
Tutorials for Common Rat Hammocks and Accessories

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Snuggle Sack



Triangle Pyramid



Pocket Flat



Tube



Bunk Bed



Tunnel Pocket



Honeycomb



Cube



Reversible Cross Tube



Cuddle Cup



Peek-a-boo Pocket



Rectangular Prism



Double Decker



Bonding Pouch



Web-Shaped Flat

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Introduction

These tutorials provide general guidelines for sewing a variety of different hammocks and accessories designed for rats. The measurements I have provided are those that work for me – housing male rats in a dual Critter Nation cage or in a Martins R695 cage. You may prefer to adjust the sizes to suit your cage and the type of critters you keep in it. For example, I make my tubes with a 15” diameter. This works well for my large squishy male rats. For larger types of pocket pets, you might need a larger diameter. For female rats that prefer tighter spaces, you might use a 13” or 14” diameter. The Critter Nation can accommodate tubes that are 30” long or even longer if you choose to arc the tube when you hang it. In the Martin’s cage, I prefer shorter tubes of 18” to 24”.

I did not invent most of these hammocks, although I have frequently modified designs to suit the needs of my cages or to attain a specific aesthetic. Even those designs that I came up with on my own – I am sure there was someone who came up with that idea before I did that I just didn’t know about. And sometimes I would try to mimic a picture of a hammock that I saw online somewhere. The instructions, however, are all in my own words – describing how I choose to make each type of hammock, and the photographs are all my own originals.

I started making this document so that I would have all my hammock tutorials on my tablet for easy reference while sewing, customized to the dimensions that I know fit in my cages. However, I started adding details and photos when I realized this document could be useful for others as well. Most of these tutorials exist in some form on the web – but remembering which tutorials are where could be a challenge. Sometimes tutorials or photos disappear from the web – keeping them in one document on your own computer will help ensure they are always available. Finally, this document has been formatted to print nicely (if you prefer to print out instructions for use while you sew), to display adequately on a tablet if you like to use your tablet, laptop, or netbook to reference instructions while you sew, and to print and display with high resolution photos that can be enlarged to see more detail.

One drawback of the high resolution photographs are the way they increase the file size of this document. Thus, it may take a long time to load online or to download to your computer, depending on your connection speed.

Please forgive any sloppy sewing in the photo examples. I took sewing in home economics when I was in high school and was pretty good at it. However, it has been more than 20 years, and my sewing skills have gotten rusty since then. I don’t always sew the perfect seam or top stitch, and I don’t worry about it too much, since my rats will have everything chewed in short order. The more they like it, the more they destroy it.

Also, I usually make two of everything, so that I have one to use while the other is in the wash. Thus, in some photos, you might notice that one step shows a slightly different piece than the last step. I tried to be consistent, but sometimes just forgot which hammock I was photographing as I went.

If You Have Never Made a Hammock Before ...

Please start with the Basic Flat – the simplest of all hammocks. There are more details in that tutorial to help you get started, including the steps involved with sewing ribbon loops for hanging hammocks (using [Ribbon Loops](#)) and for using a grommet or eyelet pliers for installing eyelets/grommets (using [Eyelets](#)). (Eyelets and grommets are the same thing, except that eyelets are usually ¼” or smaller [I use ¼” eyelets], and grommets are usually larger than ¼”.) Note that in most of my tutorials, I show examples using eyelets, as this is my preferred method to hang hammocks. However, there are a few projects where ribbon loops work better (eg, cubes and tubes).

Instructions for inserting hanging loops and for installing eyelets (grommets) can be found in the Basic Flat tutorial.

You will notice that the materials for most hammocks call for two types of fabric: a woven cotton or flannel piece and a fleece piece. These two materials will be sewn back to back, right sides together in most cases, so that the outside of the hammock consists of a decorative cotton/flannel print or solid, and the inside of the hammock consists of a soft fleece lining for your rat to snuggle against. (If you can't tell which side of your fleece is the right side – well, neither will your rats – so don't worry about it). If you prefer, you may use fleece for both the inside and the outside piece.

Finished sizes are approximate. All the tutorials herein assume you use a seam allowance of ½ inch. Larger or smaller seam allowances will affect the finished size of the product.

Remember to always wash your material exactly as you will wash your hammocks **before** cutting any fabric. If it is going to shrink, you want to make sure it shrinks before you do any measuring. I also always wash my rat laundry in hot water to help remove the urine smell (doing a double rinse cycle). Because this produces the risk of the colors running, I like to wash the fabric before sewing so that I know how well it will withstand my wash cycle.

Basic Flat



Materials

Cotton or Flannel

- 15" square piece

Fleece

- 15" square piece

Extras

- Thread (match to fleece)
- 4 grommets or 4 pieces of ribbon for hanging

Options

- 15"x15" is a generic size. You can make your hammocks larger or smaller, square or rectangular. 15" x 17" is another common rectangular size I use.
- Two pieces of fleece can be used instead of one cotton and one fleece piece.

Finished Size

- 14"x14"

Description

The basic flat is the simplest of hammocks: a plain square of lined fabric that hangs from the cage. You can hang it so it lies flat or so that it bunches depending on where you clip the hooks to the cage. You can adjust the height of the hammock by adding teething links or shower curtain rings to the chain that you hang the hammock from. You can even hang a second hammock below the first by attaching the second hammock's hanging links to the hanging rings of the first hammock.

Instructions

1. **Cut the fabric** pieces described above.

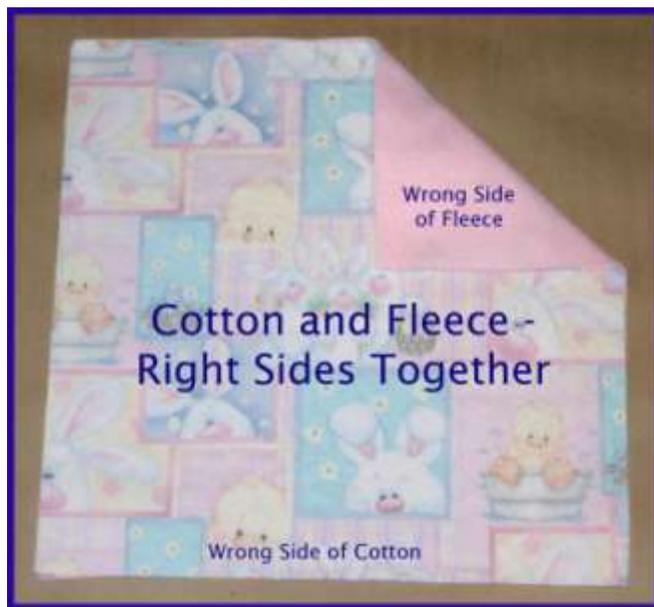


Tip: Cut templates for the pieces you will need. With templates, you can easily cut more pieces of the same size for future projects. I use Kraft paper on a roll to make my templates, but you can use spare woven fabric to create your templates as well. Having templates also helps layout how you will cut your fabric pieces in a way that uses the material you have most efficiently.

A rotary cutter set is very helpful for cutting perfect squares and triangles with straight edges.



-
2. Align the cotton fabric over the fleece fabric with the **right sides together**.



The right side of the fabric is the side that will be visible in the finished product.



3. Installing Ribbon Loops Instead of Eyelets To Hang Your Hammock (Optional)

Hammocks can be hung from ribbon loops sewn into the corners, from hooks inserted through eyelets (grommets) or by using large safety pins. If you would like to use ribbon loops, do the following:

- a. **Cut** four pieces of ribbon of equal size (twice the length of the finished loop plus 1").
- b. **Fold** the ribbon in half. Position each loop between the fleece and cotton in each of the corners with the cut edge of the ribbon aligned with the cut edge of the fabric and the loop end pointing to the middle.



- c. **Pin** the ribbon in place between the fleece and the cotton.



- d. Continue with the rest of the tutorial.

4. **Pin** around the edges of the square to hold the material in place.



5. **Sew** around the sides of the square using a $\frac{1}{2}$ " seam allowance. Finish sewing a couple of inches before your starting place, leaving an opening big enough to turn the hammock right-side out.

6. **Trim** the excess thread. Trim the seam allowance down so that the edges won't be too bulky, leaving the ½ inch allowance at the opening.



7. Turn the hammock **right-side out** by pulling it through the unsewn opening.

8. **Push out the corners** and fold the seam allowance inside at the opening.



Using a pencil tip to push out the corner tips can help. Pulling the corners out with the tip of a pin is also useful.

9. **Slipstitch** the opening closed.



10. Finish off the hammock by **top stitching** around the edges.



(Yours may have ribbon loops in the corners)

Top stitching is not necessary, but it helps to make a more finished product. It also helps the hammock retain its shape when it is washed, and may allow it to last longer.

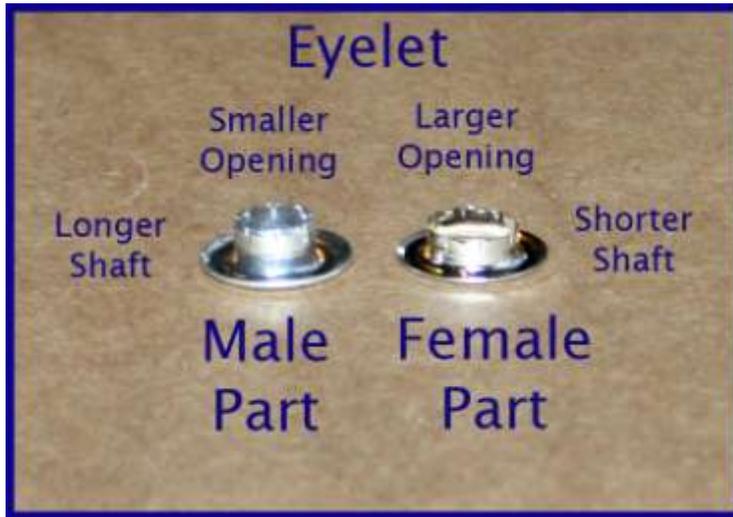
11. Installing Eyelets Instead of Ribbon Loops to Hang Your Hammock

If you did not use ribbons to hang your hammock, insert eyelets (grommets) in all four corners (practice on scrap fabric first if you have never inserted eyelets before):

- a. To insert eyelets using eyelet pliers, **punch a hole** in each corner of the hammock with the pliers.



- b. You may need to make the hole slightly larger by gently inserting the tips of a pair of shears in the hole – but be careful not to make the hole too big.
- c. The eyelets come in two pieces – a male (front) piece with a longer center shaft and a female (back) piece with a wider opening.



- d. **Insert the male end** of the eyelet (the piece with the longer rod) through the hole from the front to the back. It should be a very tight fit, but with no fabric covering the hole.



- e. **Place the female end** of the eyelet (the piece with the wider opening) over the rod of the male eyelet piece – the fabric should be held tight between the two pieces.



- f. Use the pliers to **crimp** both eyelet pieces together – the end of the pliers with the post should enter the eyelet center from the side of the female eyelet piece (back of the eyelet).





- g. Insert your **hanging hooks** through the eyelets. Here, I use split key rings with an attached lanyard hook. Other options include hammock hooks, shower curtain hooks, loose leaf binder rings, paper clips, and large safety pins.



Corner Flat



Materials

Cotton or Flannel

- 15" x 15" right triangle

Fleece

- 15" x 15" right triangle piece

Extras

- Thread (match to fleece)
- 3 grommets or 3 pieces of ribbon for hanging

Finished Size

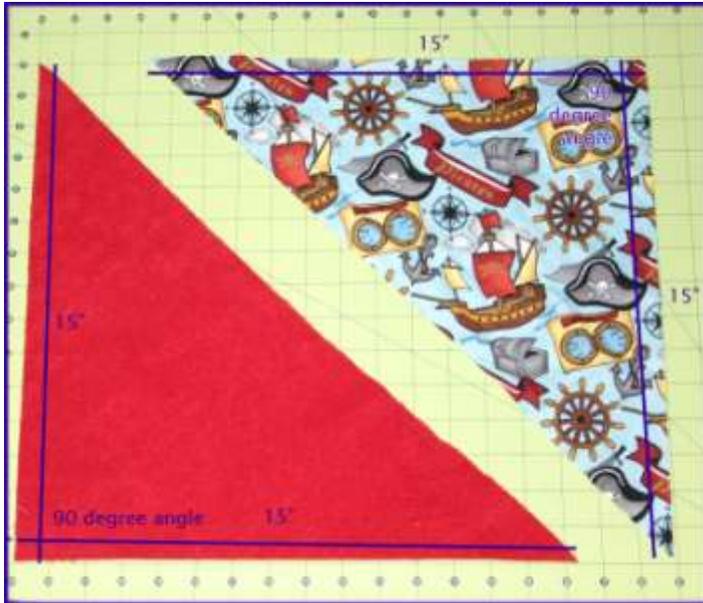
- 14"x14" right triangle

Description

The corner flat is identical to the basic flat, but it is shaped like a triangle and meant to be hung in the corner of a cage.

Instructions

1. **Cut your fabric.** The easiest way to make a template for a 15"x15" right triangle, is to make a 15"x15" square, then divide it in half diagonally from one corner to the opposite corner.



2. **Pin** the cotton on top of the fleece, **right sides together**.
3. Add the **ribbon loops** if you will not be using eyelets/grommets (see [Basic Flat](#)).
4. **Sew** along the edges, leaving an opening to turn the hammock right side out.



5. **Trim** the excess thread and seam allowances, except at the opening.



6. Turn the hammock **right side out**.
7. **Slip stitch** the opening closed.



8. **Top stitch** around the sides.

9. Add eyelets (see [Basic Flat](#)) if you did not use ribbon loops.



Note that in Critter Nation cages, I find it helpful to put two lanyard hooks in the ring that will be in the corner of the cage – and attach one hook to each side of the cage so that the corner of the hammock stays in the corner of the cage.

10. Hang!



Web-Shaped Flat



Materials

Fleece

- (2) 14" octagonal web-shaped pieces

Extras

- Grommets or Ribbon for Hanging

Finished Size

- About 13" across

Description

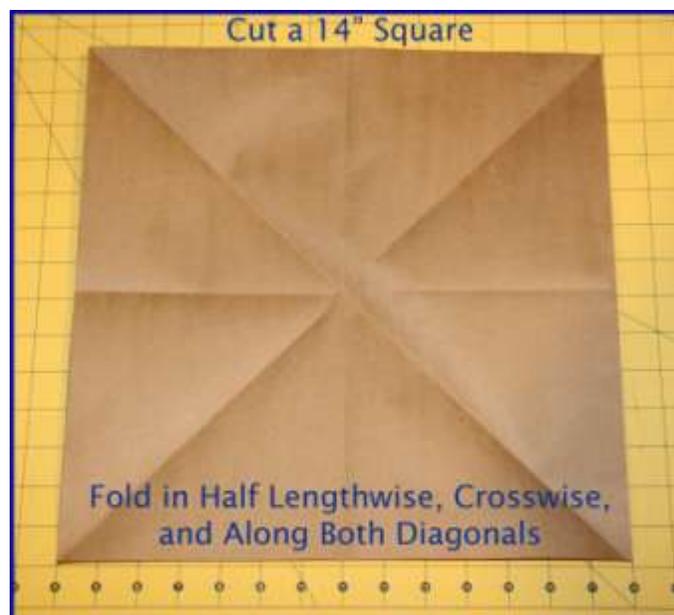
This is a basic flat that I designed for themed cages. It is made with two pieces of fleece with decorative top-stitching. I have used this flat to make hammocks that resemble spider-webs, snow-flakes, and fireworks.



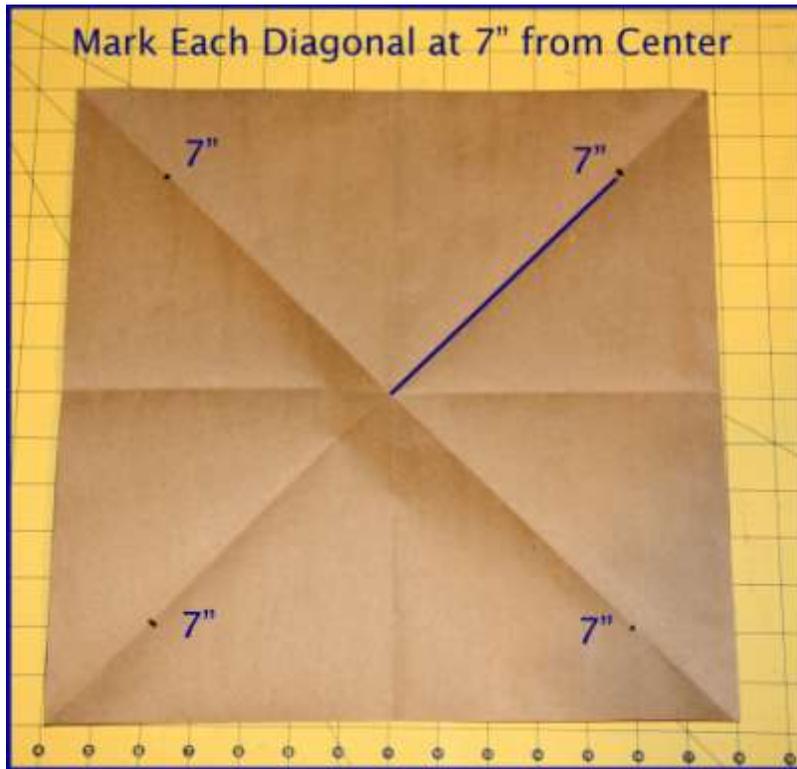
Instructions

1. Create a Template

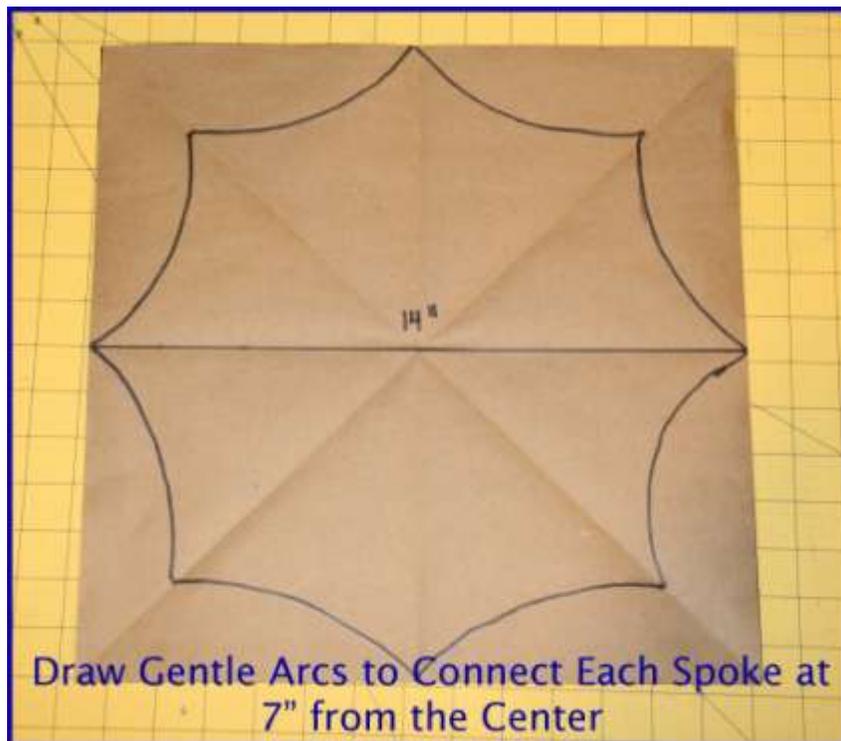
- Cut** a 14" paper square.
- Fold** the square in half lengthwise, crosswise, and across both diagonals.



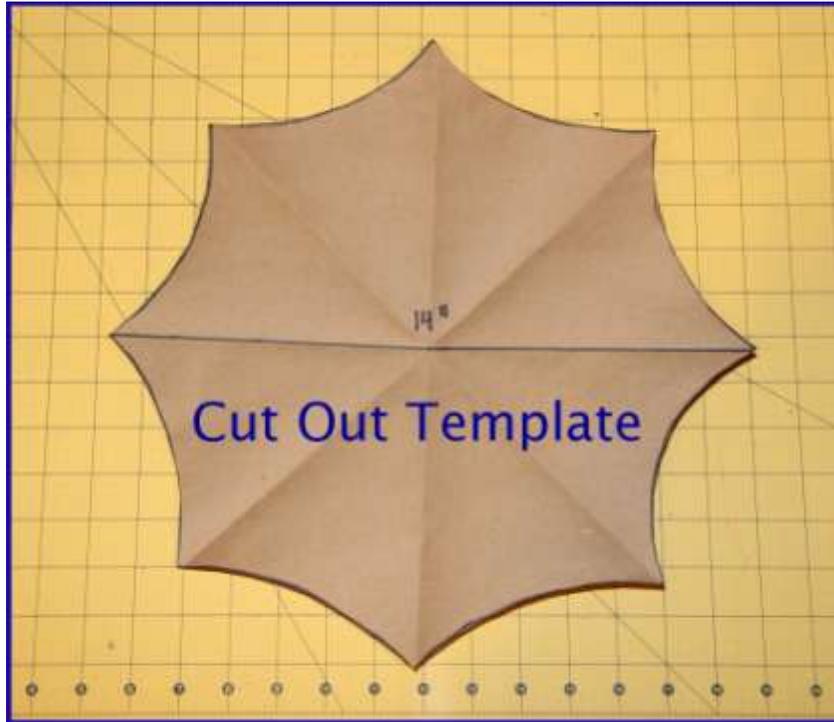
- c. **Mark** the diagonal folds at 7 inches from the center point.



- d. **Draw** a gentle arc from the end (7" from center) of each spoke.



e. **Cut out** the template.



2. Using the template, **cut your fabric**.



3. **Pin** one piece of fleece to the other, **right sides together**.
4. If you are using ribbon loops, insert the ribbon loop into every other corner.



5. **Sew** along the edges, leaving a small opening to turn the hammock inside out.



6. **Turn** the hammock **right-side out** through the small opening.
7. **Slip Stitch** the opening closed.
8. **Top Stitch** around the sides.



9. **Draw** your design on the hammock with chalk or a disappearing ink marking pen. In this case, I am doing a Firework design.



10. **Sew** your design on the hammock using zig-zag or decorative stitching and an appropriate color thread.



11. **Add Grommets** to every other corner.



12. Hang!



No-Sew Flat



Materials

Fleece

- (2) 19" square pieces

Extras

- Split Rings for hanging

Finished Size

- About 14" square, not including fringe

Description

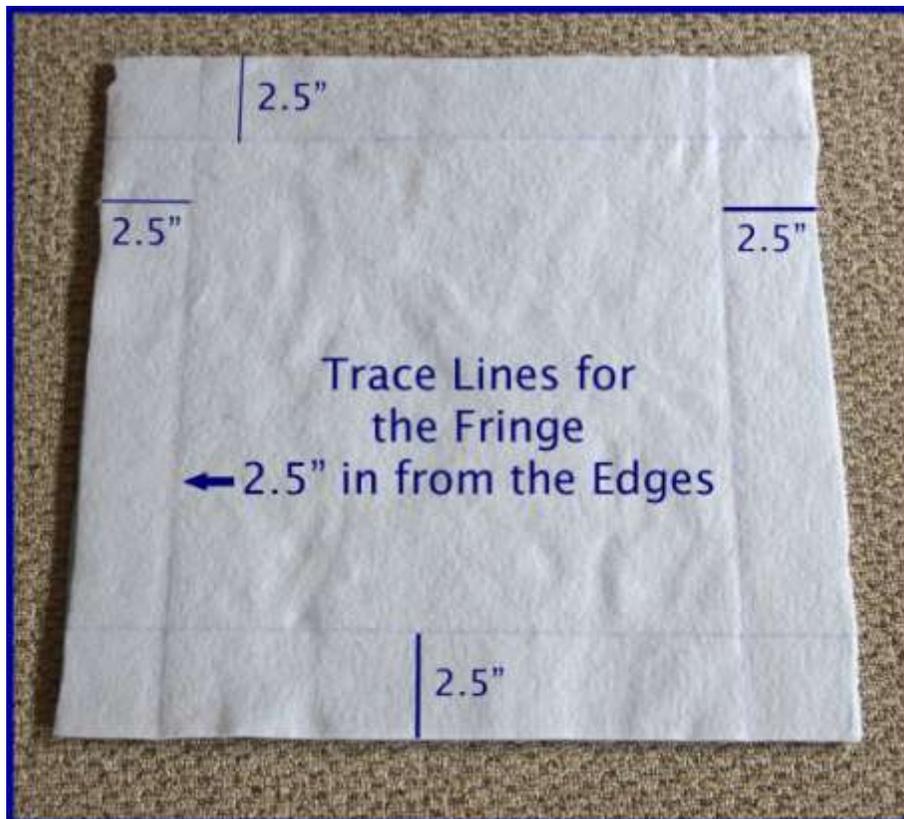
This is a simple flat hammock that can be made with no sewing required.

Instructions

1. Cut your fabric.



2. Place both pieces of fleece **on top of one another**.
3. **Trace Lines** about 2.5" in from each edge. This will be the fringe.



4. **Cut** Fringe around each side, leaving $\frac{1}{2}$ " between each cut. Using pinking shears will give the hammock and extra "fringy" appearance.



5. **Tie** the bottom layer of each fringe cut (blue layer above) to the top layer of each fringe cut (white layer) with a double knot.
6. **For the Corners**, insert a split ring around both layers of fringe at one end of the corner and tie to both layers of fringe at the opposite side of that corner.



7. Hang



No-Sew Flat

Pocket Flat



Materials

Cotton or Flannel

- 15" x 33" rectangular piece

Fleece

- 15" x 33" rectangular piece

Extras

- Thread (match to fleece)
- 4 grommets or 4 pieces of ribbon for hanging

Options

- To make a custom size, cut the width 1" longer than the desired width, and the length 2 times the desired length plus 1".

Finished Size

- 14"x16"

Description

The pocket flat is like a basic flat with pockets, one on each end. This type of hammock is loved by rats that like to burrow underneath things.

Instructions

8. **Cut your fabric.**



9. **Place** the cotton piece over the fleece with the **right sides together**.
10. **Pin** along the two short sides, leaving the long sides open.
11. **Sew** where you have pinned.



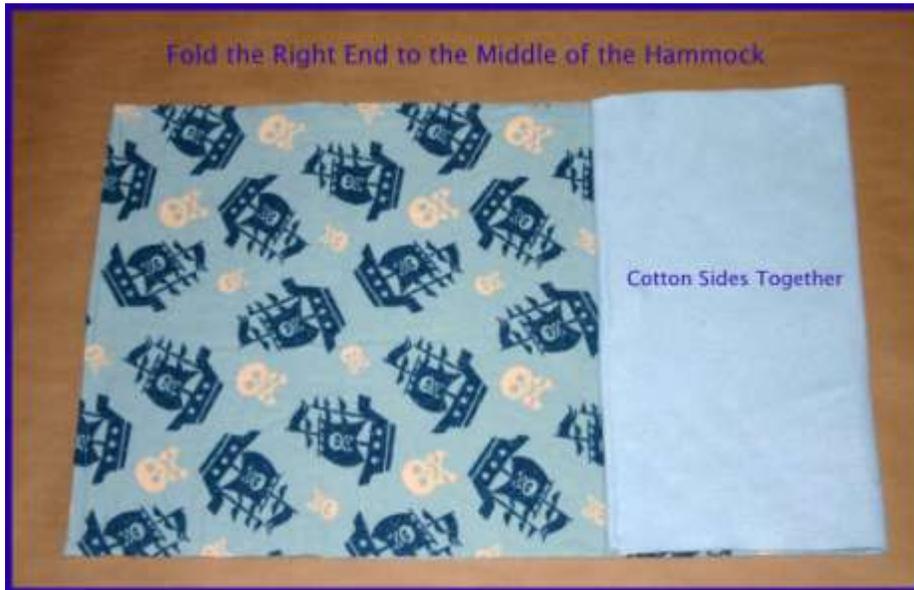
12. **Trim** the excess thread and the seam allowances.
13. Turn the hammock **right side out**, flattening the seams.



14. **Top stitch** over the seams you just sewed.



15. Lay the hammock cotton side up. **Fold the right end** in toward the center, cotton sides together, fleece sides out.



16. **Fold the left end** in to meet the right end.

