

Boro inspired basket



Boro inspired basket

- Boro is the name given to the Japanese technique of mending fabrics using layers of other fabrics and small hand stitches – usually running stitch.
- Make a basket with hand stitching on one side and machine stitching on the other – or use hand stitching on both sides if you prefer.
- This is a great recycling project and as a “mindfulness” slow stitching project.
- The basket is fully reversible so choose your lining carefully!

Materials:

- 2 squares of thin wadding (or an old blanket) 34cm x 34cm
- Lining fabric approx. 70cm x 35cm
- Scraps of fabrics – e.g. shirt weight cottons, patchwork cottons, woven silks, light/medium weight denim.
- White hand embroidery thread – e.g. Cotton perle 8 or stranded embroidery cotton – use 3 strands.
- Sewing machine thread – standard polyester thread in a colour to blend in with your fabric scraps and the same type – or a thicker quilting thread – in white.
- A small piece of paper 5cm x 5cm (2" x 2")

Equipment:

- A sharp embroidery needle (e.g. Crewel)
- Sewing machine
- Pins
- Scissors
- Ironing board and iron

Slide 5: Take your two squares of wadding and 5cm x 5cm piece of paper...



Slide 6: Pin the square of paper as shown below and cut off two of the corners on each piece of wadding, as shown.
This will be the bottom of your basket.



Slide 7: Do this with both pieces of wadding.



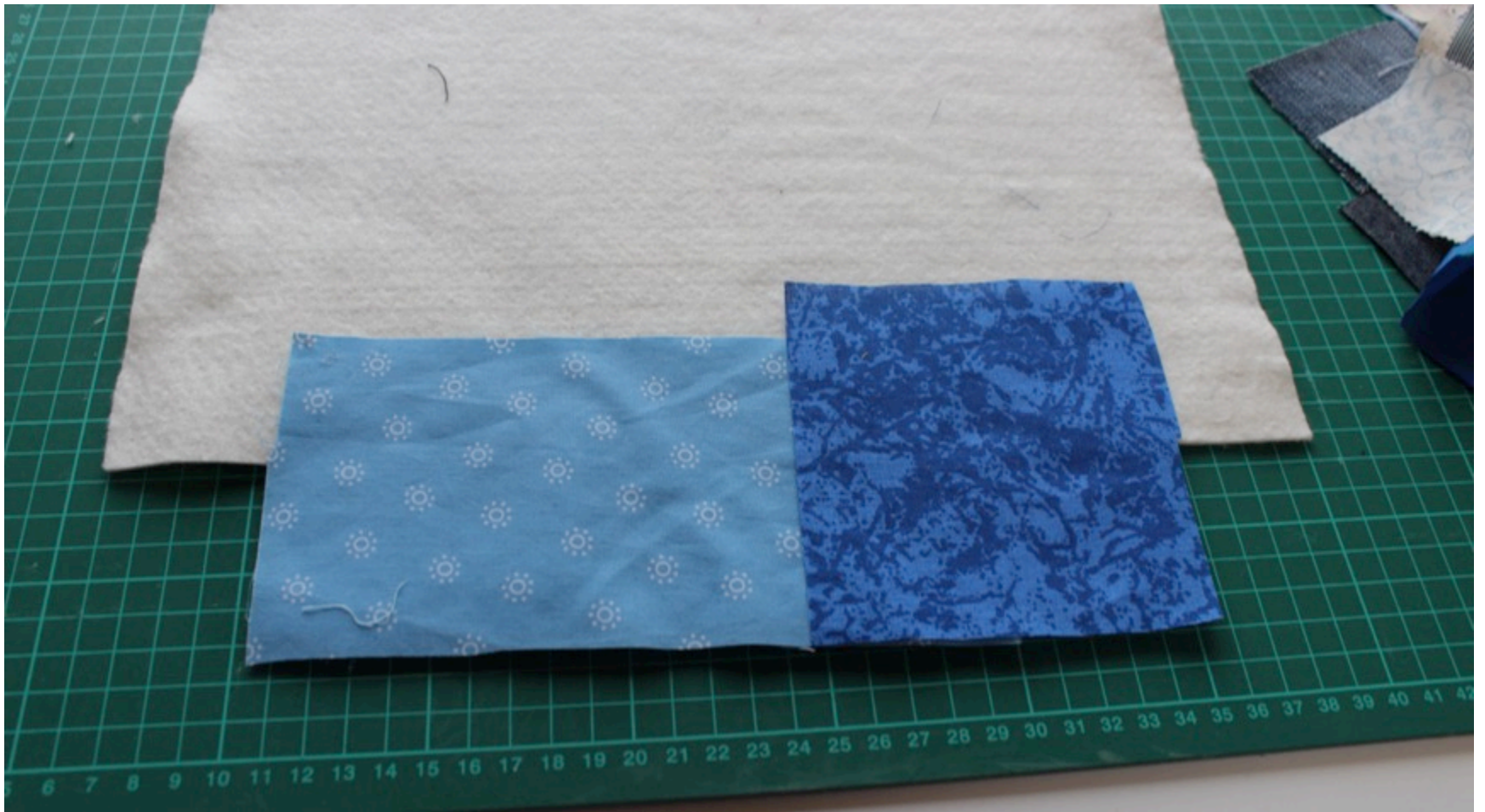
Slide 8: Prepare your scraps of fabrics for the decoration by cutting into squares and rectangles around 6cm x 6cm(2.5" x 2.5") to 6cm x 12cm (2.5" x 4.5"). Also >>>



