

How to... MAKE A GIFT BAG

This pretty reversible bag is an original way to present a gift - and the recipient can use it as a lunch bag in the New Year! It's easier to sew the bag if you use a thick fabric for one side and a thin fabric for the other.

Step 1 Fold the solid fabric in half widthwise, right sides together. Align the edges and sew $\frac{3}{8}$ " from the edge along both sides. Repeat with other fabric, leaving a $2\frac{3}{4}$ " opening on one side.

Step 2 Make gussets by folding each corner up where the fabric measures 4" in width. Stitch across the corner and trim the tip, leaving a $\frac{5}{8}$ " seam allowance.

Step 3 Press open the seams on both sides and cut away any protruding fabric at the top of the handles.

Step 4 Place the thick bag, right sides together, inside the thin bag. Sew $\frac{3}{8}$ " from the edge all the way around the top. Trim the seam allowance to $\frac{3}{16}$ ". Turn the bag right side out. Fold the edges of the opening in the striped fabric $\frac{3}{8}$ " to the wrong side, press, and hand stitch the opening closed.

Linen, Wool, Cotton: 25 Simple Projects to Sew with Natural Fabrics by Akiko Mano, Shambhala, ISBN-10: 1590306481, £15.99. We have 5 copies to give away, please email assistant@selvedge.org or call T: +44 (0)208 341 9721

