

Simple Unlined Shopping Bag

We suggest using a heavier weight fabric home decorator fabric for this project. However bags can be made from whatever fabric you have on hand. Get creative -- think upcycle.

1. In this example we're using home decorator heavier weight 56" home decorator-type fabric.



2. If necessary even up the edges of the fabric



3. Cut an 18" by width of fabric (WOF) fabric piece

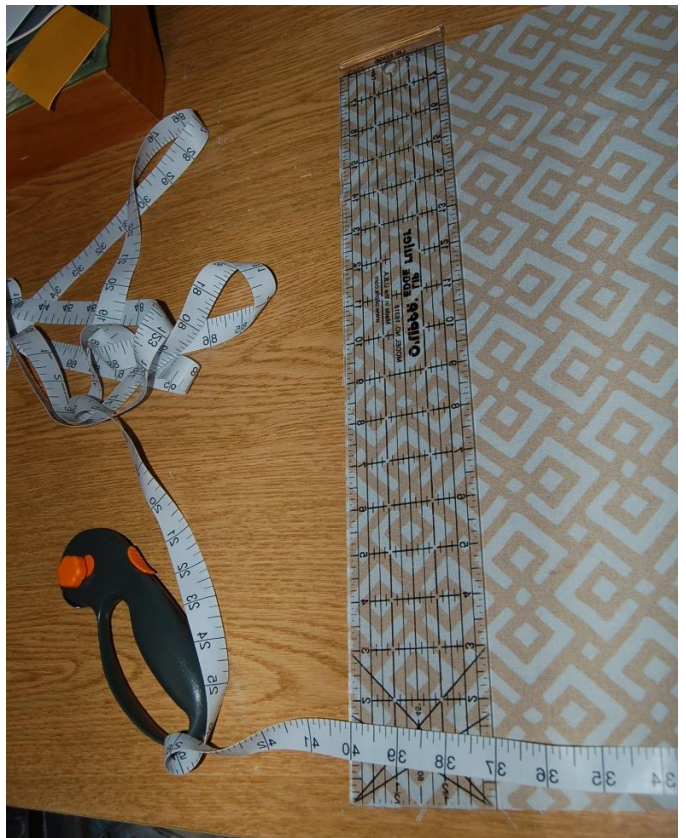


4. You will now have a 18" x 56" piece of fabric.

5. With fabric folded in half, starting at the fold line, measure up 20" and cut



6. You will now have a piece of fabric measuring 18" x 40" This will be you main bag piece.



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7. Use the remaining piece of fabric to cut your handles. I suggest cutting them a minimum of 3" wide by 18" long - but you can increase both the handle width or length as you desire.



8. Iron about a 1/2" fold on each side if the two handle pieces then fold in half again and press. Folded and pressed, your two handles will now measure about 1" wide by 18" long



9. And while at the ironing board, press under the top sides of the bag about 1" or so.



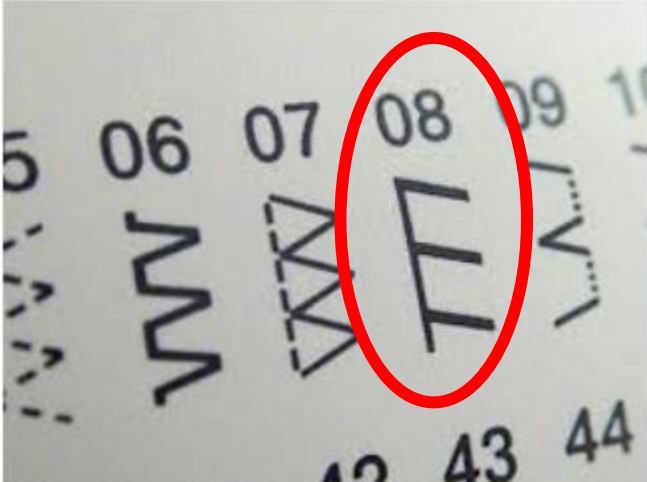
10. Now on to sewing...



11. Using a straight stitch, topstitch around all four sides of both handles



12. Change machine to an overcast stitch setting, if you have it available, otherwise use a dense zigzag, This stitch will reinforce the bag for carrying heavier stuff.