Slide 9: ... cut a few larger pieces to cover the base/bottom – the part you won't see. This will make the base stronger. See >>>



Slide 10: Here they are put in place to show you what I mean.



Slide 11: **The HAND STITCHED side**: Start arranging the scraps of fabric in place like this. **Overlap the pieces by about 1cm.** Let the fabrics stick out over the edges around 0.5cm to ensure it's completely covered.



Slide 12: Keep going until the piece of wadding is covered with fabrics.



Slide 13: When you're happy with the layout, pin the fabrics in place. In my example, I used mostly shades of blue and blue patterned fabric, with a couple of red fabrics to add contrast.



Slide 14: Flip the fabric over to the wrong side (W.S.) and trim off the excess fabric.



Slide 15: Fold the fabric in half down the front – you might need to move a few pins to do this.



Slide 16: Then lightly press this fold to give you a line down the centre front as a guide for your stitches.



Slide 17: Taking your hand sewing thread and needle, tie a knot in one end and, sewing with SINGLE thread, start the stitching with a row of running stitches down this pressed line.



Slide 18: Here is the first row of stitches completed.



Slide 19: Add more vertical lines as shown here.



Slide 20: Then add more stitches – horizontally and/or around individual pieces of fabric. .



Slide 21: Here is the finished panel and >>>



Slide 22: ... this close-up shows the stitching in more detail.



Slide 23: Check you have no wadding showing through and that your stitches are not too close to a frayed edge... You can see here where my stitching is too close to the edge to be secure! If you find something like this >>>



Slide 24: Just pin another scrap of fabric over the weak spot and stitch it in place.



Slide 25: **The MACHINE STITCHED side:** Prepare the second piece of wadding the same way, covering it with fabric scraps. Again, lightly press a fold down the centre front and then machine stitch down this line in a colour that blends in with your scraps.



Slide 26: Do more lines of stitching parallel to this first line, as shown below. This is to secure the fabric scraps.



Slide 27: Now add vertical and horizontal lines in white thread. Again, this is to secure the fabrics but also to add decoration. Here is a close-up >>>



Slide 28: You can see how the stitching lines run close (about 0.5cm) to the edges of the fabrics.



