

Pattern – Rescue Basket Cover

This pattern is for a fabric cover for the plastic picnic baskets commonly used by wildlife carers.

Please read the instructions fully before commencing.

The instructions outline the way I sew this cover but you can easily adapt to suit your own sewing preferences.

Items Needed

1. Fabric for the outside of the cover – 85cm x 85cm
2. Fabric for the lining of the cover - 85cm x 85cm
3. Fasteners for each end (e.g. Velcro or KAM snaps)
4. Usual sewing notions
5. Sewing machine
6. Pattern (see note below) – full size pattern can be downloaded [from the Wildcare website HERE](#).

Note:

- Chose a lightweight natural fabric such as quilting cotton, cotton sheet or lightweight cotton duck/drill to ensure that the animal does not overheat.
- Use a medium to dark colour for the lining to provide additional security to the animal. (Note: Having said that the baskets are often a bright colour anyway so you can use what you have on hand).
- Use the measurements from the pattern on the last page of these instructions to trace the pattern out on a large sheet of paper. You may need to tape several sheets of A3 paper together or use a large sheet of butcher's paper.
- **There is also a full-size version of the pattern on the Wildcare website (linked above) which you can download and print at Officeworks in full size. It is black and white so should only be around \$5.00.**
- If you plan on making several covers, I'd strongly suggest tracing the pattern out on a large piece of plastic. You can easily create a template by cutting the pattern from several old x-rays taped together (see photo below) or you can buy sheets of thin PETG from local plastic supplier (these make great sewing templates). You could also use thin cardboard.

1 – Prepare your fabric and trace your pattern

- Iron your fabric to remove any creases (this is important for a neat finish).
- With the fabric right sides together, trace the pattern onto the fabric using a pencil.
- There is no need to pin your fabric together before marking the pattern.

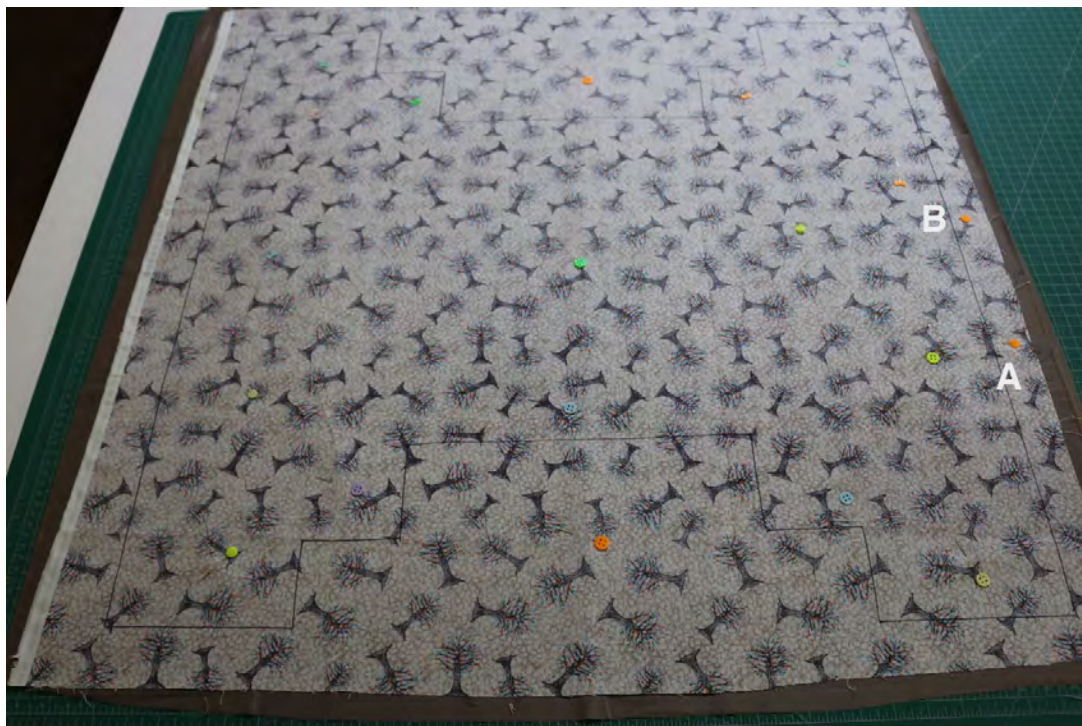


Rehab Easy Reference Sheet

Pattern – Rescue Basket Cover (continued)

