

THE ORIGINAL

"Such a Simple Bag"

PATTERN

Updated January 2020

**These bags are not only REUSABLE
they are REVERSIBLE!**

This shopping bag is a great beginner project and it will help use up 1 1/2 yards from the fabric stash! This bag requires no batting, interfacing or zipper. Simple cotton fabric is all this bag needs to help tote home 30+ pounds of anything!

The secret is adding a strip of denim to these awesome fabric handles. This pattern includes tips for perfectly straight topstitching, using a built-in sewing machine stitch for simple reinforcing, easy adaption for using up fat quarters AND a serger construction option for even speedier results!

We have started sewing these SUCH A SIMPLE BAGS for our local Food Pantry/Food Bank to give to guests to help assist getting food home. These bags can hold much more weight than the standard plastic grocery bags AND they are reusable. Need to wash the bags? No problem. Just pop them in the laundry.



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Originally Designed by Cleo Snuggerud
Updated by Sara Snuggerud of SewingMastery.com

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Fabric Requirements:

1 1/2 yards of cotton fabric makes one bag
Handle Lining - Scrap denim 4” x 30”

DENIM TIP: If using an old pair of jeans, it will yield handles for 4-6 bags.

COLOR TIP:

Select two fabrics that coordinate and swap the insides for a two-color bag.



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CUTTING

From Bag Fabric:

Cut 2 - 8" x 44 strips for handles - trim to 30" long

Cut the bags from the remaining LENGTH of fabric

Cut 2 - 21" x 38"

Denim Handle Lining:

Cut 2 - 1 7/8" x 30" strips of denim

SEWING

Bag Body

1. All seam allowances are 1/2".
2. Fold 21" x 38" lengths in half to 21" x 19" right sides together.
3. If using directional fabric, cut in half at the fold, reposition the bags so the print is correctly repositioned and sew back together.
4. Sew side seams on both bags and press to one side.
5. Box bottom corners of each bag. Fold side seam flat to align with the bottom fold of the bag. Measure in 2" from the point and sew across the corner. Repeat on opposite corner and on both corners of the lining bag.
6. On both bag sections, press top edge down 2" all around to the wrong side.

Handles

1. Fold handle fabric in half lengthwise, wrong sides together and press.
2. Open up handle fabric and fold edge to center fold and press. Repeat on the opposite side.
3. Insert one 1 7/8" denim strip into the middle of the strip.
4. Topstitch on both edges of each handle to secure.

TIP: Use an edge stitch foot (foot with a center blade) and move the needle position to the far left.



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Bag Assembly

1. Turn one bag section right side out and place lining section inside the bag **WRONG** sides together.
2. To prevent lining from pulling out, match the sides and reach down and grasp the boxed points. Pull them up and sew together on the sewn seam. Repeat on other corner.
3. Match up and pin the side seams together.
4. Measure in 4 1/2” from each side for handle placement.
5. Insert handle 2” down between the two bags.
6. Topstitch around the top edge.
7. Make a second row of stitching 1” down from the top row.

TIP: Use a **Triple Straight Stitch** to reinforce the handles to hold securely held in place.



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BONUS BAG OPTIONS

Serger Option

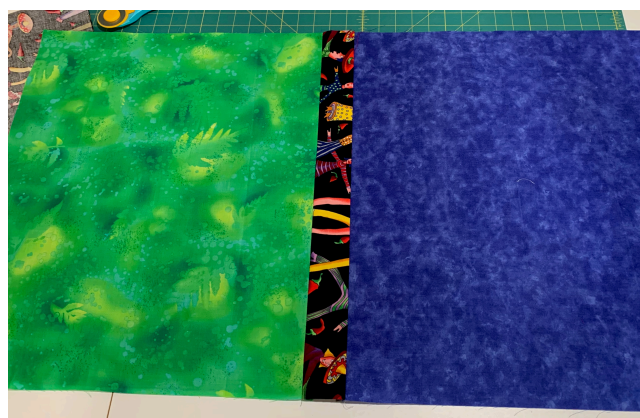
Using a serger always speeds up the construction process. Use a serger to complete the Bag Body section. You will still need to a sewing machine to complete the topstitching on the handles and the Bag Assembly.



Such a Simple Bag Using Fat Quarters

Yes, you can adapt this pattern to use fat quarters. You will need FIVE fat quarters for the bag body and TWO fat quarters to make the handles.

Cut one fat quarter into 2 - 4 1/2” x 21” strips. Sew one insert between each set of fat quarters on both the inner bag and the outer bag.



Sara Snuggerud is the name and face of SewingMastery.com, has two Blueprint classes and now has her own online courses *Stitching Cosmos* and *Embroidery Essentials*.

