



## Guide to Making Pennants

**Older**  
LGBT+ Peoples Group  
Celebrating Fifteen Years



## About Rainbow Threads

Rainbow Threads is a new creative project in which members and supporters of the North Midlands LGBT+ Older Peoples Group will work with local textile artist and designer Jane Titley to create fabulous hanging pennants to use as bunting in celebration of our fifteenth year anniversary at Pride in June 2025.

## Who Can Make Pennants?

Any individual or organisation that wants to show their support for our group and its aims is invited to make a pennant for us.

## Where Will They Be Displayed?

We will display a selection of pennants on our stall at Stoke Pride in June 2025. The pennants will be kept and treasured by us to display at other events and Pride celebrations in future as a lasting legacy of our anniversary celebrations.

## Ideas for Designs

Here are some ideas to inspire your designs. You could make a pennant that

- Is very personal to you, or your identity
- Represents a part of our diverse community
- Displays your organisation's name or logo
- Has a message of support for LGBT+ people
- Remembers a person, place or event linked to our group or LGBT+ history more generally



## How Do I Make a Pennant?

We will be running workshops for our members. A few of these may be open to others who support us.

Members of our group who are unable to attend our workshops can get individual support and guidance from Jane who will supply materials and all the help you need.

Anyone can make a pennant themselves at home, you don't need to attend a workshop, just read the guidance on the following pages.



## Materials

The pennants will be displayed outdoors which means they have to be able to survive our unpredictable weather. Please use materials that can cope with getting wet.

The pennants have to be packed and transported and we hope to display them at many events in years to come. Please avoid attaching anything bulky or sharp that could damage other pennants.

## Templates

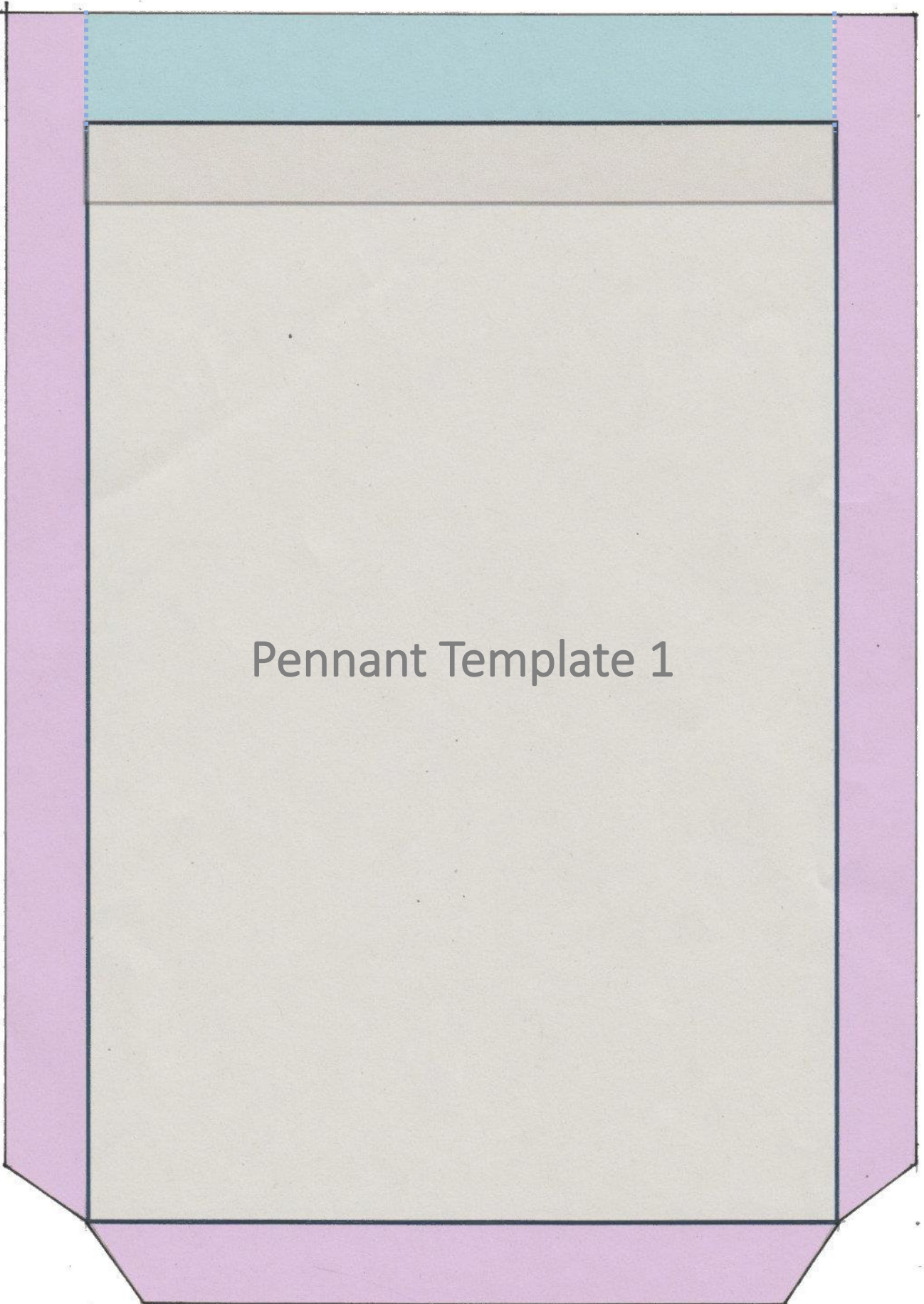
We have attached templates that can be used to make pennants in different shapes. If you decide to make a different shape, please keep the size roughly the same.