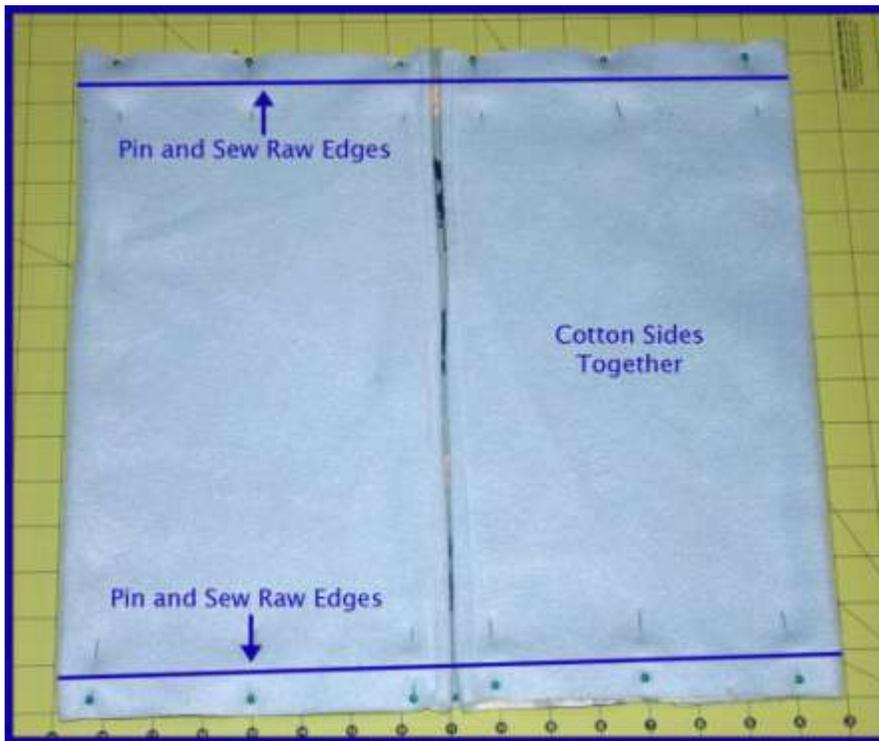


Note: If you prefer, you can create pockets of different sizes by meeting the seams somewhere other than the center. For example, you could have a right pocket that is $\frac{3}{4}$ of the hammock and a left pocket that is $\frac{1}{4}$.

17. **Pin** along the raw edges.

18. **Add ribbon loops** if not using eyelets (see [Basic Flat](#)).

19. **Sew** the raw edges.



20. **Trim** the seam allowances.



21. Turn the hammock **cotton side out**.



1. **Top stitch** along the sides with a seam (you can topstitch over the folded sides as well if you wish).



22. **Add Eyelets** if needed in the corners (see [Basic Flat](#)).



23. **Hang!**



Tunnel Pocket



Materials

Cotton or Flannel

- 15" x 17" rectangle (hammock piece)
- 15" x 10" rectangle (top piece)

Fleece

- 15" x 17" rectangle (hammock piece)
- 15" x 10" rectangle (top piece)

Extras

- Thread (match to fleece)
- Eyelets or Ribbon for Loops

Finished Size

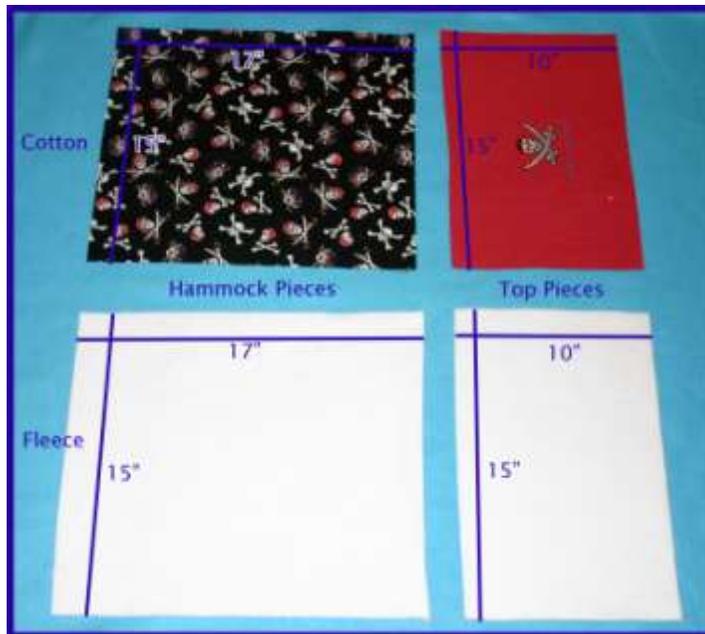
About 14" x 16"

Description

The tunnel flat is similar to the pocket flat except there is an exit on both ends.

Instructions

1. **Cut out your fabric.** The larger pieces will form the hammock, and the smaller pieces will form the blanket-like top piece.



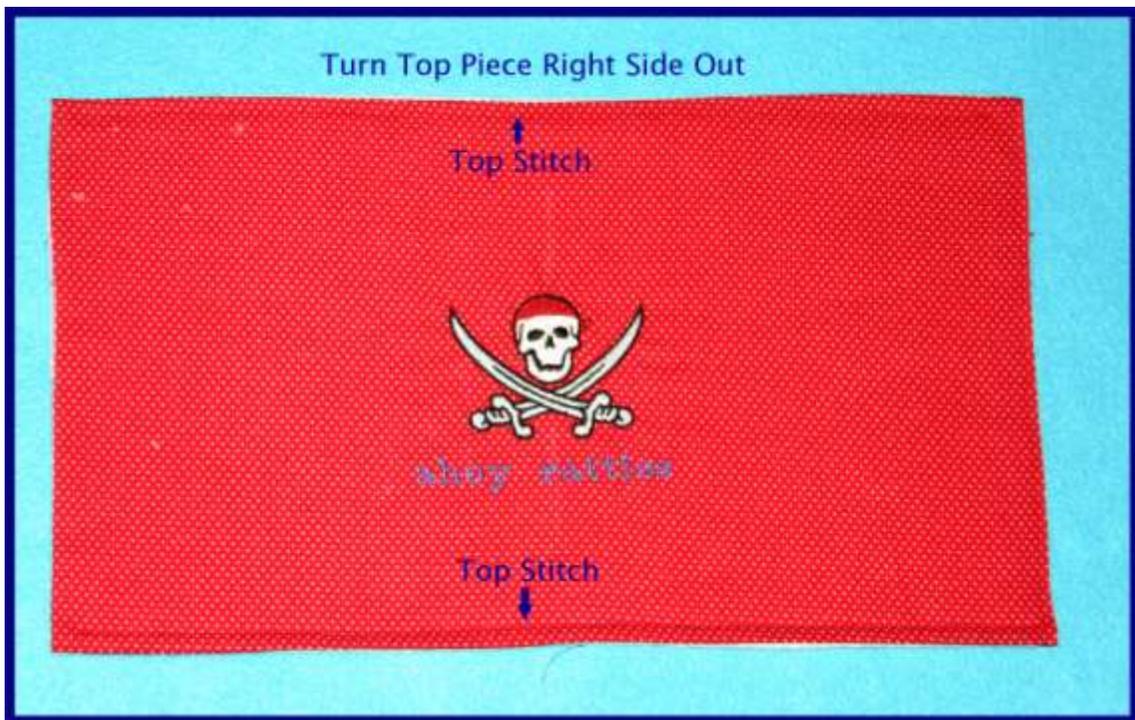
2. Start with the smaller (10"x15") top pieces. **Pin** the cotton piece to the fleece piece, **right sides together**. Pin along the long ends only. Leave the short ends open.
3. **Sew** along the long ends.



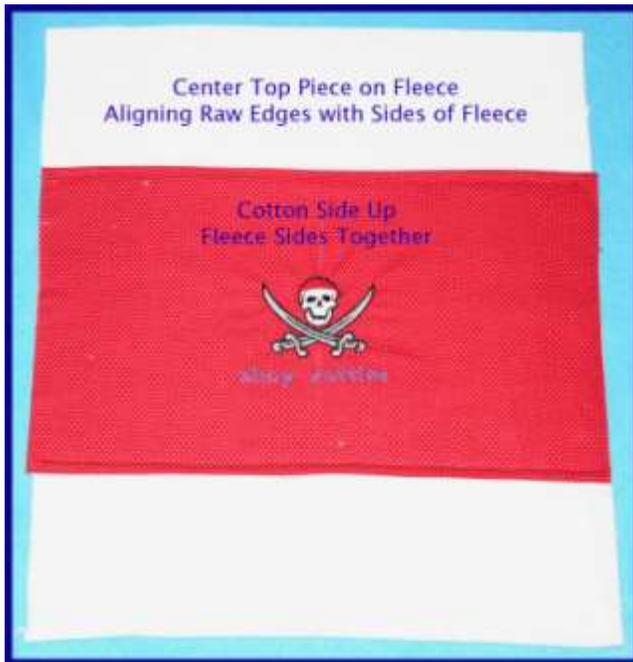
4. **Trim** the excess thread and the seam allowances.



5. Turn the piece **right side out**, flatten, and smooth.
6. **Top stitch** along both seams. Leave the raw edges open.



7. Position the top piece, **cotton side up**, on top of the larger fleece piece. Align the raw edges with the long sides of the fleece. Center the top piece on the fleece.



8. If you prefer to use ribbon loops to hang your hammock, **position the ribbon loops** in the corners now.
9. Place the larger cotton piece, **right side down**, over the fleece, so the right sides of the top piece cotton and the hammock piece cotton are facing each other.



10. **Pin** around all four edges of the hammock.
11. **Add ribbon loops** (see [Basic Flat](#)) if not using eyelets/grommets.
12. **Sew** around the edges, leaving an opening large enough to pull the fabric through and turn the hammock right side out.



13. **Trim** excess thread and seam allowances, leaving the seam allowance at the opening .



14. Pull the material through the opening, turning the hammock **right side out**. Flatten the seams and push out the corners.
15. **Slip stitch** the opening closed.



16. **Top stitch** around all sides.
17. **Insert eyelets** (see [Basic Flat](#)) if you did not use ribbon loops.



18. Hang!



Peek-a-boo Pocket

(Also known as Hidey-Hole Pocket)



Materials

Cotton or Flannel

- (2) 15"x15" squares

Fleece

- (2) 15"x15" squares

Extras

- Thread (match to fleece)
- Ribbon for loops or eyelets/grommets

Finished Size

About 14"x14"

Description

The Peek-a-boo Pocket Flat is a pocket hammock that is completely enclosed except for a small opening hole on the top layer. This opening is generally a circle (the standard Morton's Salt canister circle works great), but other shapes can be used as well. In this example, I made the opening star shaped to correspond to the star pattern of the cotton.

Instructions

1. **Cut your fabric:** 2 pieces of 15x15" cotton and 2 pieces of 15x15" fleece. Note that in this example, I chose to use a separate print for the top of the hammock and the underside of the hammock.



2. **Position** the top Cotton Piece over the Top Fleece Piece, **right sides together**.
3. **Pin** in place
4. **Trace** the opening onto the cotton piece. For circular opening, a Mortan's Salt canister is about the perfect size.



5. **Sew** along the outline of the opening.



6. **Cut out the interior of the opening shape.**



7. **Pass the cotton layer through the opening to turn the piece right-side out.**
8. **Smooth out the fabric to flatten.**
9. **Top Stitch around the Opening.**



10. **Lay** the top piece just you just completed with the **cotton right-side up**.
11. **Lay** the second piece of cotton on top with the **right-side down** (cotton right sides are together/facing each other).
12. **Lay** the second piece of fleece on top with the **right-side up**.



13. **Pin** around the edges.

14. **Sew** around all four sides. There is no need to leave an opening to turn inside out as the hammock can be turned inside out through the peek-a-boo opening.
15. **Trim** the seam allowances and thread ends.



16. **Turn** the hammock **right-side out** through the opening.
17. **Top Stitch** around the sides.
18. **Add Grommets and Hang!**



Bunk Bed

Also Known as Double Bunk



Materials

Cotton or Flannel

- (2) 15"x15" squares

Fleece

- (2) 15"x15" squares

Extras

- Thread (match to fleece)
- Ribbon for loops or eyelets/grommets

Finished Size

About 14"x14" top flat

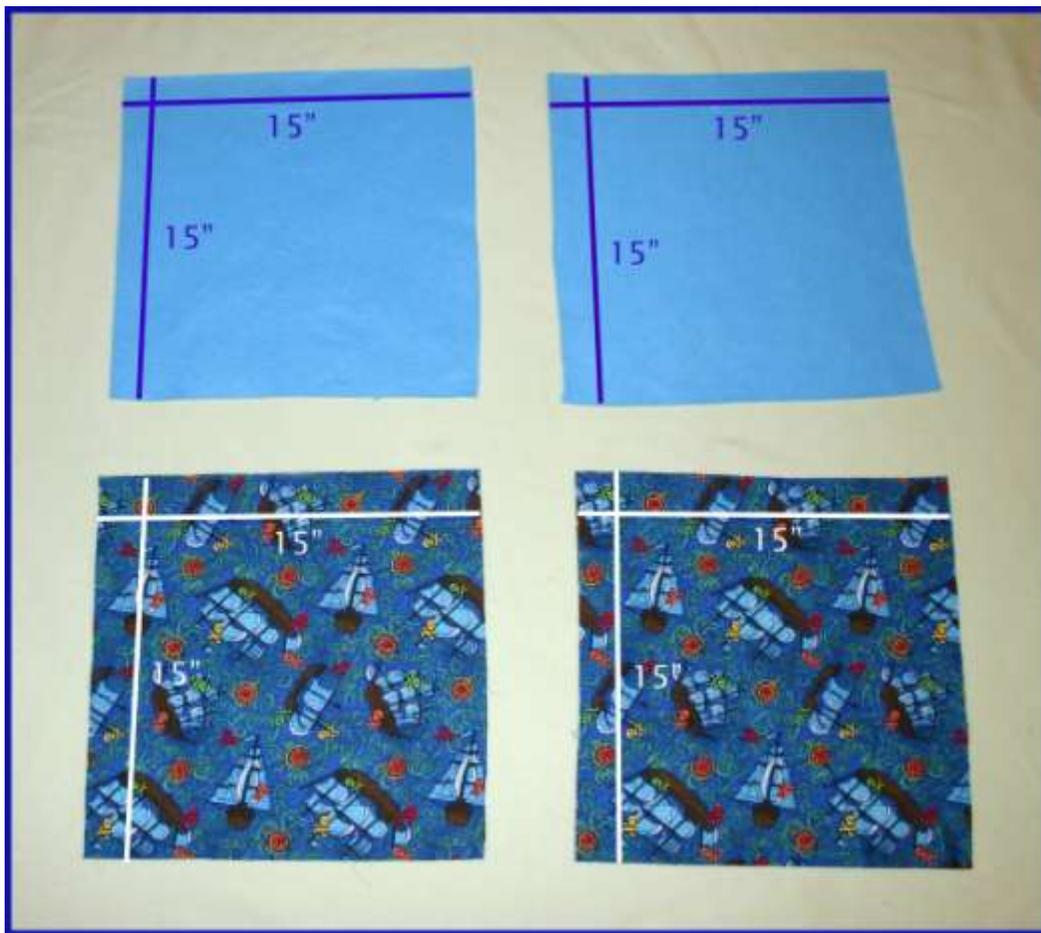
Description

There is a lot of variety among bunk bed hammocks. This version combines two flats of the same dimensions to create a double decker hammock. The corners of the lower level are joined to the top level at the midpoint of each side. The excess corners are invisible because they disappear at the seam.

See [Honeycomb Hammock](#) for an alternate method of making a bunk bed hammock (follow the instructions but skip either the largest or the smallest flat). The honeycomb method works well with flats of different sizes.

Instructions

19. Cut your fabric.



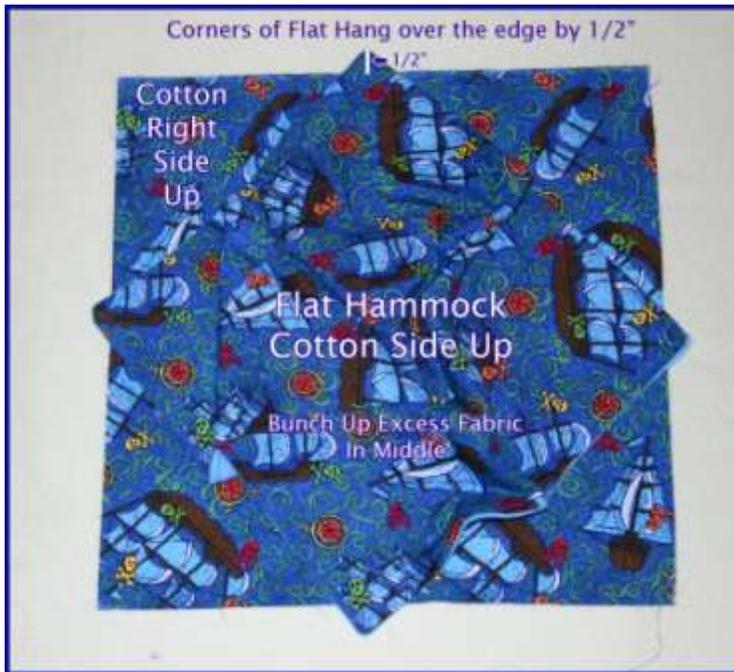
20. Make a [Basic Flat](#) with one piece of fleece and one piece of cotton (refer to [Basic Flat project for instructions](#)). This will be your lower level. Do not add ribbon loops or

grommets/eyelets to this flat.



21. **Position the basic flat over the cotton piece** (right side up) and rotate 45 degrees, so the corners of the flat overhang the middle of each side.

22. **Bunch the flat in the middle** so that only about $\frac{1}{2}$ " of the corner sticks out.



23. **Pin Fleece** to Cotton piece, **right sides together**.

24. **Add ribbon loops** if not using eyelets (see [Basic Flat](#)).

25. **Sew** around the edges of the fleece, leaving an opening large enough to turn the hammock right side out.



26. **Trim** excess thread and seam allowances.



27. **Turn hammock right side out.**

28. **Slip stitch** the opening closed.



29. **Top Stitch** around the top level.



30. **Add eyelets/grommets** to corners if you did not use ribbon loops (See [Basic Flat](#)).



31. Hang!



Honeycomb Hammock

Also Known as Triple Bunk



Materials

Cotton or Flannel

- (1) 10"x10" square
- (1) 14"x14" square
- (1) 17"x17" square

Fleece

- (1) 10"x10" square
- (1) 14"x14" square
- (1) 17"x17" square

Extras

- Thread (match to fleece)
- Ribbon for loops or eyelets/grommets

Options

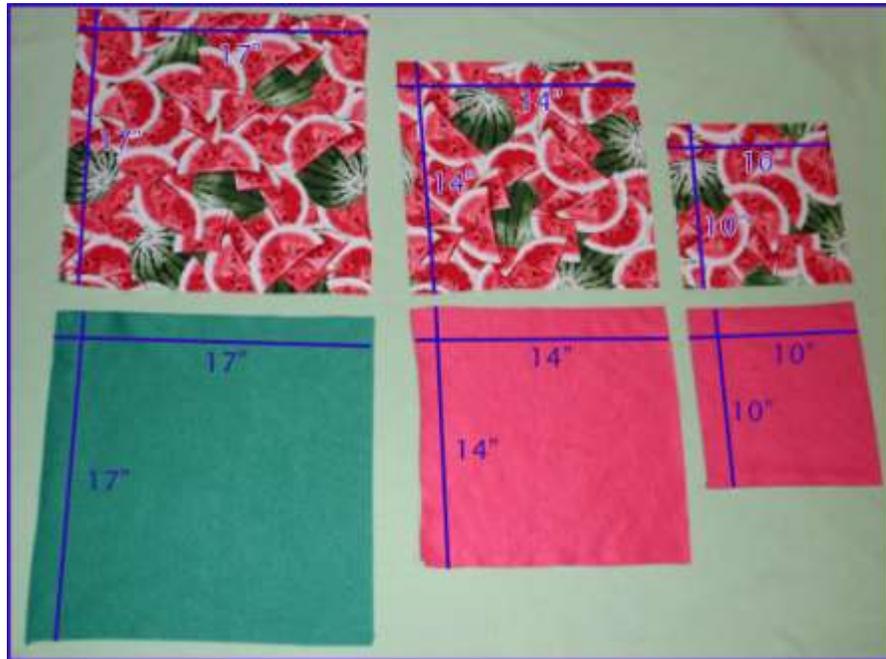
- Use only two levels to create a double bunk with different sized levels
- Connect the top level at the sides or at the corners.
- Hang the hammock from the sides or the corners.
- Adjust the sizes of the hammocks as desired.
- Adjust how deep into the corner you want to attach the lower hammock to the middle hammock to make it hang higher/lower.
- Attach the top hammock fleece side up or cotton side up.



This variation used squares cut to 10", 13", and 15". The grommets were placed in the sides of the top level instead of the corners to make the top hammock act more as a canopy than a level. The lower level was attached deeper into the corner, making it hang closer to the middle level.

Instructions

1. Cut your fabric.



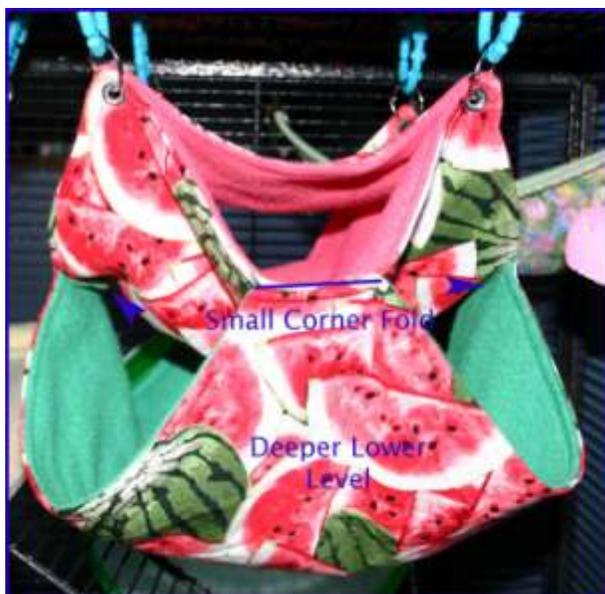
2. **Make 3 Basic Flats.** If you will be hanging your honeycomb using ribbon loops, add your loops to the smallest flat. Do not add grommets to any of the hammocks. See [Hanging a Honeycomb](#) for information about where to place the loops (corner or midpoints).



3. Place the largest flat fleece side up. **Fold** each corner of the largest flat in toward the center.



Fold the corners in just a tiny amount as shown if you want the lower level of the hammock to hang lower/deeper. Fold the corners in more if you want the lower level of the hammock to hang higher/more shallow.



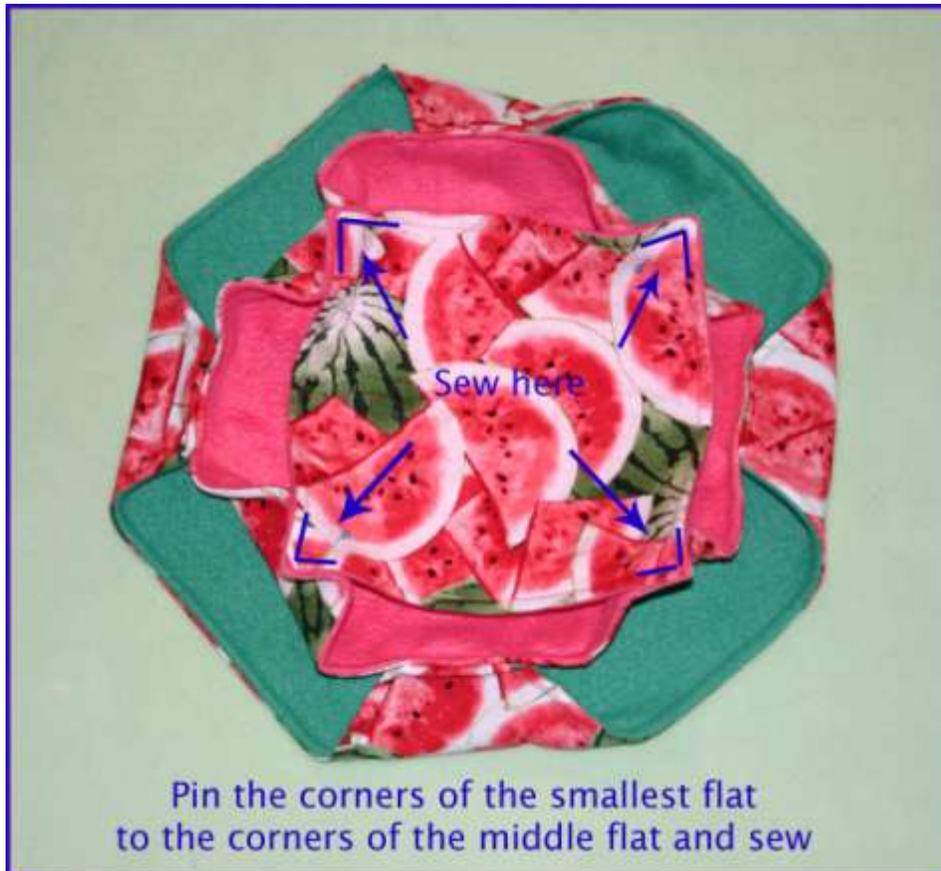
4. Place the Middle Flat cotton side up. Place the Largest Flat cotton side up on top of the Middle Flat. **Pin** the folded corners of the Largest Flat to the midpoint of each side of the Middle Flat. **Sew** along the edge of each folded corner.





Note: At this point, you have a Double Bunk. If you like, you can grommet the corners of the top flat and you are done. Or, continue to attach the third level to make a Honeycomb.

5. **Pin** the corners of the smallest flat to the corners of the middle flat and sew about 1 inch along each side of the corner. If you are using ribbon loops to hang the hammock and you forgot to sew them in when you made the top flat, you can add the ribbon loops now by inserting them between the top and middle level corners.



NOTE: If you prefer, you can attach the middle flat to the top flat the same way that you attached the bottom flat to the middle flat: by folding the corners and sewing the folded corners to the midpoints of the sides of the top flat.

Also, while honeycomb hammocks usually are made with the top flat attached cotton-side up (it gives the honeycomb a sort of closed-in look with an inner fleece lining), you can also attach the top hammock fleece side up if you prefer.



6. **Insert Grommets/Eyelets** in the corners of the top/middle level if you did not use ribbon loops. Or put the grommets in the midpoints of each side if desired.



7. Hang!



Hanging a Honeycomb: Honeycombs are usually hung from the corners of the top level, but you can also hang it from the midpoint of each side of the top level. The top level becomes more of a roof over the middle level than a level in its own right.

Double Decker



Materials

Cotton or Flannel

- (1) 13" x 20" rectangle

Fleece

- (1) 13" x 20" rectangle

Extras

- Thread (match to fleece)
- Grommets

Finished Size

7"x12" top deck

Options

Make the tube as long as you like – replace the 13" side with the desired length + 1" (for seam allowances). Make the hammock wider or fall deeper by adding length to the 20" side. The

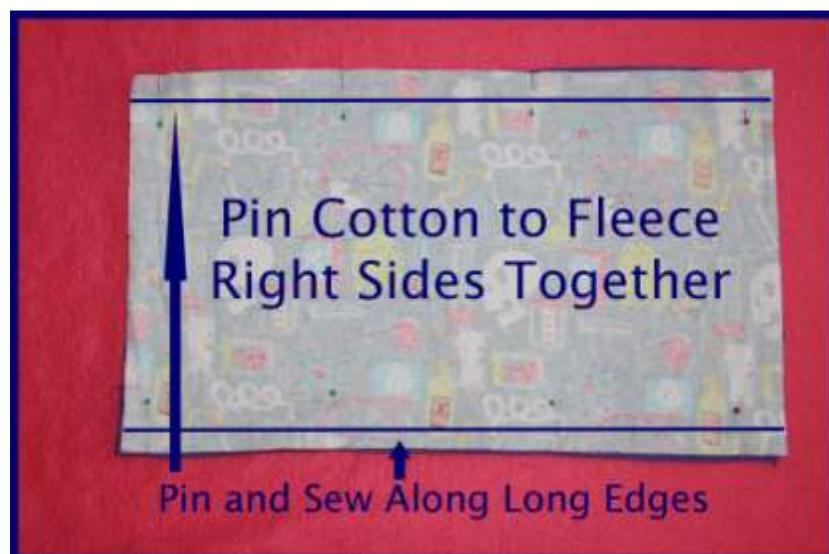
dimensions used here make a small double decker that is perfect for hanging above a shelf in a Martins R695 cage.

Instructions

1. **Cut your fabric.**



2. **Place Cotton over Fleece, Right Sides Together.**
3. **Pin** along both long edges.