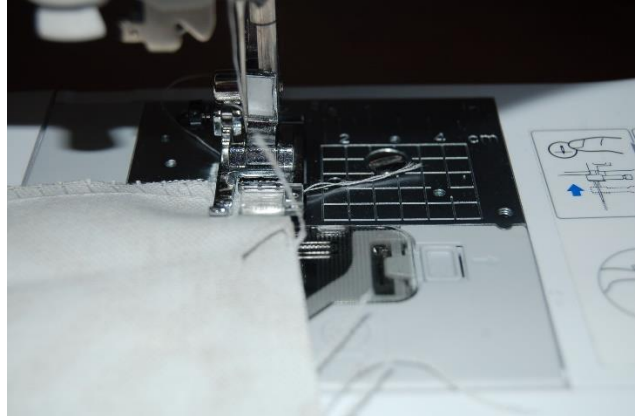
13. Using an overcast or zigzag stitch - finish off the ends of the handles



14. Also finish off the raw edge of both sides of the bag top using an overcast or zigzag stitch



15. Make sure that the fabric is folded in half lengthwise, and the fold is at the bottom. Using an overcast or zig stitch, seam both the left and right sides of the bag. Because of the way we folded it, you don't have to stitch the bottom.



16. Now we'll make the box corners...

Turn bag inside out and fold so the side seams are in the middle.



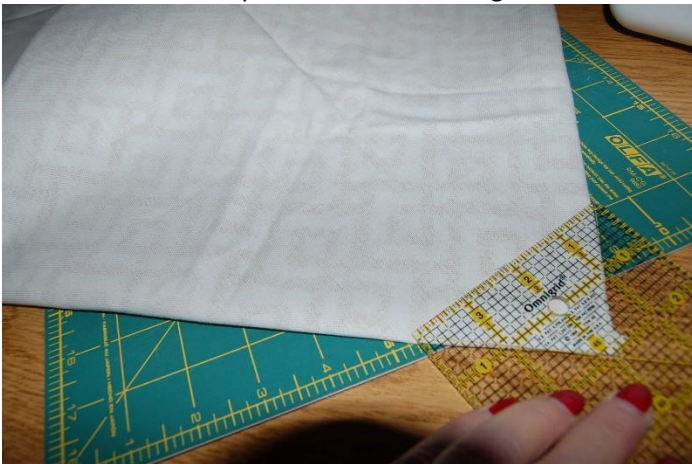
17. Continue to fold until the bottom forms a big square.



18. Then fold the top edge of the square down, to form an arrow, Make sure seams line up as closely as possible



19. On both of the corner folds, using a ruler mark two inches in from the tip and draw a stitching line.



20. Continue using the overcast or zigzag stitch and seam along the drawn line on each of the corner folds



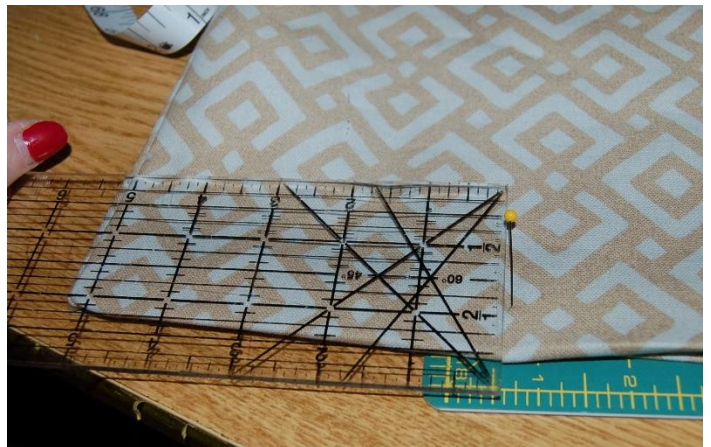
21. Trim the excess fabric



22. Turn bag right side out, then using your hand push out the bottom to form the bottom boxed corners.



23. With bag still turned right side out turn the hem under where you pressed earlier. With the top folded flat at side seams measure in about 5" and use a pin to mark the position



24. Continue to mark each of the four positions where the handles will be placed



25. Switch machine stitch setting back over to straight stitch. Starting at a side seam, top stitch around the entire top edge about a ¼ " from the top.



26. Move the piece down about ½" and stitch another row of topstitching around the top This will help reinforce the handles when carrying heavier objects.



AND YOUR BAG IS DONE.

