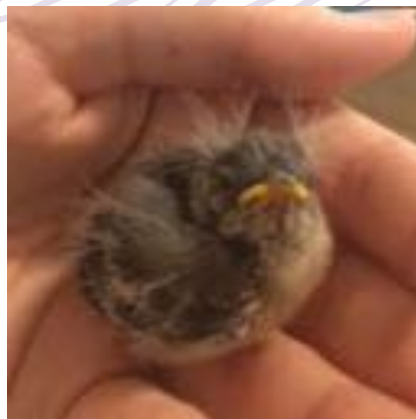




DO YOU SEW!?!?!



Do You LOVE Wildlife?!



We NEED YOU!!

CONTACT Living Sky Wildlife Rehabilitation
at 306-281-0554 or
by email at LSWR@sasktel.net



Thank you for volunteering to sew for LSWR!

We use cloth flight cages, rather than wire or plastic cages, to prevent wing injuries, feather damage, and reduce visibility stress to the birds.

The flight cages are used when smaller birds are learning how to fly and self-feed; they are also used to contain larger birds when they are recovering from injuries.

We will provide all the supplies you need for this project, or feel free to donate any excess you may have at home:

- poly-cotton blend fabric
- double-pull zippers
- mesh
- bias seam binding
- elastic

LSWR Flight Cages

Dimensions for Small Cage

Piece	Quantity	Dimension Cut (inches)	Dimension Actual (inches)	Notes
Side	2	24 ½ x 19	22 w x 16 ½ h	
Back	1	19 x 19	16 ½ w x 16 ½ h	
Bottom	1	24 ½ x 19	22 deep x 16 ½ w	
Top A (fabric)	2	24 ½ x 7 ½	22 x 2 ¼	There is a mesh inlay in the top piece to allow light into the cage. We use full-spectrum lights to mimic sunlight. The dimension of the finished top should be the same as the bottom, 22 deep x 16 ½ w.
Top B (fabric)	2	9 ½ x 7 ¼	7 x 4 ¾	
Top C (mesh)	1	9 ½ x 15	7 x 12 ½	
Front with zipper door			16 ½ w x 16 ½ h	52" zipper, two pulls; zipper flap at the bottom. Mesh at the top of the door flap to allow staff to look inside the cage without unzipping it. The dimension of the finished front should be the same as the back, 16 ½ w x 16 ½ h.
top strip	1	4 x 19	1 ½ h x 16 ½ w	
front panel (includes door flap)	1	17 ½ X 19	15 h x 16 ½ w	
mesh	1	5 x width you cut door flap (see instructions below)		
Tube A	4	5 ½ x 15 ½	2 x 15	Folded in half along long edge
Tube B	8	5 ½ x 9 ½	2 x 9	
Elastic	24	4"	1 ½ "	Elastic can be ½" to 1 ¼ " wide. Folded in half, sewn with ¼" seam allowance. OR 8 pieces of elastic on long sides only is also acceptable, but less desirable.

Notes:

Thank you for volunteering to sew for LSWR! We use cloth flight cages, rather than wire or plastic cages, to prevent wing injuries, feather damage, and reduce visibility stress to the birds. The flight cages are used when smaller birds are learning how to fly and self-feed; they are also used to contain larger birds when they are recovering from injuries.

Flight cages must be finished on the inside with no exposed raw edges; French seams work very well for this purpose. Alternately, raw edges of traditional seams may be rolled and stitched, but they are more bulky to sew. No serging or zigzag. Birds get feet and legs caught; they also choke on frayed edges and loose threads, resulting in death.

Select patterned fabric with a white or off-white background, in a polyester/cotton blend. This will provide light and air circulation inside the flight cages. Used bedsheets are an ideal source of fabric. No flannel: it does not provide enough ventilation for the birds inside the flight cage. No 100% cotton: it does not withstand the frequent washing and bleaching necessary for sanitizing. No looped material (eg. terry cloth or towels): it's an entanglement risk. LSWR will provide any supplies you might need for this project - just ask us!

