

Hexagonal Based Teepee



Finished size 160 x 160cm wide and approx 180cm high.

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Materials

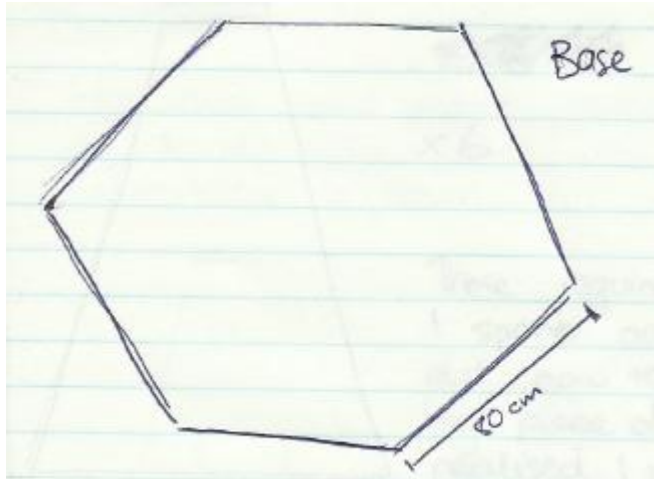
- 300x200cm base fabric (calico)
- 4.5m of 110cm wide fabric for the main walls
- 1.5m of 110cm wide fabric for door and window lining
- 1x2m slightly heavier fabric for the pole sleeves
- 6 bamboo poles, longer than 1.8m if available



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Base x 2



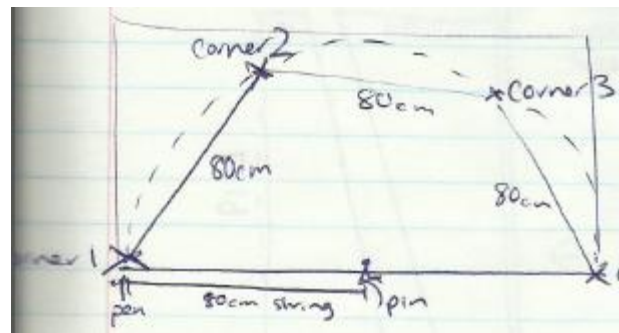
For the base I used two humongous pieces of calico. As I didn't want a seam down the middle, I bought 2 metres of 300cm wide (This left some spare)

To make the pattern piece for this, I made a makeshift compass with a pen, an 80cm

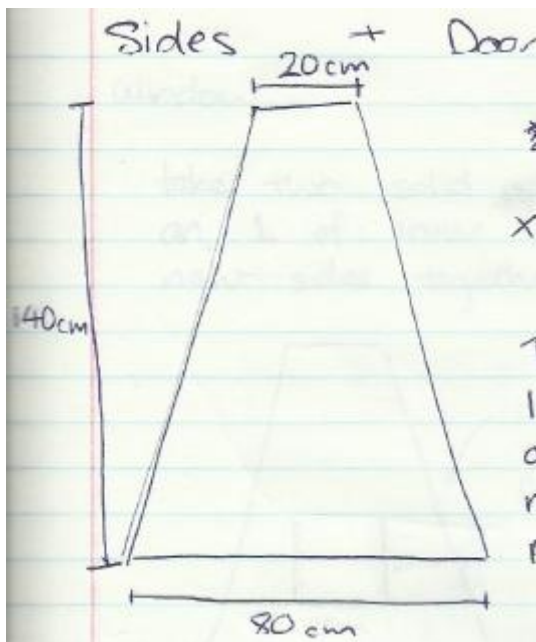
length of string and a pin to draw a semi-circle.

Then mark the corners using that 80cm string, that way you get an even hexagon.

The base is then twice that size and you need 2 of them to create a double thickness floor.

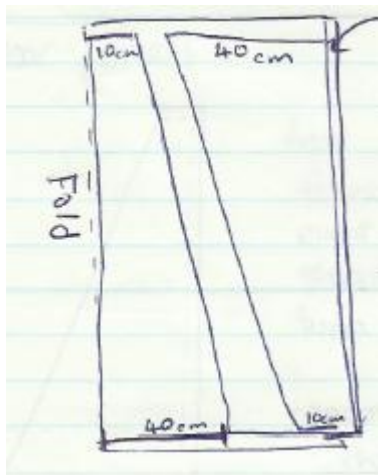


Sides/Door x 6



These require a lot of fabric. I spent ages trying to figure out how to get enough from my piece of fabric, but finally realised I was being an idiot! You can get 2 sides from 1.4m of 110cm wide fabric as long as you don't mind having a seam up the middle of 1.

So, I cut my pattern piece in half and laid it on the fabric like this:



Make sure to leave some seam allowance here (down the non folded edge) so that when you sew the 2 half pieces together you end up with the same size side.

Do this 3 x to get 3 solid side panels and 3 sets of halves. Sew 2 of the sets of halves together down the straight edge (not the diagonal) and leave the last set as 2 pieces to become the doors.

For my tepee, I lined the door and window panel with a contrasting fabric. So I also cut one more lot (1 complete side and 2 halves) as above out of the other fabric.

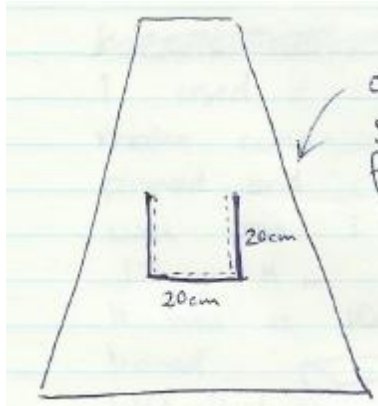


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Adding a window

Take 2 solid panels, 1 of the outer fabric and 1 of the contrasting lining and lay them together, right sides together.