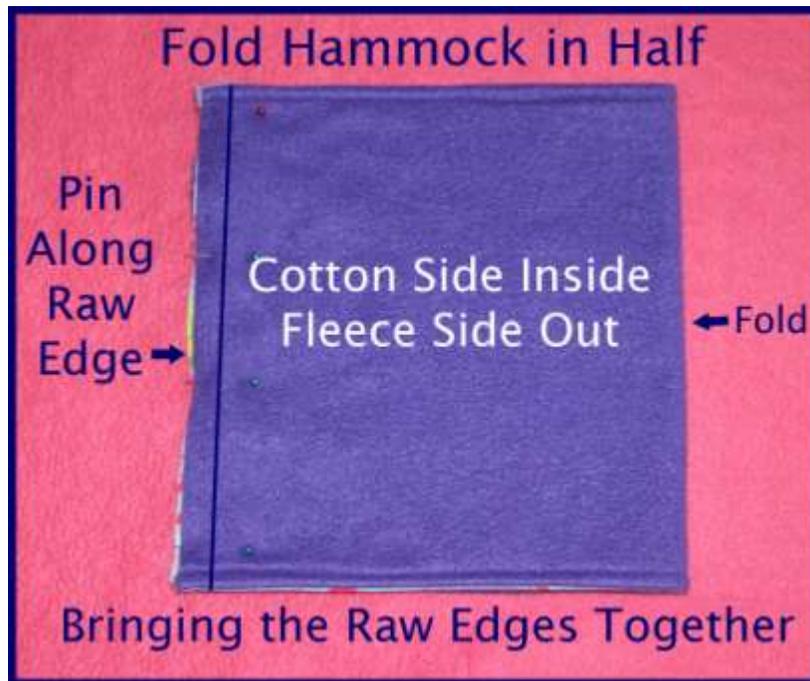
4. **Sew** along the long sides only, leaving the short sides open.
5. **Trim** seam allowances and cut loose threads.



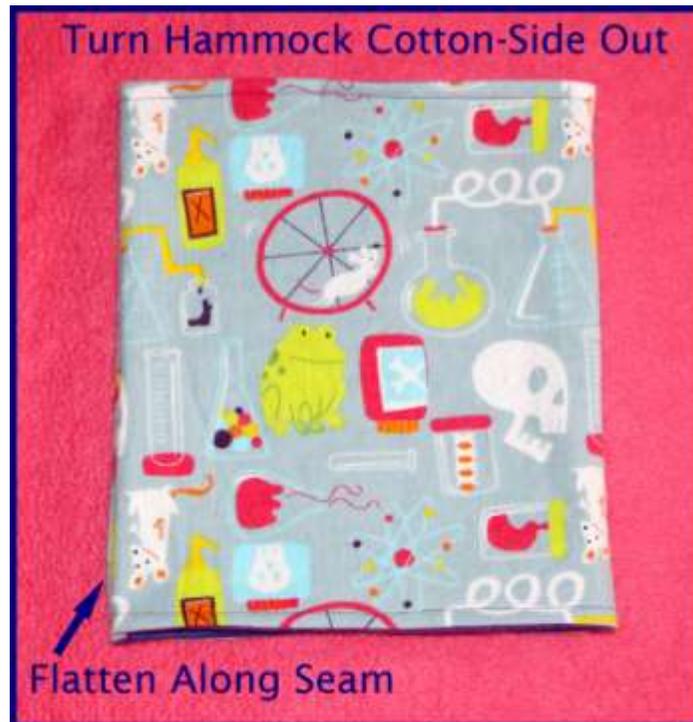
6. Turn hammock **Right-Side Out**.
7. **Top Stitch** across the finished edges.



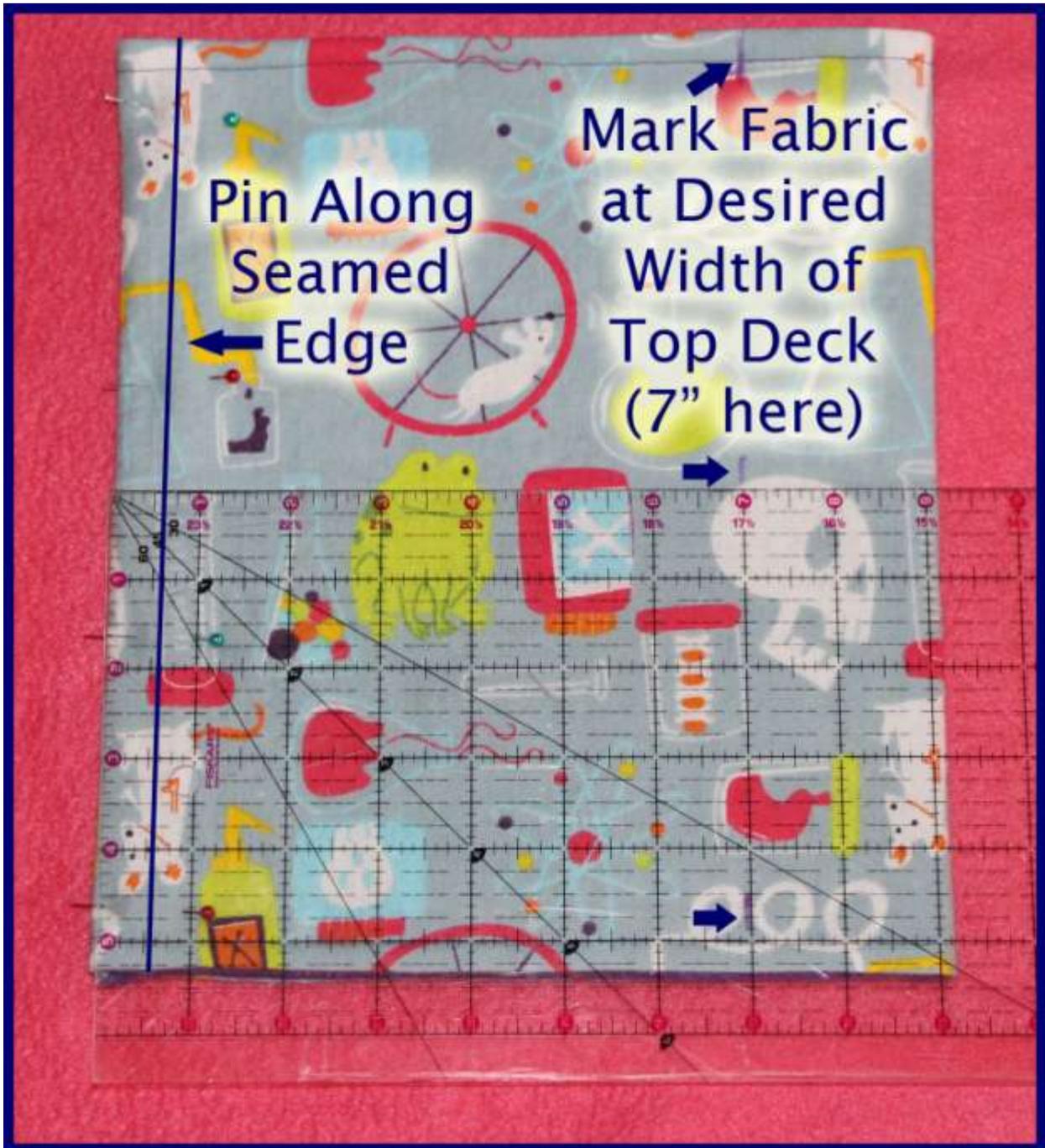
8. **Fold** the hammock in half, **cotton side together on the inside, fleece on the outside**, bringing the short raw-edged sides together.
9. **Pin** along the raw side.



10. **Turn** hammock **cotton-side out**.
11. **Flatten** hammock along seam.

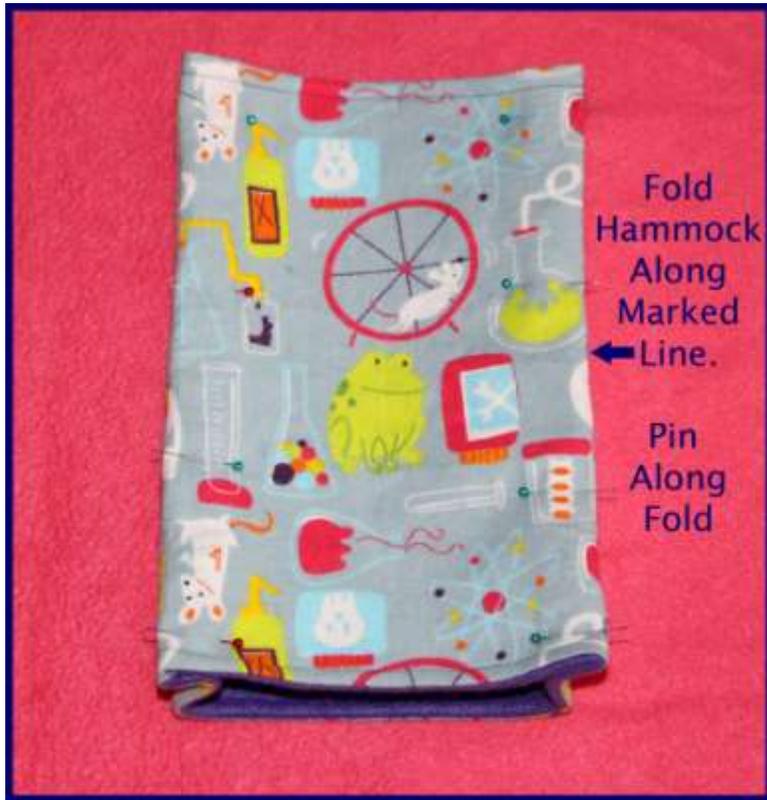


12. **Pin** along the seamed edge.
13. **Measure** 7" from the seamed edge (or the desired width of the top deck if you are making a larger hammock).
14. **Mark** a line at this distance with chalk or a disappearing ink marking pen.



15. **Fold** hammock along the line you just marked.

16. **Pin** along the fold.



***Note:** At this point, you may want to lift the hammock up and check on the depth of the lower deck. If it hangs too high up, you may want to shorten the width of the top deck. If it hangs too far down, you may want to increase the width of the top deck.*

17. **Sew** along both pinned edges.



***Note:** If you will be placing your grommets within the seam, make sure to leave a wide enough space between the stitching and the fold for the grommet to fit.*

18. Add Grommets.



19. Hang!



This tutorial example was sized to fit this space in a Martins R695 cage just right.

Tube



Materials

Cotton or Flannel

- (1) 16" x 19" rectangle (or strips to make such a striped rectangle)

Fleece

- (1) 16" x 19" rectangle

Extras

- Thread (match to fleece)
- Ribbon for loops at top

Finished Size

18" long tube with wide diameter

Options

Make the tube as long as you like – cut fabric one inch longer than the desired length. This is a wide tube. For a narrow tube, use a width of 14" or 15" instead of 16."

Instructions

1. **Cut your fabric.** If making a solid hammock, cut your cotton piece to the same size as your fleece piece and skip to **Step 3**.

2. **Making a Striped Tube**
 - a. Calculate how wide you want your stripes to be and how many stripes you want. Based on the number and width of your stripes, determine how long your fleece piece needs to be.

Stripes are usually 4 or 5" wide. A tube hammock generally consists of 4-6 stripes of alternating fabric. For a hammock with (5) 4" stripes, you would need to cut five strips of fabric that are 5" wide (4" plus ½" seam allowance on each side). Your finished tube would be 20" long (5 stripes x 4" stripe width), so your fleece would have to be cut 21" long (20" plus ½" seam allowance on both sides).

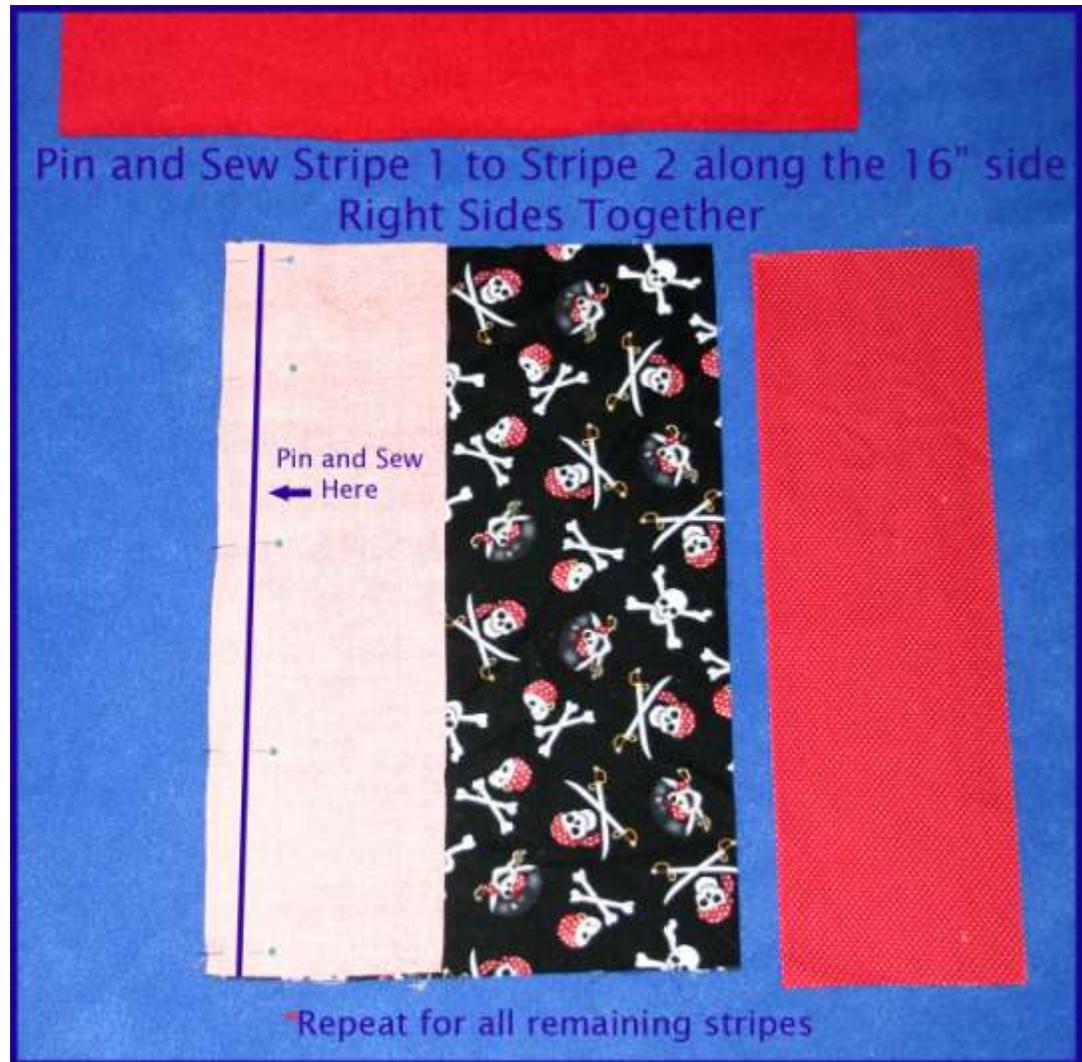
In this tutorial, I am going to make an 18" hammock with 4"-long striped cuffs on each side. That means, I need to cut three stripes: a 5" stripe (4" finished width plus ½" seam allowance on each side) for the left cuff, an 11" stripe (10" finished width plus ½" seam allowance on each side) for the main length of the tube, and a 5" stripe (4" finished width plus ½" seam allowance on each side) for the right cuff.

- b. Calculate how roomy you want your tube to be. For a more roomy tube, use a 15" circumference (cut to 16" to account for seam allowances). For a tighter fit, you can go down to 13" (cut to 14" to account for seam allowances). I prefer a 15" diameter for male rats.

- c. Cut your stripes from cotton and cut your fleece based on the total size of the finished tube.



- d. **Pin** the first strip to the second stripe along the 16" edge, **right sides together**.
- e. **Sew** along the 16" edge only. Trim seam allowances.



- f. **Repeat d and e** for all stripes until you have one piece of cotton the same size as your fleece.



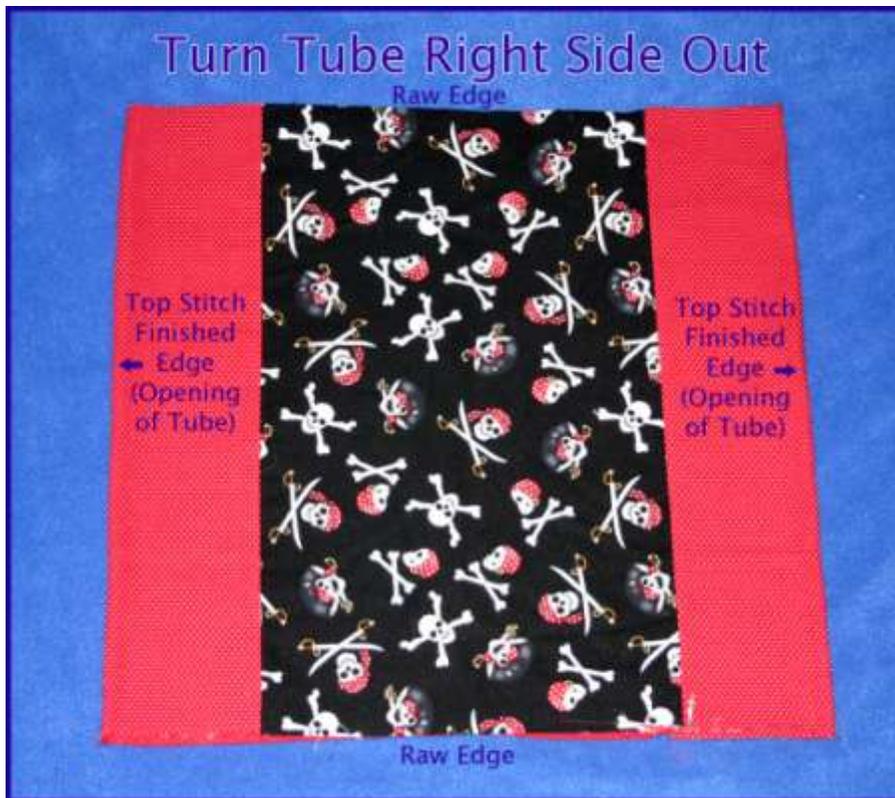
3. **Pin** the cotton piece to the fleece piece, **right sides together**, along the 16" sides only.



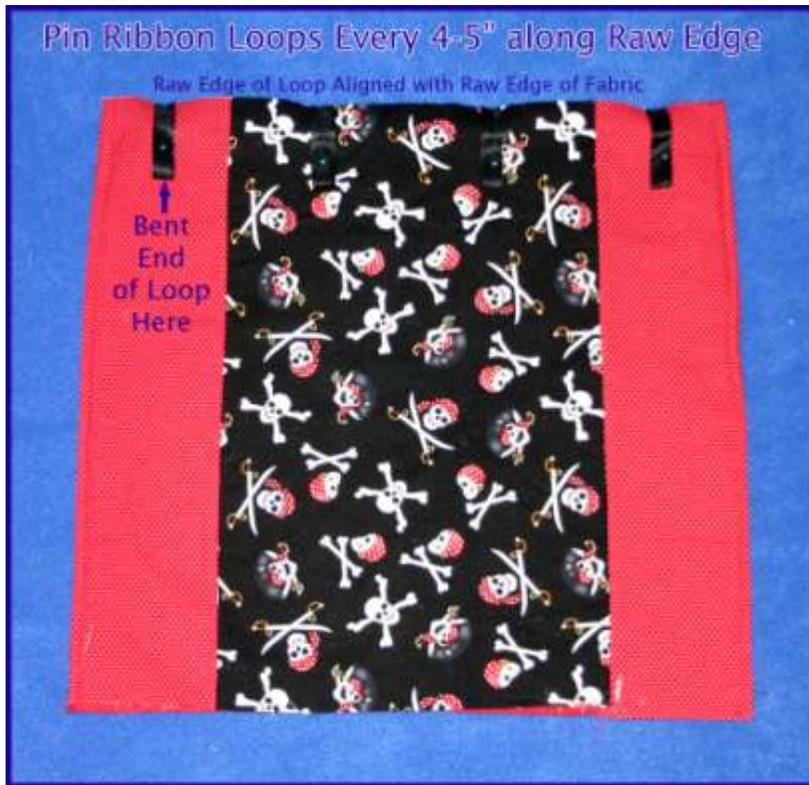
4. **Sew** along the two pinned sides only. This will be the opening of the tube.
5. **Trim** excess thread and seam allowances.



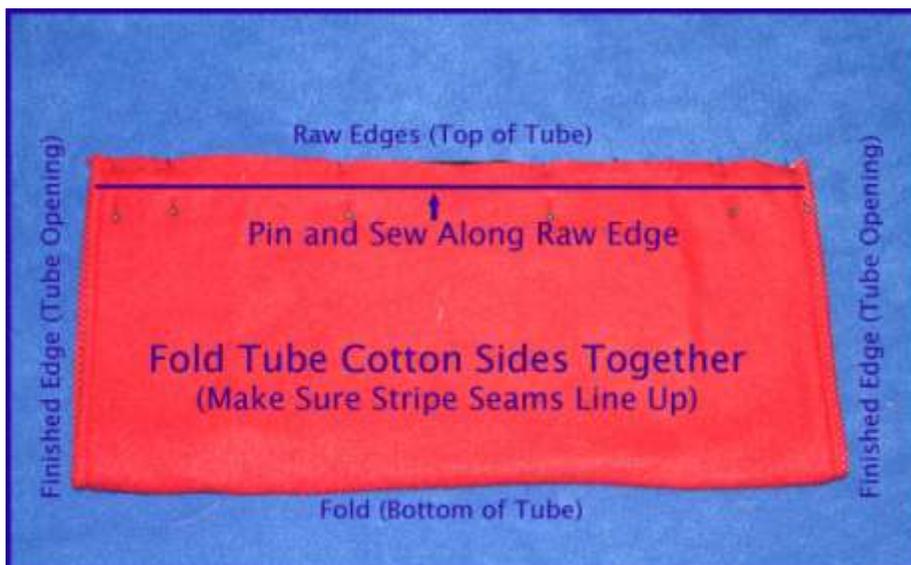
6. Turn tube **right side out**.
7. **Top stitch** along the two 16" sides.



8. **Pin** ribbon loops about every 4 or 5 inches along the top raw edge. Pin with the cut edges of the ribbon aligned with the raw edge, and the fold of the ribbon pointing toward the opposite edge.



9. **Fold** the tube in half, with the raw edges meeting, **cotton sides together, fleece side out**. Make sure the stripe seams line up with each other so that the stripes meet perfectly at the seam when the tube is sewn.



10. **Trim** the seam allowance.



11. Turn the tube **right side (cotton side) out**.



12. **Hang** as a hammock or **Rest** on the floor of the cage.



18" Tube positioned on floor of cage.



24" Tube hung as a hammock, leading to a basket.

Standard Cross Tube



Materials

Cotton or Flannel

- (8) house shaped pentagrams (8" base, 7" sides, 10" height)

Fleece

- (8) house-shaped pentagrams (8" base, 7" sides, 10" height)

Extras

- Thread (match to fleece)
- Ribbon for loops at top and at openings

Finished Size

About 17.5" long each side; about 14" opening circumference.

Description

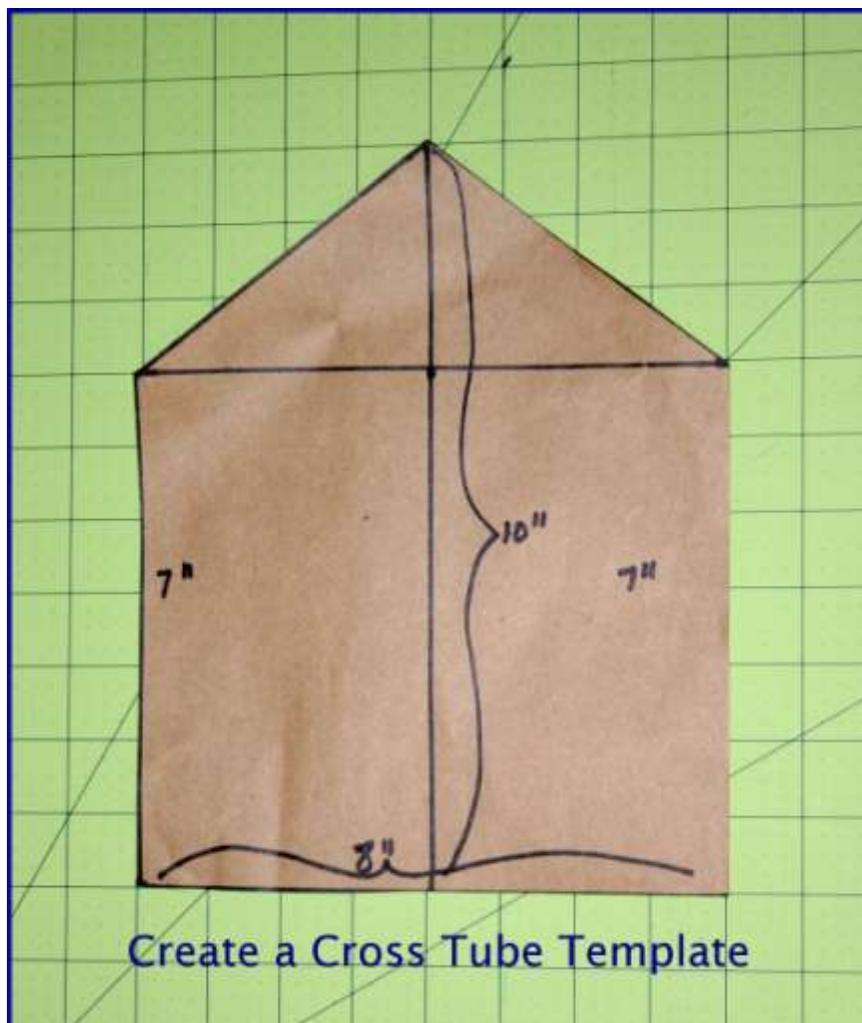
This is an X-shaped tube that is a lot of fun for the rats to explore.

I first learned to make the cross tube using the reversible design, which follows this tutorial. However, I am not a huge fan of reversible/seamless designs. They usually work best when using fleece for both inside and out, and they tend to be more difficult and sometimes less stable than seamed designs.

This is my own seamed variation of the design. The seamed design has the advantage of firmly securing the fleece lining layer to the cotton/flannel layer so that the fleece doesn't tend to separate and collapse inside the tube.

Instructions

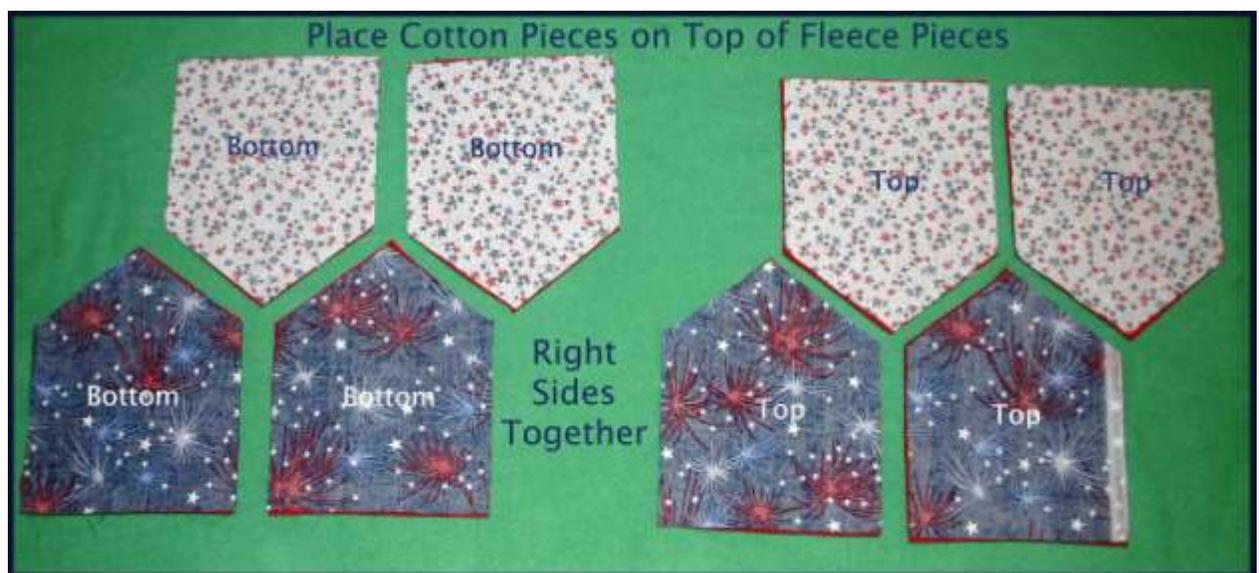
1. **Create a Template** in the shape of a "house." The base of the house should be 8" long. The sides should be 7" long. The peak of the house should be 10" from the base.



2. **Cut Your Fabric:** Using the template created in the last step, cut 8 house-shaped pentagons from your cotton fabric and 8 house-shaped pentagons from your fleece.



3. **Position** the cotton pieces over the fleece pieces, **right sides together**.
4. **Select** 4 pieces to make up the top of the cross and 4 pieces to make up the bottom.