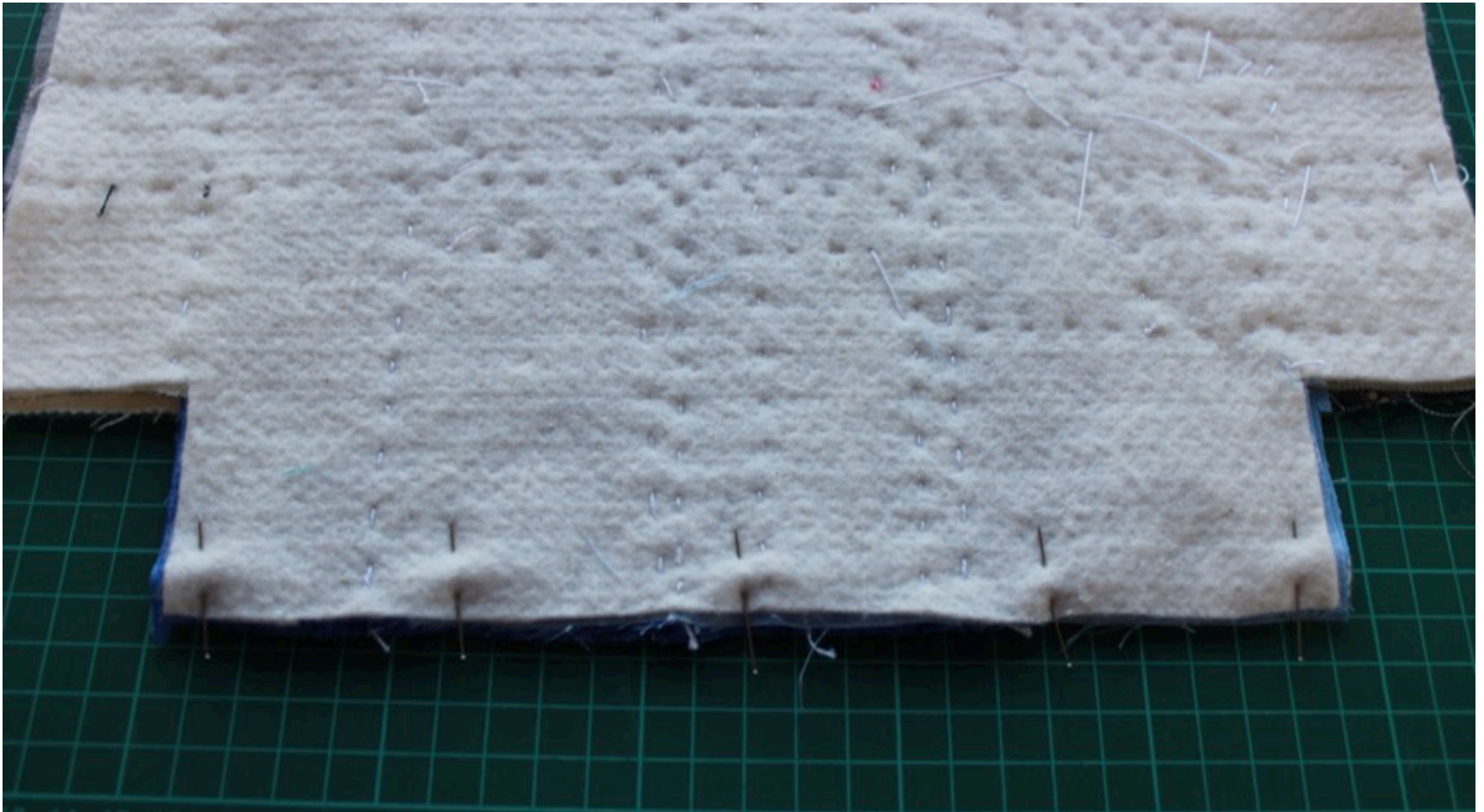
Slide 29: When both panels are finished, lie them on top of each other and see if one has shrunk more than the other; if so, trim to ensure they're both the same size.



