

sew a backyard adventure

21 Projects—Teepees, Hats, Backpacks, Quilts, Sleeping Bags & More



Everything you need for
camping out or camping in

Susan Maw and Sally Bell of Maw-Bell Designs





general sewing instructions

1. Please read all instructions before beginning a project.
2. Take note of seam allowances on a per-project basis; they vary from $\frac{1}{4}$ " to $\frac{5}{8}$ ".
3. If you are using washable fabric for garment sewing, wash, dry, and press all fabric and trim before using.
4. Backstitch at the beginning and end of a seam by taking a few stitches in reverse to prevent the stitches from coming undone.
5. Clip the seam allowances at curves and corners.
6. Finish the seam allowances with a zigzag or overlock stitch, or trim with pinking shears.
7. Press the seams flat to set the stitches and then press them open unless otherwise noted.

CUTTING

1. Fold the fabric wrong sides together and align the selvedge edges for double thickness; place right side up for single thickness.
2. Because the patterns are printed on both sides of the pullout pages, you must trace your own patterns and templates to preserve the original sheets intact. Mark the cutting lines for the size you want by tracing them with a highlighter before you trace your tissue paper patterns.
3. Arrange the pattern pieces before pinning them to the fabric to check the layout and to get the best use of the fabric. Note the grainline on the pattern pieces and align pattern arrows with the grain.

4. Transfer pattern markings to the wrong side of the fabric using a chalk pencil or removable pen.



Notches and symbols

5. Place right sides together when sewing pieces together unless otherwise noted.
6. When seams have multiple layers, grade seams by trimming the layers separately and into graded widths.

GLOSSARY OF SEWING TERMS

Backstitching: A few stitches sewn in reverse at the beginning and end of a seam to prevent the stitches from coming undone.

Basting stitch: The longest stitch available on a sewing machine, used mainly as a temporary stitch to keep multiple layers of fabric together.

Edge stitch: A straight stitch that runs close to a seam or finished edge and is stitched with the right side up.

Gathering: Two rows of basting stitches, one along the seamline and the other $\frac{1}{4}$ " inside the seam allowance. The bobbin threads of each set of stitches are pulled to gather the fabric and adjust the fullness evenly. After the gathered area has been sewn to the garment, the two rows of basting are removed.

Grainline: The straight grain of the fabric; the line parallel to the selvage or fold.

Slip stitch: A loose hand stitch that catches only a thread or two of fabric, designed to be invisible from the right side.

Stay stitch: A straight stitch, usually $\frac{1}{2}$ " in from the cut edge, within the seam allowance, that prevents fabric from stretching.

Top stitch: A straight stitch that runs parallel usually $\frac{1}{4}$ " away from an edge or another seam and is stitched with the right side up.

SIZE CHART

| | SIZE 3 | SIZE 4 | SIZE 5 | SIZE 6 | SIZE 7 | SIZE 8 |
|---------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Chest | 21½" | 22½" | 23½" | 24" | 25" | 26" |
| Waist | 20½" | 21" | 22" | 22½" | 23" | 23½" |
| Hips | 22" | 23" | 24¼" | 25½" | 26¾" | 27½" |
| Height | 38½" | 41" | 43½" | 46" | 48" | 50½" |

EMBROIDERY STITCHES

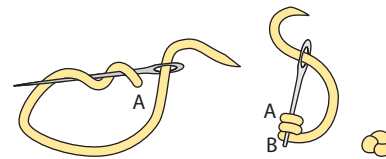
We like to use hand embroidery stitches to embellish our quilts.

1. Use an air- or water-soluble pen to draw the designs on the fabric.
2. Use size 5 perle cotton or 3 strands of embroidery floss, unless otherwise noted, and a size 5 embroidery needle.
3. When finishing, take the needle to the back and knot the thread or knot the thread first and hide it inside the work.

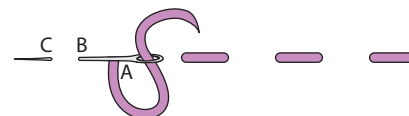
Stitch Guide



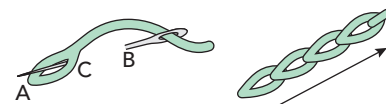
Backstitch



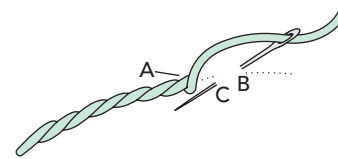
French knot



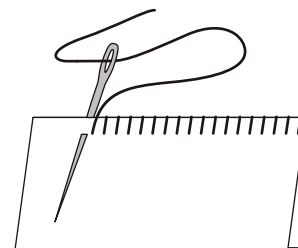
Running stitch



Split stitch



Stem stitch



Whipstitch

happy campers teepee



Designed and made by Susan Maw

FINISHED TEEPEE: 60" to top of teepee poles × 40" square

Campy kids will be happy campers when camping in the backyard or even in their own bedroom in this simple-to-make, kid-size teepee. We've included directions for an optional peephole window. Parents will love the hours of play it provides and, when it's not in use, can just pick it up for storage.

