



SEWING 101:

How to sew boxed corners

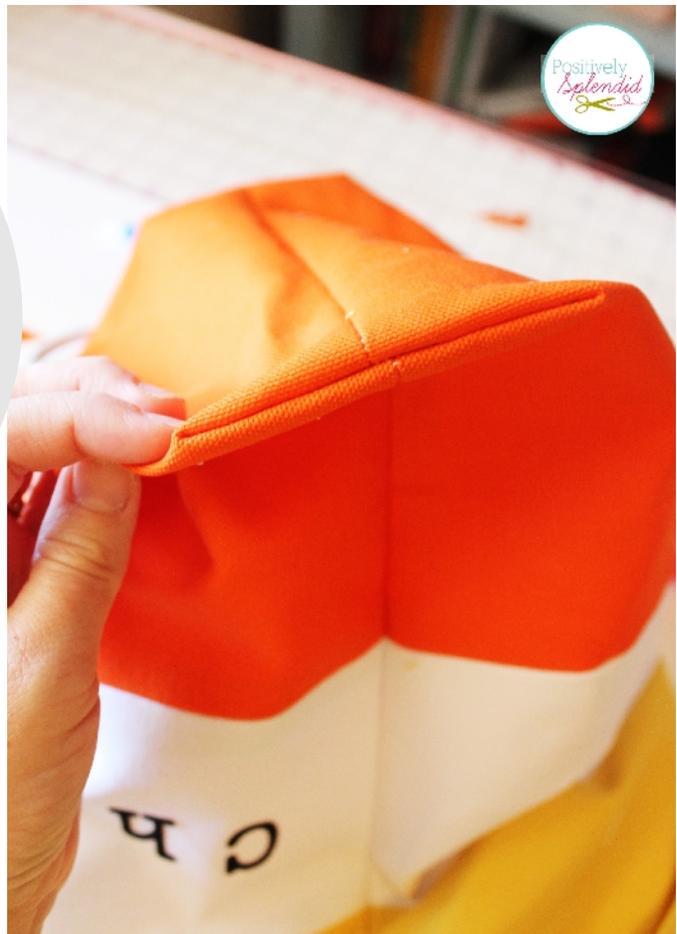
Did you know that it is possible to take any two rectangular pieces of fabric that are stitched together and turn them into a dimensional project to create totes, bags and more? The secret: boxed corners! Today's installment of Creativity U will show you how to easily stitch boxed corners in just 4 simple steps.

In this Creativity U session, you will learn how to sew boxed corners to add depth and stability to the bottom of totes and handbags.

SUPPLIES

2 rectangular fabric pieces
Clear ruler
Washable ink marker
Shears
Coordinating thread

Note: This tutorial is written with the assumption that boxed corners will be added to a bag or tote. If the project you wish to add boxed corners to doesn't fit into those categories, the same basic process will apply, although certain steps might be a bit different.



1 STEP

STITCH FABRIC PIECES.

Place the two fabric pieces together, right sides facing, and stitch along the side and bottom edges. The seam allowance used will depend on the specifications for your particular project. For this example, I have used a 1/2" seam allowance. Clip corners, and press seams open.

NOTE: Pressing is a very important step here to facilitate step 2, so don't be tempted to skip that step!



2 STEP

FOLD AND PRESS.



Working at one of the bottom corners, pinch the fabric in such a way that the bottom seam and the side seam are perfectly aligned. Press to help ensure the corner stays aligned. Repeat with the remaining corner and side seams.

Notice how having the seams pressed open helps to see when the seams are lined up accurately.

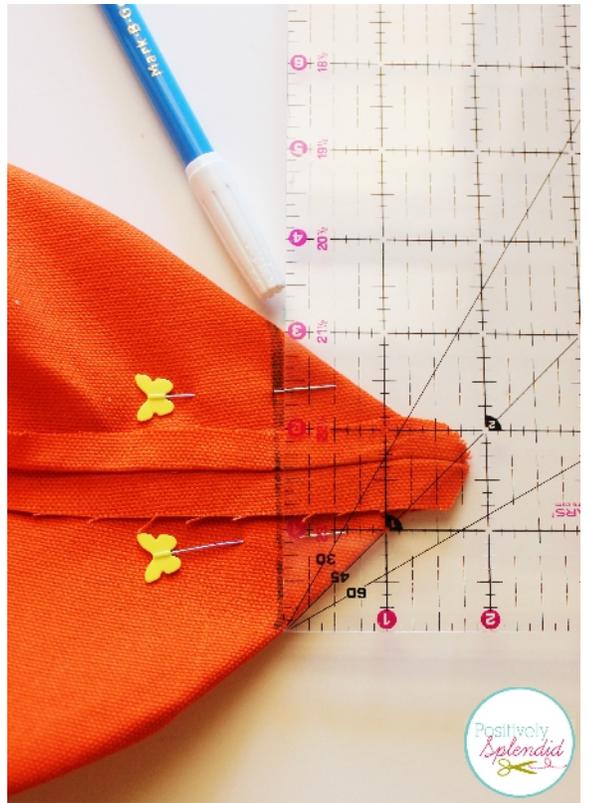
3 STEP

MEASURE, MARK & PIN.

With the piece laid out on a flat work surface, measure across the corner with the ruler. The width of the line you measure will vary depending upon the depth of the finished project. **For instance, measuring a wider line will result in a bag or tote that is shorter in height and wider at the base, while a measuring a shorter line will result in a project that is taller in height and narrower at the base.** For this tote bag project, I am measuring a line that is 3" across.

To ensure the corner is trimmed evenly, the ruler should form a 45-degree angle with each of its adjacent sides. (Most clear rulers made specifically for use with rotary cutters have these angles marked clearly on the corner of the ruler, as seen below.) The distance from each of the outside edges to the center seam should be equal. For example, since my line totals 3" across, there is 1.5" from the center seam to each of the side edges.

When the ruler is placed correctly, use the washable ink pen to mark the measurement. Place two pins across the mark to ensure the fabric doesn't shift in the next step.



4 STEP

STITCH & TRIM.

Stitch directly over the mark, removing the pins as you go. Trim the seam and turn the piece right-side out.





YOUR BOXED CORNER IS COMPLETE!



HELPFUL HINTS + TIPS



1. When stitching lined projects, make sure that the measurement of the boxed corners of both the outer piece and the lining piece are exactly the same.

2. Pressing the seams open in step 1 will result in a polished, professional seam that lies flat along the entire perimeter of the piece, as seen at left. Don't be tempted to skip that step!