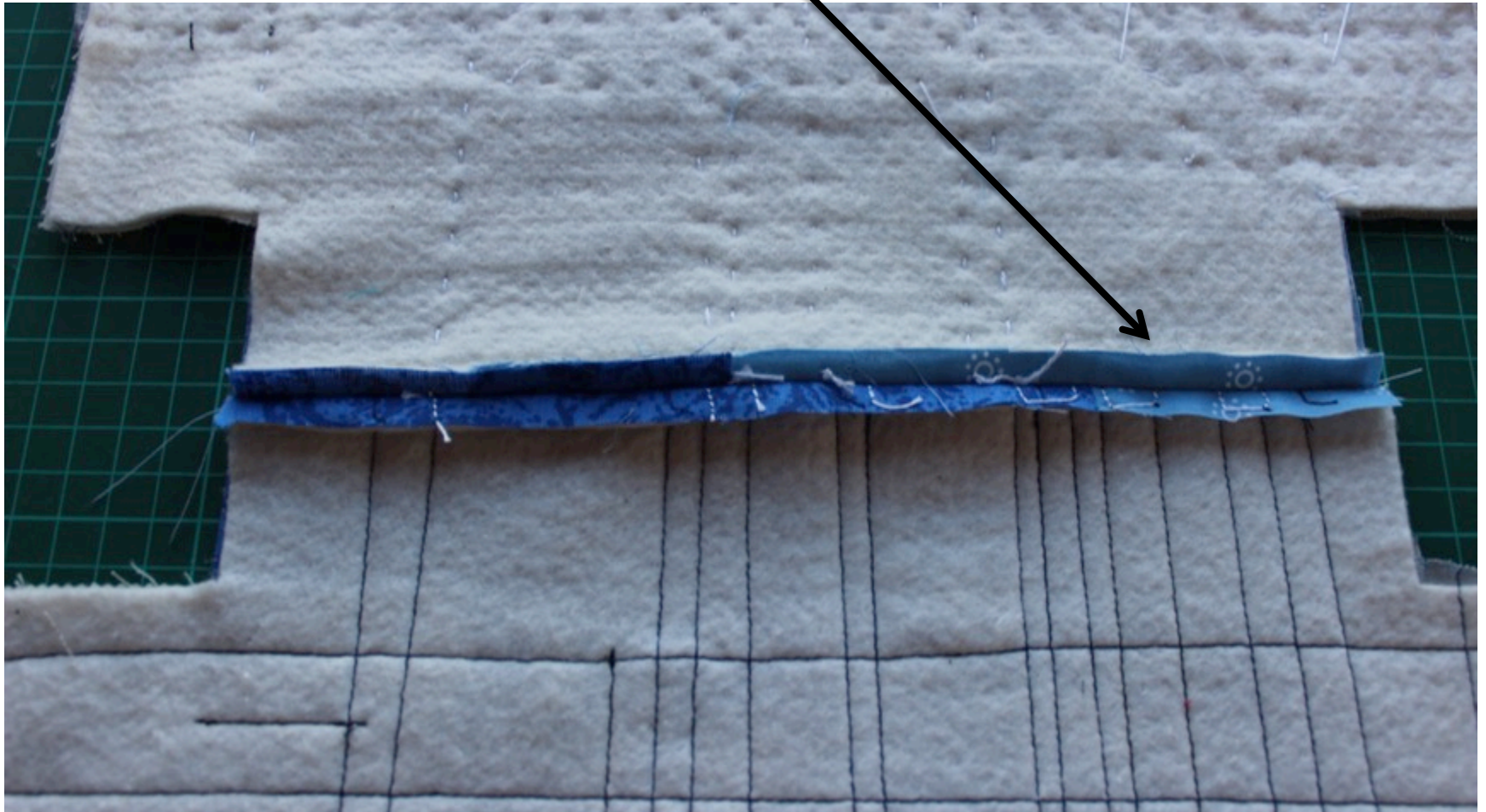
Slide 30: Then cut out two lining pieces, exactly the same size/shape.