MATERIALS

- **Suggested fabrics:** Cotton, lightweight denim, and twill

Fabric for teepee top and door pullbacks: 1 yard*

Fabric for teepee bottom and door panels: 3¾ yards*

- **Hook-and-loop tape, ¾" wide:** 2"
- **PVC pipes, ¾" in diameter:** 4 pipes 5' long
- **Acrylic paint:** for ends of pipes

Optional:

- **Clear, medium-weight upholstery vinyl, 54" wide:**
¼ yard for peephole window

- **Grosgrain ribbon or twill tape to tie pipes together:**
1 yard

* Extra fabric is needed for directional fabric design.

CUTTING

Refer to General Sewing Instructions (page 108).

Teepee Bottom Panels

Refer to the cutting diagram (below) for A and C panels.

1. Square each end of the teepee bottom fabric. (We allowed an extra few inches of fabric that isn't shown on the cutting diagram.) Cut the panel 34½" wide × length (3¾ yards) of fabric.

2. Mark the fabric at the dots and draw cutting lines as indicated on the cutting diagram.

3. Cut 3 Teepee Bottom A pieces.

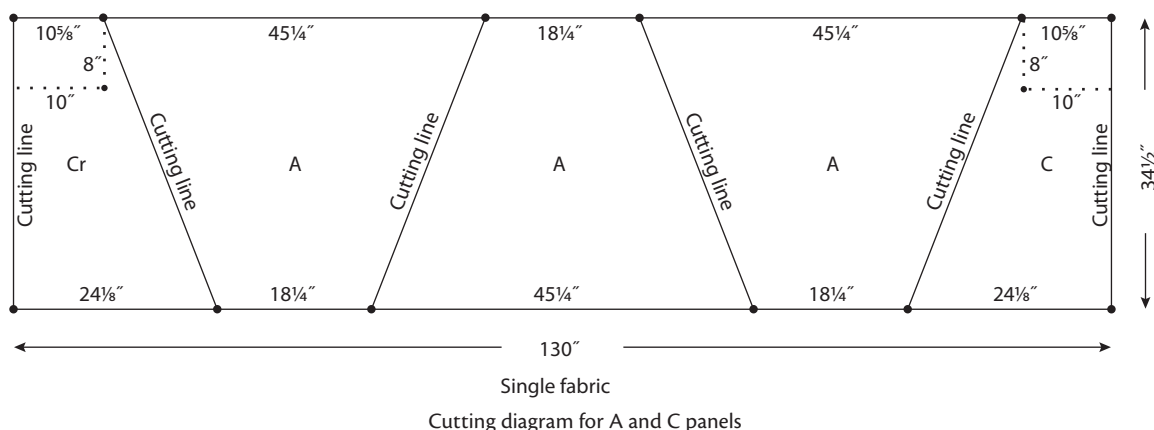
4. Cut a Door Panel C and a Door Panel C reversed. Mark the door pullback placement 8" down from top and 10" over from straight front edge, as shown in the cutting diagram.

Optional: Peephole Window

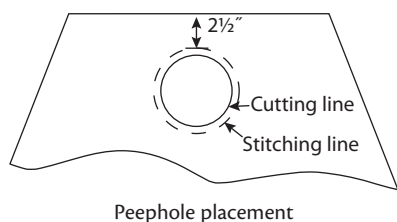


1. Make 3 circle templates: 7" diameter, 6" diameter, and 5" diameter.

2. Use the 7" template to cut a circle from the vinyl.



3. Refer to the diagram for the peephole placement. Find the center of the $18\frac{3}{4}$ " edge of a panel A, measure down $2\frac{1}{2}$ ", and mark. Place the top edge of the 6" template at the mark and trace around the template for the stitching line. Center the 5" template inside the 6" marked circle and trace for the cutting line.

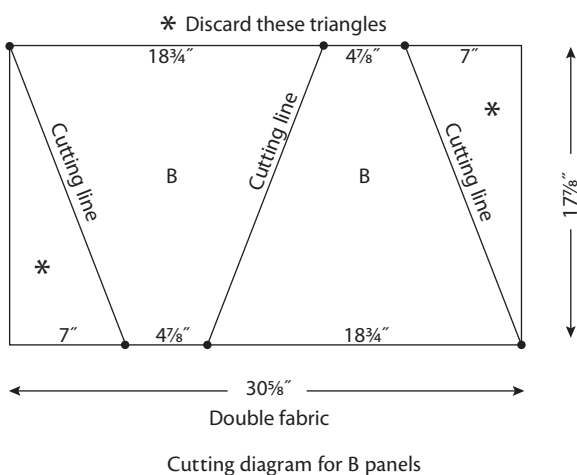


Peephole placement

Teepee Top Panels and Tie-Backs

Refer to the cutting diagram for B panels.