Cut out a window flap. Sew around the three edges of the window flap (on the flap itself, not the surrounding side panel), then turn the panels lot right side out.

This leaves a raw edge around the window hole which I finished with bias binding made from scraps of the main panel fabric.

Door panels



Take 2 half panels, one of each fabric and sew them together, right sides facing together. Sew the 3 straight edges and leave the diagonal. Turn back right side out and iron.

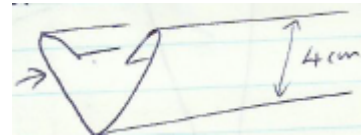
Repeat with the other halves to make the reverse door



Pole Sleeves

The black sleeves that hold the poles on are sewn on last. They're basically wide bias binding that is stitched over the seams that go up the sides.

I used a 1m x 2.2, piece of fabric to make continuous bias binding that I then pinned and cut after the rest of the construction of the tepee was done. I think I ended up with around 10-11m and used nearly all of that. It was a 10cm wide strip of fabric ironed as pictured.



It ended up about 4cm wide which was just big enough for a bamboo pole.

There is a really nice tutorial on how to do this:

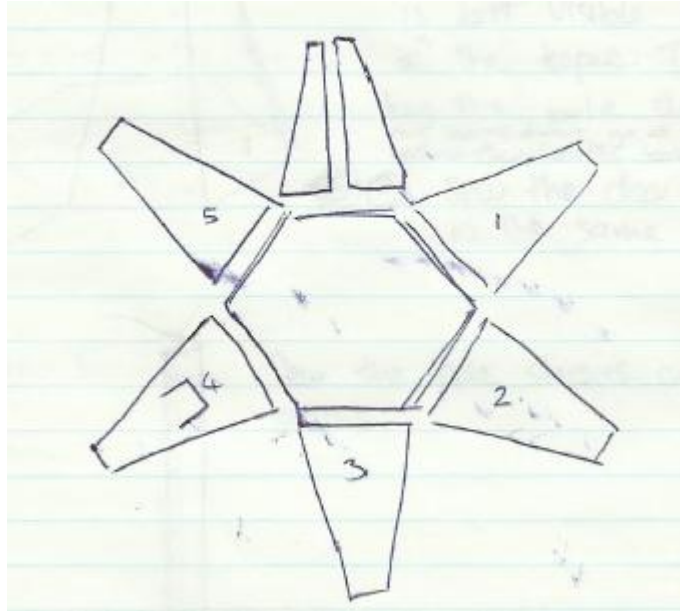
<http://modernquiltlove.wordpress.com/2009/04/30/how-to-make-continuous-bias-binding/>

But you can just cut lengths for each pole and not worry about making one continuous piece. Anyway, you need

- 6 x 150ish cm lengths for the poles
- 2 x 140cm lengths to edge the door panels
- 60-80cm to edge the window flap.

Putting it together

1) Attach the walls to the base



I had a double layer base so that the seams where the walls attach would be hidden inside the base. Starting with panel 1, I pinned the 5 panels (leave the door panels for now) in so that they were

sandwiched between the base pieces.

(panel has right side facing up)

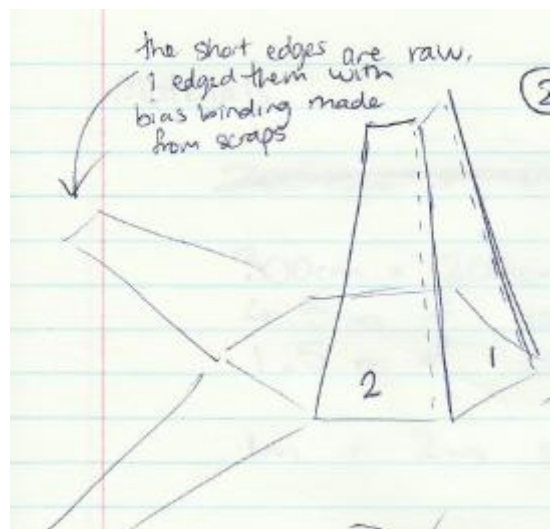


You end up with all the side panels (except the doors) stuffed inside the base awkwardly, but that's the best I could come up with. Pin all 5 panels and sew around those 5 sides of the

base. Turn the whole lot right side out through the space where the door goes.

Turn the edges of the bases in along the last edge and sew it closed. I also sewed around the other 5 edges of the base again just to topstitch the bases together and keep the joins flat.

- 2) Fold the walls up and stitch them together. Sew them so that the seam is left visible on the outside of the tepee. These get covered by the pole sleeves. (My seams didn't go all the way to the bottom because otherwise the base got puckered at the corners).



- 3) Sew the door panels on in the same way
- 4) Sew the pole sleeves on over the seams
- 5) Sew across the bottoms of the sleeves to stop the poles coming out.



Edge the window flap using the same binding.

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Poles

Bunnings has 6 packs of bamboo stakes at various lengths. I bought 1.8m ones, but they are a bit short. Probably try the next size up.

Setup

To put up the tepee just slide the poles into the sleeves and pull into shape. Tie the stakes together at the top with a scrap of fabric.

To prevent the fabric from slipping down the poles, I also stitched a piece of Velcro the top of each fabric pole sleeve, and hot glued a corresponding Velcro piece to each pole.



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