Simply print a template and use it to cut out your design from a piece of suitable material. Please see the following page for detailed instructions.

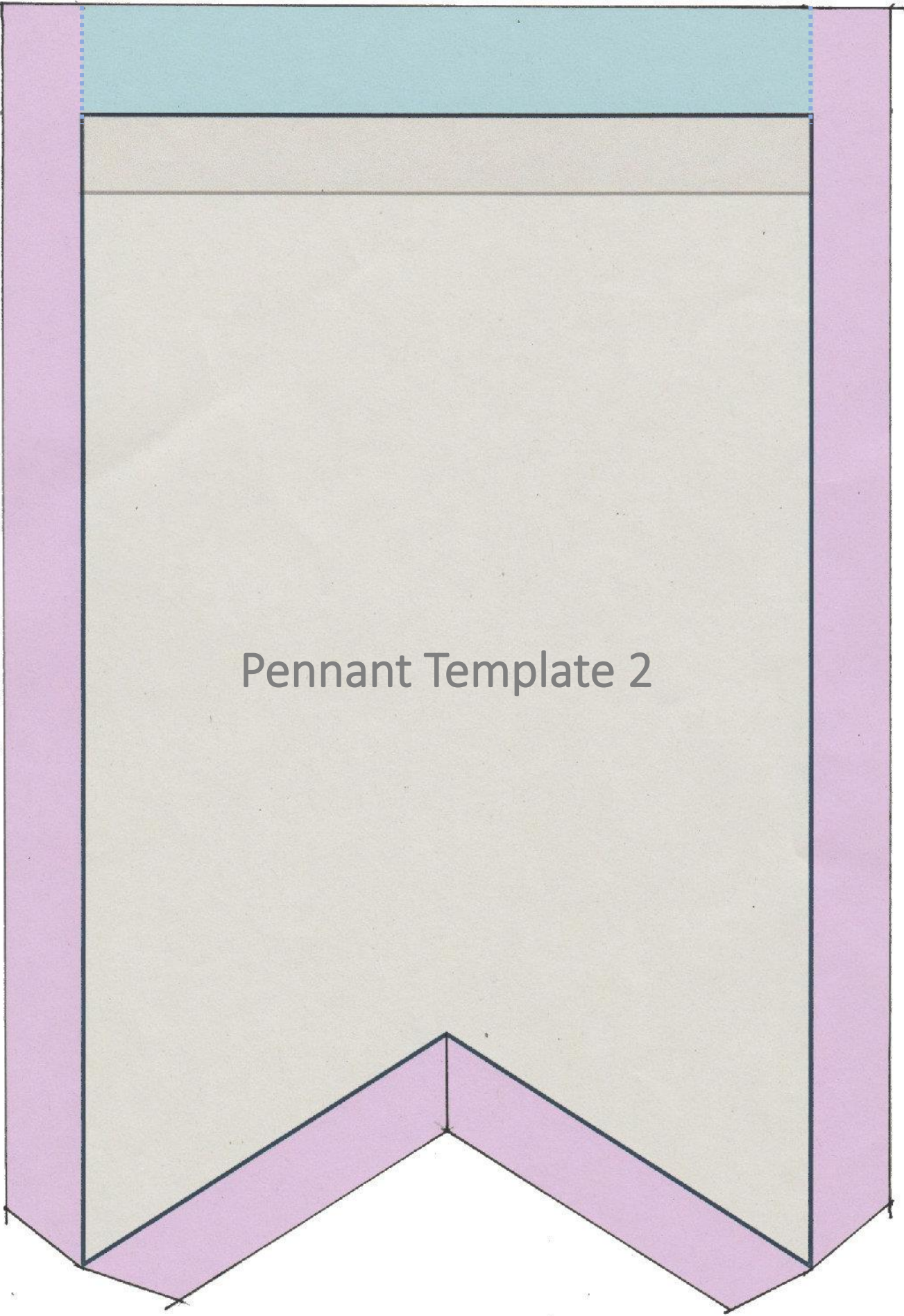
## Making Your Pennant – Step by Step Guide

