

**FRUGAL**  
and thriving

## PROJECT BAG TUTORIAL

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I made these bags for all the craft projects I have on the go. The idea is to fill them with everything you need to work on your project and **hang them out of the way on coat hangers in the wardrobe** ready to grab at a moment's notice and start crafting. The removable labels are to tell you what project is in what bag. Alternatively, leave the label off altogether to use as a regular tote.

### what you need

- ❖ 1/2 metre of fabric per bag<sup>❖</sup>
- ❖ vinyl plastic\*
- ❖ cardboard or paper for labels
- ❖ sewing tools, ruler / tape measure, scissors etc

❖ Many of the grocery bags I've made are from old sheets I rescued from the rag bag. This piece of fabric has been in my stash for about ten years, so I thought it was time to use it. It is directional fabric. I've ignored the pattern but if you want the pattern on your fabric to run the right way, make sure to cut your fabric with the pattern right way up.

\* Recycle vinyl plastic packaging for this project. I got many baby shower gifts in vinyl packaging (pictured). I always keep a stash as it comes in handy for craft projects. The cardboard label insert is recycled from the cardboard packaging.



cut these pieces

- ❖ 2 x 45cm x 35cm pieces for the body of the bag
- ❖ 2 x 35cm x 6cm pieces for the handles
- ❖ 1 x 10cm x 6cm piece of vinyl
- ❖ 1 x 9cm x 5cm piece of cardboard

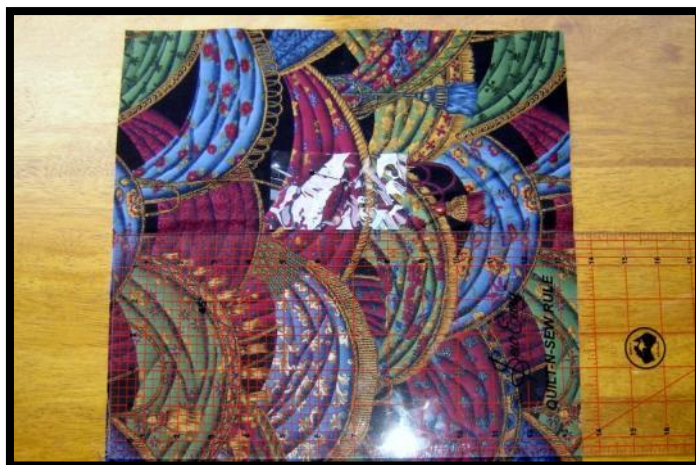


to assemble

make the pocket

Using a ruler, find the horizontal centre of your bag and pin your plastic label in place. I put the label about 9cm from the top of the bag.

Stitch around the three sides of the label with a  $\frac{3}{8}$ " seam leaving the top open.



Use a hand sewing needle to pass the loose threads to the back of the fabric, tie off the threads and trim.

make the handles

Fold the handles in half lengthwise **right sides together** and sew along the seam.  
Turn the handles right side out. I find a chopstick helpful for this job.



start the bag seam

This bag has a French seam, which makes the seam nice and tidy with no raw edges inside. Start by sewing a 1/4" seam around the edge of the bag, leaving the top open, **wrong sides together**. Trim the corners and the seams.



press

Turn the bag **wrong side out** and press the seams. Be careful not to iron over the plastic as the hot iron could melt it.

Press the handles.

finish the seam

While the bag is **wrong side out**, stitch a  $\frac{3}{8}$ " seam around the edges encasing the raw edges within the seam.

Press.



square off the bottom

Line up the side seams with the bottom seam to make a triangle. Pin and measure 3cm from the tip of the triangle. Rule a line and sew along to square off the bag bottom.





At this point you can do three things with the corners:

- ❖ you can clip them, but that would be a shame after sewing such lovely French seams
- ❖ you can leave them as is; or
- ❖ you can fold them over and sew them to the bottom seam as pictured below.



hem the top and add the handles

With the bag turned **wrong side out**, turn the top down about 1cm and press. Make sure the side seams are facing the same way at the top as at the bottom of the bag.

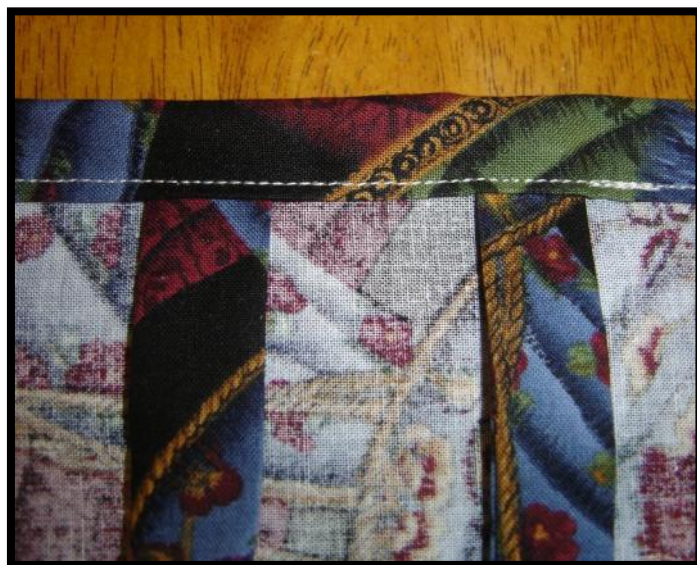
Using your ruler, find the half way point on one side of your bag and measure 2cm either side of the middle. Mark with a pencil.

Place your handles on these marks.

Turn the hem down a further 1cm over the handles as pictured and pin in place.



Repeat on the other side of the bag and sew around the top of the bag, securing the hem.



## finishing

Turn the handles up and pin in place.

Top stitch around the top of the bag, securing the handles in place.



Add your label to your bag and you're done.