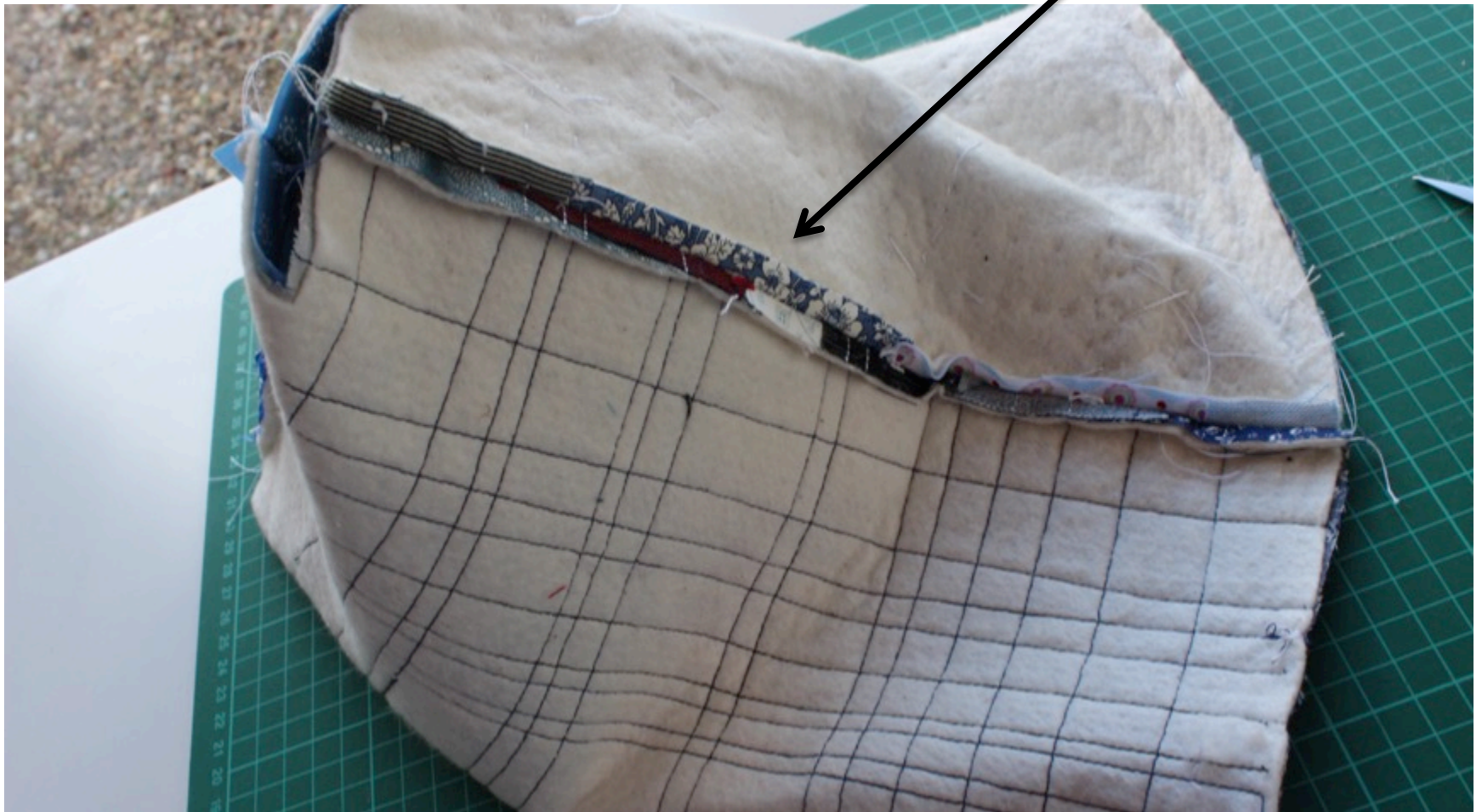
Slide 31: Lay the two decorated panels on top of each other Right Sides (R.S.) together. Pin and then stitch along the bottom edge, using a 1cm/10mm/3/8" seam allowance. Reverse stitch to secure each time you start/stop sewing.