1. Print your chosen template and cut around the outside edge, including the purple hem allowance and the blue sleeve allowance for hanging the pennant.
2. Choose your background fabric – fairly heavy cotton is best, or you can paint your fabric in advance with dilute acrylic paint or PVA glue, to make it firmer and stop the cut edges fraying (see video or contact Jane for more information). You need a piece of fabric around A4 size (roughly 12 inches by 8 inches / 30cm x 20cm).
3. Either pin the template to the fabric or hold it firmly in place with one hand or something heavy and draw round the template with a pencil.
4. Cut out your fabric.
5. Fold the hem allowance back (the parts marked purple on the template) but not the sleeve allowance (marked blue), and iron the folds if necessary.
6. Decorate your pennant as you wish – see page 1 above for some design ideas. Remember to leave the top sleeve area blank (marked blue on the template) as this is going to be folded over later and won't show. Possible techniques for decoration include: applique, embroidery, printing, painting. These will be demonstrated at the workshops or contact Jane for help and advice.
7. When you've finished your design, either pin or glue the folds down (Pritt stick or equivalent works fine and stops the raw edges fraying but you will need to let it dry before sewing or your needle will get all gluey and mess up the sewing and/or sewing machine).
8. Sew down the hem allowance with a sewing machine or by hand, starting right at the top on one side, and finishing right at the top on the other. Work from the front to make sure you get the line of stitches neat and the same distance from the edge, all round. How close to the edge you sew depends on your design and what looks best.
9. Fold over the sleeve allowance (marked blue on the template) and iron the fold if necessary. Don't glue this, but pin if you like.
10. Sew the sleeve allowance down close to the raw edge, but not too close - about 3 millimetres if you want to be exact! This will create a sleeve to thread a tape though on a bodkin, so that we can string up your pennant alongside others.
11. If your fabric looks as though it will fray in use, put a bit of Pritt stick glue on the raw edges and over your stitches and let it dry.
12. Give the pennant a final iron, with a cloth over your design to protect it.