To sew the French seams, use a $\frac{1}{2}$ inch seam allowance on the first seam, and a $\frac{3}{4}$ inch seam allowance on the second seam. There is no need to trim the first seam because of the larger second allowance. If you prefer to use smaller seam allowances, adjust the fabric cut sizes before you start.

Video link for how to sew French seams: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YYa86gQbN6c>

Video link for clipping and notching: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_9bQXOGC-K4

Video link for sewing a curved zipper: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=09iR6UXutcs>

Video link for sewing bias tape around a curved edge (method 2 is preferred) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fджиWWQmP3c> :

Directions:

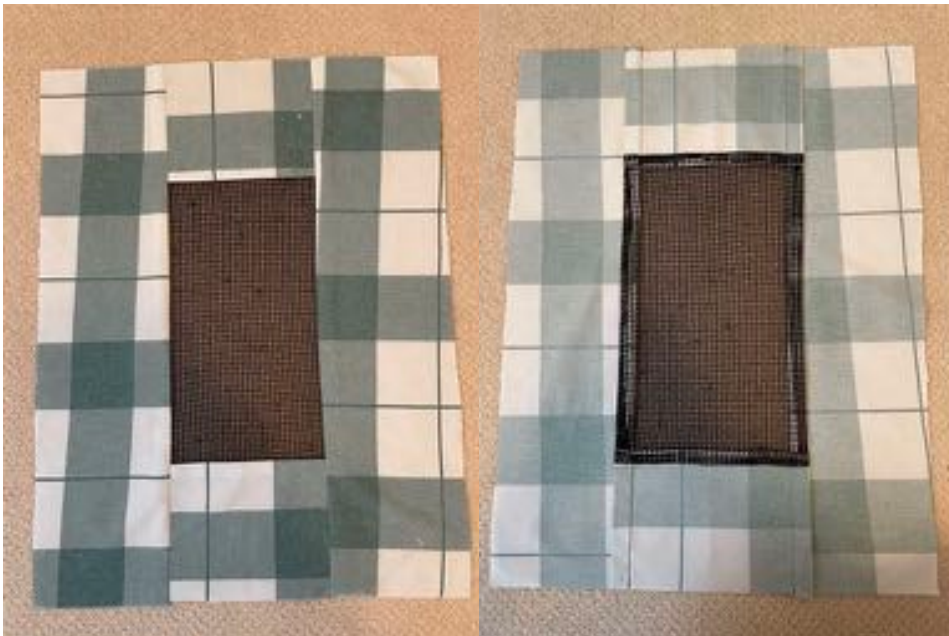
1. Cut out all pieces needed for the cage.

2. TOP

To assemble the top piece, sew small pieces (top C and tops B) together along the 9 ½ inch edges. Make sure to use French seams (or rolled and stitched seam allowances) so that there are no exposed raw edges.



After you have attached top C to tops B, sew tops A along the long edges. Below are images of the finished right and wrong side of the top piece.



