

A Guide to the OutoftheBox Materials

Make and Source your own Materials or Buy from OutoftheBox

Our carefully designed and beautifully crafted OutoftheBox resources helps to instill value in the stories you tell, the people you share them with and the time you spend together. But of course OutoftheBox stories can be told anywhere and using any medium - for example, on the woodland floor with twigs and leaves or on a pub table with beer mats and glasses.

Current suppliers of OutoftheBox Materials

OutoftheBox (UK) <https://www.outoftheboxstories.org/resources>

Woodenmind (Australia) <https://woodenmind.org/product/out-of-the-box/>



A round basket with a lid

The lid needs to be flat so that when the basket is turned upside down the lid becomes a container for the felt pieces. Our rattan basket is made in Burma and is beautiful and durable. It is 30 cm in diameter by 20 cm high.



Two baskets to hold the thick figures and the objects

Two baskets that are neutral in colour and fit inside each other - one to hold the 21 thick scroll cut people, three sheep and donkey and the other to hold all the objects such as the stones, shells and objects in organza bags.



A basket to hold the small thin figures and discs

A small basket that is neutral in colour to hold the small, thin laser cut people and the discs that they stand on.



Sandbag

A neutral colour is best and the material must not let sand through. The standard size is 75cm diameter although a smaller size may be more suitable for use with small groups. We also supply sandbags that are 51cm and 100cm in diameter. Please see the document 'Instructions for Making a Sandbag' at the end of this document.



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Round Fleece for the Underlay

A good quality washable cream fleece. The standard underlay is 75cm in diameter although a smaller size may be more suitable for use with small groups. We also supply underlays that are 61 cm and 51 cm in diameter. The fleece we use can be purchased in the UK from Neotrim and is called antique cream. (We also supply a dark blue fleece for use with the Creation story)



Fleece Heart, Circle and Square

The fleece pieces are made of the same material as the underlay. The square and circle are of diameter 75 mm. The heart has a diameter and height of 50 mm. The rainbow blanket is 100 mm x 75 mm. It can be bought from CRS Fur Fabrics (You need a repeat pattern that fits the size of rectangle which has been designed to be 4x the size of the brown rectangles).



The 144 Felt Pieces

The felt pieces have been designed to tessellate and precision machine cutting means they look very good. You can cut by hand but you will notice the difference - the templates are at the end of this document. We use a good quality 1.5mm acrylic felt from Thefabrictradeltd on ebay. In our boxes we have:
12 yellow circles (diameter 75 mm), 12 orange half circles (diameter 75 mm)
12 purple triangles (length of two sides 75 mm), 12 red petals (length 75 mm),
12 deep blue waves (length 106mm), 12 grey blobs (100mm x 65mm)
24 green leaves (length 106mm), 24 brown rectangles (75 mm x 25 mm)
24 light blue dots (25 mm diameter)



The Seven Coloured Circles

These circles can be useful in helping to get ready for the story. They are placed out in an arc as we say the words "Now we have time to breathe....") Suggested diameter 75mm. If you make your own then it is best if your felts are the same shades as the felt pieces in your box.



Handmade large people

There are 21 thick people figures to include people in wheelchairs. The people are 9mm thick and about 6cm tall. They are stained in different shades of brown to show variety but not create issues of black/white ethnicity. Please contact us if you would like the templates.



Handmade sheep and donkey

The animals are 9mm thick. The donkey is 4.8cm high from hind leg to top of back. The three sheep are 4.8cm at the longest point. They are stained in shades of brown. Please contact us if you would like the templates.



Lasercut small people

20 people made of 6mm stained plywood. Supplied with 20 small discs on which they can stand when used on the fleece. Contained in a small basket. Please contact us if you would like the templates.



Birds, fish and starfish

7 fish and 7 birds in 6mm stained plywood. 20 starfish in 3mm stained plywood. Length of fish and birds 26 mm. Length of starfish 20mm. Kept in brown organza bags. Please contact us if you would like the templates.



Discs

35 discs which are 3mm thick and between 36mm and 38mm in diameter. To achieve the heaviness we use solid beech wood rather than plywood. A linen bag to keep them in is 17cm x 13cm so you can get your hand into it.



Blocks

16 wooden blocks that are 7.5cm x 2.5cm x 1.5cm. You could sand the edges to make them nicer to feel. They are kept in a linen bag that is 17cm x 24cm.



Metal Bucket

A metal bucket that can be sourced from a dolls house supplier. Our ones have an indented base so they fit on top of the heads of the people. They are small enough to fit on the shoulders or hang from the arm of one of the people. Approx size: Diameter 21mm, Height of bucket without handle 15mm. Height of bucket with handle: 35mm.



Feathery yarn

Three lengths of feathery yarn each 75cm long. The yarn is Sirdar Fizz bronze and is no longer produced by the company., although we have plenty of stock. It is kept in an organza bag.



