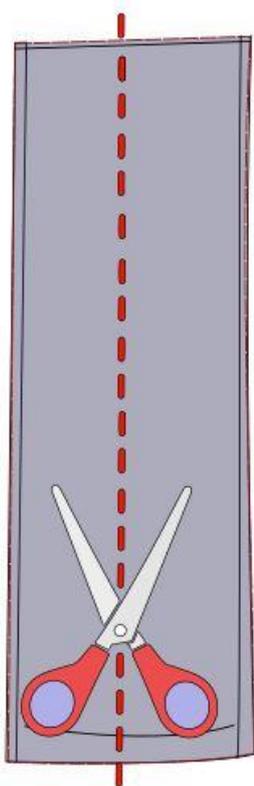
Step 6 – Sew up the base or the bottom of the bag.

Make sure that the contrast panels (in red) are folded neatly in half at either side of the bag. Pin the bottom of the bag in place before sewing it. straight across the bottom



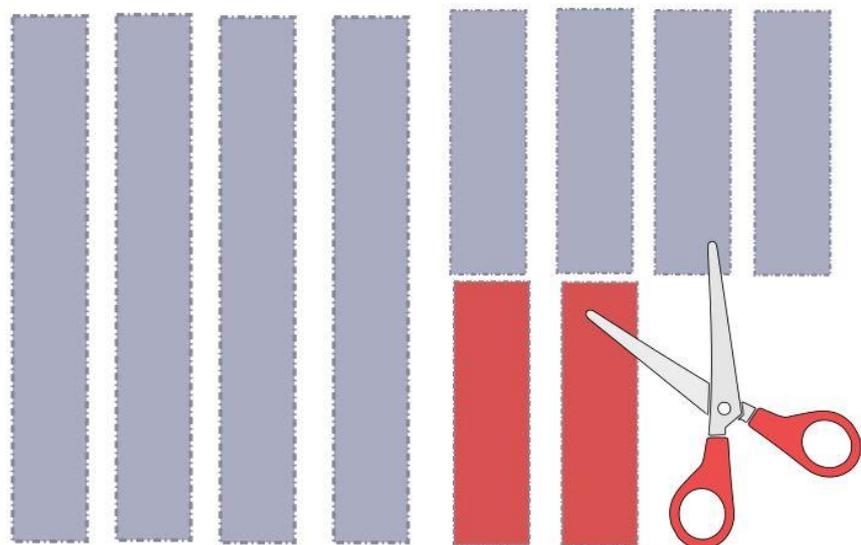
To make the handles for the bag you can be experimental in your approach. This is how I did it...

Step 7- Making the handles

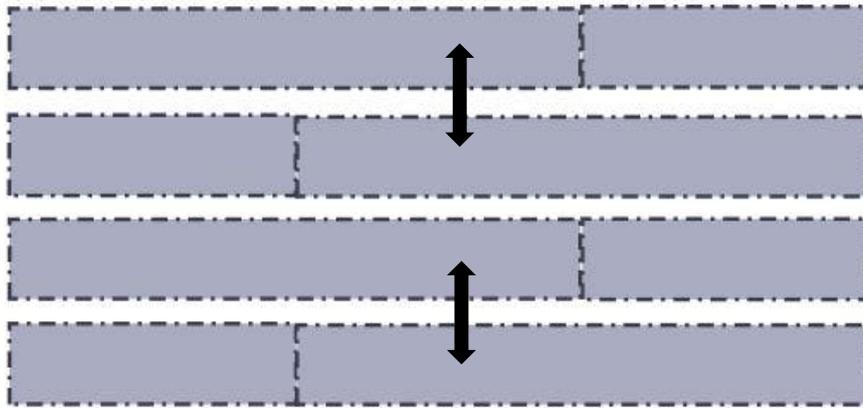


With the leftover denim I cut 4 x **7cm x 40cm** and 4 x **7cm x 20cm** lengths of denim.

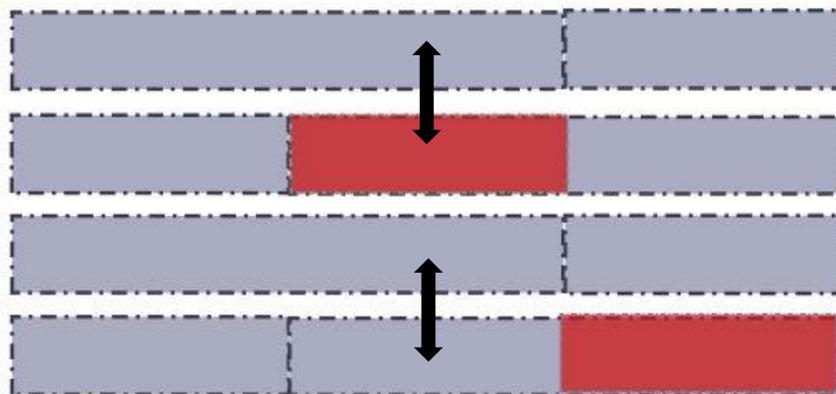
I also had some of the contrasting material left over so I cut 2 x **7cm x 20cm** panels in red to add extra design features.



Sew each of the 40cm length strips to the 20cm strips to make 4 7cm x 58cm lengths. Double-up the strips of denim fabric on top of one another with the joining seams facing outwards.



(Optional) Place your contrast panels anywhere you want along the length of the handle strips; pin and sew into place (as shown below).



