



Fabric Grocery Bag

It's time to go "green", no more paper or plastic bags for shopping. You can make these bags in an hour and use up lots of fabric that is in your "stash". These bags are fully lined and will hold all your groceries and purchases. They sew up so quickly you will be making them for all your friends.

Fabric Requirements: 1 yard quilting cotton (45"wide)

Handles: Short Handles (approx. 42" each) - $\frac{1}{4}$ yard quilting cotton
Longer Handles (approx. 48" each)- $\frac{3}{8}$ yard quilting cotton
OR - 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ yards 1" wide webbing

NOTE: 54" wide drapery weight fabric works really well for these bags also. 1 yard of 54" wide fabric will be enough fabric for one bag and matching handles.

Bag Cutting Directions:

45" wide fabric – cut 4 - 18" squares

54" wide fabric – cut 4 - 18" squares and 3 strips 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ " x 36" for handles

Seam allowance for this bag is your choice. $\frac{1}{4}$ ", $\frac{1}{2}$ ", the width of your favorite presser foot, or serger stitch width.

SEWING DIRECTIONS:

1. Cutting Handles

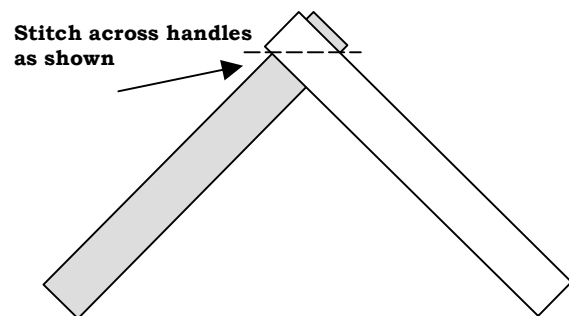
a. **Webbing:** Cut two 48" lengths of webbing and continue with Step 3.

OR

b. **Fabric Handles:**

- **Short Handles** – Cut 2 strips of fabric 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ " by the width of the fabric.
- **Longer Handles** – Cut 3 strips of fabric 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ " by the width of the fabric.
 - Sew the 3 fabric strips, **right sides together** on the diagonal, (as shown) making one long

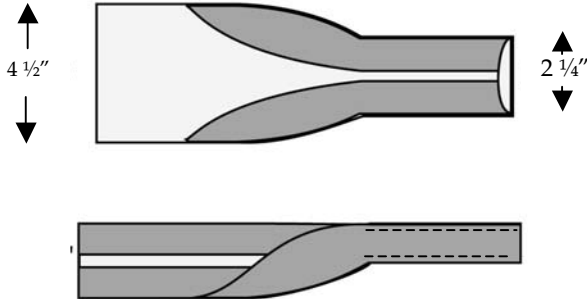
strip of fabric measuring approx. 120" long.



- Trim seams to $\frac{1}{4}$ ". Press seams open. Cut strip into 2 lengths of 48" (or desired length)

2. All Fabric Handles:

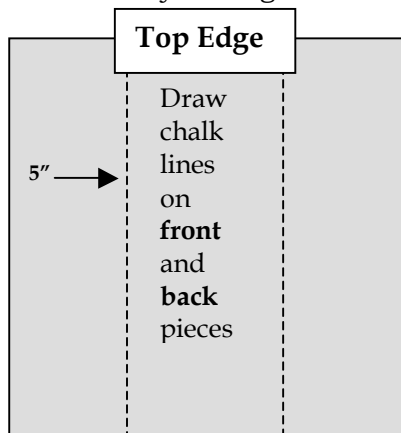
- a. Press handle piece in half along the long edges, **wrong sides** together. Then fold the outer raw edges in toward the center fold and re-press. (Like double folded bias tape)



- b. Top stitch along both side edges about 1/8" in from edge. Set one handle aside until we work on the back section.

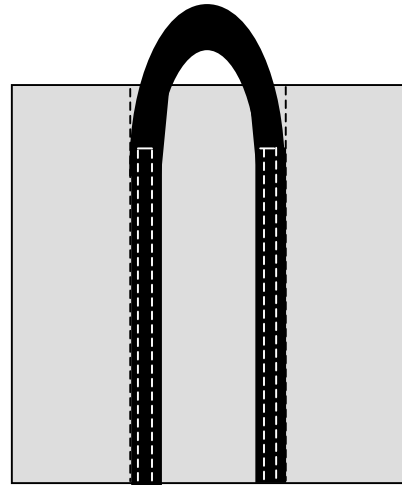
3. Sewing Handles:

- a. Choose 2 - 18" fabric squares for the outside of your bag. Draw a chalk line or *temporary* line 5" from the side edges of the front and back of your bag.



- b. On the front piece, place the handle along the inside edge of your chalk line and stitch to the bag starting at the bottom edge and **ending 2" from the top edge**. Take the other end of the handle and place it along the inside edge of the other chalk

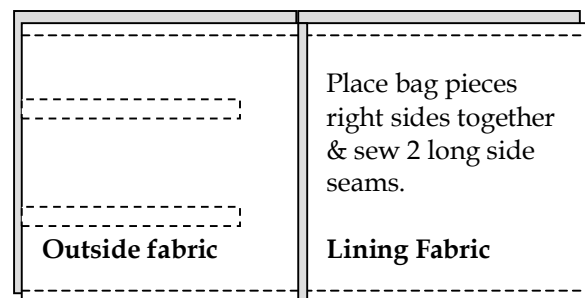
line. Make sure your handle is not twisted. Stitch in place the same as the 1st side of the handle.



- c. Repeat for the back handles.

4. Lining:

- a. On the bag front, fold down the handles so they are out of the way and place one lining fabric 18" square right sides together along the top edge. Stitch across the top edge and press open or to one side.
- b. Repeat for the back lining piece.
- c. Open bag pieces out flat as shown below. Place them **right sides together** with handles on top of each other and matching lining seams. Stitch down each long side seam. Press seams open or to one side.



- d. Your bag now looks like a large tube that is open at both short ends. Fold the lining (side with no handles) of the tube back

over the main sections of the bag making a shorter tube. Press the top of the bag along the seam line. Line up all of the raw edges at the bottom edge and serge or sew through all four layers to create a bottom seam.

- e. **Non-serged seams:** trim seam allowance and zigzag across the bottom seam to neaten the edges. **Do Not Turn Right Side Out at this Time.**

5. Bottom Seam

- a. Pinch together the bottom seam and the side seam. Look inside the bag and make sure that the 2 seams are matching.
- b. Place triangle template guide on fabric that you pinched together, pin or place clothespins to hold in place and draw a line across the long edge of the triangle pattern. Remove the triangle guide and stitch along the drawn line.
- c. Repeat for the other corner.

- d. Fold the fabric triangles to the bottom of the bag and glue in place. Use your clothespins again to hold the fabric in place while the glue is drying.

TIP: Hot glue works great as long as you don't put it in the dryer after you wash it. I also use Aleene's OK To Wash-It glue and Fabri-Tac glue by Beacon.

- e. Gluing the triangles to the bottom of the tote will add support to the bottom of your bag.
- f. Turn bag right side out and top stitch around the top edge of the bag about 1/4" from the folded seamed edge and **START SHOPPING!!!**

