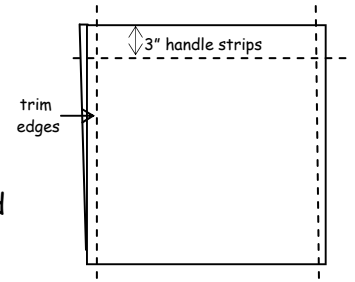


MAKE YOUR OWN GROCERY SACKS

Reduce landfill waste
Reduce use of plastics
Lower retail costs
Use your fabric
Give as gifts

Materials: 1/2 yard cotton fabric (42" wide), thread

Make handles: With the fabric folded once and the selvage edges together, trim the cut edges so they are both perpendicular to the fold. Cut a 3" strip from the selvage edges. (Fig 1) These two strips will form your handles. Fold the long edges of the handle strips $\frac{3}{4}$ " toward the wrong side and press. Fold again so the folds are even with each other and press. Top-stitch along both long edges of each handle.



Fold

Fig 1

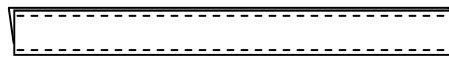


Fig 2

Bag: With the fabric still folded once, **wrong** sides together, stitch a narrow seam ($\frac{1}{8}$ ") down the cut edge that is opposite the fold. (Fig 3) You should now have a big tube.

Turn the tube inside out, and now with **right** sides together, sew again along the same side using a $\frac{3}{8}$ " seam allowance. This will enclose the raw edges, creating a French seam. This is a side seam and the fold is the other side of the bag.

Leave bag wrong side out. Mark 3" from the side seam and 3" from the fold along one of the raw edges. This will be the bottom of the bag. Take a 3" pleat on each side, pushing the sides in toward the center. (Fig 4) Pin the pleats.

Sew through all layers using a 1/4" seam allowance. (Fig 5) Finish this raw edge using a wide zig-zag, edge-finishing stitch or a serger.

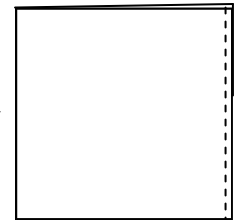


Fig 3

Fig 4

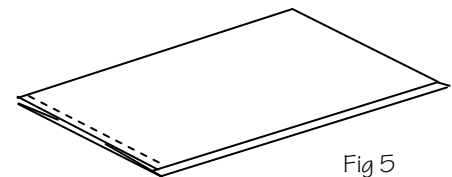
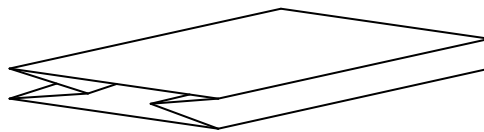


Fig 5

Top edge: With bag still wrong side out, fold top edge down $\frac{3}{4}$ " to the wrong side and press. Fold again $\frac{3}{4}$ " and press. Mark handle placement with a pin 2" from either side of the side-seam and the side-fold. Tuck one raw end of a handle under the fold, then fold the handle up and pin it to the edge of the bag. Tuck the other end under the fold at your mark which should be 4" away. Fold handle up and pin. Repeat for the other handle. Top-stitch through all layers around the edge of the bag, close to the lower edge of the fold, back-stitching across the handles to reinforce. Top-stitch again close to the upper fold, back-stitching again over the handles. (Fig 6) Turn bag right-side out. It's done. Make lots. Give them to your friends. Pass this pattern on. Vow to try never to use a plastic bag again. Keep them in your car. Be sure to use them when you shop for fabric too!

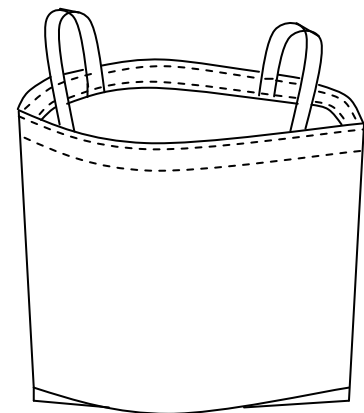


Fig 6

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