frayed tote bag

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In an effort to bust through my collection of scrap fabrics, I designed this simple tote bag from leftover twill and cotton.

It features a front pocket and frayed edges for a comfy look. It's perfect for going to the gym, library, or picking up a few things from the store.

DIFFICULTY: ■ ■ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

Very straightforward, but has a pocket and lining, so it needs just a bit more effort.

MAKES:

Makes one 10" x 12" bag that's about 4" deep.

MATERIALS & TOOLS

- 2/3 yd. of medium weight fabric for outer bag (denim, twill, or canvas is good)
- 2/3 yd. of lightweight fabric for lining (I used quilting cotton here)

- Matching sewing thread
- Sewing needle

BEFORE YOU BEGIN:

1. Print out the project pattern, pages 8-13
2. Assemble the printed pattern pieces
3. Lay out the pattern pieces on your fabric and cut them out
4. Mark the fabric pieces with the guide-lines from the pattern

1 With right sides together, sew the outer pocket to the lining around the sides and bottom.

The lining is just a little bit larger than the outer pocket piece. Sew with the outer pocket layer on top and pull at it slightly (also called easing) to make the pieces fit. This is what creates the faux-piping kind of edging on the finished pocket.

Be sure to leave the top edge free for turning right side out. Notch the seam allowances in the corners, turn the pocket right side out, and press it flat.

2 Enclose the top of the pocket by topstitching along the open edge, about ¼" in.

3

Apply the pocket to the outer bag. Pin it along the lines transferred from the pattern, and sew it in place by edge stitching along the sides and bottom of the pocket, about 1/8" in from the edge.

4

With right sides together, sew the front and back of the outer bag pieces together along the sides and the bottom. Skip over the corners (as we'll be sewing those later) and leave the top edge open for the top of the bag.

leave corners free

5 With right sides together, match up the seams from the side and bottom of the bag, and you'll see the corner edges match up. Sew along this edge and it will create some depth to your bag.

6 With wrong sides together, match up one of your outer strap pieces with the corresponding lining piece. Sew them together by topstitching along the left and right side, about ¼" in from the edge.

7 Nestle the lining into the main bag with wrong sides together and make sure the top edges are lined up. Tuck the ends of the straps in between the layers where the pattern lines indicated and pin all the layers in place.

8 Topstitch entirely around the top of the bag, about ¼" in from the edge. When you do so, you should catch the ends of the straps, anchoring them in place.

9 Throw the bag in the wash and the edges of your fabric should fray a bit. Cut away the loose strands of fabric and you're left with a comfy, worn-in looking bag!

strap
placement

A1 A2

B1 B2

strap
placement

Frayed Tote Bag

P A T T E R N

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FRONT & BACK
Cut 2 from main fabric
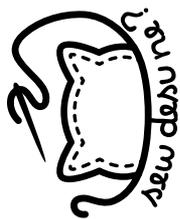Cut 2 from lining fabric
5/8" seam allowance