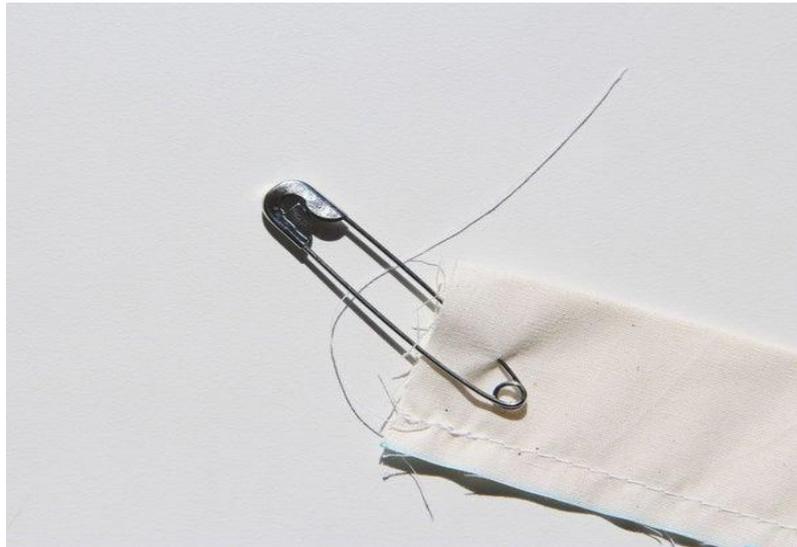
Step 8 – Sew the handles together



Double-up the strips of fabric on top of one another with the joining seams facing outwards. Sew the fabric strips together using a 1/4 inch seam allowance each side. Continue to do the same to both handles.

When you have finished you will need to turn the handles the right way round as they are inside out.

Step 9 - Attach a safety pin to pull the fabric inside out.



Pierce the fabric about 1/2 inch away from the edge - if you're using a smaller safety pin, 1/4 inch is okay.

Don't insert it right next to your stitch line - the extra force right there can cause problems. Turn the pin around so the head of it is inside the fabric.

Gather the fabric over the Pin

Start pushing the safety pin through the tube of the fabric to the other side. You'll want to hold onto the safety pin with one hand and scrunch with the other.

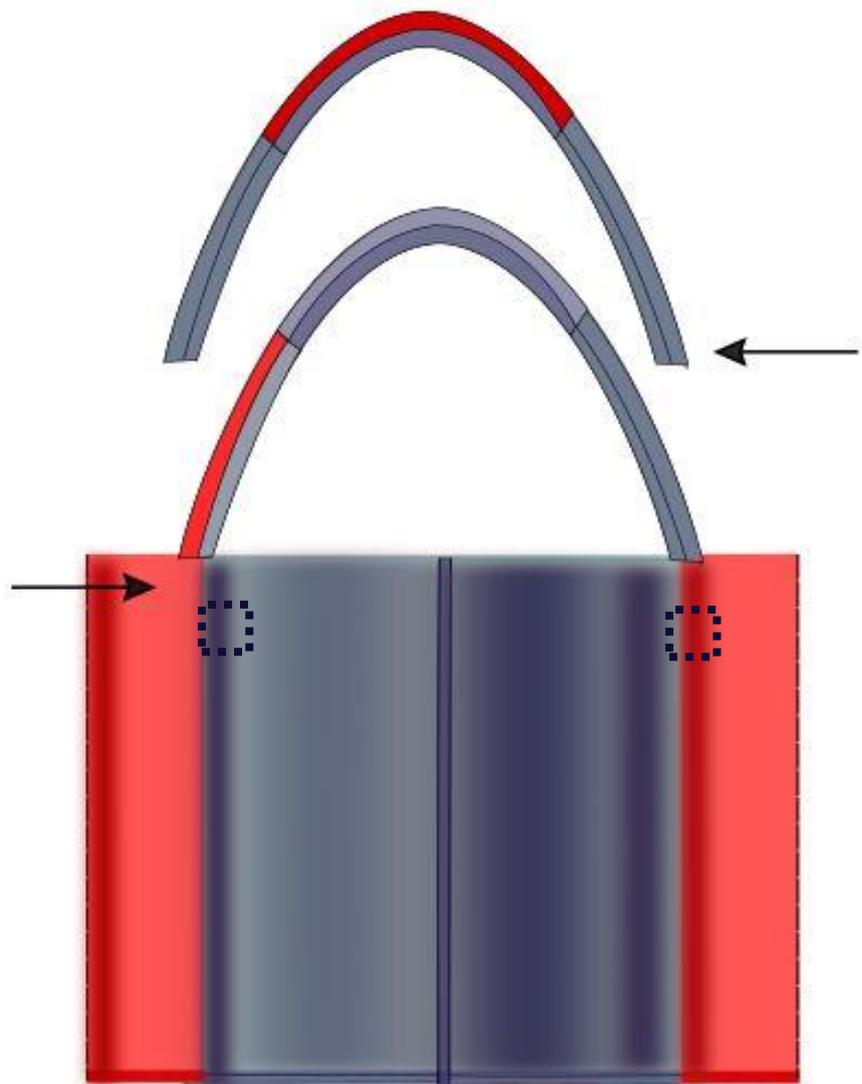
Pull on the folded over end to keep it moving. Once you've gathered enough of the fabric, you'll notice that the gathers at the very end have started to fold in on themselves.



Once you've gathered and gathered and turned at least half of the fabric right side out, it's easy to pull the rest through.

Step 10 – Sew the handles on to the bag,

- Turn your bag inside out
- Pin the handles in place to make sure they are placed properly for you and comfortable for you to use.
- Sew the ends of the handles in line with the front panel.
- Take your time and sew the handles on well using multiple backstitch in a square and cross formation.



**You now have a beautiful stylish bag
that you have made yourself!!!!**