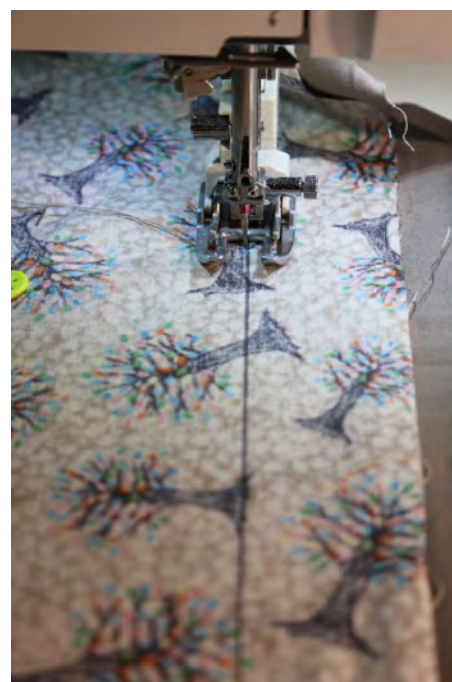
2 – Pin your fabric

- Pin your fabric together now.
- Make sure that your fabric is smooth and there are no wrinkles in either the top or lining of the fabric. This will ensure that you end up with a neat finish.



3 – Sew the fabric together

- Starting on one of the long sides, start sewing exactly on your line (marked A in the above photo).
- Sew all around the pattern on the line. Lift the presser foot of your machine to pivot 90° when you get to the corners.
- Stop about 10 inches (25cm) from where you started to leave an opening to turn the cover inside out (marked B on the above photo).
- Make sure that your fabric stays nice and flat together while sewing.

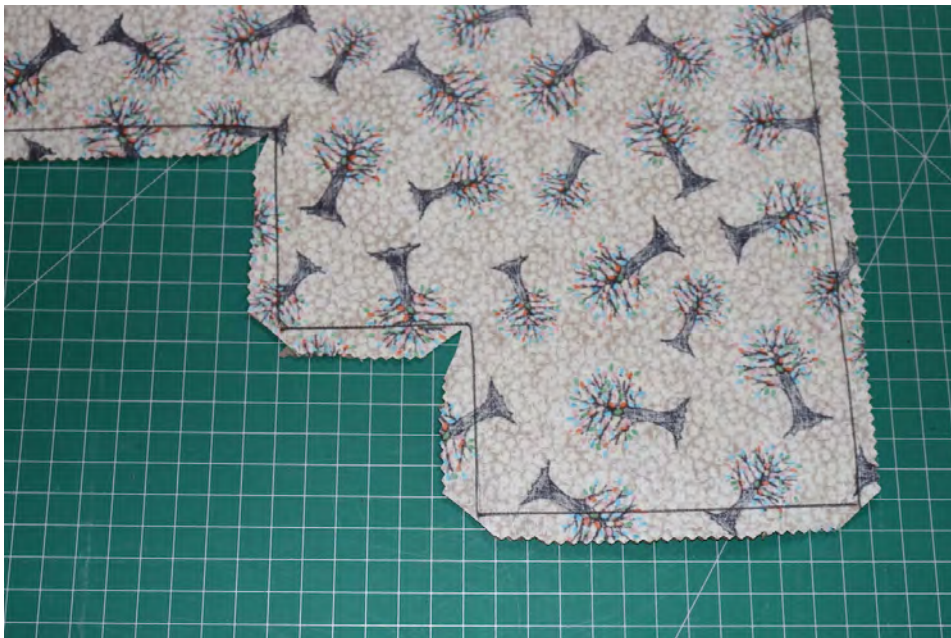


Rehab Easy Reference Sheet

Pattern – Rescue Basket Cover (continued)