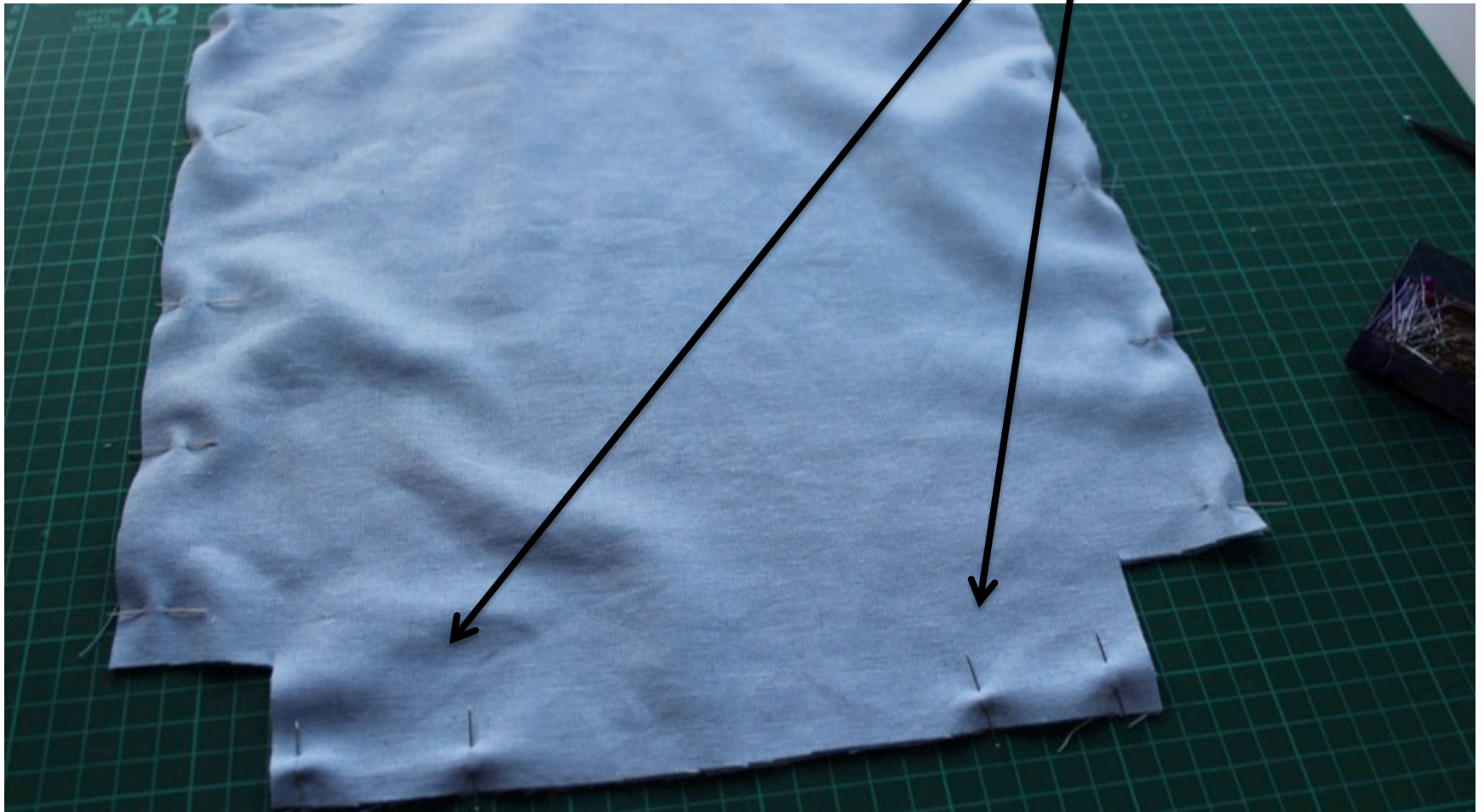
Slide 32: Press this seam allowance open.



Slide 33: Then stitch the side seams – using the same seam allowance – and press them open too.



Slide 34: Pin the 2 lining pieces R.S. together at the side and at the bottom edge. **HOWEVER**, when you sew you will need to leave a gap - about 24cm long – in the centre of the bottom edge, so only pin to here, about $\frac{1}{4}$ of the way in from each side.