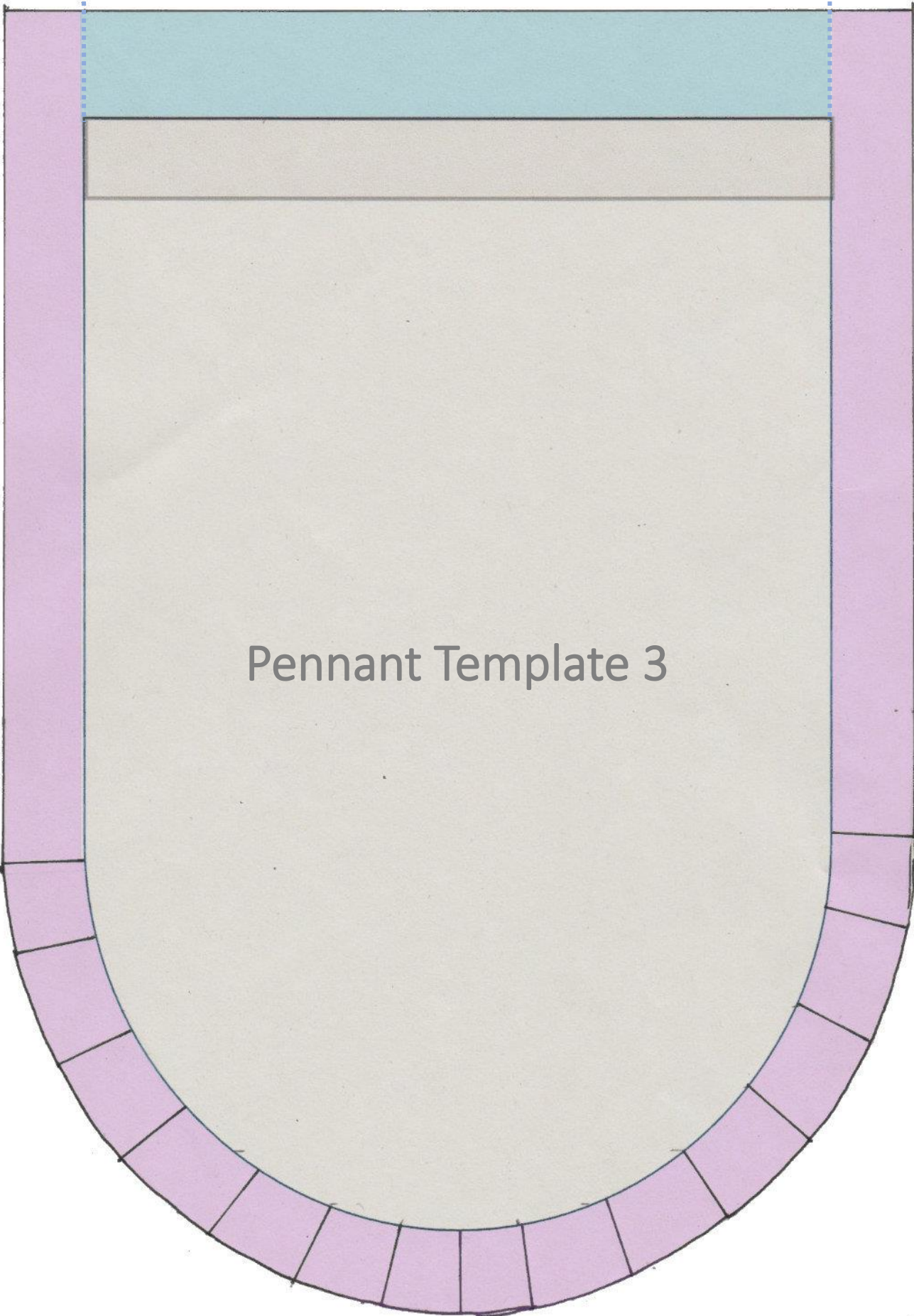
Well done, you've finished!