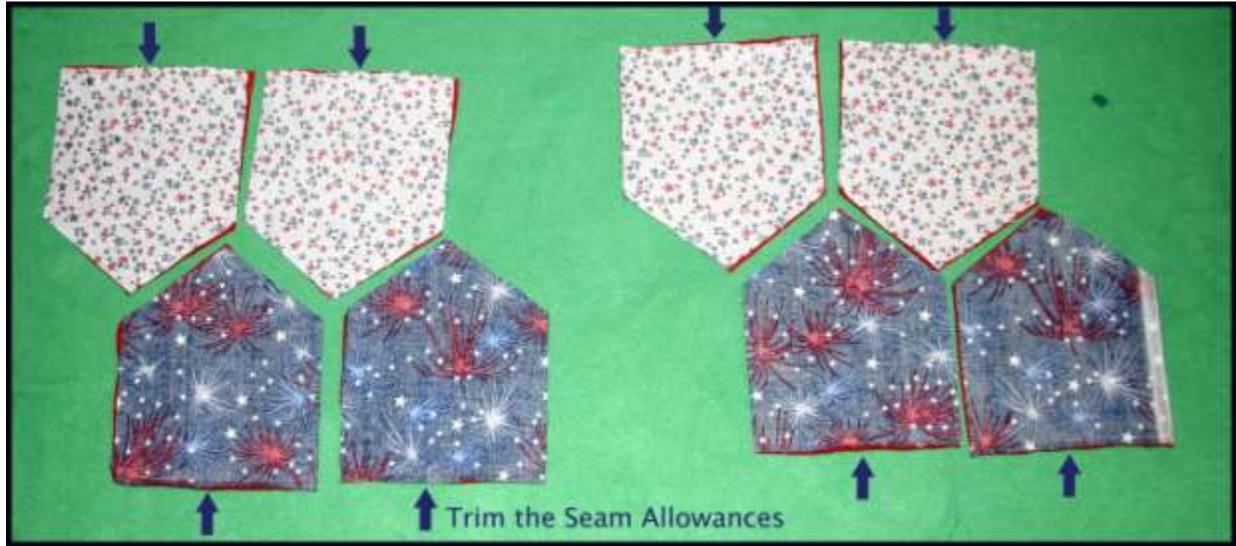
5. **Insert a Ribbon Loop** at the midpoint of the base on the “house” shape, between the cotton and the fleece, on all four **TOP** pieces only.



6. **Pin and Sew** along the base of the “house.” **Repeat** for all 8 pieces (the 4 top pieces will have a ribbon loop sewn into this seam).



7. **Trim** the seam allowances.



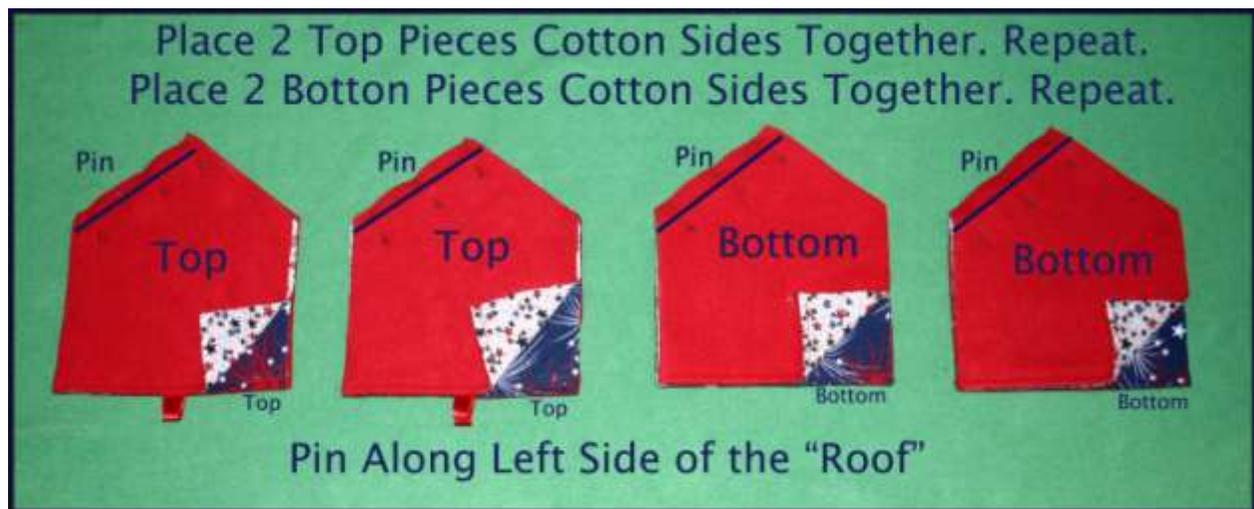
8. **Flip** the cotton side at the seam so the **Right Sides Face Out** (Wrong Sides Together)



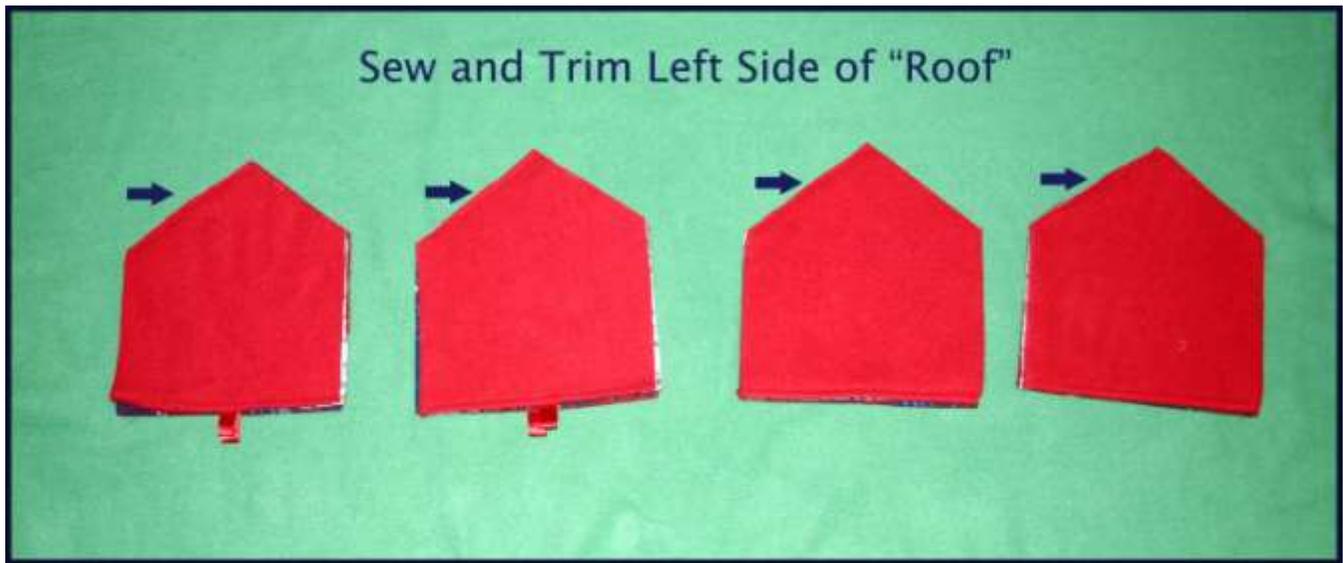
9. **Top Stitch** along the base of all eight pieces.



10. **Position 2 Top Pieces Cotton Sides Together.** These will be adjacent legs of the cross, so if you are alternating two different cotton patterns as I am, choose one of each pattern.
11. **Position** the remaining 2 Top Pieces **Cotton Sides Together.** If you are using two different cotton patterns, place the patterns in the same order as you did for the first pair.
12. **Repeat** Steps 10 and 11 for the Bottom Pieces.
13. **Pin** along the top left side of the "Roof."



14. **Sew** along pinned edge. **Trim** seam allowances.



15. **Open** the pieces at the seam. You should have 4 half-cross pieces as shown below.



16. **Position** the 2 top halves on top of each other, **Cotton Sides Together**.
17. **Repeat** for the 2 bottom halves.
18. **Pin** along the two remaining roof sides as shown below.



19. **Insert Ribbon Loop** between the cotton layers of the **Top Cross** at the center of the pinned area. In this example, I have separated the ends of the loop to create a wider loop opening.



20. **Sew and Trim** along pinned edge.

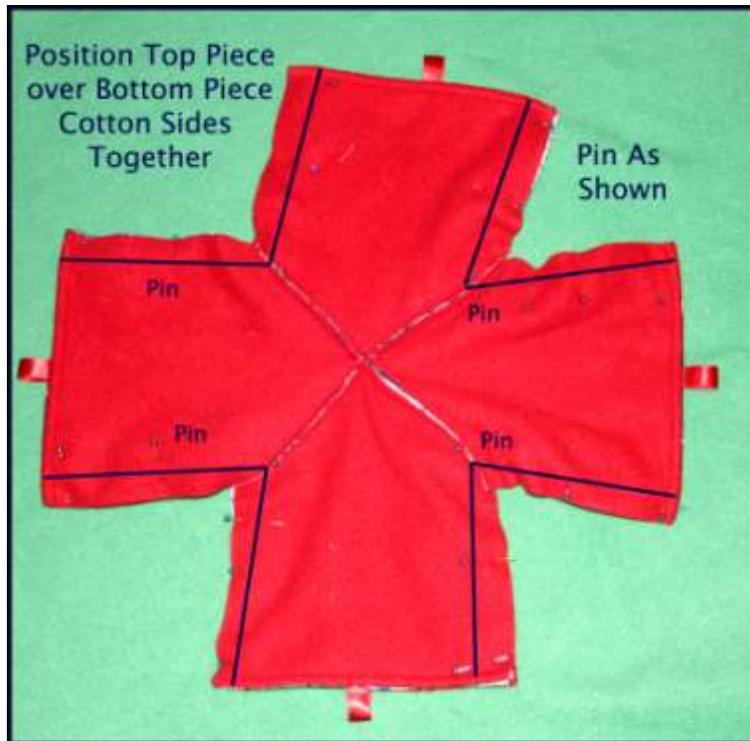


21. **Open** the pieces up to get a Top Cross piece and a Bottom Cross Piece.

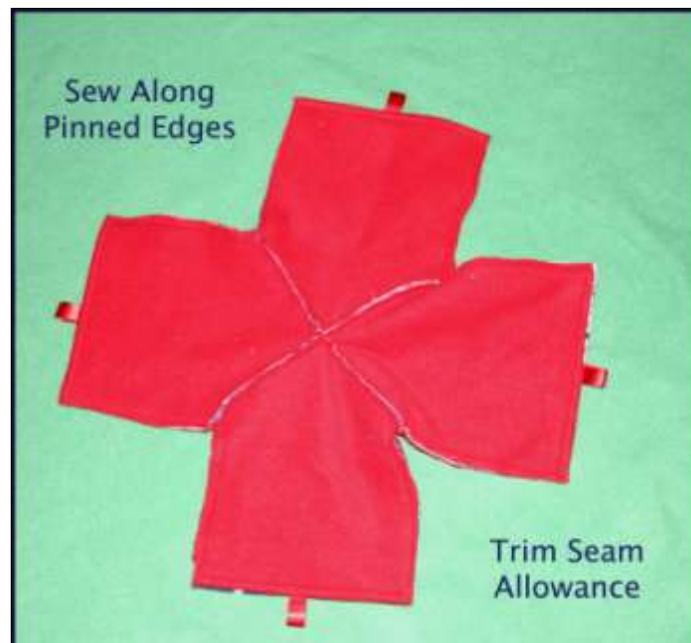


22. **Position** Top Piece over Bottom Piece, **Cotton Sides Together**.

23. Make sure that the fabric pattern on the top piece overlaps the same fabric pattern on the bottom piece.
24. **Pin** along the raw edges of the cross.



25. **Sew** along the pinned edges.
26. **Trim** the seam allowances.



27. Turn the cross **right-side out**.



28. **Place** the cross on the floor of the cage, using the loops to hold it open.

Reversible Cross Tube



Materials

Cotton or Flannel

- (8) house shaped pentagrams (8" base, 7" sides, 10" height)

Fleece

- (8) house-shaped pentagrams (8" base, 7" sides, 10" height)

Extras

- Thread (match to fleece)
- Ribbon for loops at top and at openings

Finished Size

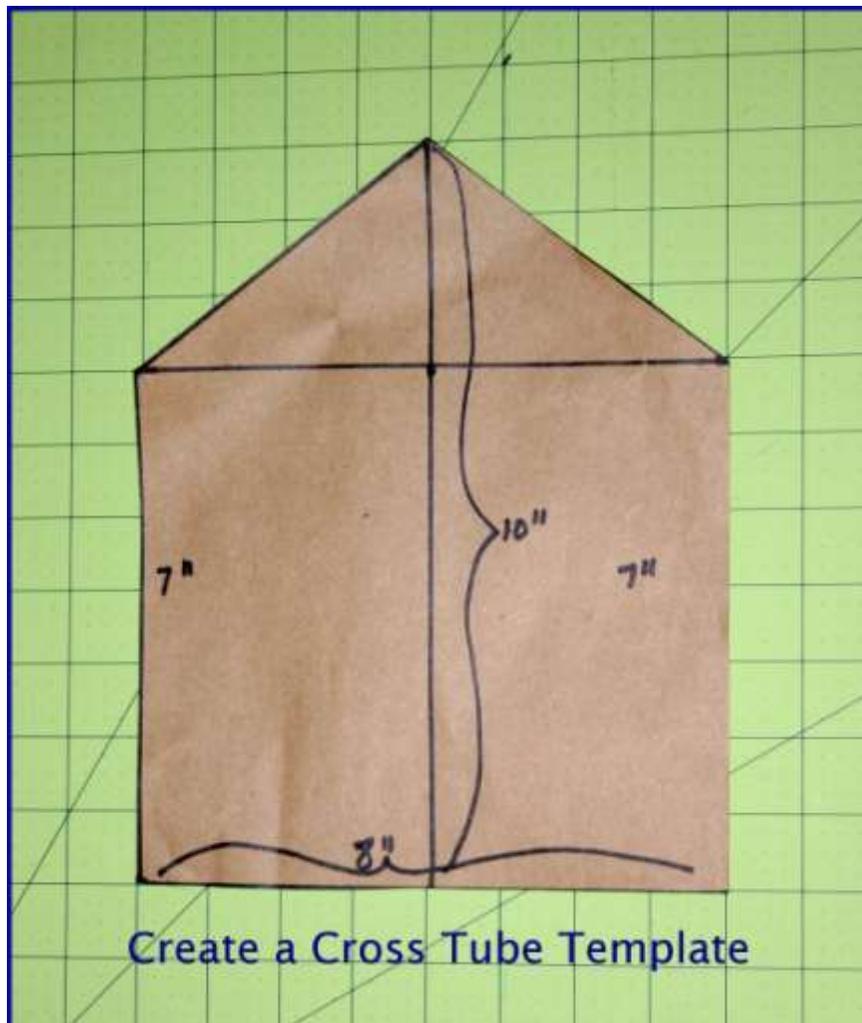
About 17.5" long each side; about 14" opening circumference.

Description

This is an X-shaped tube that is a lot of fun for the rats to explore. This version is the seamless design that also makes this hammock reversible (probably most useful if you use two patterns of fleece instead of one fleece and one cotton). The seamless design is very finished and professional, but as with most seamless designs, it does not have quite the support and structure that is added with a seamed design. The Standard Cross Tube tutorial that precedes this one is a bit simpler to make but is not reversible.

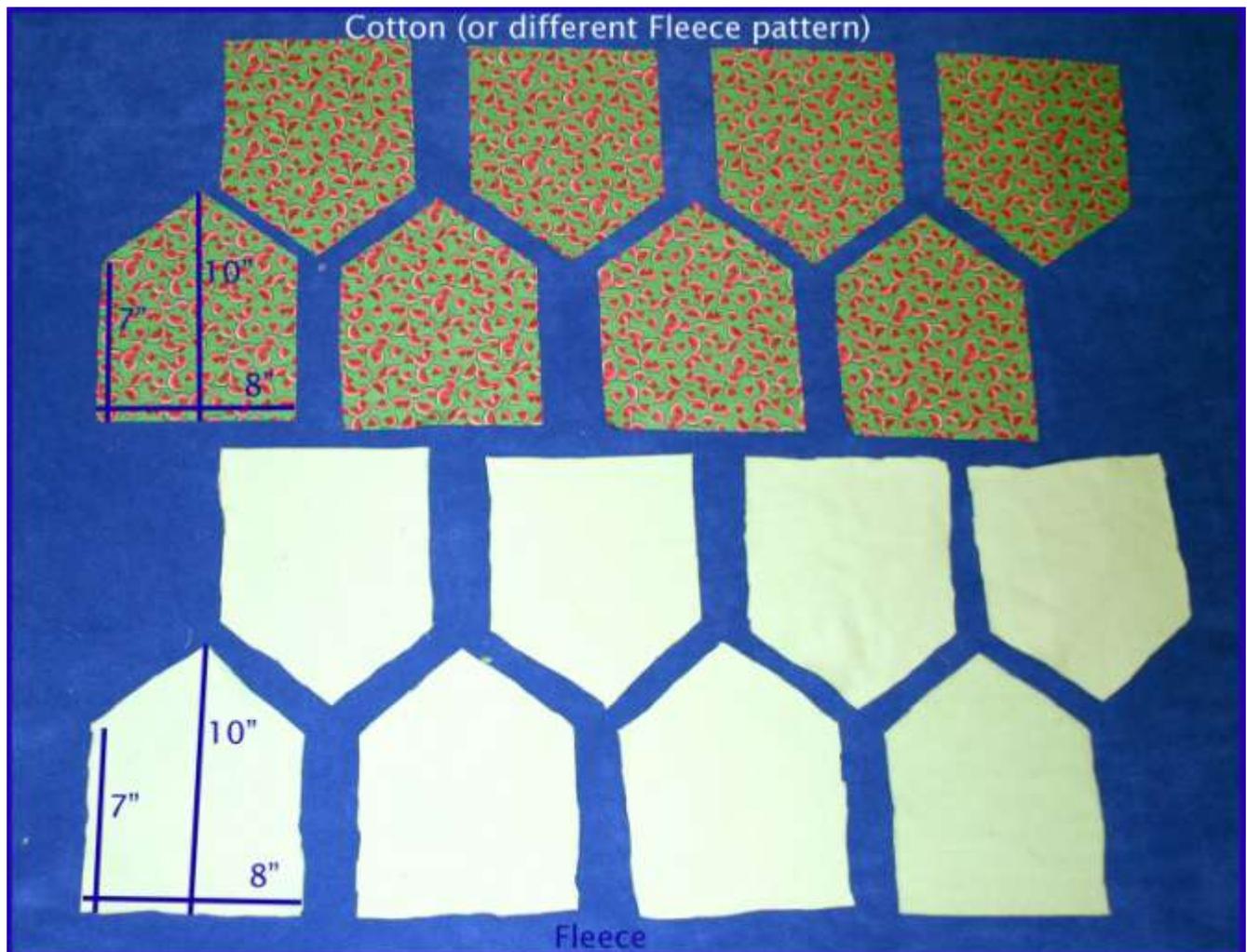
Instructions

29. **Create a Template** in the shape of a "house." The base of the house should be 8" long. The sides should be 7" long. The peak of the house should be 10" from the base.

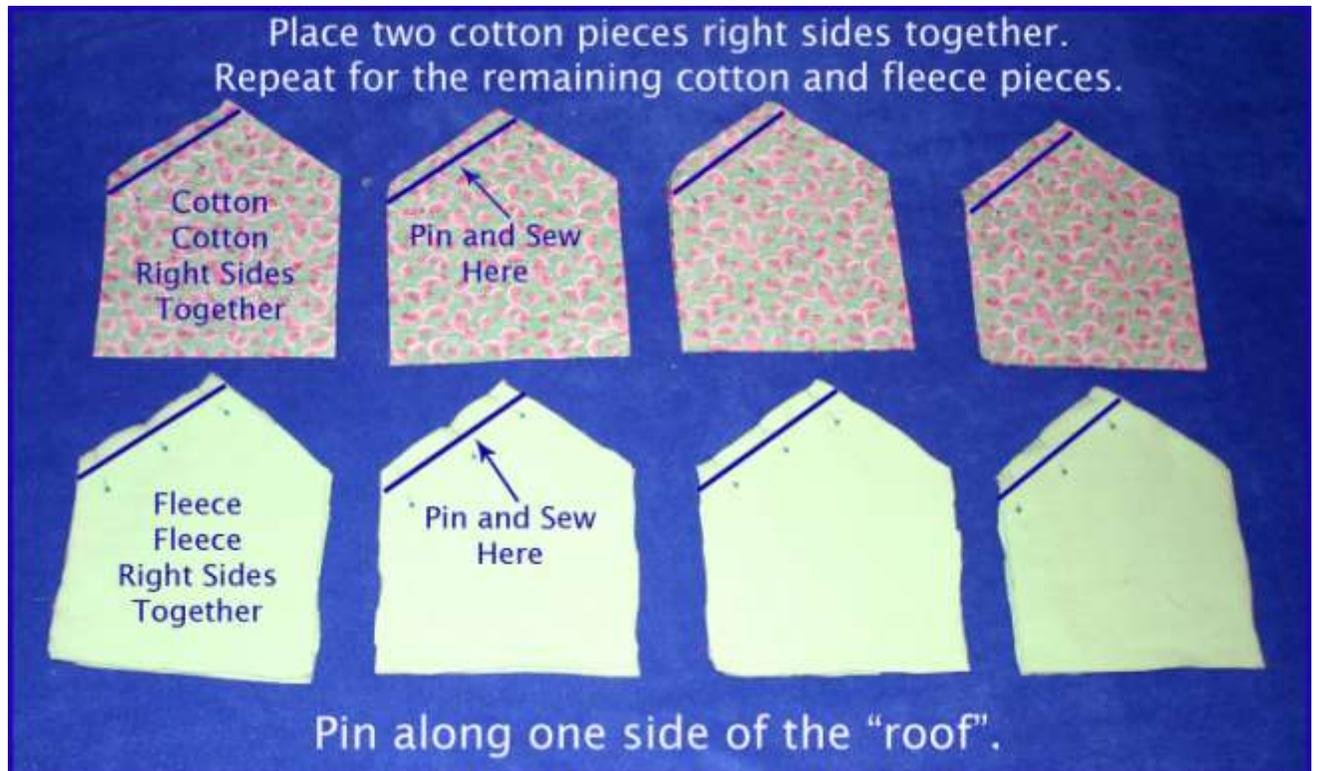


30. **Cut Your Fabric:** Using the template created in the last step, cut 8 house-shaped pentagons from your cotton fabric and 8 house-shaped pentagons from your fleece.

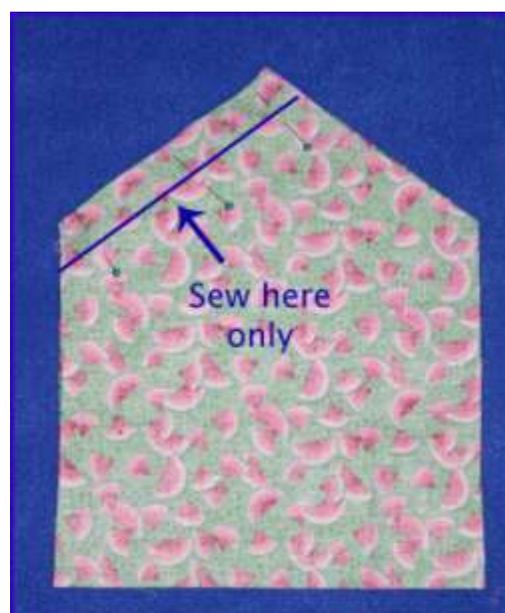
(Note: if you are planning to make a reversible cross tube, you may want to use two different fleece patterns instead of cotton and fleece).



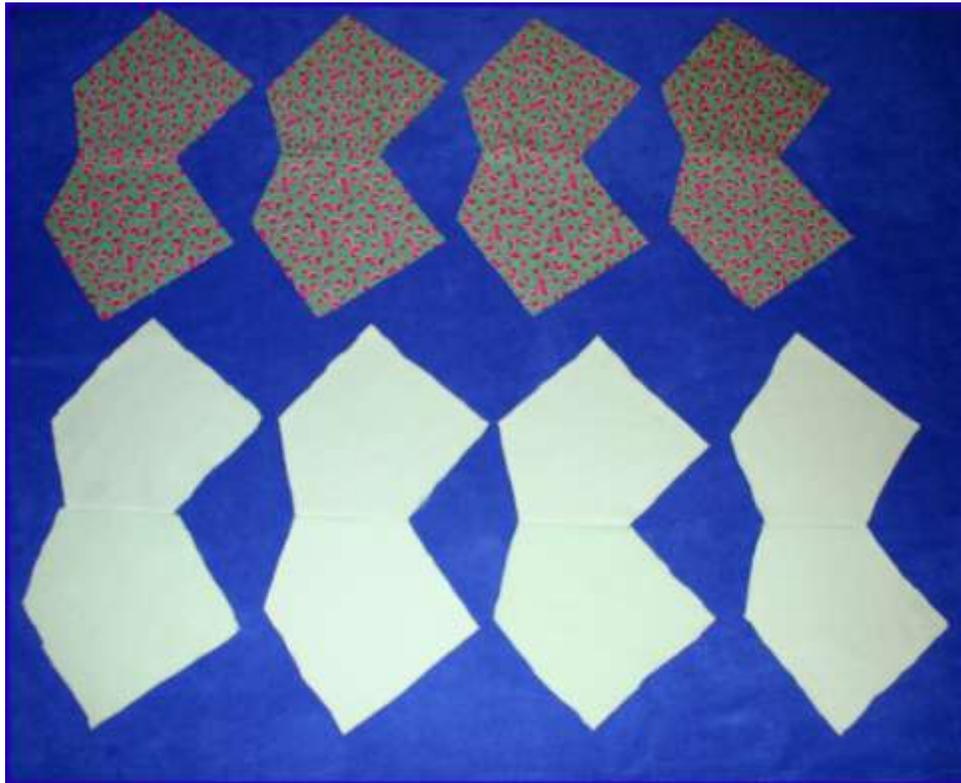
31. Place **two** cotton pieces **right sides together**. **Pin** along one side of the roof. Repeat for the remaining cotton pieces, then for the fleece pieces.



32. **Sew** along the pinned edge of the "house roof" only. Repeat for all 8 pinned pieces.



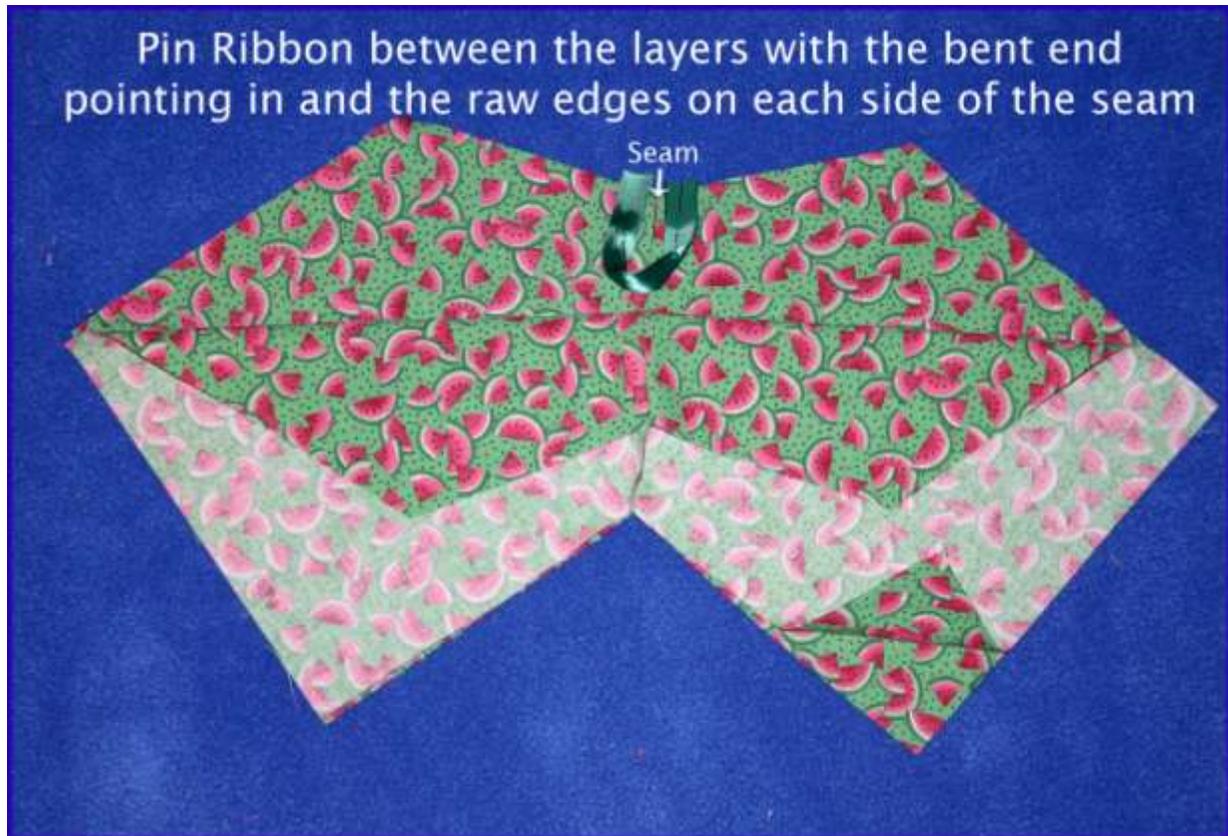
33. **Trim** seam allowances and thread ends. Open the pieces up and lay flat.



