

Gift Bag Tutorial

Who doesn't love a pretty gift bag? Yet, so often after one use, the bag is torn or crumpled and it is thrown away. Or perhaps we sneak another use or two out of it but it looks a little, well . . . used. Why not invest just a little bit of time to make beautiful fabric gift bags that can be enjoyed over and over again? Join the fun and be green!

Materials

Fabric

- Cut one 9-3/4" H x 20" W for upper bag.
- Cut one 4-1/4" H x 20" W for lower bag and bottom.
- Cut one 4" H x 7" W for bag bottom insert (optional).

Interfacing

- Cut one 13" H x 20" W of a medium to slightly firm interfacing such as Pellon® Shapeflex (SF101) or Décor Bond (809).
- Cut one 3" H x 6-1/2" W of Pellon® Double-Sided Fusible Peltex (72) for a bag bottom insert (optional)

**NOTE: Because Décor Bond can wrinkle, you can re-iron a gift bag after each use to freshen it up.

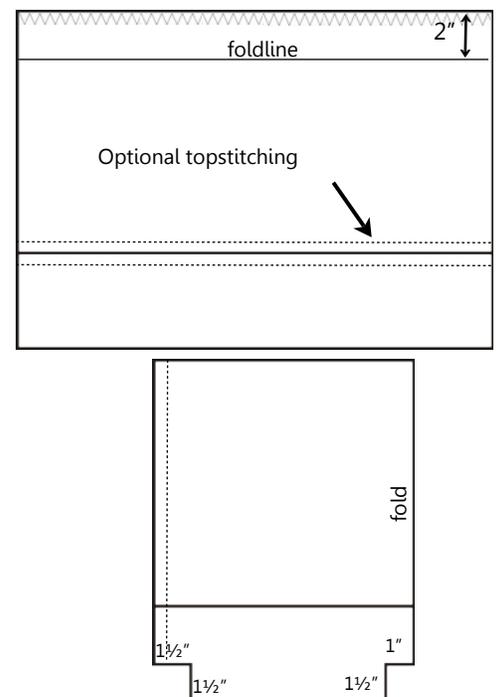
**TIP: To add stiffness without bulk, try combining interfacing with a liquid stiffener. Cut fabric pieces a 1/4" larger in each direction. Then spray your fabric with Terial Magic spray as follows: Spray both sides of fabric, then fold in half and spray again; repeat until it is saturated. Open up fabric and place between two pressing cloths and press, turning over several times as you press. After fabric is dry and stiff, trim pieces to size indicated above and proceed with sewing instructions below (you will add shapeflex interfacing after you stitch the upper and lower pieces together).

Other materials

- 4 eyelets and eyelet applicator tool
- 1 yard of cording

Sewing Instructions

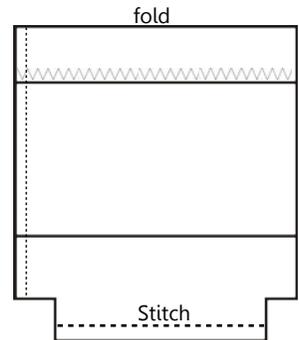
1. Stitch upper and lower pieces together using a 1/2" seam allowance. Press seam open.
2. Fuse interfacing to wrong side of 13" x 20" fabric unit.
3. Topstitch 1/4" from each side (or just upper side) of seam (optional).
4. Press the upper 2" of fabric to the wrong side and press well to get a good crease. Then open up upper edge and finish it with a zig-zag stitch or with a serger to prevent fraying.
5. Fold side edges right sides together, aligning seams, and pin. Press along fold line.
6. On the side with the fold, mark a box extending 1-1/2" from bottom edge and 1" from fold. On the side with the raw edges, mark a box extending 1-1/2" from bottom edge and 1-1/2" from raw side edges. Cut out boxes, cutting through both layers.
7. Stitch side seam, using a 1/2" seam allowance. Press seam open.



Gift Bag Tutorial Cont'D

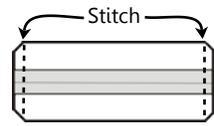
8. Fold upper 2" of fabric to the wrong side along the crease you created earlier and press as needed so that upper 2" creates an inner facing that lies flat on inside.

9. Stitch bottom seam, using a 1/2" seam allowance. Press seam open.



10. Create boxed bottom seams by aligning bottom seam with the side seam on one side and the side fold on the other side. Pin. Stitch across ends using a 1/2" seam allowance.

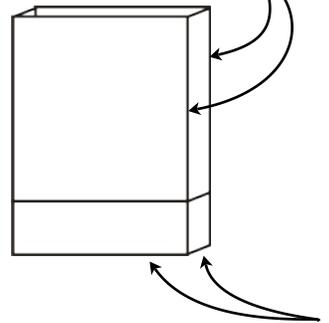
11. Turn bag right side out.



Bottom View

12. Press side and bottom edges with a firm pressure to make a nice clean crease along each of the four sides and each of the bottom 4 edges.

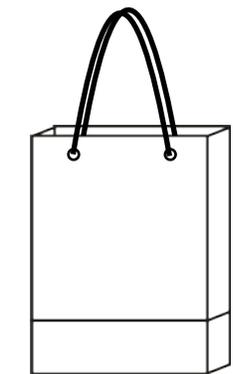
Press creases on all 4 sides



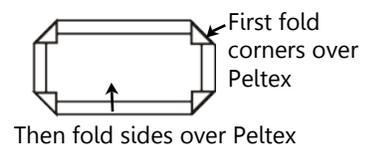
Press creases into bottom 4 sides

13. Following the manufacturer's directions, add two eyelets to front and two on the back positioned 1-1/2" from side folds and 1" from top.

14. Cut two 15-18" pieces of cording (depending on how long you like the handles). To create front handle, string one end through each eyelet on front and tie a knot on the inside to hold cording. Repeat for back handle.



15. If you want to add some additional stability to the bottom of the bag, center a 3" x 6-1/2" piece of double-sided Peltex onto the wrong side of a 4" x 7-1/2" piece of fabric. Fold corners of fabric over Peltex and fuse in place. Then, fold each side over Peltex and fuse in place. Topstitch around exterior of bottom insert 1/4" from edges. Insert into bottom of gift bag.



16. Admire your beautiful bag. Then, go give a gift!