1. With the teepee top fabric folded double, cut a rectangle $17\frac{7}{8}$ " \times $30\frac{5}{8}$ ". (Because you have 2 layers, you have 2 rectangles.) Keep the pieces layered together.
2. Mark the top layer fabric at the dots and draw cutting lines as indicated on the cutting diagram. Cut through the double layers of fabric on the cutting lines to yield 4 B panels.
3. Cut 2 strips 4 " \times 9 " from the remaining teepee top fabric.

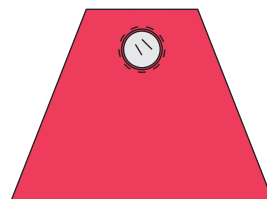


Cutting diagram for B panels

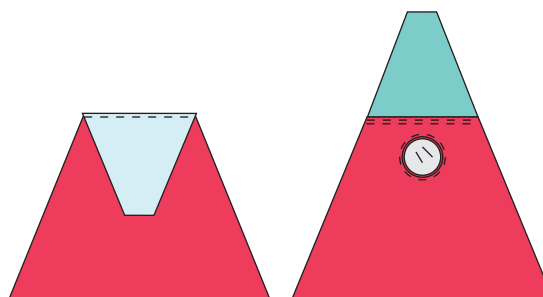
SEWING

A $\frac{1}{2}$ " seam allowance is included in the pattern pieces unless otherwise noted.

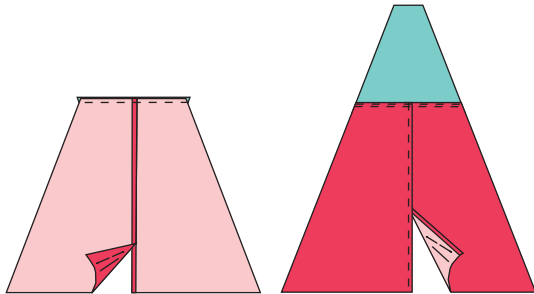
1. If making the optional peephole window, stitch around the stitching line on the marked A panel. Cut out on the cutting line. Clip the seam allowance to the line of stitching and press the seam allowance to the inside. Center and pin the vinyl circle over the opening on the back side of the fabric. On the front side of the panel edgestitch and topstitch the window in place. This will be the back wall of the finished teepee. You could put a window in each section.



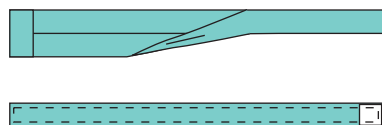
2. Stitch an A panel to a B panel with right sides together to make the teepee sides. Press the seam toward the bottom. Edgestitch and topstitch the seam. Repeat to make a total of 3 sides. If you made a peephole, that section becomes the back wall of the teepee.



3. To narrowly hem the front edges of the door panels C and Cr, press under a $\frac{1}{2}$ " seam allowance along the long straight edges as shown. Open the hem and turn in the raw edges to meet the crease. Press. Refold and stitch in place. Pin the door panels to the remaining B panel, overlapping the finished edges of the door panels to fit the top as shown. Stitch. Press the seam toward the door panels. Edgestitch and topstitch the seam.



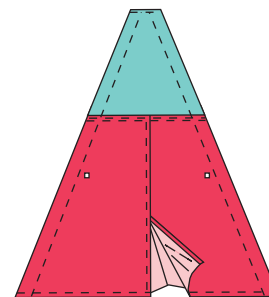
4. To make the door pullbacks, press the 2 strips 4" x 9" in half lengthwise, wrong sides together. Open the fabric and press the raw edges in to meet the crease. Turn a short end in $\frac{1}{2}$ " and press. Refold lengthwise and press. Edgestitch all of the edges. Cut the length of the hook-and-loop tape in half. Stitch the hook side of a hook-and-loop tape piece to the finished end of each pullback. Pin the unfinished end of the pullback to the X mark on the fabric back of each door panel, with the hook-and-loop tape facing the wrong side of the door panel. Baste. Stitch the loop side of the hook-and-loop tape piece to the exterior of each door panel at the X mark over the basting.



5. To narrowly hem the bottom and top edges of all 4 sides, press under a $\frac{1}{2}$ " seam allowance. Open out the hem and turn the raw edge in to meet the crease. Press. Refold, and stitch in place.

6. Stitch the teepee sides to the teepee back and front with a $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam.

7. On the outside at the seams, press each corner seam together flat. Stitch $1\frac{3}{4}$ " away from the edge of the seam to form a casing for the pipes. *Note:* Some lighter-weight fabrics should be stitched $1\frac{1}{8}$ " away from the edge of the seam. We recommend sewing about a quarter of the way down from the top on a seam and then checking the fit of the PVC pipe. You may need to adjust the width for your fabric's bulk. The casing should fit snugly, but it shouldn't be difficult to fit the PVC pipe into the casing.



8. Edgestitch the casings closed at the bottom edge.

9. Paint the top quarter of the pipes. Allow the paint to dry. Insert the pipes into the casings.

10. Refer to the photo (page 46) to set up the teepee. Arrange the pipes at the top, adjusting them to stand with all 4 sides stretched out fully at the bottom and the pipes standing as straight as possible. (*Optional:* Tie the ribbon around the pipes at the top to help hold them together.)