Slide 35: Sew the side seams and bottom edge, again using a 10mm/1cm/ 3/8" seam allowance. Reverse each time you stop and start, to secure your stitching. The gap - for turning through - is here



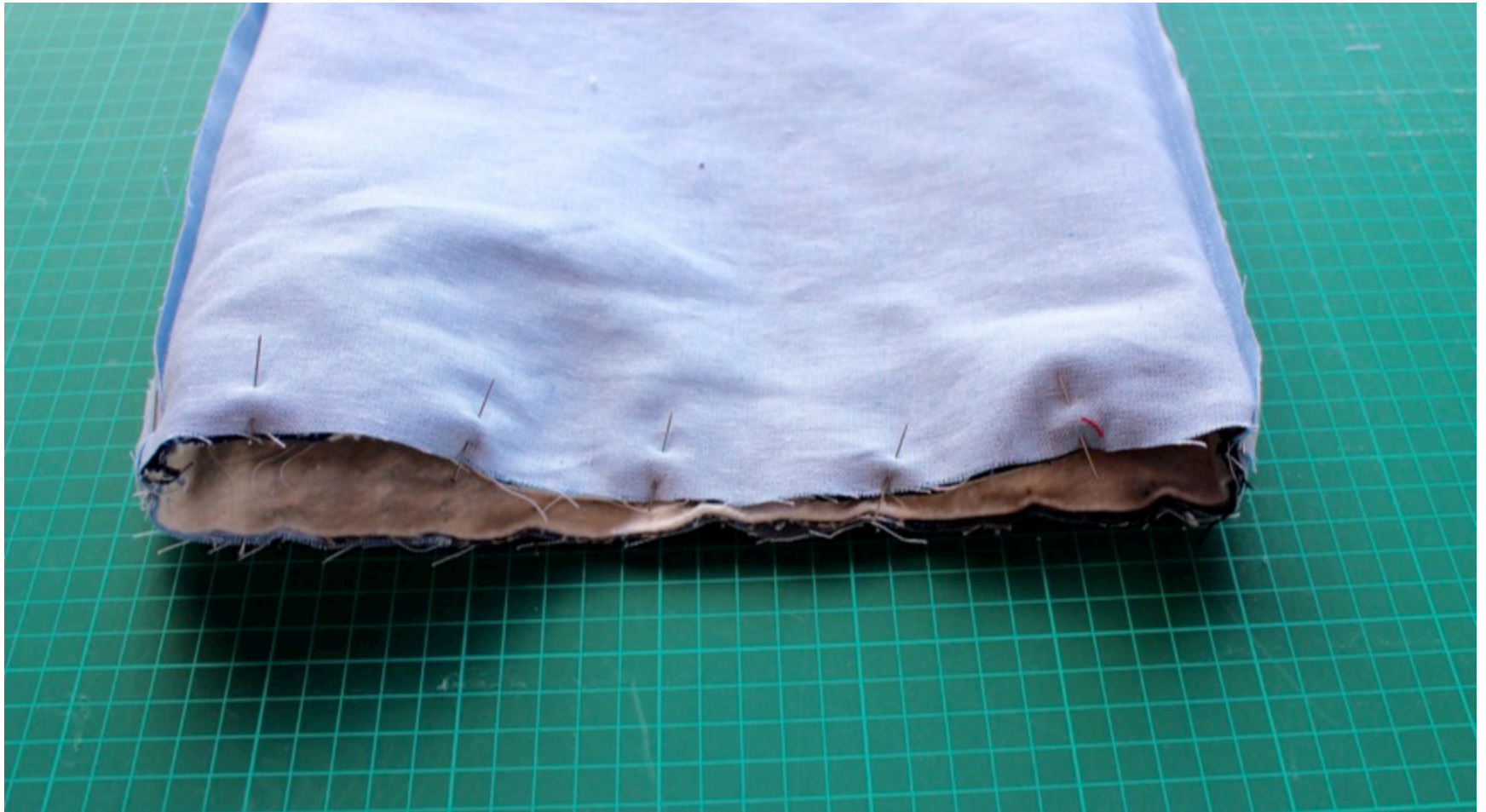
Slide 36: When you have done this, press the SIDE seams open.



Slide 37: Turn the decorated pieces through to the Right Side (R.S.)



Slide 38: Place the outer basket inside the lining, right sides together and matching the side seams and pin together around the top edge. Stitch around this top edge using the same seam allowance as before.



Slide 39: Then pull the lining away from the outer fabric like this.