Fringed yarn in a velvet pouch bag

240cm of beautiful fringed yarn. The yarn is Sirdar Reflection amber/gold and is no longer produced by the company, although we have plenty of stock. It is kept in a velvet pouch bag,



Dalit candle

These are mini beeswax lavender scented candles in handmade clay pots. Lighting a candle is one way to help prepare before the story. The clay pot itself can be used as a story material. They are made by the Dalit people of India and the sale supports street children. <https://www.dalit.co.uk/candles/>



Rock, tiger's eye, slate and seaglass

In our boxes there is a rock called gneiss (3.8 billion year old metamorphic rock from Scotland), tiger's eye, slate and sea glass.



Golden rope, old button and jigsaw piece

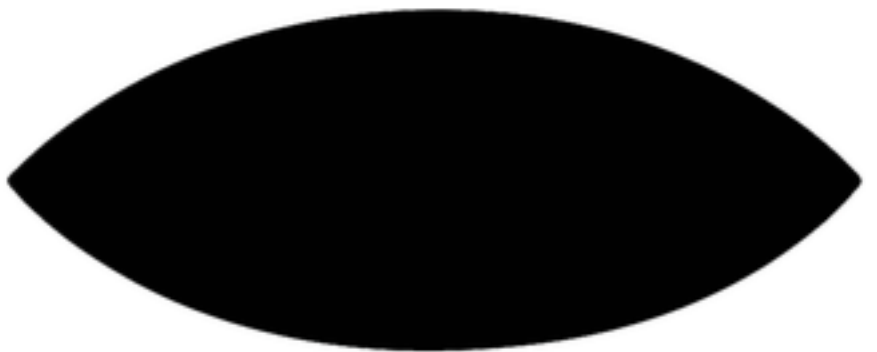
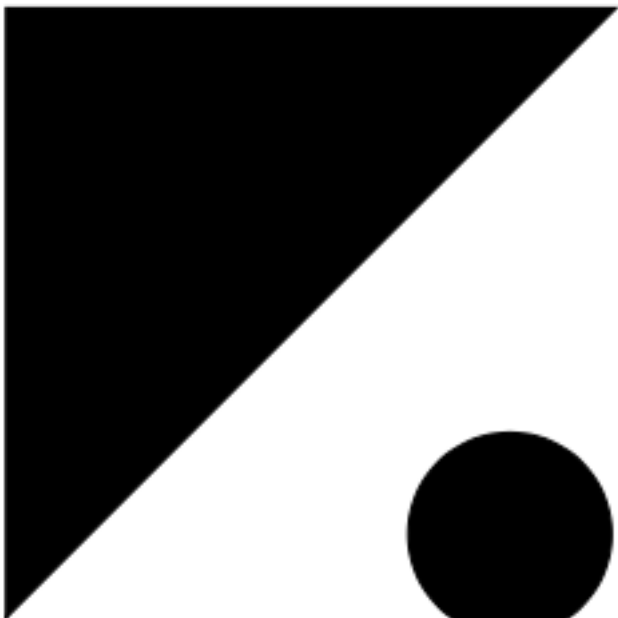
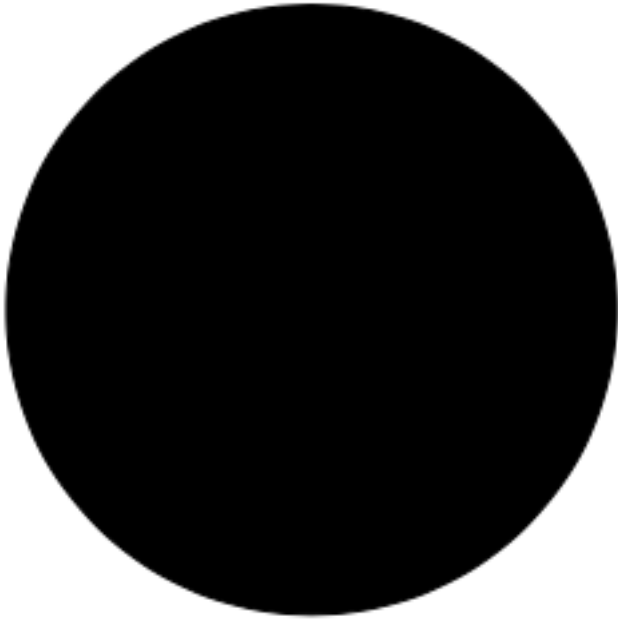
30cm length of golden twisted ply cord, 2mm wide (It is nice to have one that looks golden (Search *John Lewis, gold, 5m*), an old button and a jigsaw piece (we are using pieces from a 3000 piece jigsaw of a map of the world)



Shells, sticks, feather and acorn

Three different small shells, two sticks (about 6cm in length), You could use the equivalent of an acorn to fit your context - any seed that grows into a large tree. A white feather (approx 8cm long) is needed that floats well when blown.





Instructions for making an OutoftheBox Sandbag

You will need fabric that doesn't let tiny grains of sand through (eg an upholstery fabric with fire retardant coating) or you will need to line it with a material such as blackout material. It is best to go for a sandy coloured or cream plain material so as not to detract from the story materials. (Best not to go for grey). Choose the colour of the paracord so that it blends in with the material and the sand.