34. Place two cotton pieces **right sides together**. **Repeat** for the remaining two cotton pieces and the fleece pieces.

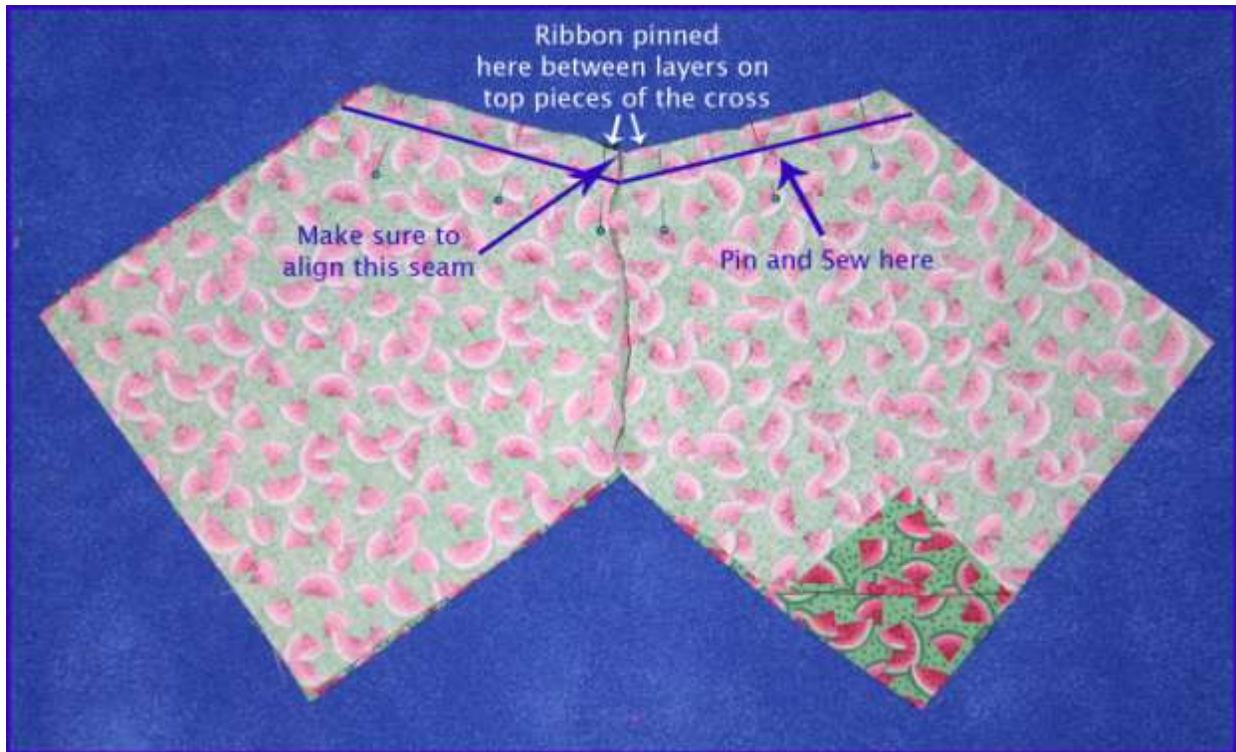


35. Choose one set of cotton pieces to be the top of the cross tube. **Pin a ribbon loop** between the layers at the “peak of the house” such that one end of the loop is on the left of the seam and the other end of the loop is on the right.



36. If you are making your cross tube reversible, **add a ribbon loop** to the top piece of the **fleece** as well, so that you will also have a loop available when you turn your tube inside out.

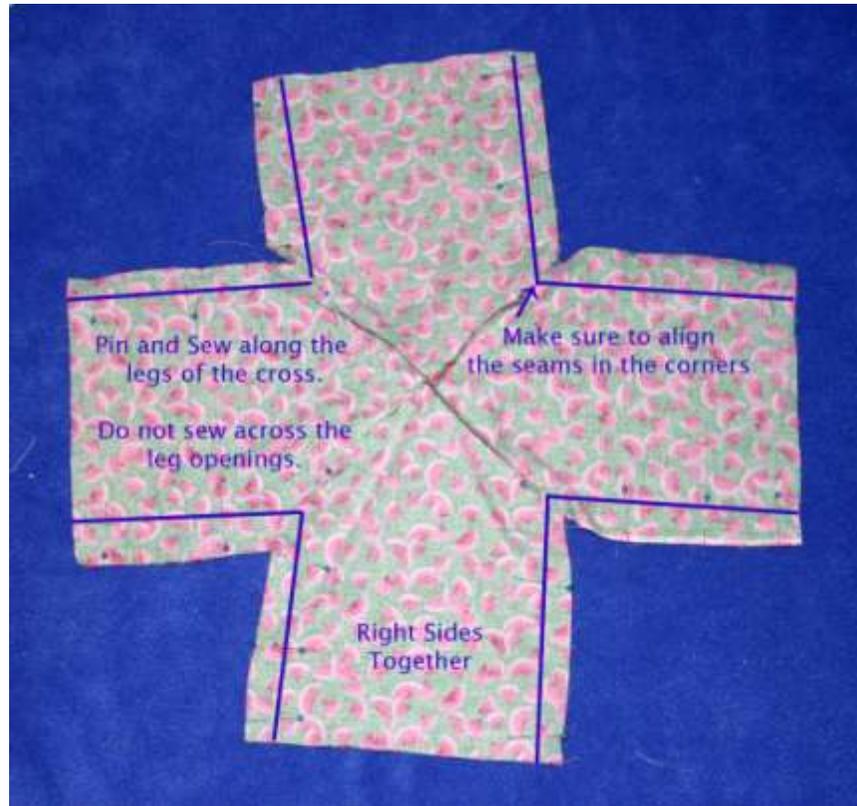
37. **Pin** along the unsewn edges of the “house roof.” Make sure that the seam in the middle is perfectly aligned on the top and bottom. **Sew** along the pinned edge. Repeat for all 4 sets of pieces.



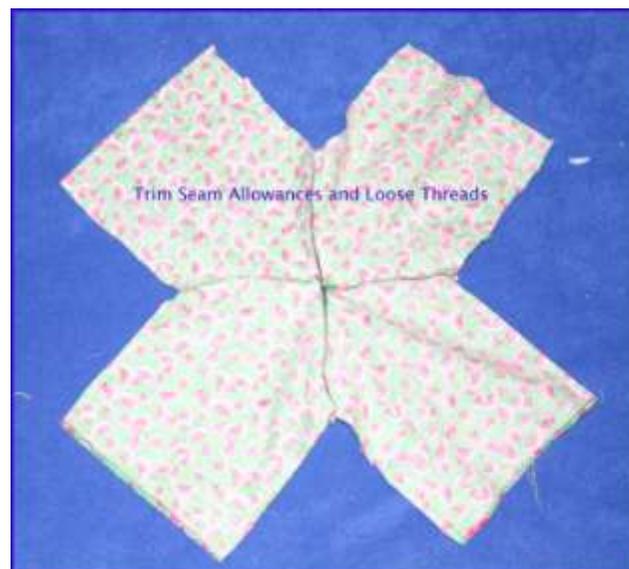
38. **Trim** seam allowances and thread ends and open up piece to make a cross.



39. Place the cotton pieces **right sides together**.
40. **Pin** along the lengths of the legs of the cross. Do not pin across the openings. **Align** the seams in the corners so that they meet.
41. **Sew** along the lengths of the legs of the cross.



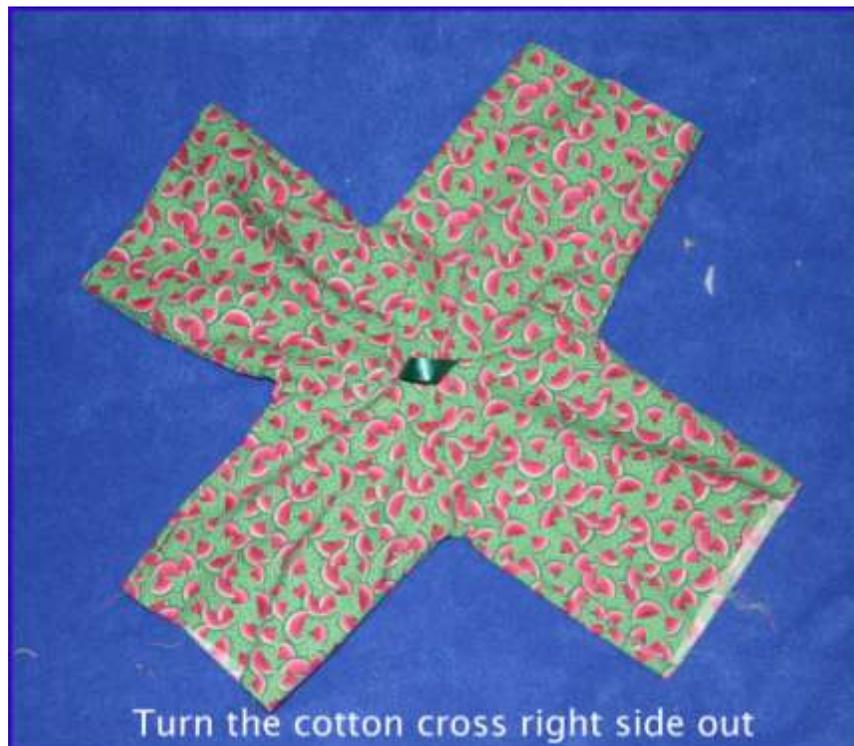
42. **Trim** seam allowances and thread ends.



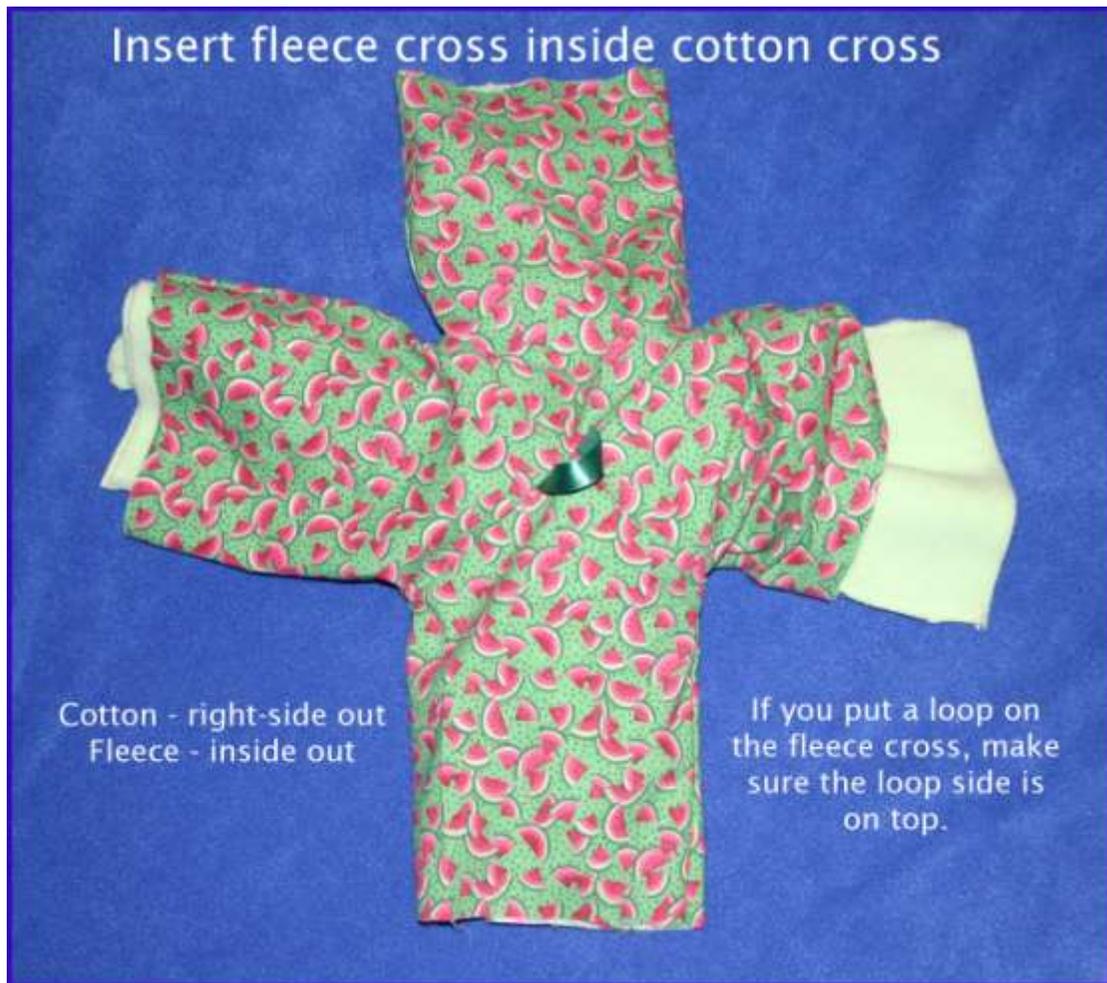
43. **Repeat** to make the fleece/inner cross.



44. Turn the cotton cross **right side out**. Leave the fleece cross **inside out**.



45. **Insert** the inside out fleece cross inside the right-side out cotton cross.



Note: If you are making a reversible cross, make sure the inner cross is inserted inside out, but with the loop on the top piece of the cross pointed down into the center of the cross. Basically the loop on the inner piece should be on the same side as the loop on the outer piece.

46. To finish off the openings of the tube, **fold ½” of the inner fleece out** toward the outer cotton.



47. **Fold ½” of the outer cotton in** to meet the inner fleece.



48. **Pin** the hem in place.



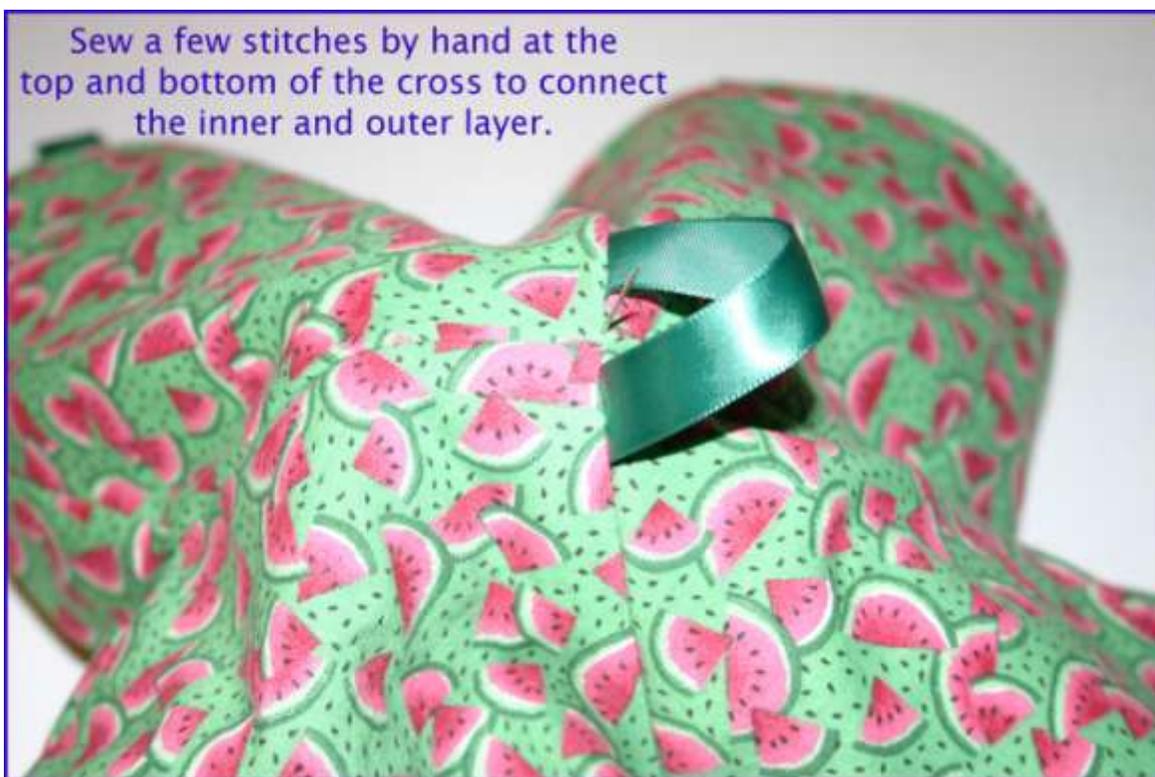
49. **Pin a ribbon loop** at the top of the opening between the cotton and the fleece so that the loop sticks outward and the ends are inside the hem.



50. **Sew** the hem around the opening of the tube close to the edge.



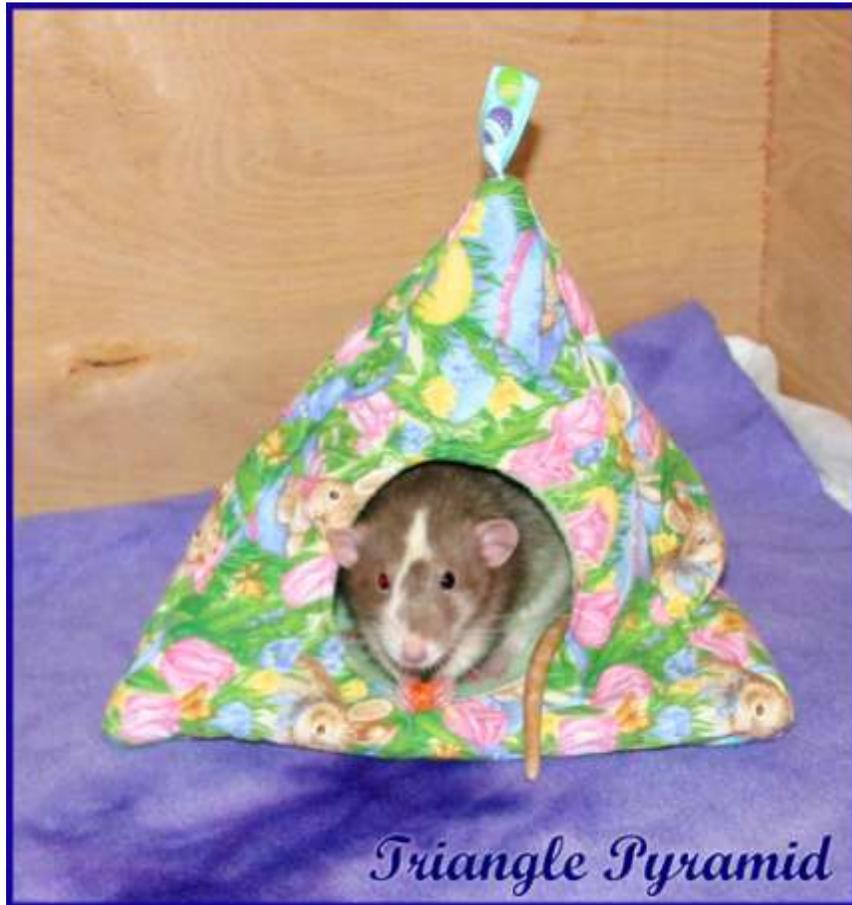
51. Because the inner lining is only connected to the outer fabric at the ends, **hand sew a few stitches in the center of the cross at the top and bottom** to keep the inner and outer fabrics together. This will help keep the inside of the cross open by preventing the lining from sagging inside the cross.



52. **Hang!** Note: the cross tube isn't really meant to hang. It sits nicely on the floor. The ribbon loops are used to keep the center and the openings raised (or they will flatten out as the rats trample on them).



Triangle Pyramid



Materials

Cotton or Flannel

- (4) 12" equilateral triangles

Fleece

- (4) 12" equilateral triangles

Extras

- Thread (match to fleece)
- Ribbon for loop at top

Finished Size

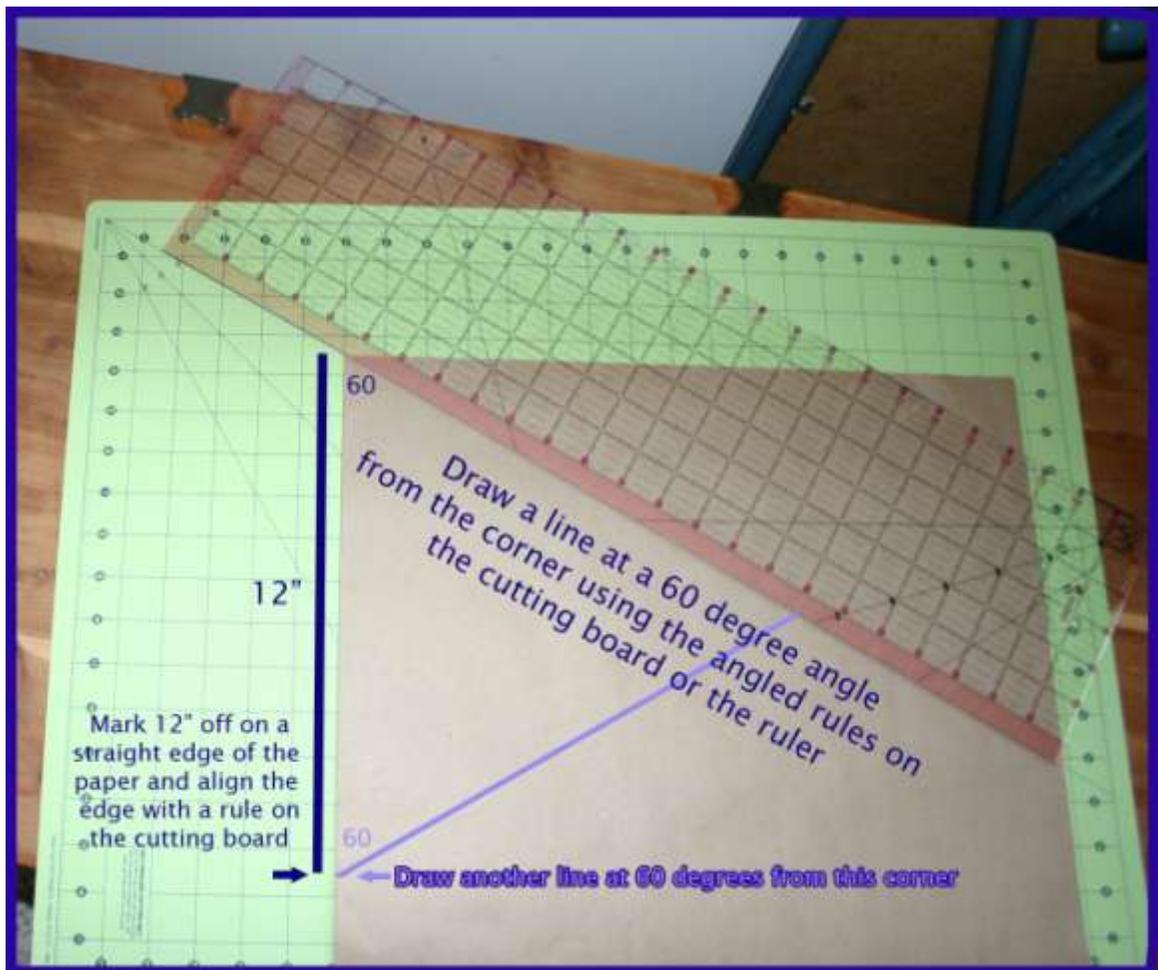
About 9.5" each side; About 7" tall.

Description

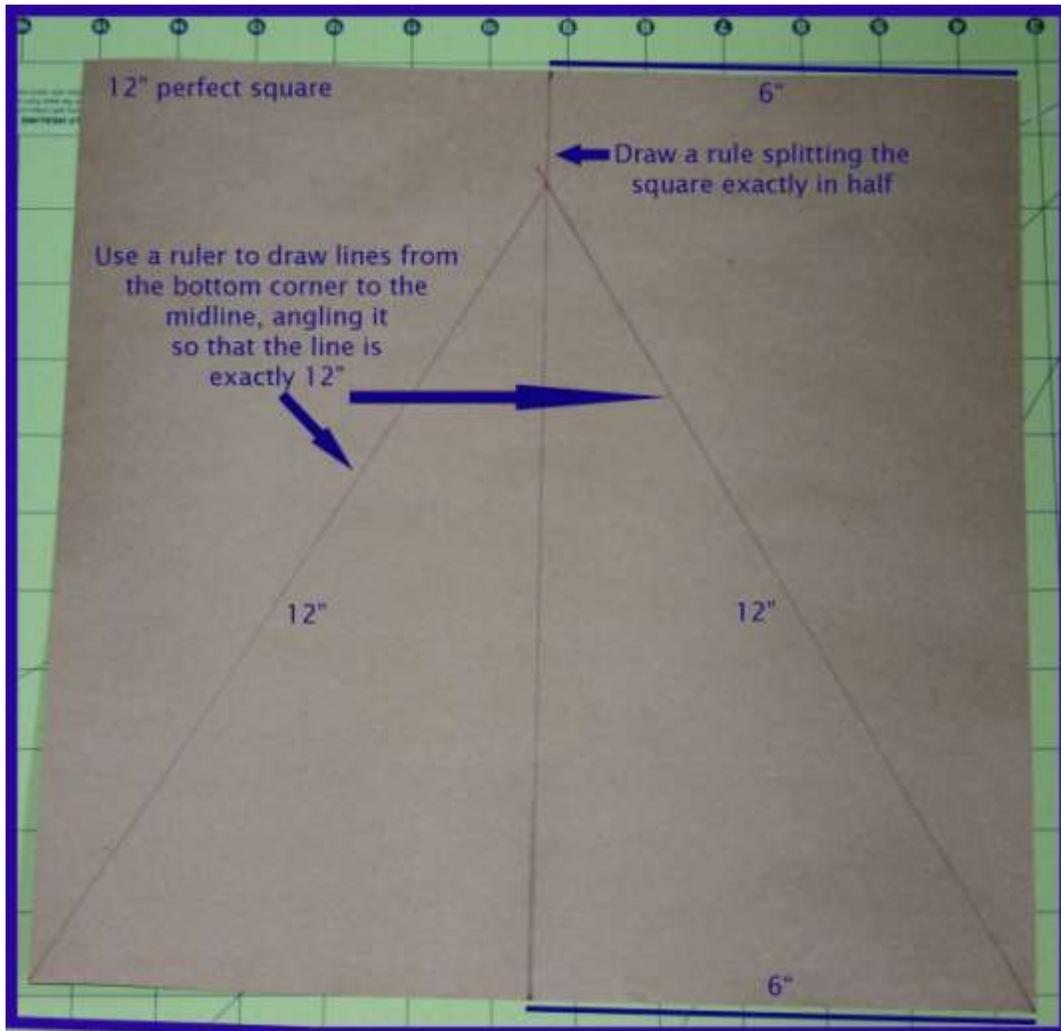
The triangle pyramid is a hut shaped like a pyramid with a triangle base.

Instructions

1. **Create a Template** on paper or stiff woven fabric for a 12" equilateral triangle (an equilateral triangle is a triangle with three sides of the same length). Here are two methods that work:
 - a. **Measuring Angles:** All three angles of an equilateral triangle are 60 degrees. Measure one straight line 12" long. Measure a 60 degree angle from one corner using a protractor or the angled rules on your rotary cutter set. Draw the line. Do the same for the other corner of your line, making sure your lines intersect.

