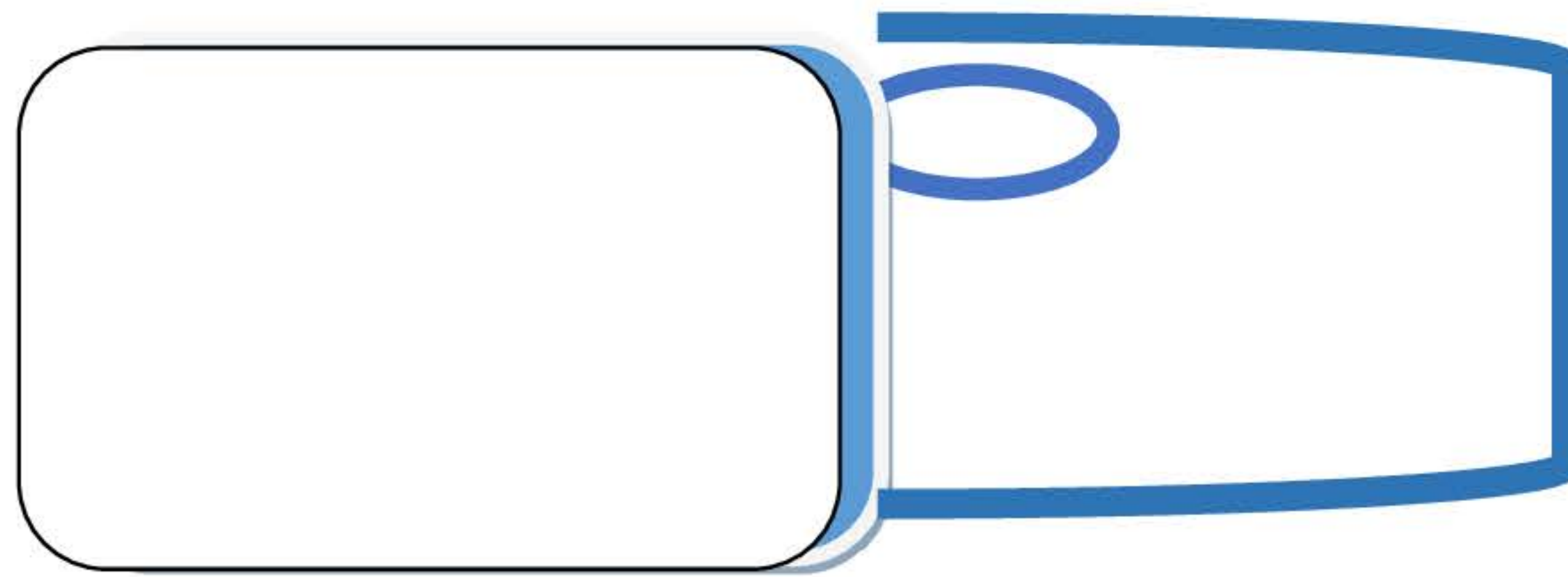




Drainage Bag Pattern for Breast Surgery Patients

When a patient has breast cancer surgery, they are more than likely to leave hospital with tubes protruding that drain their incision. Each tube ends in a small plastic pouch that holds the liquid drained. The patient may leave with one to three drains, and in some cases a patient may wear them for as long as two or three weeks. The purpose of the drainage bag is to hold the drains and provide the patient with confidence to venture out in public knowing that their drains are hidden inside a pretty drainage bag. (This design can later serve as a shopping bag as well). Each surgery patient receives a drainage bag from a breast care nurse.



Fabrics

The bags are a great way to use up scrap fabrics from the never-ending piles that crafty people seem to collect.

The fabric should be sturdy cotton, calico or canvas up to and including drapery fabric, upholstery fabric and damask. Lighter weight fabrics cannot hold the weight of full drainage bags.

Decorating

To keep the project interesting, you may like to be imaginative and decorate the bags. Bags have included decorative machine stitching, appliques of flowers, appliques of old cross stitches, quilters squares, piecing together of several fabrics, contrasting handles and so forth. Have fun!

Alternatively plain bags of printed fabrics are also great and allow sewers to get more bags finished.

Cutting

The bag can be cut as one long piece of a single fabric 11 x 34 inches (if you are a quilter) or 25cm x 86cm so there is no bottom seam.

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Alternatively, you may want to use two separate pieces to fit the cuts out of a scrap fabric, or to combine two different fabrics for a design feature. Cut two rectangles 11 x 17 inches or 27cm x 44cm which allows ½ inch or 1cm seams for a finished size 10 x 17 inches (for quilters) or 25cm x 42cm.

To fit scrap fabrics, you may vary for as much as an inch or 2.5cm in any direction.

The shoulder strap is cut about 54 inches long x 6 inches wide (137cm long x 15 cm wide). The tab through which it is fed is cut 12 inches x 6 inches wide or 30 cm x 15 cm wide. The strap is long so the patient can tie it through the tab and adjust as required.

Inside or Outside Pocket

If you have spare material an inside or outside pocket is always useful to hold a mobile and some change.

Assembly

Sew the side seams (and bottom seam if using separate front and back).

Fold over and finish a hem about 3-4 cm (1 ¼ - 1 ¾ inches) around the top and stitch.

For the strap, turn in one end and stitch a finished hem. Fold and press in the long edges about 1.5cm each side and then fold in half lengthwise and pin. Top stitch along each edge.



Follow the same procedure to make the tab. Fold the tab in half and stitch both ends to the bag at the side seam.

Attach the unhemmed end of the strap to the opposite side of the bag.

If the fabric is thick, stitch the tab to one side of a side seam (front) and the strap end on the back side of the other side seam. A full square of stitching is suggested for strength.



Please call Bosom Buddies if the instructions need clarification or if you have questions.

Thank you for your support!