Small bag (makes a 64cm diameter bag - inner dimensions without band)

66cm diameter circle, plus a 215cm by 10cm strip of strong upholstery fabric 66cm of lining material, if using, such as blackout curtain 220cm of cord (paracord works well) 6 metal eyelets (optional)

Medium bag (makes a 75cm diameter bag - inner dimensions without band)

This is the standard bag we use in OutoftheBox 77 cm circle, plus a 250 cm by 10 cm strip of strong upholstery fabric 77 cm circle of lining material, if using, 285 cm of cord (paracord works well - choose a colour that blends in) 8 metal eyelets (optional)

Preparing the fabric

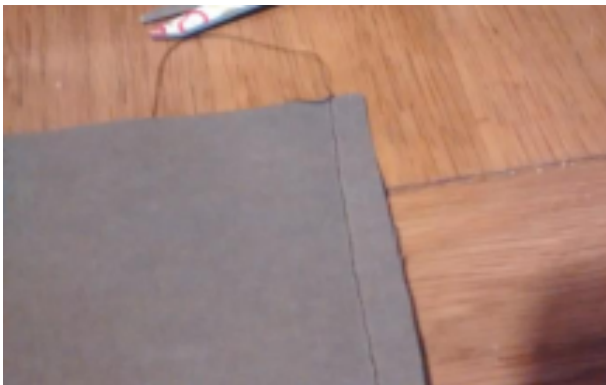
For the circle To cut out your circle of fabric you will need to make a paper or cloth template. Use a pencil attached to a piece of string (be careful as the string might stretch) or a long ruler to make many equidistant marks from the centre.

Alternatively you could draw a quarter circle (though this may not be so accurate). Fold your fabric in half right sides facing, place the template at the top half of the fabric and draw round it, then flip your template over to draw the other quarter circle. Once you have drawn a semi-circle, with the centre of the semi-circle along the fold of the material you can cut through both sides of fabric to create your circle.

Do the same if you are making a lining.

For the long strip To make the long strip of fabric you will have to cut several shorter lengths of fabric 10 cm wide and sew them together. Sew two pieces together by putting the right sides facing and sewing a straight line with a 1cm seam across the width of the two fabrics. Then add the next strip in the same way until your piece is long enough.

Once you have created your long piece of fabric press open each of the seams. Next iron the whole length of the long strip in half, lengthways, wrong side facing each other.



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Creating button holes/eyelets

The long strip of fabric needs button holes or eyelets creating before it is sewn to the circular base of the bag. The button holes are grouped in pairs and spaced out evenly along the strip of fabric. Each pair of button holes need to be approximately 3 cm apart from each other. The button holes need to be placed approximately 1.5cm away from the centre fold of your long strip of material. All the button holes must all be on the same folded side of the long strip of material.

A medium bag needs 3 or 4 pairs of button holes or eyelets. If you are marking out 4 button holes or eyelets then they will need to be 60cm apart. On your 250cm strip mark spaces at 35cm, 95cm, 155cm and 215cm.

A small bag needs 3 pairs of button holes each spaced 84 cm apart. Mark the first pair of holes 80cm from the start of the strip, then mark the second pair of holes 84 cm from the start of the first pair of holes, and finally mark the third pair of holes 84 cm from the start of the second pair of holes.

Once all of the button holes/eyelets have been marked create the button holes or eyelets.

Creating the rim to the bag

First attach one side of the rim to the circular bottom of the bag.

You are going to attach the long edge of the strip of fabric all the way around the edge of the circle.

Take the long strip of fabric and the circle, place them right sides facing each other with the edge of strip without the button holes aligned with an edge of the circle. (You may choose to pin some of the strip to the circle to help you get started). Place them in the sewing machine, leave about 10 cm of the strip loose and then begin to sew together the strip to the edge of the circle with a 1 cm seam, slowly aligning the edge of the strip with the edge of the circle as you feed the two materials through the machine. Sew until you have nearly attached the whole strip to the circle, but do not sew all the way round.

Take your bag out of the sewing machine.

You now need to work out the exact size of the rim of your bag. Match up the two ends of the strip, right sides facing, touching each other so that they line up exactly with the perimeter of the circle. Pin them together. Mark off a perpendicular line on both wrong side edges of the strip and pin them in place. Sew along the perpendicular line. Trim off excess fabric and iron the seam flat.

Attach the last part of the rim of your bag using your sewing machine.



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Finally, completing the rim of the bag which encases the paracord.

If you are using a lining place this inside the base of the bag aligned with the circular upholstery fabric right side facing upwards, wrong sides facing each other.

You now want fold the rim over and sew in place.

Fold the rim along the original centre fold, then make another 1cm fold tucking in the rim and encasing the lining and all raw edges of material.

Place the bag in the sewing machine and begin to sew the folded over rim to the circle of the bag. Sew where the folded edge meets the edge of the circle (the circular lining if you are using). Slowly sew around the whole rim.

It is easier to thread the paracord through at this stage as you begin to assemble the bag, just keep the cord next to the centre fold and away from the needle. Sew as near to the inside rim/edge of the circle as possible. Once you have sewn the bag trim off any loose threads and tie the ends of the paracord together. Iron the bag to press the rim flat



Pattern by Sarah Ducker (sarahducker74@gmail.com)