

## Foldable Reusable Grocery Bag



This is an EASY, LOW COST project which can be made in less than an hour!

1 Yard of Fabric – (thicker, home décor type fabric can be used)

It is recommended that the fabric be washed and dried before cutting

1. Measure and cut out your fabric:

One 40" x 21" rectangle for the bag

If using a print/pattern fabric, be sure that the pattern is facing the way you'd like it to on the finished bag. Remember that one side may look upside down since we are using one rectangle for the bag piece!

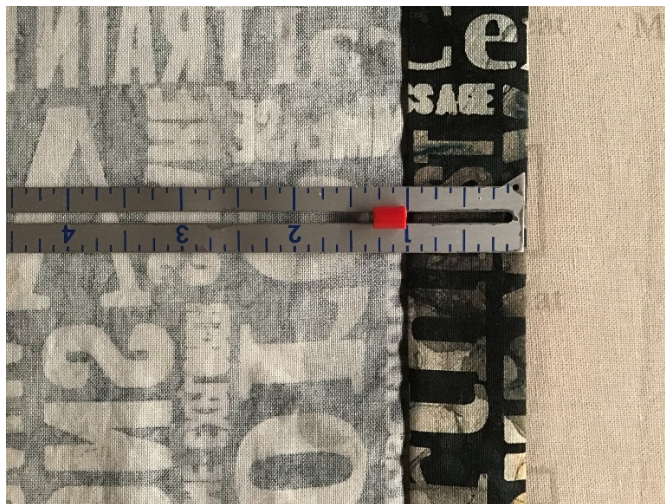
Two 30" x 6" rectangles for the handles (Cording/belting can be used)

2. Hem the top edges of the bag.

a. On one of the 21" sides, fold the edge down ½" and press all the way across.



- b. fold-down again. This time, 1" and press. Pin to hold the fabric in place. Repeat for the other 21" edge.



- c. Top stitch along the inside folded edge of the 1" hem you created – very close to the edge of the fold. Your seam allowance on the left side may be around 1/8".

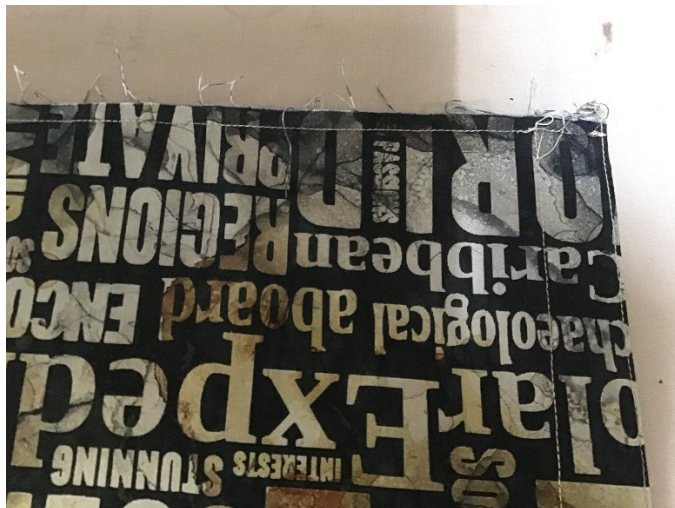




- d. Then, top stitch again along the other folded edge (very top of the bag). This will create a nice, one-inch stiffer edge along the top of your bag.



3. Create a French seam, which will encase the raw edges inside of the bag.
  - a. Fold your fabric in half (right sides facing out) so that the hemmed edges meet across from the fold. Using  $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance, stitch along the raw edge sides.



- b. Turn the bags inside out. Gently push out corners and sides of bag.
- c. Press to help fabric lay flat, then pin in place along the freshly stitched sides of the bag.
- d. Using  $\frac{1}{2}$ " seam allowance, stitch along the sides of the bag. This will catch the raw edges inside the bigger  $\frac{1}{2}$ " seam to hide them. Press.



4. Fold the bag so that one inside corner becomes a triangle. Make sure you do this step one side at a time! Using a clear ruler or measuring tape, mark a pencil line across where there's a 7" width. Pin the triangle to hold the fabric in place.



Stitch straight across the line you just drew. Repeat this process for the opposite corner/triangle.

5. Making the bottom with reinforced corners:
  - a. Inside the bag, ensure the triangle piece is lying flat on the bottom of the bag. Pin once in the middle to hold the triangle still.

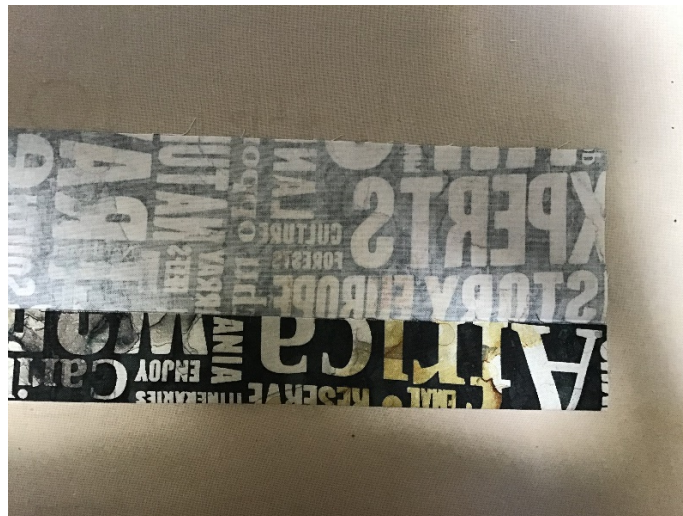


- b. Very carefully guide fabric under your presser foot to where you can stitch the triangle.
- c. Stitch close to the edge of the triangle in a “v” shape. There is no need to stitch the top of the triangle – you did this in the previous step.
- d. Repeat for the other triangle on the opposite side.

6. Turn the bag right side out and press.

#### HANDLES:

1. Fold one of the handle rectangles in half lengthwise and press to create a crease down the middle.
2. Unfold fabric. Fold in one side of the rectangle to meet the crease you made. Press. Repeat for the opposite side of the handle.



3. Fold the whole rectangle in half lengthwise again, along the original crease. Press.
4. To not have raw edges at the ends of your handles, trim off the corners and fold the end inside the folds about  $\frac{1}{4}$ " –  $\frac{1}{2}$ ".





5. Then re-fold the handle, pin and press well.



6. Stitch very close to the edge of each side of the handle.



7. To attach the handles, measure and mark where you'd like your handles to be. My handles were about 5" in from each side, which was about 6" or so apart from