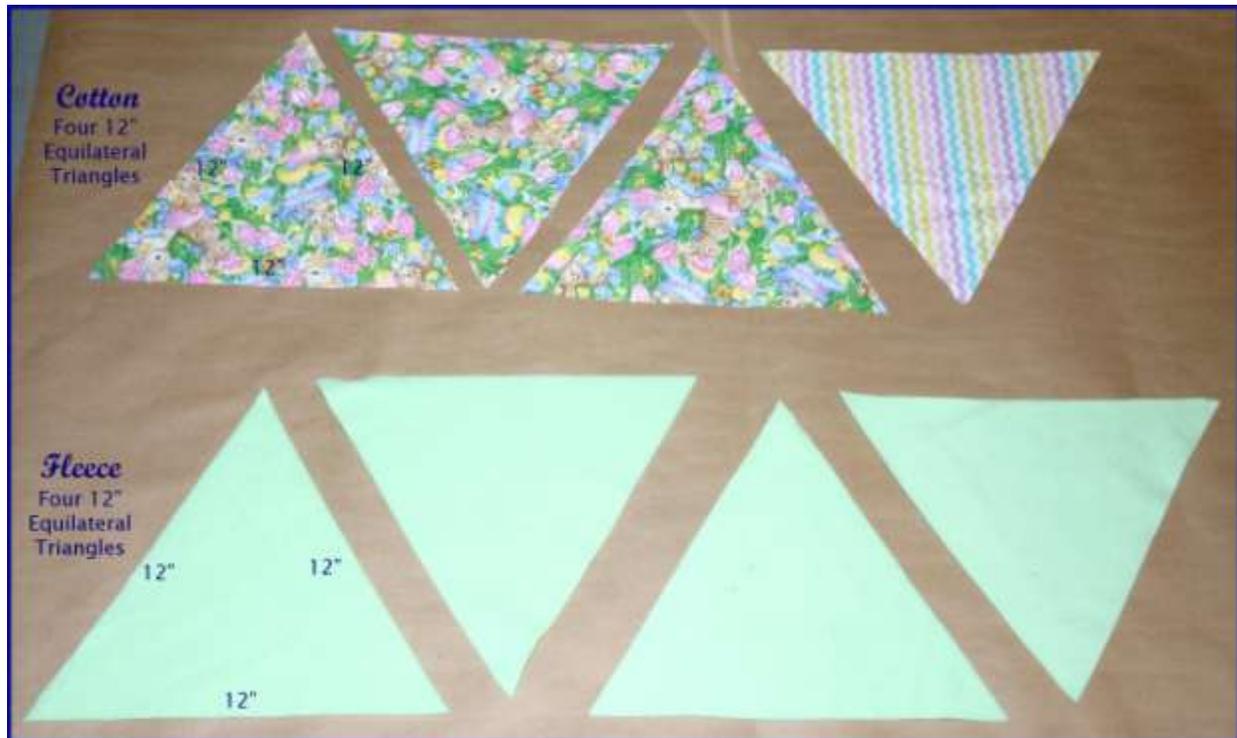


- b. **Use a 12" Square:** If you are not good with angles, you can create an equilateral triangle by starting with a 12" square. First, draw a line splitting the square in half. Take a ruler and position the 0 mark of the ruler on one corner of the square. Rotate the ruler until the 12" mark just touches the center line, and draw the line. Do the same on the other side (should match up with the same point as the first side).



2. **Cut Your Fabric:** Using the template, cut 4 triangles from your cotton material (outside of pyramid) and 4 triangles from your fleece (inner lining).

If you are using fabric that is directional and you don't want it to end up upside down or sideways, cut your fabric so that the bottom of the print is along one side of the triangle with the opposite point of the triangle at the top of the print.



Note that here I used a different cotton print for the bottom panel of the pyramid, as I did not have enough of the original fabric for four triangles. The bottom piece will likely not be visible when the triangle is standing on the floor.

3. Build the Front Panel

- a. Pin one piece of cotton to one piece of fleece, **right sides together**.



- b. **Trace a circle** in the center of the triangle. I use a canister of Morton's salt to trace my circles.

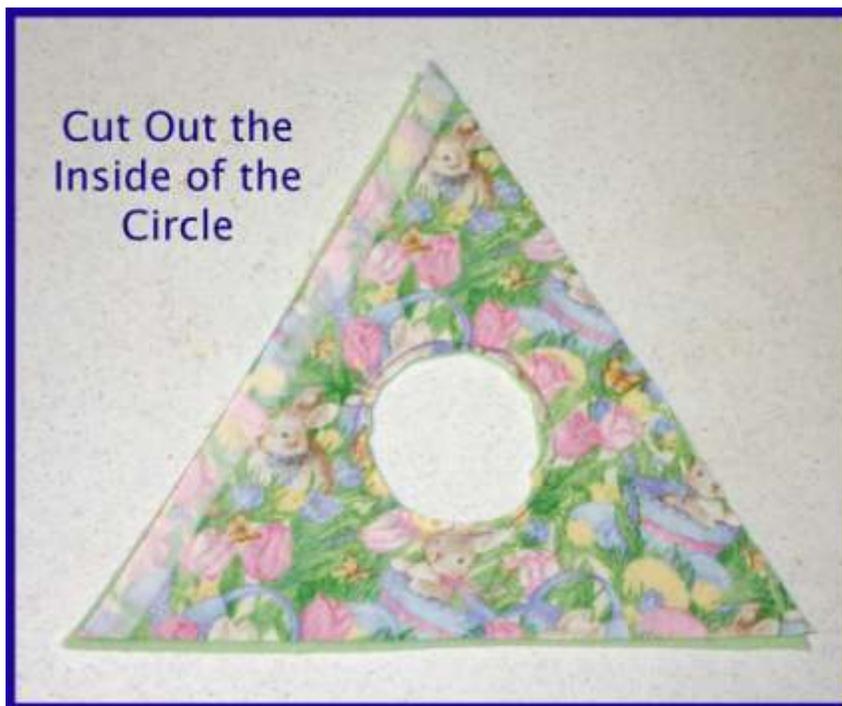


You can also trace a triangle, square or rectangular opening if you prefer.

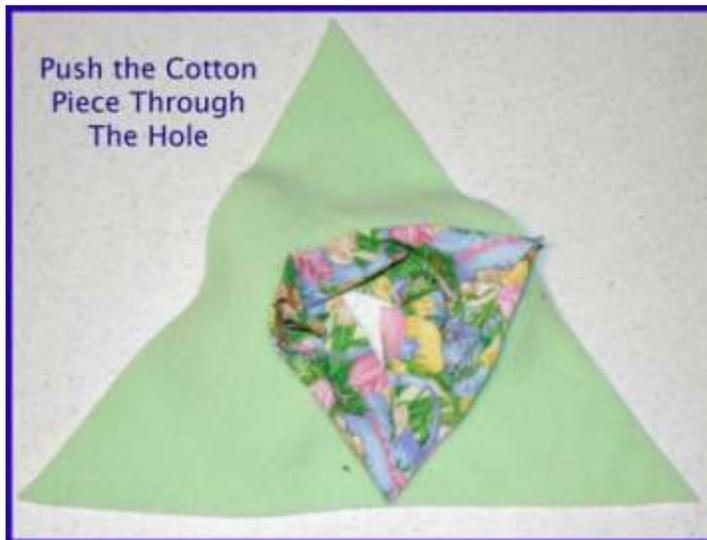
- c. **Sew** along the circle that you traced.



- d. **Cut out** the inside of the circle, being careful not to cut through the stitching.



- e. Take the cotton piece and separate the edges from the fleece, **passing the cotton through the hole** (do not pass the fleece through the hole).



- f. **Smooth** the cotton piece until it lies flat against the fleece, but now with the right sides out and a nice clean circle opening. **Pin** it to hold it flat.
- g. **Top stitch** around the circle opening to finish it off.



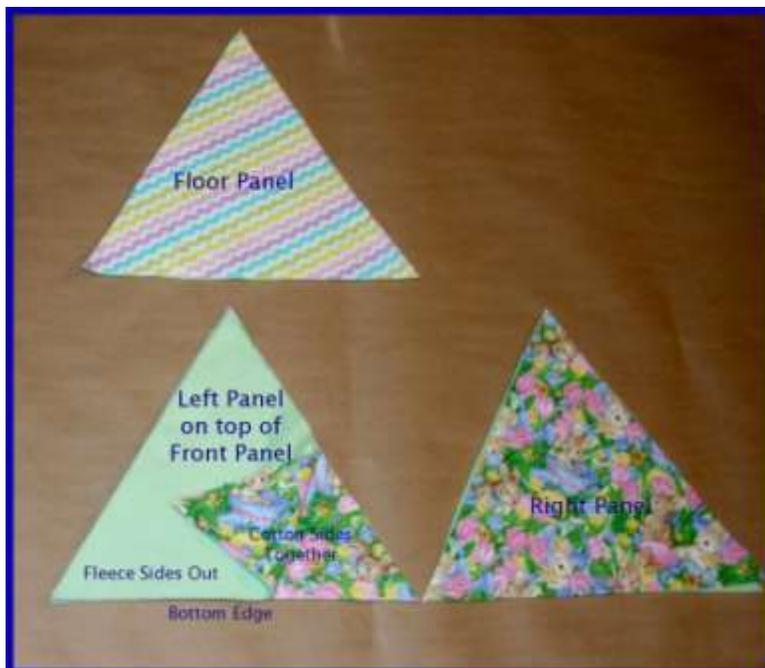
4. Attach the Side Panels

- a. Position the remaining cotton triangles over the remaining fleece triangles, **wrong sides together** (right sides facing out). It is very important that the right side of the cotton is the visible side and the wrong side is against the fleece.

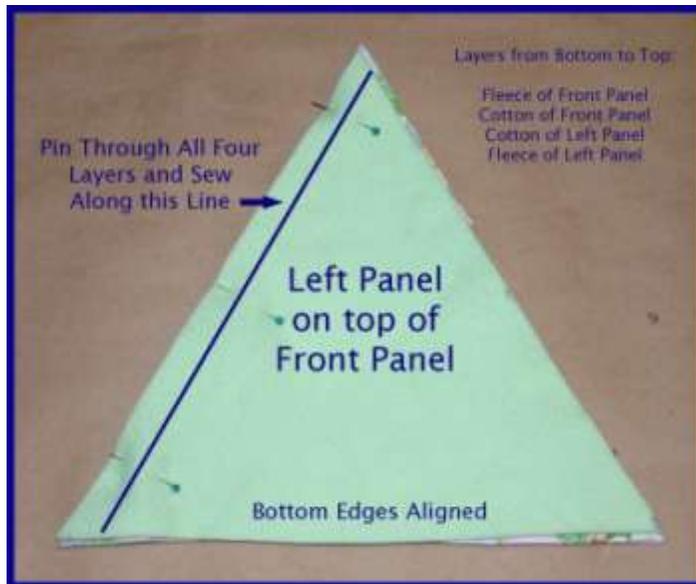


It is important to note the bottom edge of the triangle if your print is directional – otherwise, you could end up with your print appearing upside down or sideways.

- b. Position the Left Panel over the Front Panel, **cotton sides together**.



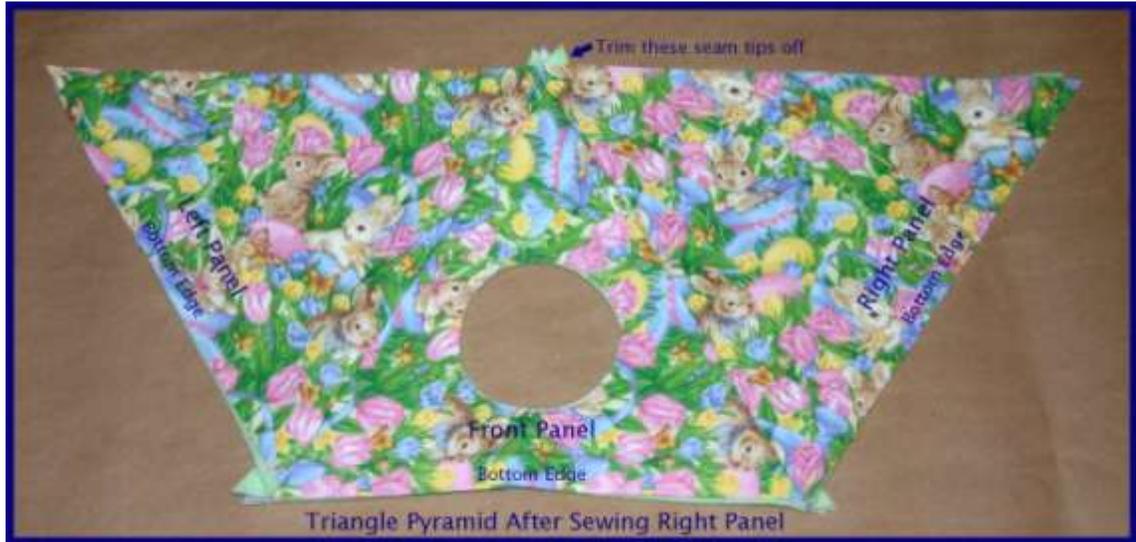
- c. **Pin** along the left edge of the triangle, through four layers of fabric, and **sew**.



- d. Open the two triangles so the left panel is now adjacent to the front panel, connected at the seam.
- e. Now **pin** the right panel to the front panel along the right edge (cotton sides together), and **sew**.



- f. Open all three sides so that the cotton fabric is facing up.



- g. **Pin a loop of ribbon** to the top of the left panel. Angle the ribbon to be parallel with the seam of the **right** panel, as shown below.



Note that the loop will not be used to hang the triangle pyramid. Instead, it is needed to hold the top of the pyramid upright. While the pyramid will stand on its own, your rats will likely trample on it, collapsing it, unless you clip the top to the cage.

- h. **Fold** the right half of the pyramid over the left half (cotton sides together).
- i. **Pin** the left and right edge together.
- j. **Sew** along the pinned edge.



- k. **Trim** the seam allowances to remove some of the bulk.

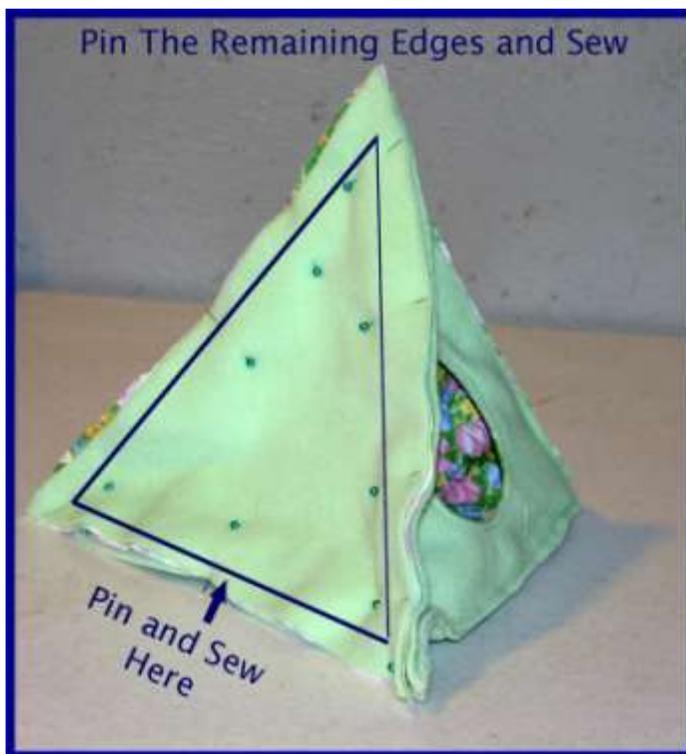


5. Attach the Bottom Panel

- a. **Pin** one edge of the bottom panel to the bottom front of the pyramid, cotton sides together.



- b. **Pin** the remaining sides and **sew** along the edges.



- c. **Trim** the seam allowances to remove excess bulk.



6. Turn the pyramid **right-side out** through the opening and you are done!



Get Creative

- Use triangles with themes to represent Christmas trees, tents, teepees, Egyptian pyramids, etc!

Cube



Materials

Cotton or Flannel

- (6) 8" x 8" squares

Fleece

- (6) 8" x 8" squares

Extras

- Thread (match to fleece)
- 4 Pieces of Ribbon for Hanging Loops

Options

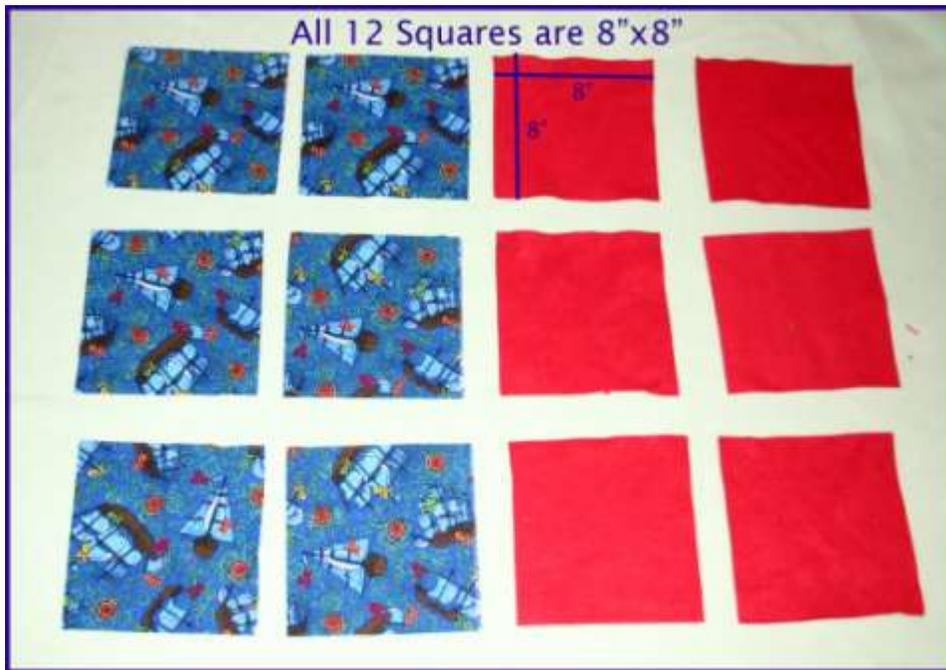
- Make a patchwork cube by using different fabrics for each side panel

Finished Size

- 7" x 7" x 7" cube

Instructions

1. **Cut Your Fabric** – (6) 8x8" squares of cotton fabric and (6) 8x8" squares of fleece.



2. **Make Your Entrance Panels.**

- a. **Pin one cotton square to one fleece square, right sides together.**



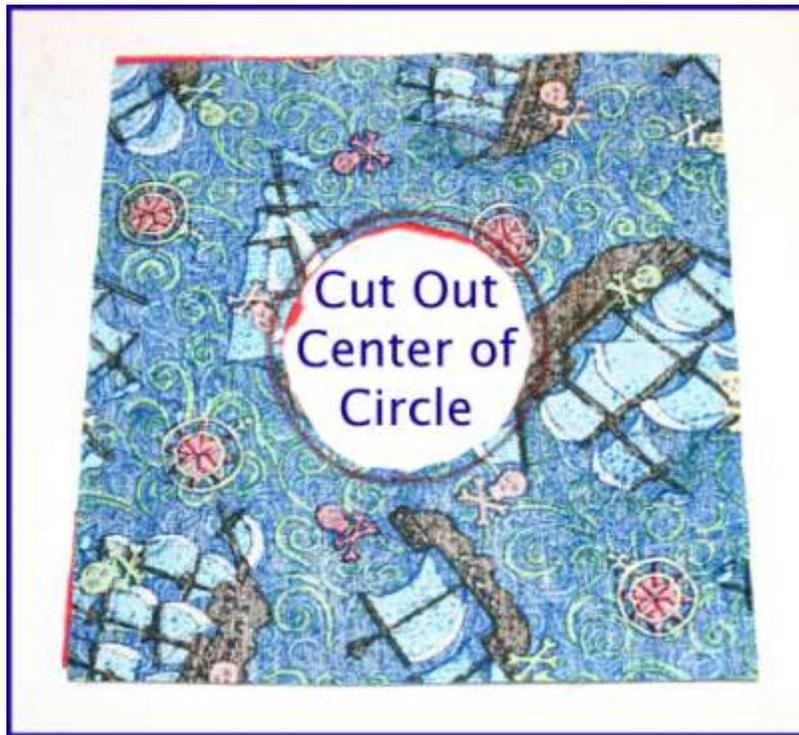
- b. **Trace a circle** onto the center of the fabric. I find a Morton's Salt container is about the perfect size.



- c. **Sew** along the circle.



- d. **Cut** out the center of the circle, being careful not to cut through your stitches.



- e. **Separate** the cotton from the fleece and pass the cotton through the hole to the other side of the fleece.



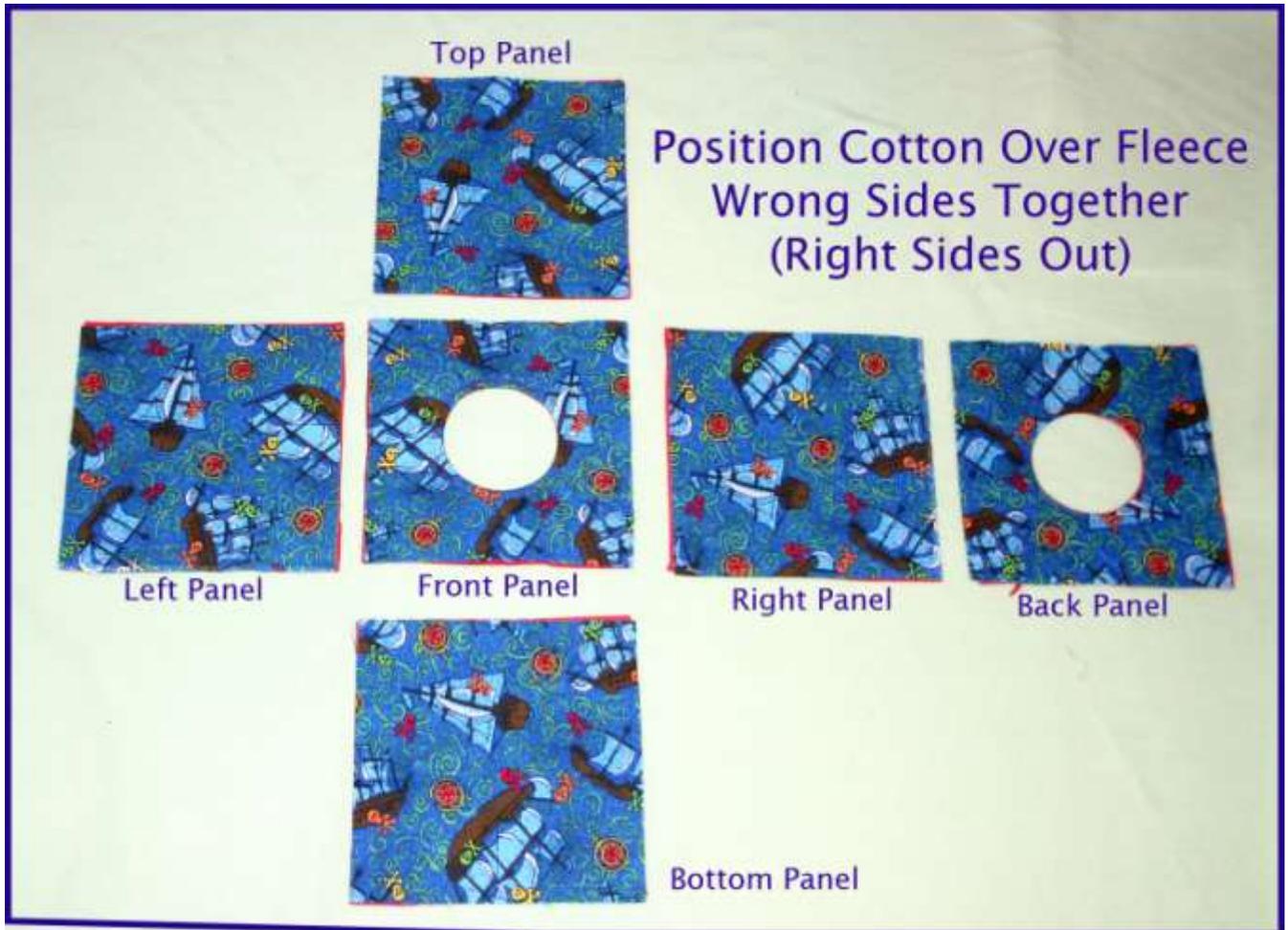
- f. **Smooth** out the cotton over the fleece. The right side of the cotton should now be facing out.



- g. **Top stitch** around the opening.



- h. **Repeat** steps a through g for all panels that you would like to have entry holes. I like to have a front and back entrance to help discourage my rats from chewing a back door out.
3. **Place** the remaining cotton pieces over the remaining fleece pieces, **right sides OUT!** I find it helps to position the squares in the order they will appear in the cube. If your fabric is directional, make sure to line up the left, right, front, and back panels with the bottom of the print at the bottom of the panel.



4. **Pin** the left panel to the front panel along the left edge, **right sides of the cotton together**.



5. **Sew** along the pinned edge.
6. **Trim** the excess thread and the seam allowances.
7. **Open** (straighten) the two panels (like a book), and place **cotton side up**.



8. **Pin** the right panel to the front panel along the right edge, **right sides of cotton together**.



9. **Sew** along the pinned edge.
10. **Trim** excess thread and seam allowance.
11. **Open** (straighten) the three panels, and place **cotton side up**.



12. **Pin** the back panel to the right panel along the right edge, **right sides of cotton together**.



13. **Sew** along the pinned edge.
14. **Trim** excess thread and seam allowance.
15. **Open** (straighten) the two panels (like a book), and place **cotton side up**.



16. **Fold** the left panel across to the back panel and **pin** the raw edges together, **right sides of the cotton together**.



17. **Trim** excess thread and seam allowances. You should now have a cube without a top or bottom.



18. **Pin** the top panel to the front panel along the top edge, **right cotton sides together**.



19. **Pin ribbon loops** to the top edge of the left and right panels in each corner – pin to the cotton side of the panel. The raw edge of the loop should be lined up with the raw edge of the panel, with the fold of the loop pointed in.



20. **Pin** the top panel to the last three sides along the top edge, **right cotton sides together**.



I like to pin and sew with the front/back/side panels facing up as shown, but if you prefer, you can pin and sew with the top panel facing up. See the Rectangular Prism tutorial for an example of the alternate method.

21. **Trim** excess thread and seam allowances.



22. **Pin** the bottom panel to the four bottom edges of the cube, **cotton right sides together**.



23. **Sew** along all four edges where pinned.
24. **Trim** excess thread and seam allowances.



25. **Turn cube right side out.**



26. **Hang.** Note: you can either hang the cube by the ribbons like a hammock, or you can set the cube on the ground and use the hanging ribbons to ensure the cube does not collapse on itself.



Rectangular Prism

(Also Known As: Rectangular Cube)



Materials

Cotton or Flannel

- (2) 8" x 8" squares
- (4) 8" x 12" rectangles

Fleece

- (2) 8" x 8" squares
- (4) 8" x 12" rectangles

Extras

- Thread (match to fleece)
- 6 Pieces of Ribbon for Hanging Loops

Options

- Make a patchwork rectangle by using different fabrics for each side panel
- Increase or decrease the length of the rectangle
- Position openings in various places – even on the roof

Finished Size

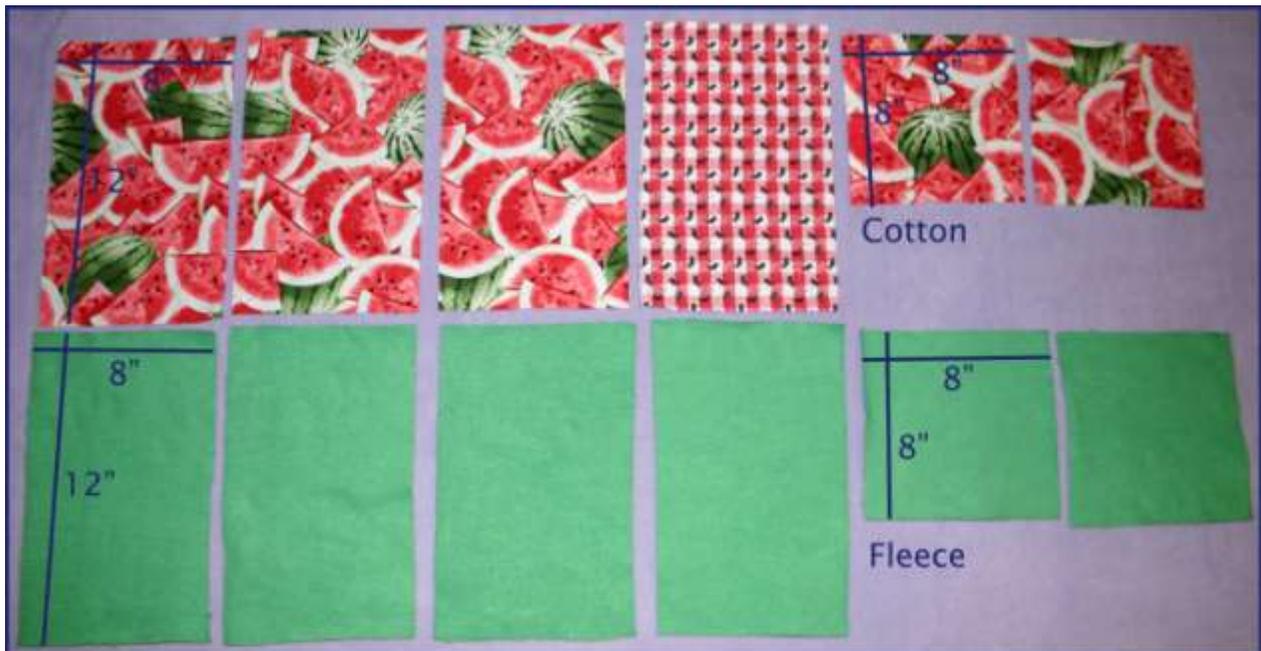
- 7" x 7" x 11" rectangular prism

Note

The instructions for the rectangular prism are almost identical to those of a cube.