Slide 40: To “box” the corners: Start at one corner of the outer fabrics and pull the side seam and bottom edge seam together as shown.



Slide 41: Pin, and repeat with the other corner.



Slide 42: Stitch using a **1.5cm (5/8") seam**. Make sure the seams you pressed open still lie open.



Slide 43: This is how it looks.



Slide 44: Repeat with the corners of the lining, making sure the seam allowance along the BOTTOM edge is pushed to ONE SIDE>



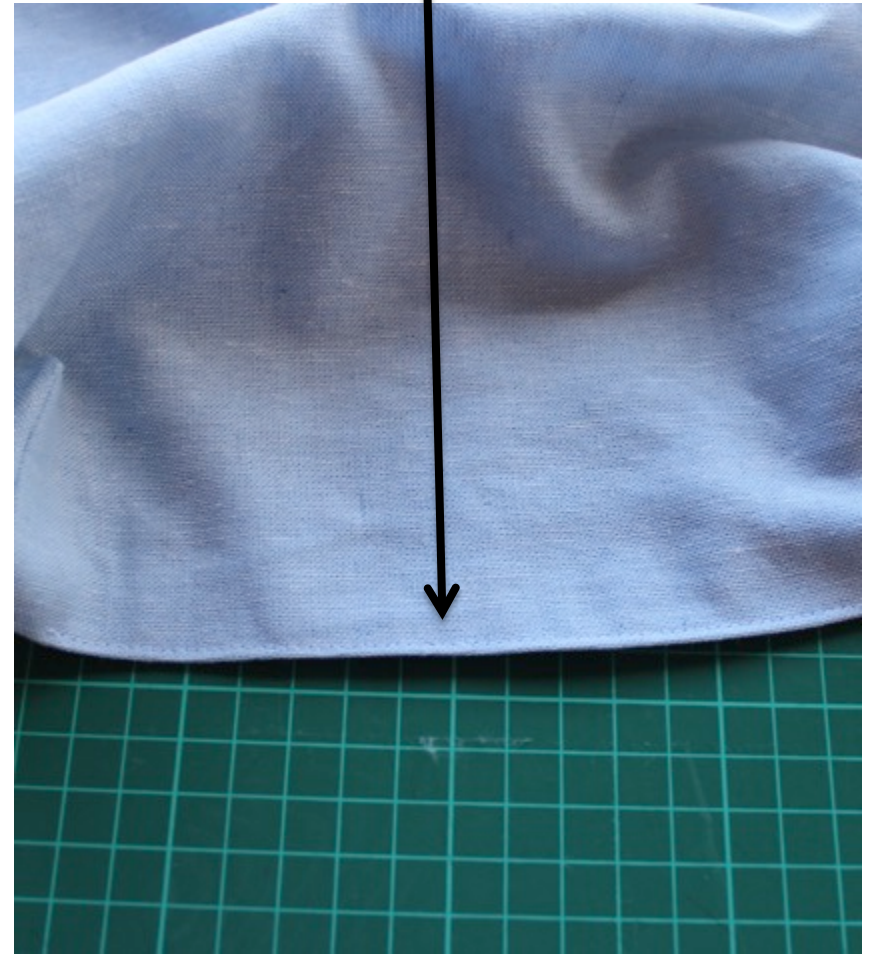
Slide 45: Pull the lining and outer fabrics away from each other like this.



Slide 46: Press the corners like this to give them shape.



Slide 47: To sew up the gap along the lining lower edge – press the seam allowance to the inside and then edge stitch the gap closed.



Slide 48: Now tuck the lining to the inside and press along the top edge.



Slide 49: This is how it looks without the top turned down.



Slide 50: And with the top turned down.



Slide 51: This shows you what it looks like turned inside out.



Slide 52: With the top turned down, lining outside...



Slide 53: The machine-stitched side.





Copyright

- Please honour my intellectual property rights and don't copy, sell or share my **designs/patterns** and instructions or any part of them.
- If you use my designs/patterns to **make products to sell**, or for teaching purposes, **please do acknowledge me** as the designer.

Bronwen Shepherd

www.textileholidaysfrance.com