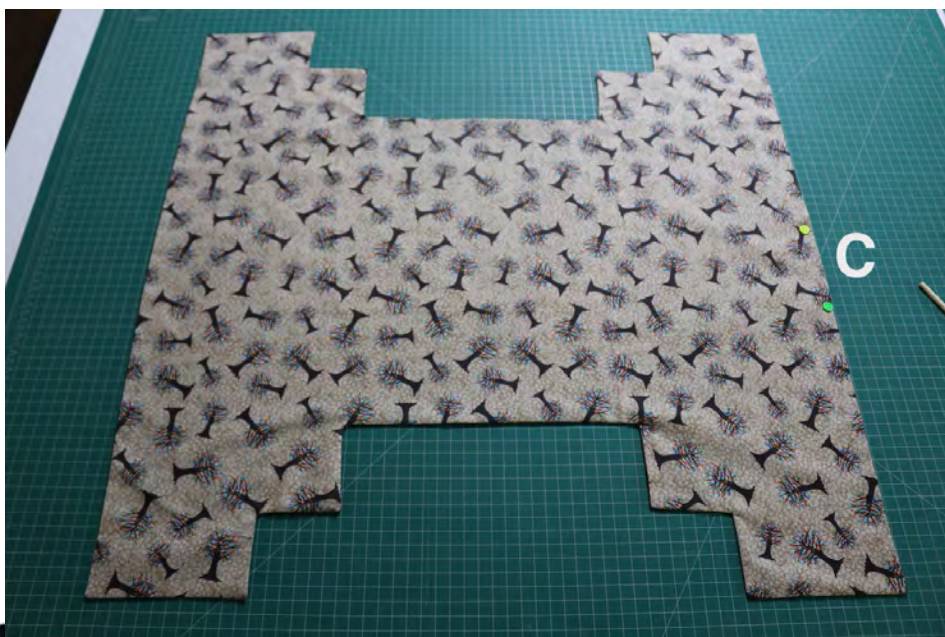
4 – Cut your fabric

- Trim around your fabric approximately ½” from your drawn/sewn line. I use pinking shears.
- Clip the corners to reduce bulk so that it will sit correctly when turned.



5 – Turn inside out and press

- Turn your cover out.
- Use a chopstick or similar to push out all of the corners so that they are square.
- Iron both sides of the cover well ensuring that you tuck in the opening so that it sits neatly.
- Pin the opening closed (marked C in the below photo).



Rehab Easy Reference Sheet

Pattern – Rescue Basket Cover (continued)

6 – Sew the ends

- Locate the sections marked on the pattern as A and B on each side (see last page of these instructions).
- These sides need to be folded up (right sides together) to meet each other so that they can be sewn together.
- Pin in place and stitch along each four sections with a very narrow seam.
- Make sure that your pinned cover now looks like the photo below to make sure that you are stitching the correct sections together.



Rehab Easy Reference Sheet

Pattern – Rescue Basket Cover (continued)

7 – Topstitch

- Use a matching thread and topstitch around entire cover.
- Topstitching over the pinned opening will close it.
- When you get to the folded sections, square your fabric before sewing to achieve a neat finish.
- Alternatively, you can topstitch around the entire piece before completing step 6.



8 – Secure the ends

- Place the cover on your basket and mark where you need to fix your closures.
- If using Velcro, mark and sew securely in place. Use only a small piece of Velcro, bearing in mind that it can be very noisy and frightening to an animal in the basket.
- Alternatively, use KAM snaps if you have them.
- If you are making covers to donate to Wildcare, we can add the snaps.



Rehab Easy Reference Sheet

Pattern – Rescue Basket Cover (continued)

You are finished!



Seam Allowance

The pattern does NOT include a seam allowance. If sewn using the method listed, the seam allowance will be accounted for when cutting.

If you are cutting your fabric before sewing, you will need to add in your preferred seam allowance.

Pattern Template

A full size pattern can be downloaded from our website [HERE](#). It should only cost around \$5 to get this printed at Officeworks.

If you have any questions about the pattern, please feel free to contact Karen - Karen@wildcare.org.au

Rehab Easy Reference Sheet

Pattern – Rescue Basket Cover (continued)