Instructions

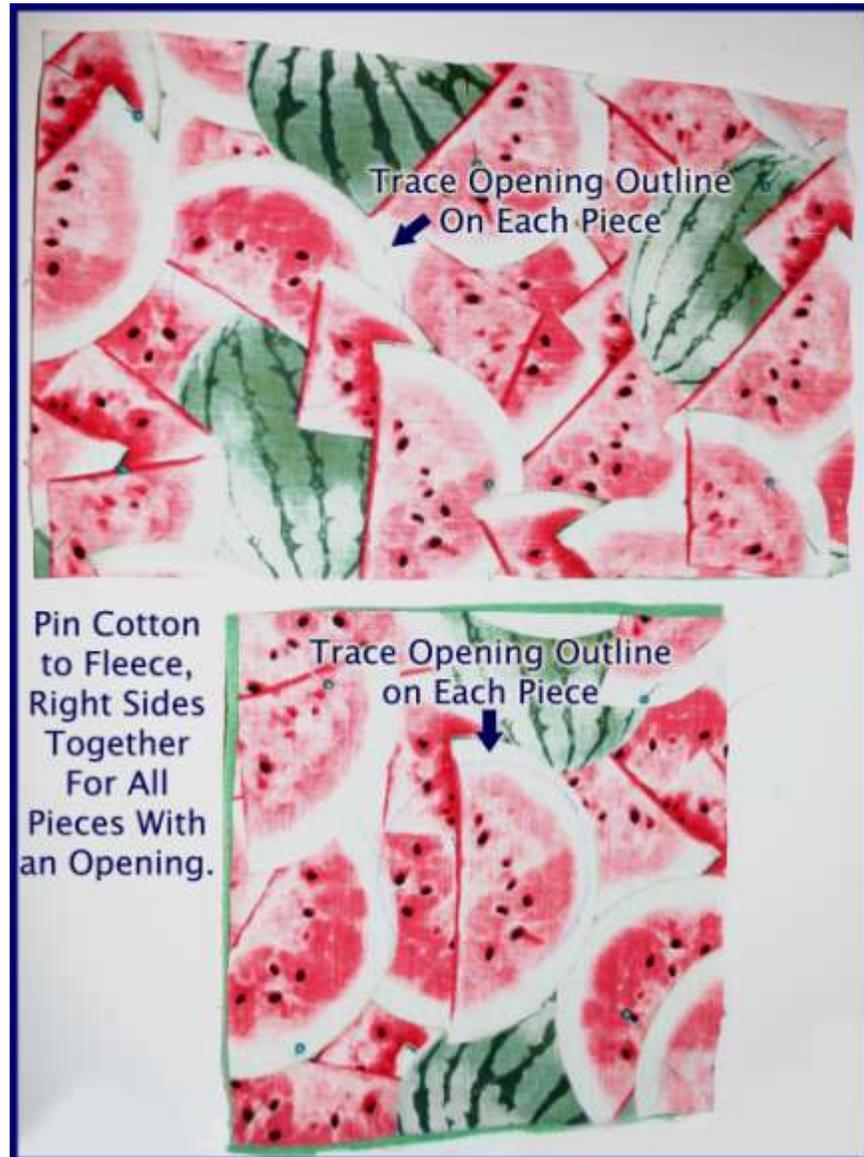
1. **Cut Your Fabric** – (2) 8x8" squares and (4) 8x12" rectangles of cotton fabric and (2) 8x8" squares and (4) 8x12" rectangles of fleece.



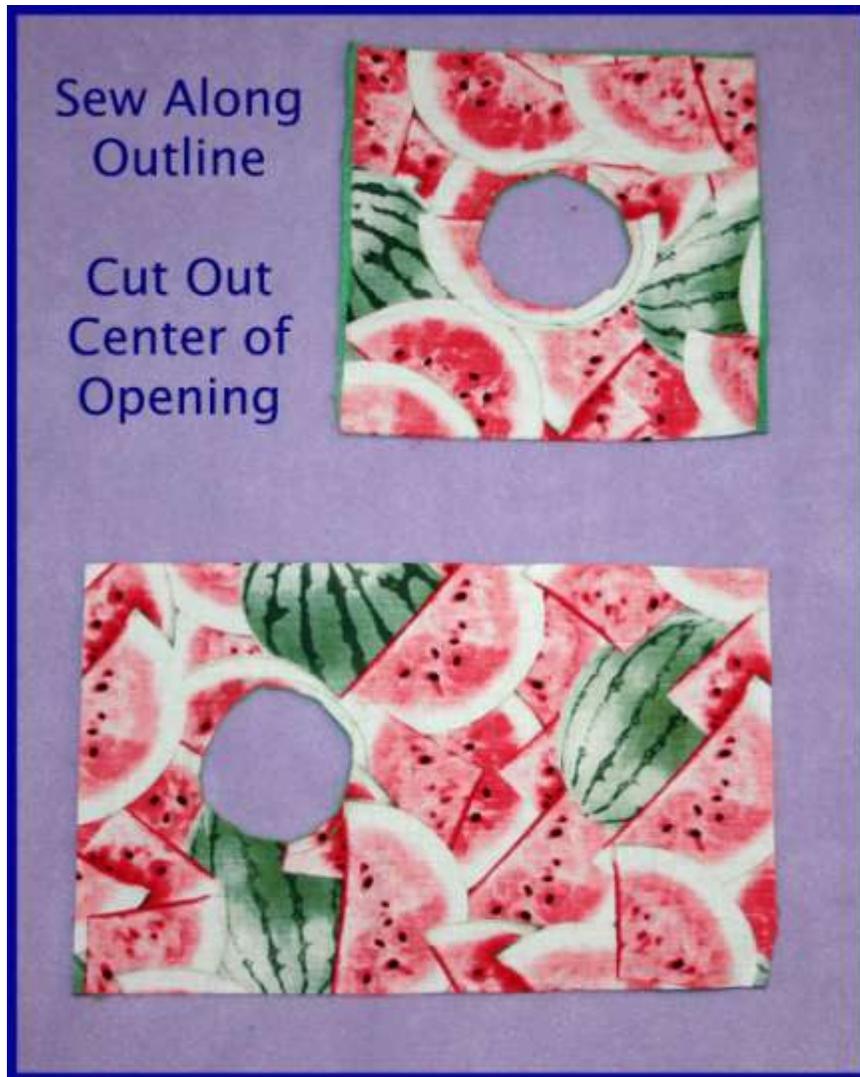
2. **Make Your Entrance Panels.**

- a. Choose **which sides** you would like to have openings and where you would like those opening to be. You can put an opening on the roof if you like. In this example, one opening will be on a square side and one opening will be on a rectangular side. Do the following for each side with an opening.

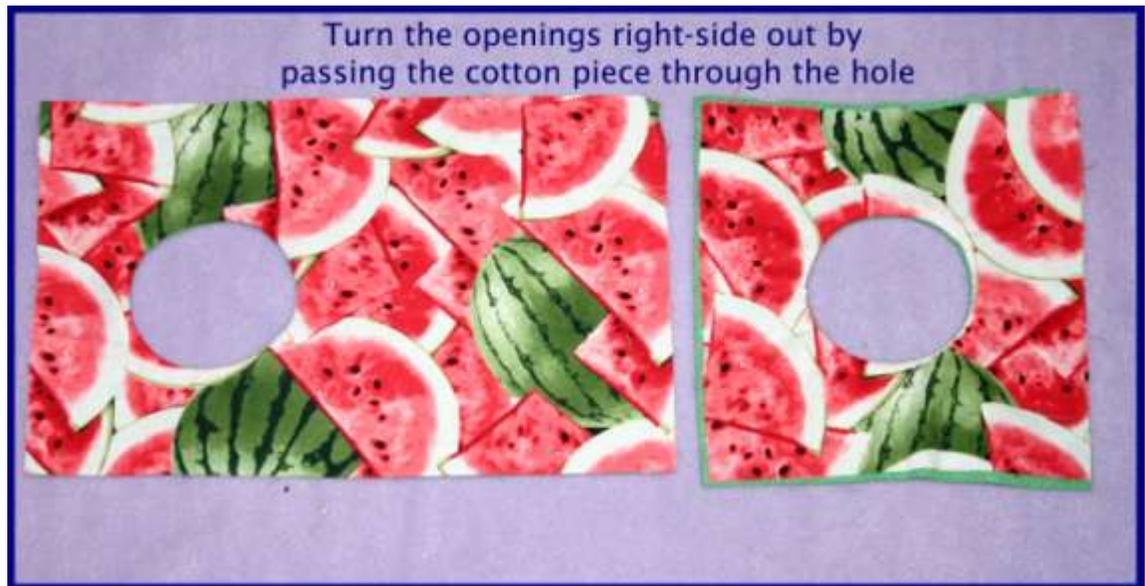
- b. **Pin** one cotton piece to one fleece piece, **right sides together**, for each side with an opening.
- c. **Trace a circle** where you would like to place an opening. I find a Morton's Salt container is about the perfect size. You can also make openings of other shapes.



- d. **Sew** along the circle outline.
- e. **Cut** out the center of the circle, being careful not to cut through your stitches.



- f. **Separate** the cotton from the fleece and pass the cotton through the hole to the other side of the fleece.
- g. **Smooth** out the cotton over the fleece. The right side of the cotton should now be facing out.



- h. **Top stitch** around the opening.



3. **Place** the remaining cotton pieces over the remaining fleece pieces, **right sides out**. I find it helps to position the sides in the order they will appear in the cube. If your fabric is directional, make sure to line up the left, right, front, and back panels with the bottom of the print at the bottom of the panel.



4. **Pin** the left panel to the front panel along the left edge, **right sides of the cotton together**.



5. **Sew** along the pinned edge.
6. **Trim** the excess thread and the seam allowances.
7. **Open** (straighten) the two panels (like a book), and place **cotton side up**.



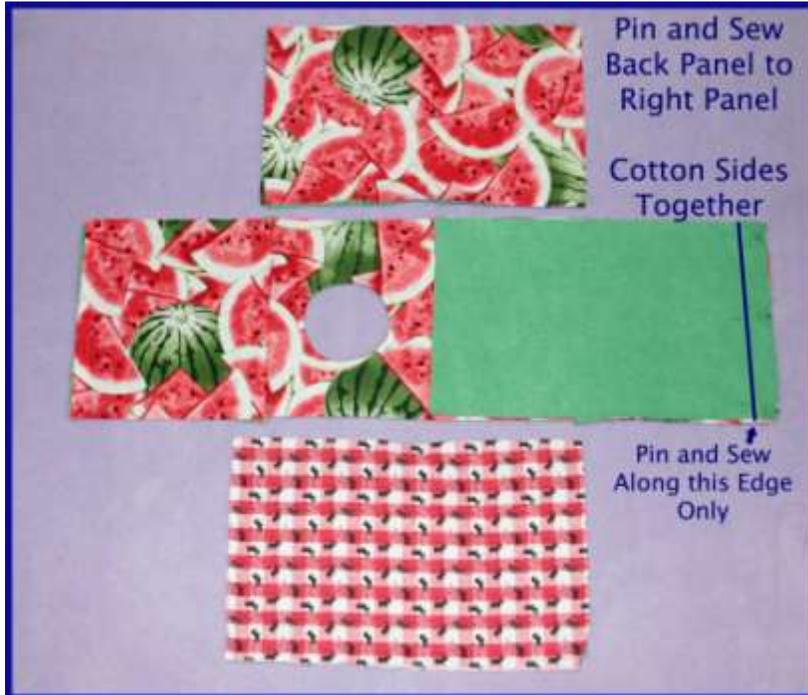
- Pin** the right panel to the front panel along the right edge, **right sides of cotton together**.



- Sew** along the pinned edge.
- Trim** excess thread and seam allowance.
- Open** (straighten) the three panels, and place **cotton side up**.



12. **Pin** the back panel to the right panel along the right edge, **right sides of cotton together**.



13. **Sew** along the pinned edge.

14. **Trim** excess thread and seam allowance.

15. **Open** (straighten) the two panels (like a book), and place **cotton side up**.



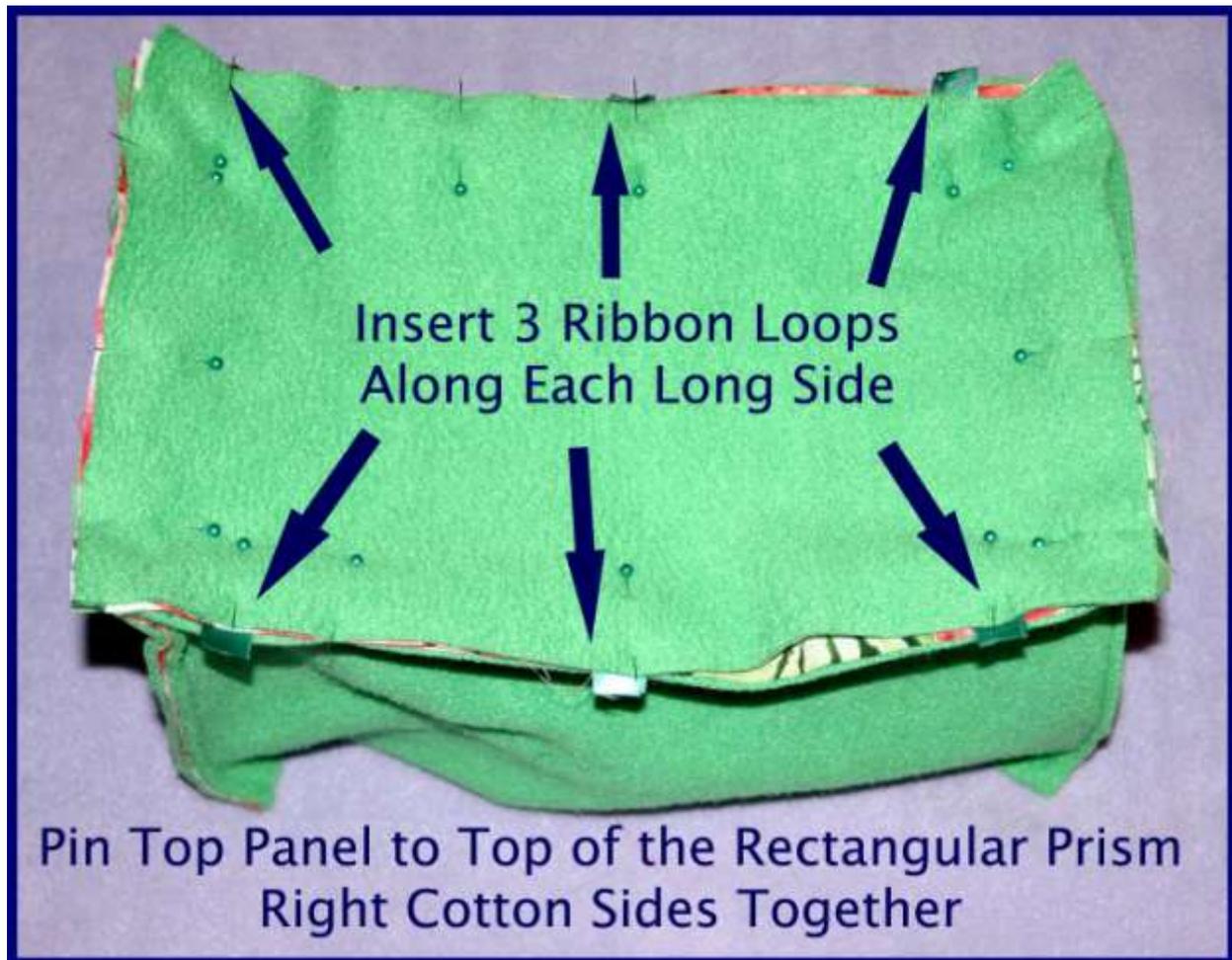
16. **Fold** the back panel across to the left panel and **pin** the raw edges together, **right sides of the cotton together**.



17. **Trim** excess thread and seam allowances. You should now have a cube without a top or bottom.



18. **Pin** the top panel to the front panel along the top edge, **right cotton sides together**.
19. **Pin ribbon loops** to the top edge of the left and right panels in each corner – pin to the cotton side of the panel. The raw edge of the loop should be lined up with the raw edge of the panel, with the fold of the loop pointed in.



I like to pin and sew with the front/back/side panels facing up as shown in the Cube tutorial, but here I have pinned and sewed with the top panel facing up.

20. **Sew** along the pinned edges.

21. **Trim** excess thread and seam allowances.



22. **Repeat Steps 18-21** to attach the bottom panel, without adding ribbon loops.



23. Turn the rectangular prism right side out.

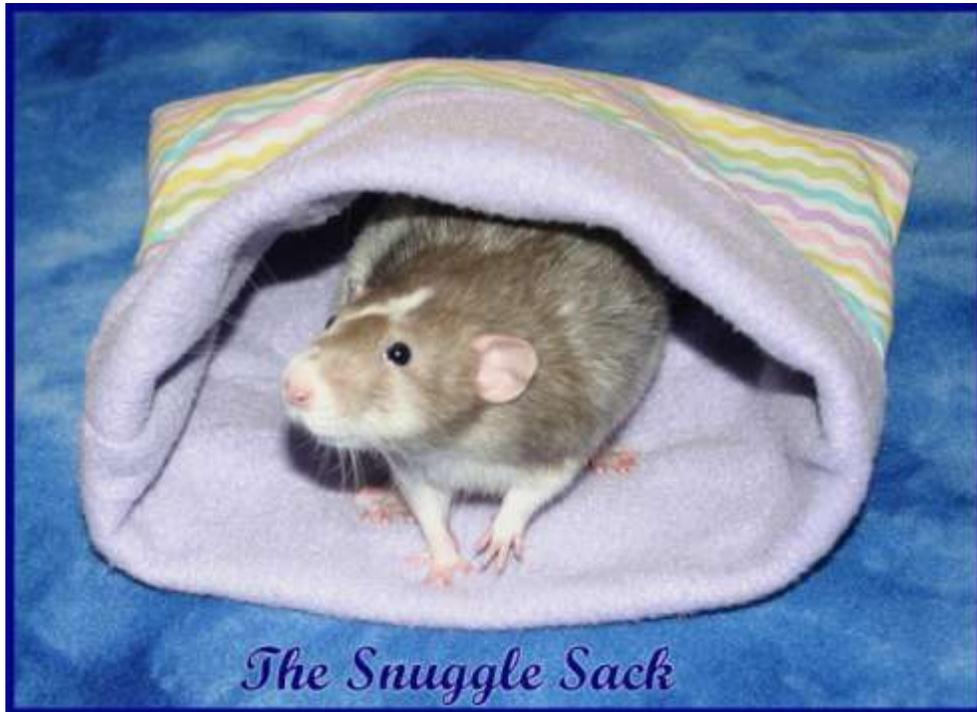


24. **Hang.** Note: you can either hang by the ribbons like a hammock, or you can set it on the ground and use the hanging ribbons to ensure it does not collapse on itself.



Snuggle Sack

(Also Known As: Cuddle Sack)



Materials

Cotton or Flannel

- 18"x13" rectangular piece

Fleece

- 18"x13" rectangular piece

Extras

- Thread (match to fleece)

Options

- To make your snuggle sack a different size, cut a rectangle that is twice the desired width plus 2", and 1" longer than the desired height.

Finished Size

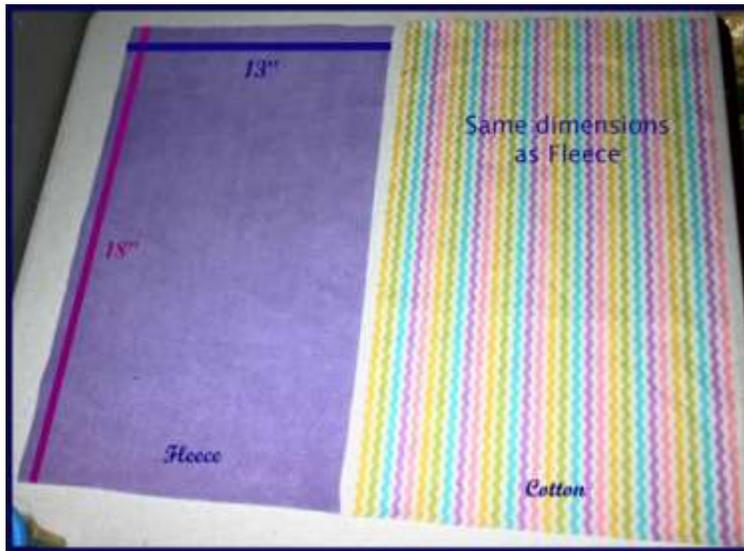
- 8" wide x 12" long

Description

The snuggle sack is a small bag with a comfy lining for your rats to climb inside and snuggle.

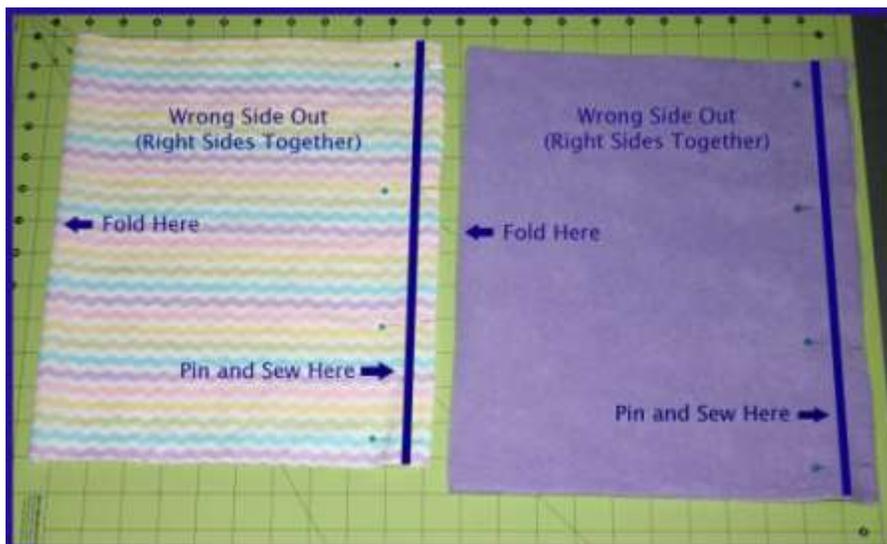
Instructions

1. Cut Your Fabric.



(NOTE: The pieces in these photos were cut a little 22" rather than 18", resulting in a wider snuggle sack. I prefer 18" for rats).

2. **Fold** the cotton piece in half, right sides together, aligning the shorter sides and **pinning** together.
3. **Fold and pin** the fleece piece separately in the same manner.



4. **Sew** along the pinned edge of the cotton piece. **Trim** excess thread and the seam allowance.



5. **Repeat** for the fleece piece. You should now have two tubes.
6. Turn the fleece tube **right-side out**.
7. **Insert** the fleece tube inside the cotton tube with the seams lined up (the right sides of both tubes should now be facing each other).



- Pin** the fleece liner to the cotton fabric on one side only, all the way around the opening of the tube (only pin together the two layers. Do not pin all four layers together).



- Sew** around the opening of the tube through the two layers of fabric that are pinned together. Trim the excess thread and the seam allowance.



10. **Open** up the tube so that it is one long tube with the fleece on side and the cotton on the other side, with the right sides of the fabric facing out.



11. **Tuck** the cotton side of the tube inside the tube, so that the right side of the fleece is facing out, the wrong sides of both fabrics are facing each other, and the right side of the cotton is facing the inside of the tube.



12. **Pin** all four layers of the cut edge of the tube together. This will be the bottom of the sack.



13. **Sew** the bottom seam through all four layers. **Trim** excess thread and seam allowance.
14. Turn the snuggle sack **right-side out**, so that the fleece is on the inside and the cotton is on the outside.



15. **Top stitch** around the opening of the sack.
16. **Fold** the opening of the sack down to create a cuff.



17. **Add Grommets** if you would like to hang your snuggle sack.



The Snuggle Sack in this photo was made with the dimensions listed in this tutorial.

Cuddle Cup



Materials

Cotton or Flannel

- 25"x5" rectangular piece (with opening cut out)
- 8" diameter circle

Fleece

- 25"x5" rectangular piece (with opening cut out)
- 8" diameter circle

Batting

- 25"x5" rectangular piece (with opening cut out)
- 8" diameter circle

Extras

- Thread (match to fleece)

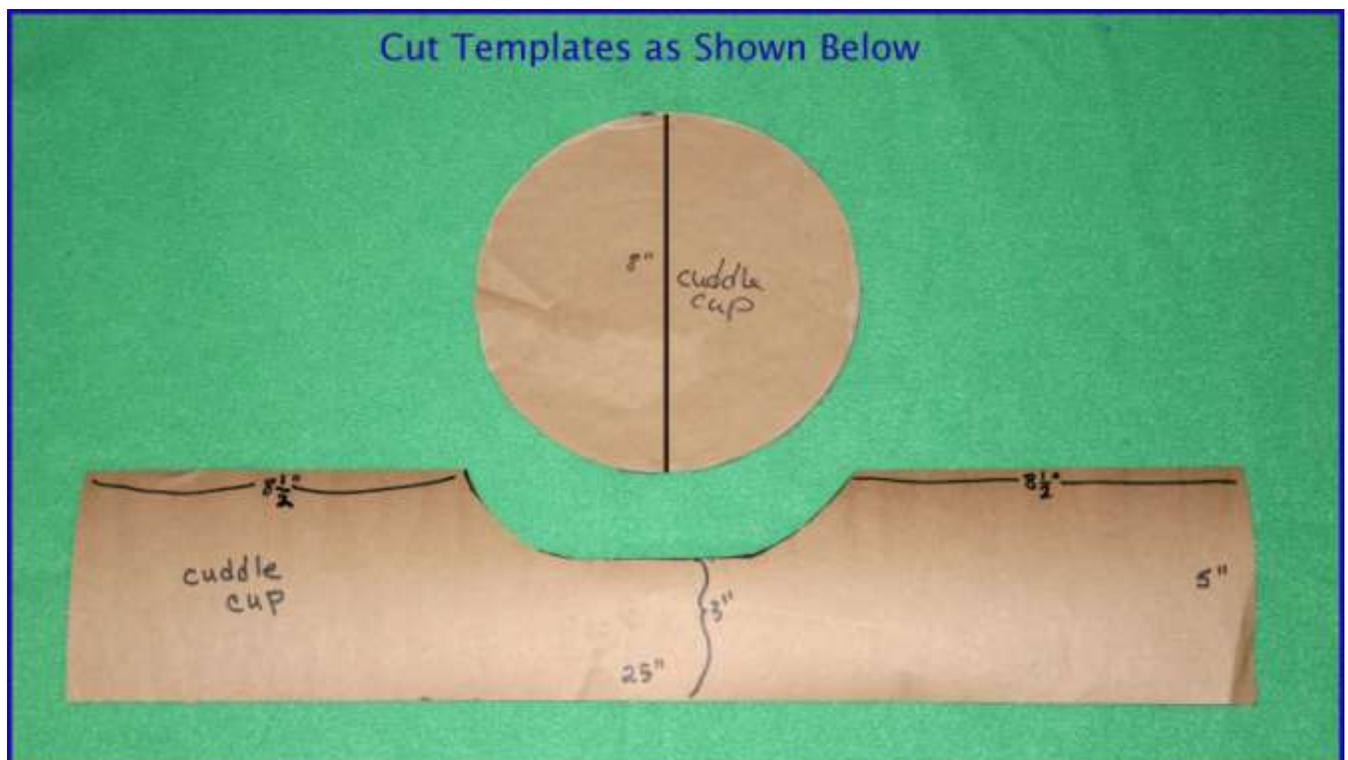
Finished Size

- About 7" diameter

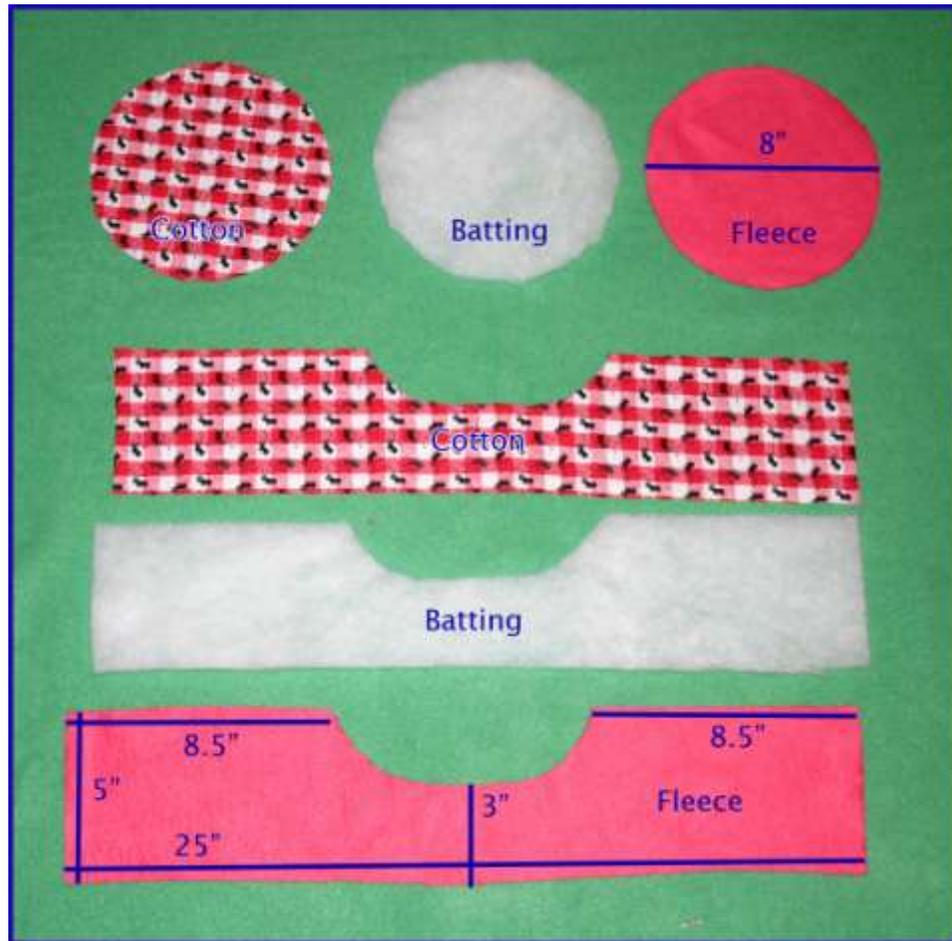
Instructions

Note: To be honest, I am not very good at making the cuddle cup. Mine come out functional but a little irregular. I don't make them that often because my rats usually just flip them over and chew them up, so I haven't mastered the techniques.