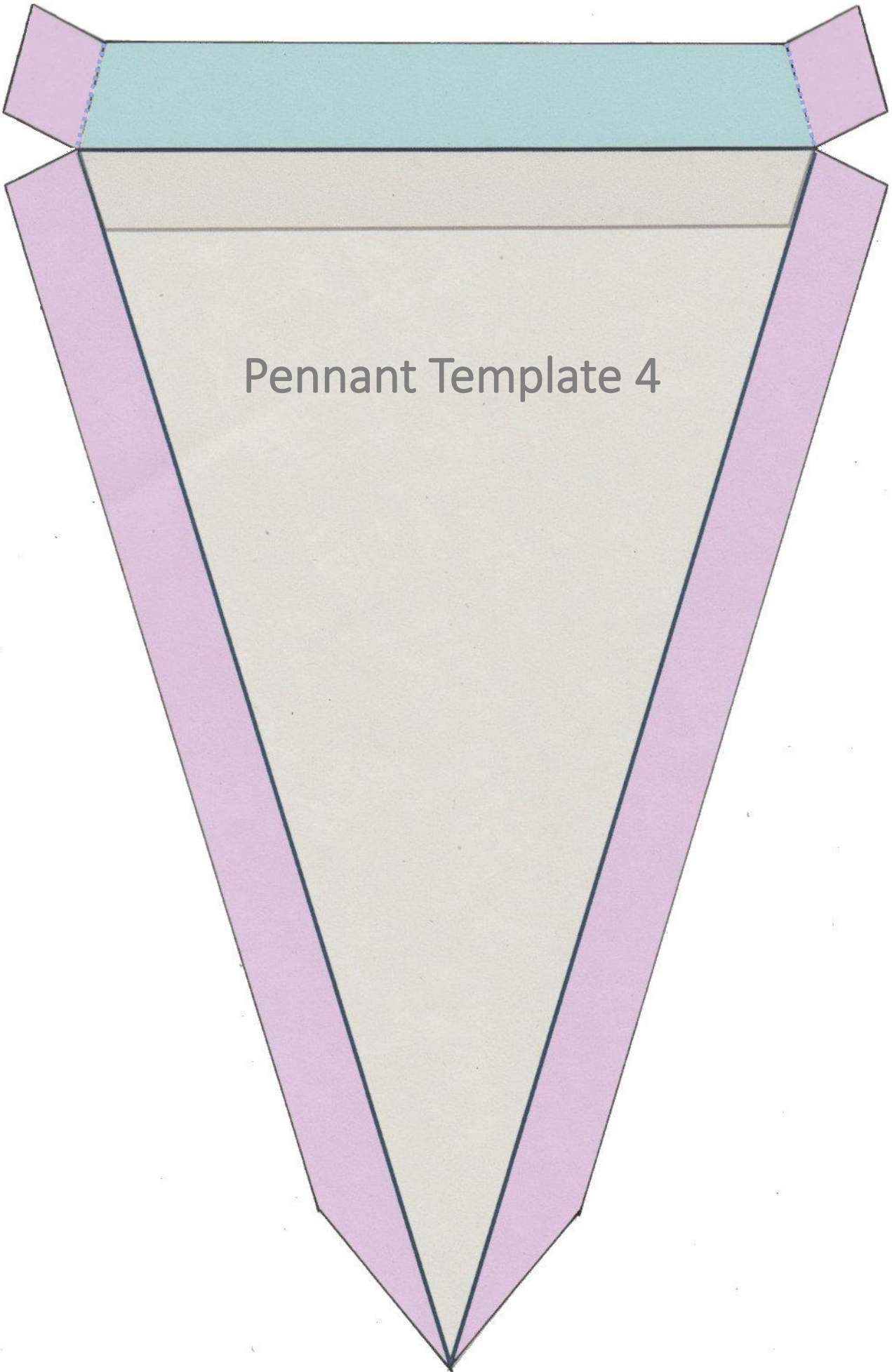
# Pennant Template 1



Pennant Template 2

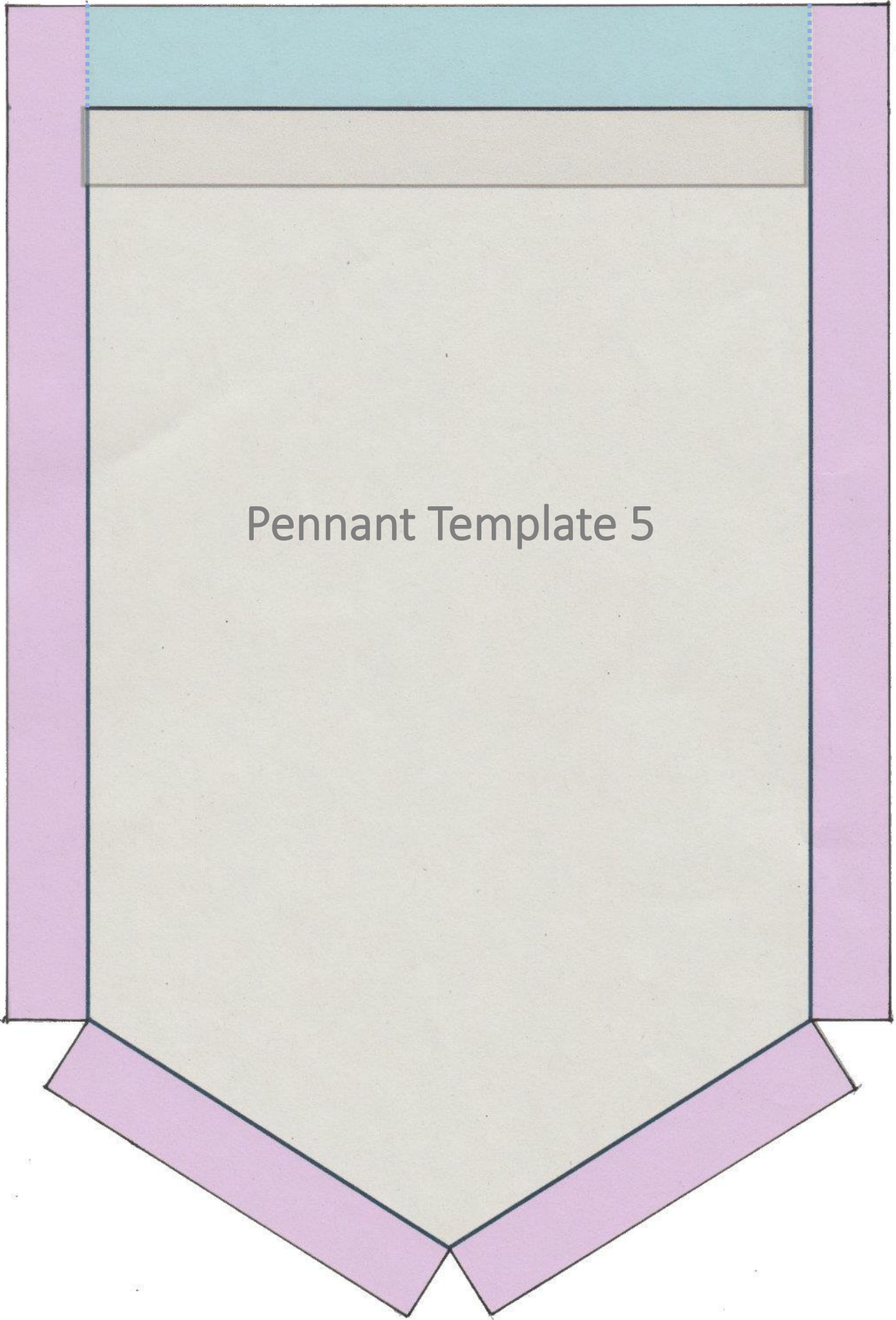


Pennant Template 3

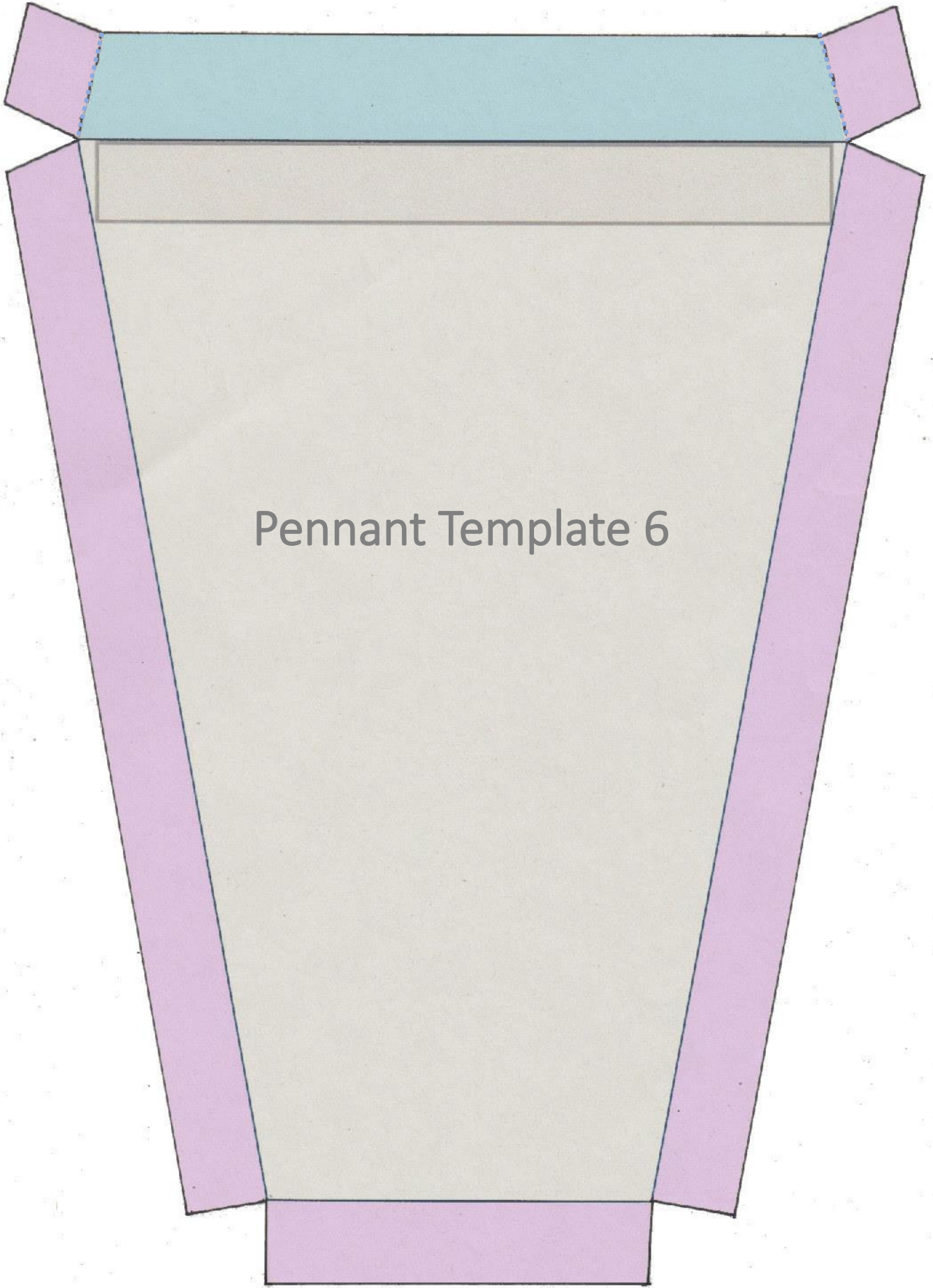


Pennant Template 4





Pennant Template 5



Pennant Template 6

## Credits

This guide was created by the North Midlands LGBT+ Older Peoples Group and Jane Titley for the Rainbow Threads project in 2024

The North Midlands LGBT Older Peoples Group is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO)  
Registered Charity Number: 1186844

Contact us through our website [olgbtstoke.org.uk](http://olgbtstoke.org.uk)

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