pocket placement

A1 A2

A3 A

B3 B

Frayed Tote Bag

P A T T E R N

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POCKET LINING

Cut 1 from lining fabric

5/8" seam allowance

A3 A4
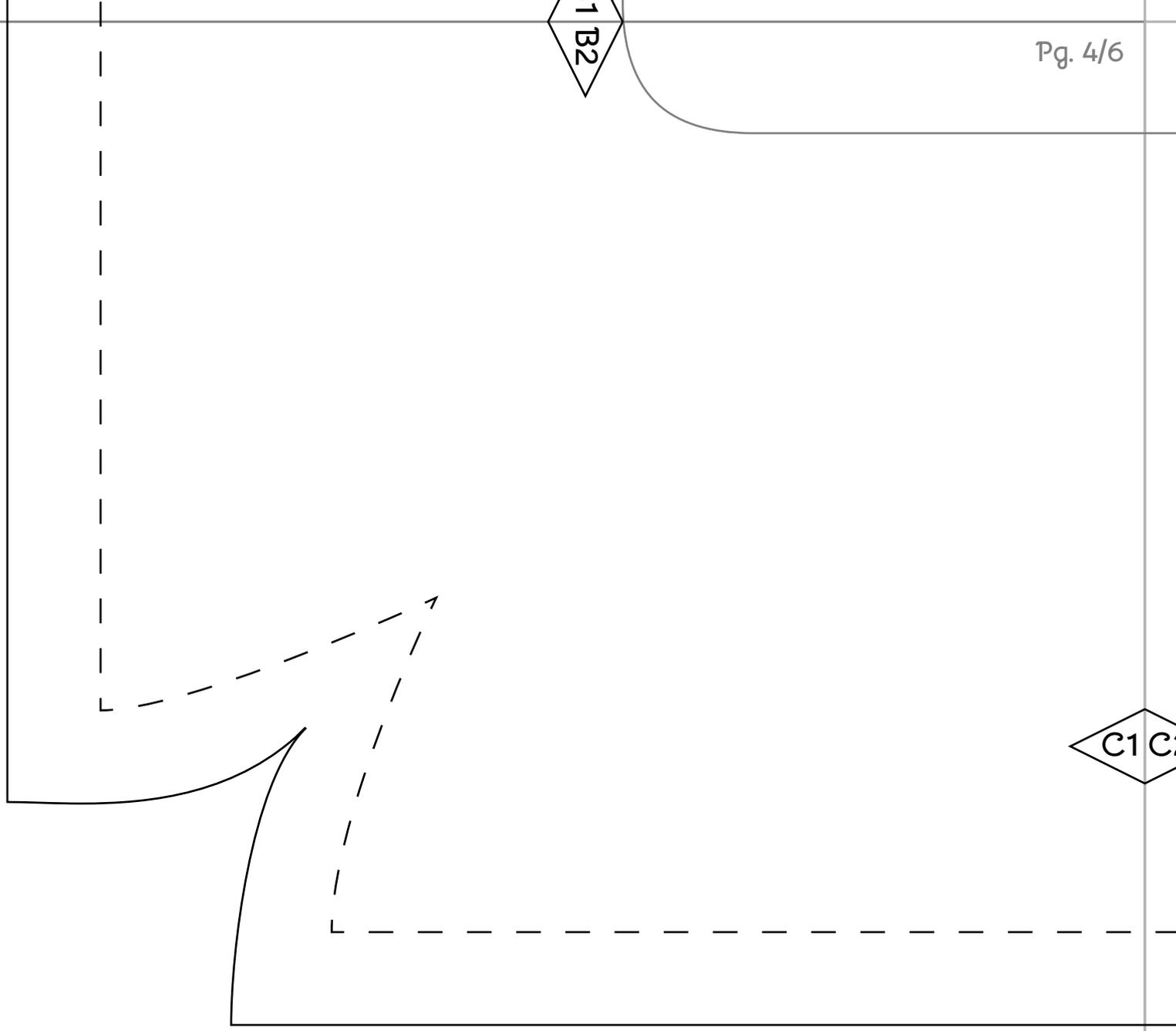
B5 B6

B1 B2

C1 C2

Frayed Tote Bag

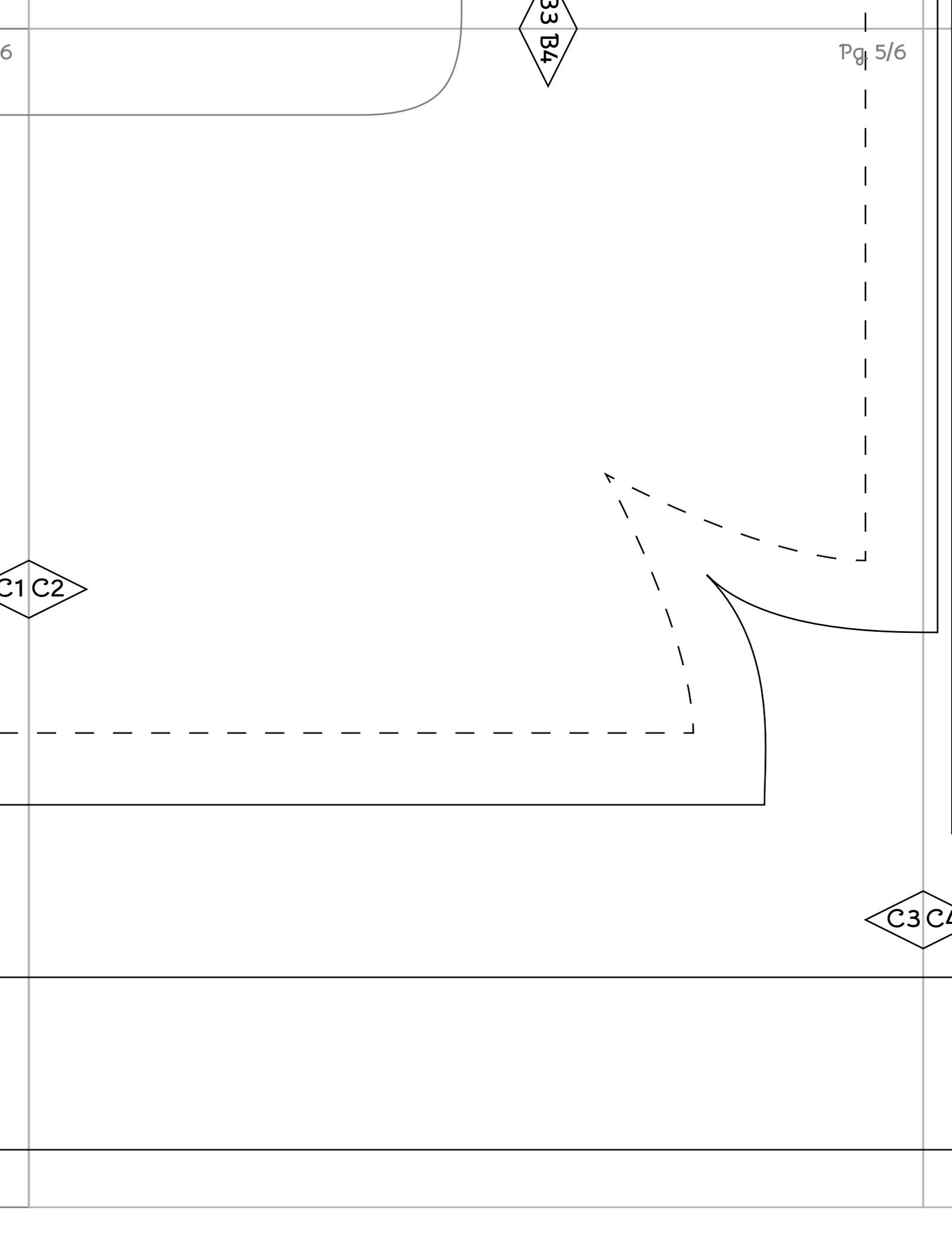### P A T T E R N
WWW.CHOLYKNIGHT.COM

STRAP
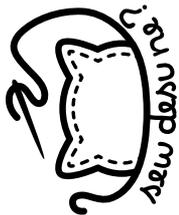Cut 2 from main fabric
Cut 2 from lining
5/8" seam allowance

B3 B4

C1 C2

C3 C4

B5 B6

Frayed Tote Bag

PATTERN

WWW.CHOLYKNIGHT.COM

POCKET LINING
Cut 1 from main fabric
5/8" seam allowance

C3 C4