1. **Create Templates.** You will need two template pieces: an 8" diameter circle for the bottom piece and a 25" x 5" rectangle with the opening cut out. I use a curved opening that is about 8" long and 2" deep.



2. **Cut your Fabric.** Cut one copy of each piece from cotton, fleece and batting. The batting will add padding/softness and structure to the cuddle cup.



3. Place the cotton pieces **right-side up** on top of the batting pieces.



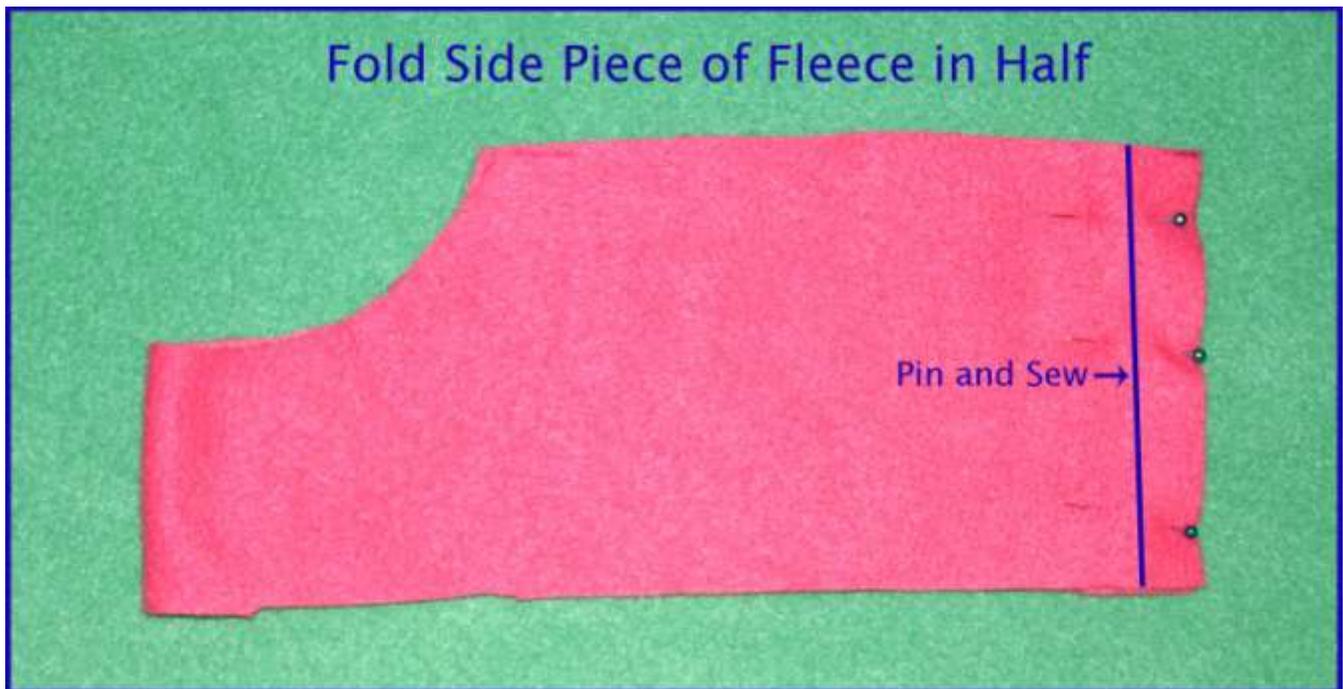
4. **Fold** the side piece in half, cotton sides together.
5. **Pin** and **sew** along the aligned side.



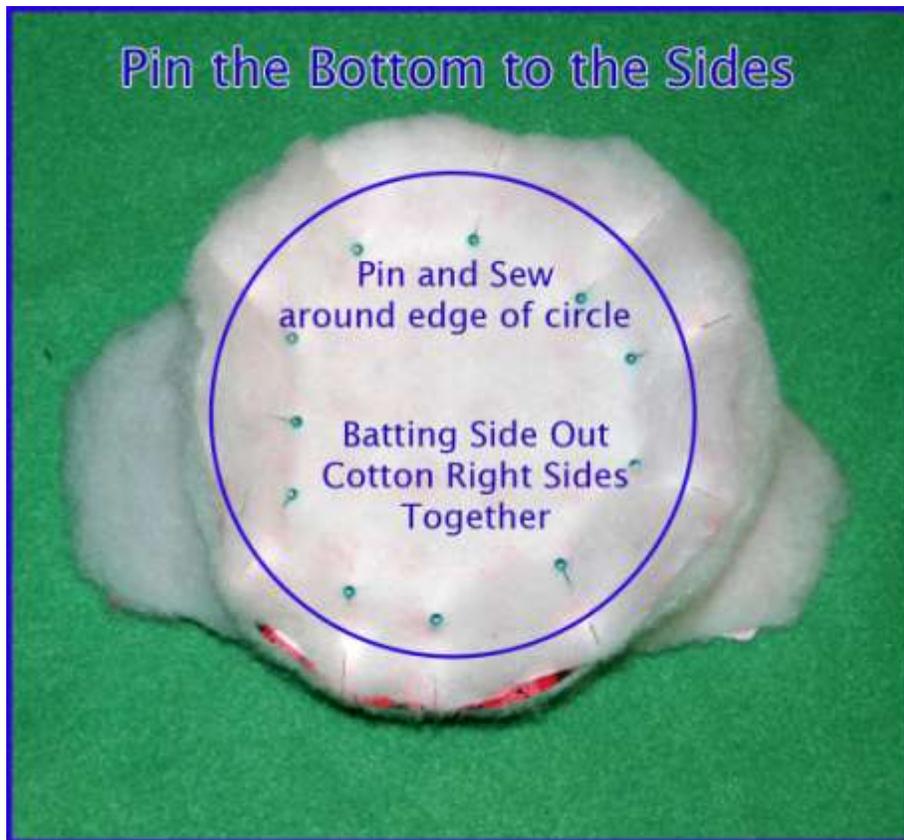
6. **Trim** seam allowances and thread ends.



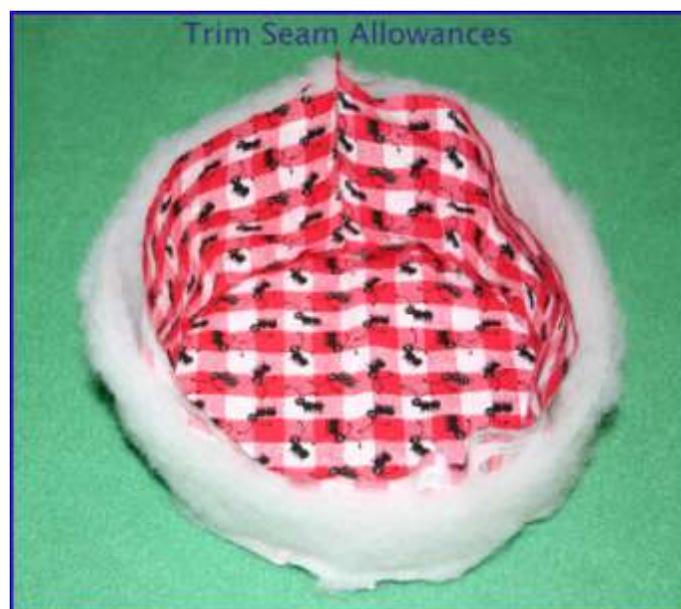
7. Repeat Steps 4, 5, and 6 with the fleece side piece.



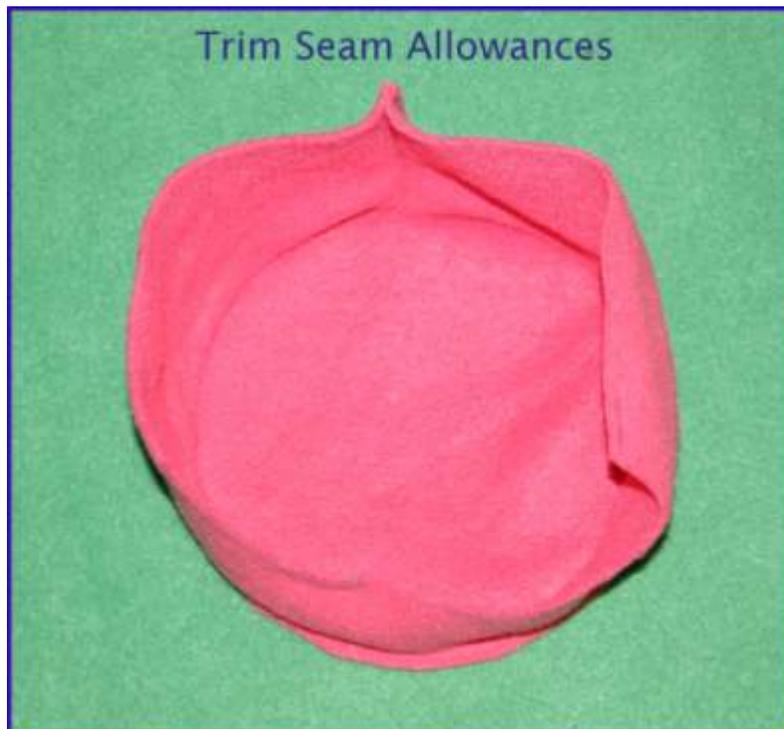
8. **Pin** the bottom circle of the cotton/batting piece to the bottom edge of the side piece, **cotton right sides together**.
9. **Sew** along the pinned edge.



10. **Trim** seam allowances and thread ends.



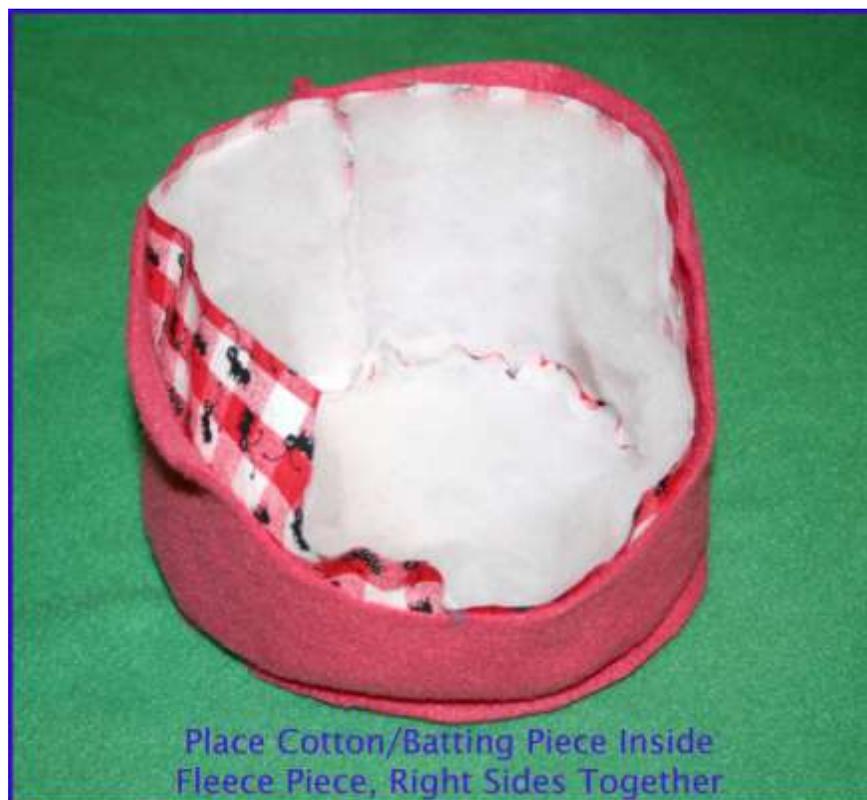
11. Repeat Steps 8, 9, and 10 for the Fleece pieces.



12. Turn the cotton/batting piece **right-side out**. Leave the fleece piece **inside-out**.



13. **Insert** the cotton/batting piece **inside** the fleece piece, **right sides together**.



14. **Pin** along the top edge of the cuddle cup.
15. **Sew** along the top edge of the cuddle cup, leaving a small opening to turn the cuddle cup right-side out.



16. **Trim** the seam allowances and the thread ends.
17. Turn the cuddle cup **right-side out**.



18. **Slip-stitch** the opening closed.



19. **Top-stitch** around the sides and in the seat to hold the batting in place and keep it from bunching when the cuddle cup is washed. You can do as much or as little top-stitching as you like.



20. Your cuddle cup is complete. If you like, you can add grommets to the sides if you would like to clip the cuddle cup to the cage sides to prevent the rats from turning it over or stomping on the sides.



Bonding Pouch



Materials

Cotton or Flannel

- 12" x 14" rectangular piece
- 12" x 10" rectangular piece

Fleece

- 12" x 14" rectangular piece
- 12" x 10" rectangular piece

Extras

- Thread (match to fleece)
- Ribbon for Strap (3 to 4 feet)

Finished Size

- About 11" wide and 9" tall when flap is closed. 3 ½" flap.

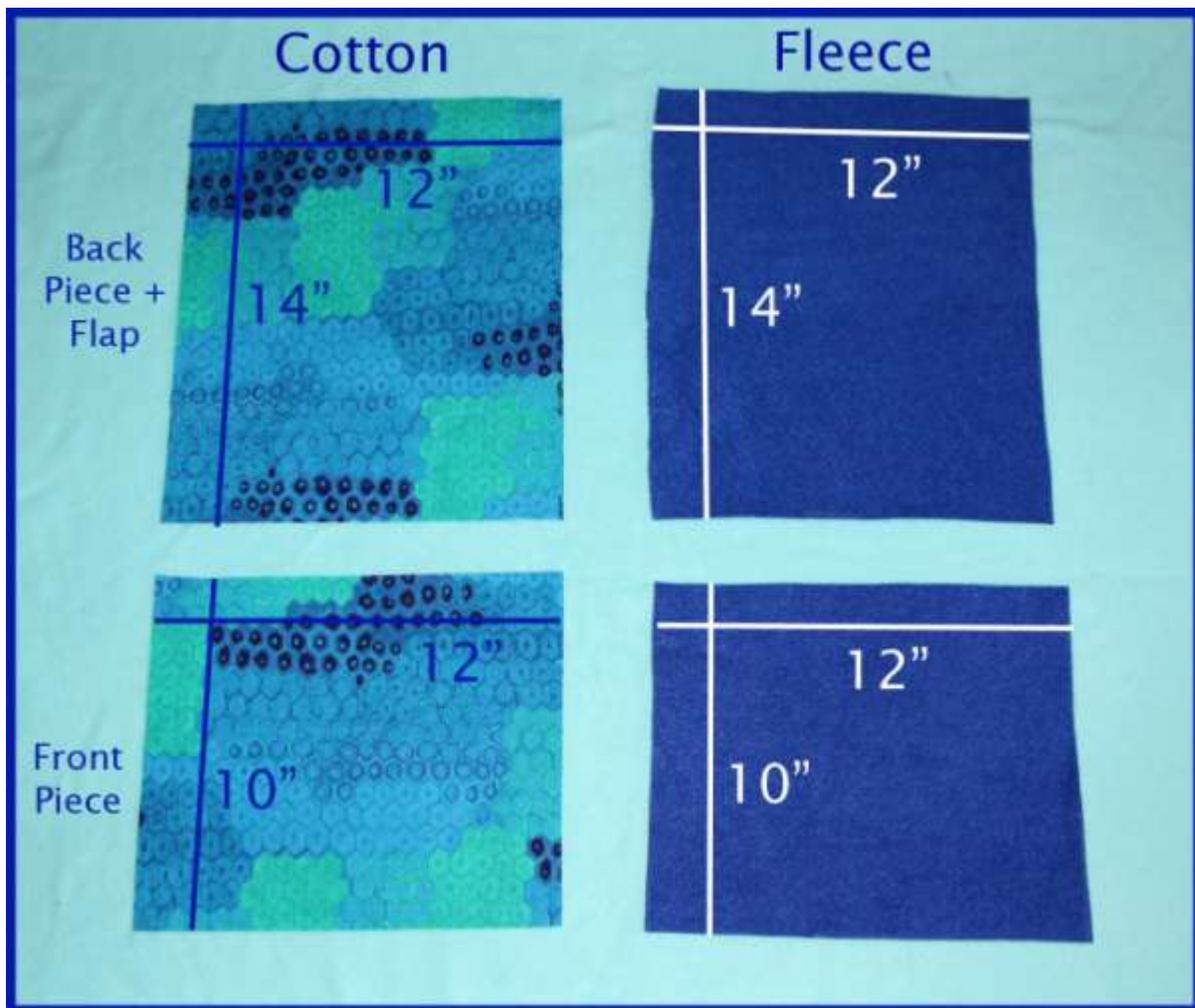
Description

The bonding pouch is useful for carrying your rats around with you and for bonding with new rats if they are timid and still afraid of you. Note that not all rats will take to a bonding pouch, but the more timid ones will find it a comforting place to hide while you are holding them.

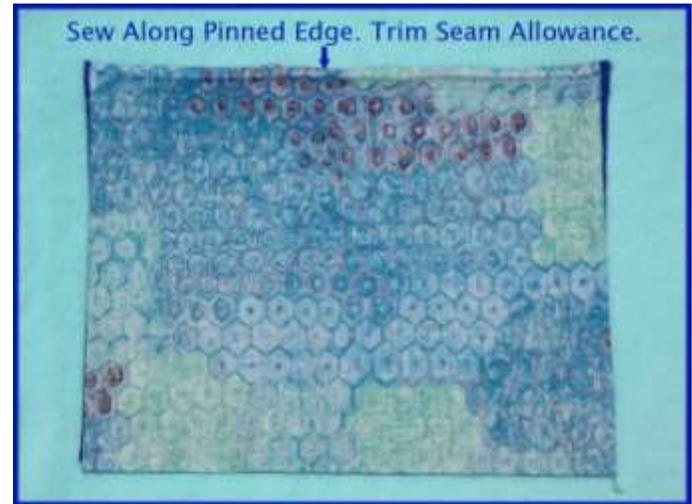
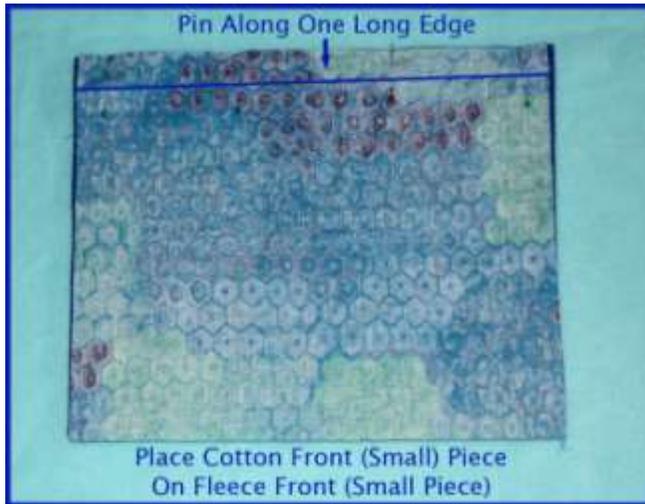
The original design I learned from was a completely seamless design, but required slip-stitching of an entire side. Because I am not a fan of extensive slip-stitching, I created my own variation on the design that is seamless except for the seam at the very bottom of the bag, similar to the snuggle sack.

Instructions

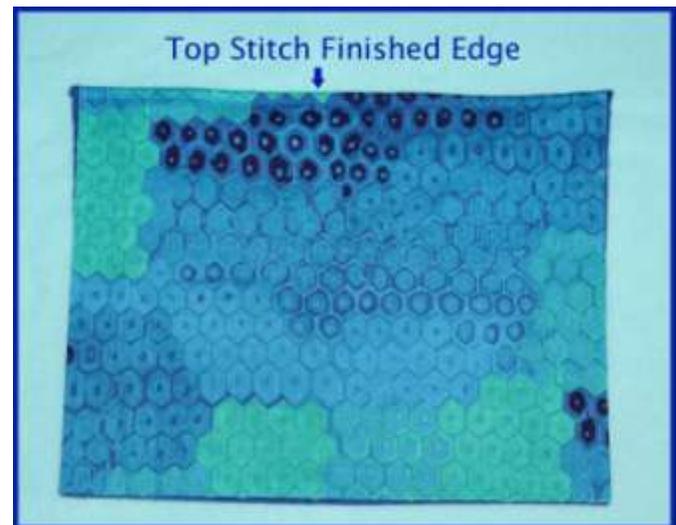
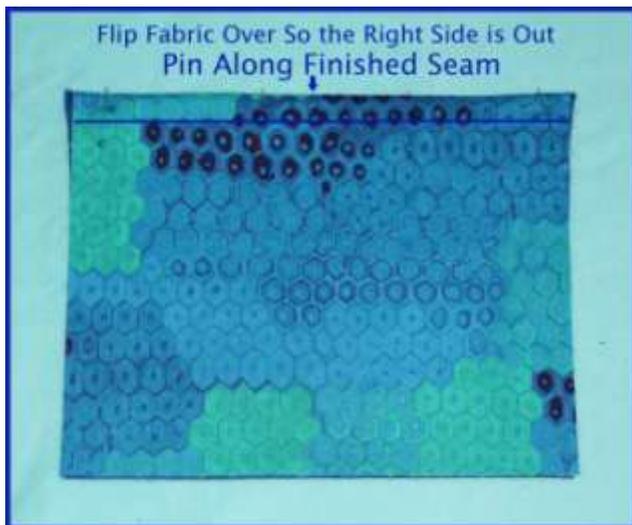
1. **Cut** out your fabric.



2. **Place** the Front (Smaller) Cotton Piece over the Front (Smaller) Fleece Piece, **right sides together**.
3. **Pin** along one long edge (this will be the top of the front section).
4. **Sew** along the pinned edge only (1 long side).
5. **Trim** the seam allowance.



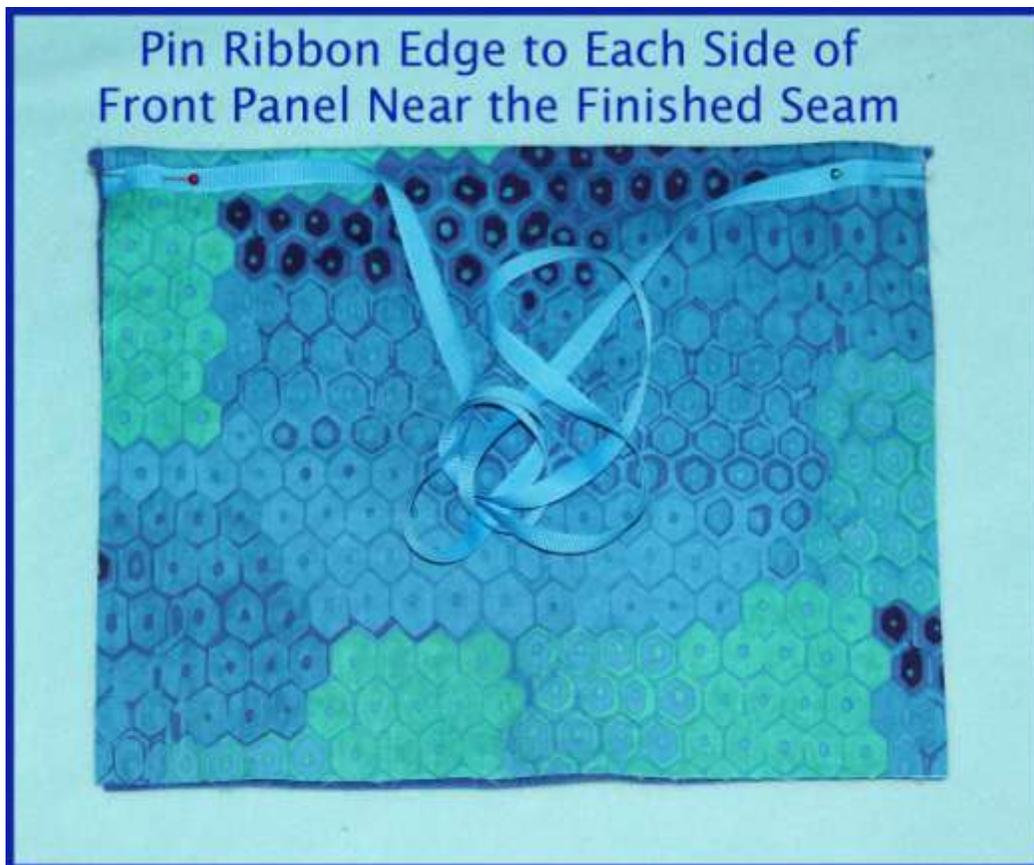
6. **Flip** the cotton piece to the other side of the fleece piece so the **Right Sides Face Out**.
7. **Pin** and **Top Stitch** across the finished edge.



8. **Cut Ribbon** to the desired length.

I found for me, 46" hangs so that the opening of the pouch is about at my waist. 42" hangs a comfortable distance above the waist. You should cut your ribbon so that the bag will hang at a comfortable height for you.

9. **Pin** the ribbon ends to the **cotton side of the front piece** at each end near the finished edge as shown. Make sure that when the ribbon is straightened out there are no extra twists in the ribbon or the strap will end up twisted.



10. **Place** the top panel over the back cotton panel, **right cotton sides together**, aligning the bottom raw edge of the top panel with the bottom of the back panel.



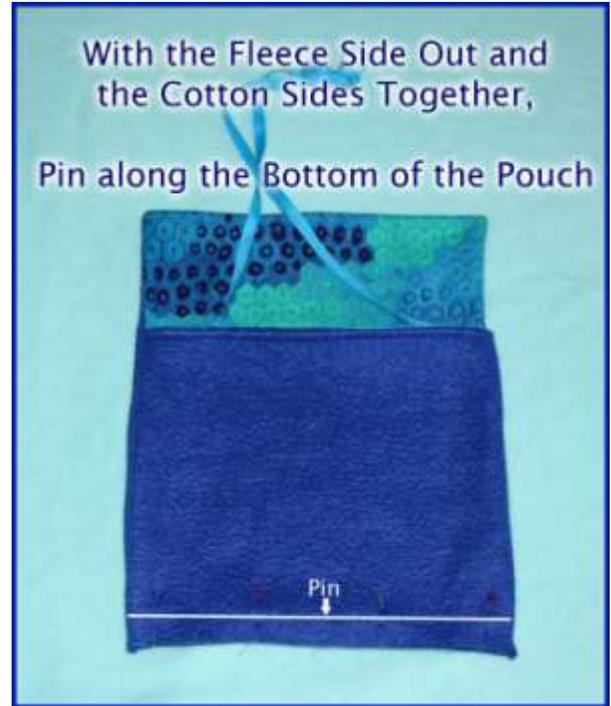
11. **Place** the back fleece panel on top of the other two panels, **fleece right sides together**.
 12. **Pin** around all sides **except the bottom** (short side with four layers of fabric).
 13. **Sew** around pinned edge.
 14. **Trim** seam allowances.



15. **Open** the pouch, **separating the two layers of fleece**.

16. **Turn inside out** through this opening so fleece sides are out and cotton sides are together.

17. **Pin** along raw bottom edge.



18. **Sew** along pinned edge.

19. **Trim** seam allowance.

20. **Top stitch** along the top flap of the pouch.



21. **Turn** entire bag right side out.

22. **Fold** top flap down.



23. **Insert Rats and Bond!**