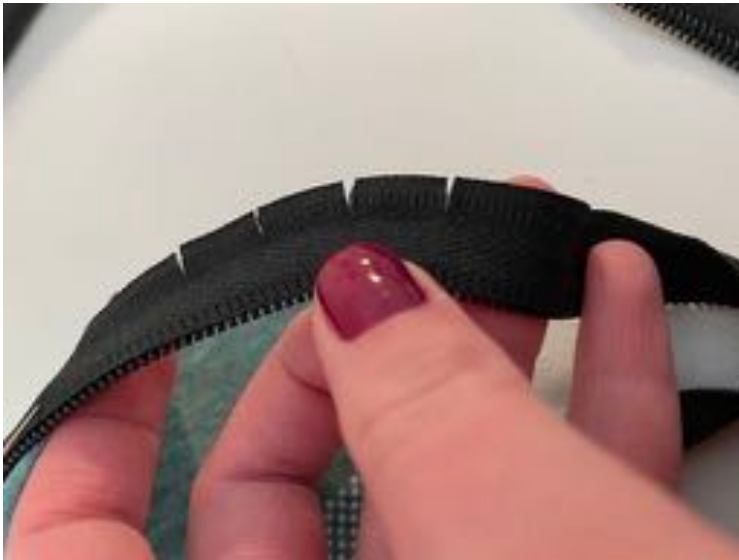
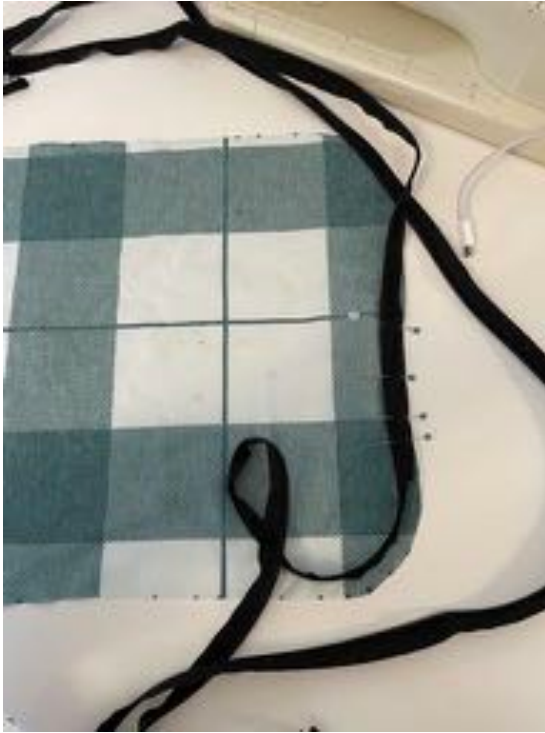
3. DOOR

To make the door you will need to start with the 17 ½ h X 19 w piece of fabric. Mark down the rounded edges as shown below. Use a ruler for the straight edges, and a curved edge to mark the corners. If you don't have a curved ruler, a lid or a plate of appropriate size will work as well. The exact location of the cut does not matter but aim to leave 2-3 inches on either side of the cut.



Once you have cut out the door flap, cut off 2 ½ inches from the top and replace with mesh as shown above. Cut the mesh 5 inches h x the width of your door flap (measure it). Sew together. Remember to use French seams so there are no raw edges.

After you have sewn the mesh onto the door flap, sew the zipper onto the door. Sewing a curved zipper can be difficult, but the videos in the notes section may help.



Once the zipper is attached you may need to modify the curved edges to sew bias tape onto the edges. Edges may need to be clipped or notched depending on how the seam will lie. (It's ok if the curved part does not lie completely flat.) See notes for more explanation on clipping and notching. Make sure that you are catching all edges of fabric and zipper when sewing on the bias tape.

After the zipper is sewn in, attach the 4 x 19 top strip. Remember to use French seams. Make sure that the front measures 19 x 19 inches after assembling all the pieces. Below is an image of a finished front.



4. SIDES

Sew sides to the top with the wrong sides together.

Hem the short edges of the tube pieces and then fold them in half lengthwise, right sides out. Press to ensure the tubes stay folded in half.

Place the cut edge of the tube A (the long one) on the seam that is going to be enclosed (matching centers).

Place the elastic loops on the seam allowance in the same manner. Position them $\frac{1}{2}$ way between the end of the tube and the edge. (The elastic placement in the pictures is a bit close to the tube sleeve- they can be placed a bit farther away than shown in the image!)

Once everything is pinned, enclose the seam allowance by folding the right sides together and sewing the French seam.

Repeat for the other side, and then do the same to the bottom piece on the two sides. When finished you should have all four long sides of the cage sewn together, forming an open ended box/tube.

Image of tube and elastics positioned on what will be the enclosed seam.



Image of tops, sides, and bottom with tubing and elastics sewn together.



5. ATTACH FRONT (DOOR) AND BACK

Once the side pieces have been attached to the top and bottom piece (with the tubes and elastic), the front and back pieces must be attached.

To sew on the front and back pieces, match the corners (box style), and proceed following the instructions outlined above. Instead of using tube A, use tube B on the short edges of the front and back pieces. Be mindful to catch all fabric in the corners of the seams.

The finished product:

