

A Great Green Bag

This is a really great bag for groceries or the produce market. The baggers like the flat bottom and the padded handles make it easy to carry your load into the house. They are reversible and machine washable

What you need:

¾ yard each of two coordinating cotton fabrics
Two strips of double sided fusible Fleece or batting 21" X 2".
Regular sewing thread
Embroidery design or lettering of your choice
Stabilizer of your choice (I used medium tear away)
Embroidery threads.

Quilter's Ruler

Rotary cutter

8 ½" X 12 ½" heavy cardboard or Timtex for bottom if bag (optional)

Cut the Fabric:

From the first fabric cut:

1 strip 39"X 9" (Gusset)
2 rectangles 13" X 13 ½" (Front and back)
2 strips 22" X 5" (handles)
2 rectangles 9" X 13" (To cover the bottom cardboard so it is optional)

From the second fabric cut:

1 strip 39"X 9" (Gusset lining)
2 rectangles 13" X 13 ½" (Front and back lining)
2 rectangles 9" X 7" (Pocket pieces that will be embroidered. I usually cut larger pieces and then re-cut to the size I want after I embroider the design.)

I used 1/2" seam allowances for this bag. I also double-sewed all the seams (except the pocket and topstitching) for added strength.

Step One – Make the embroidered Pocket.

1. Hoop a piece of fabric for the pocket and embroidery the design.
2. Cut the fabric and lining as stated above if not already done.
3. Sew, right sides together leaving a small opening at the bottom for turning.
4. Turn right side out. Press the opening edges to the inside. Sew closed if desired.

5. Center on front of bag about 6" from the top. Topstitch 1/8" from edges around sides and bottom.

Make the padded handles

1. Fold the 22" X 5" strip in half length ways and press



2. Open it up and place the strip of fusible fleece or batting down the center leaving 1/2" at each end.



3. Fold the edges to the center and press to activate the adhesive in the fusible.

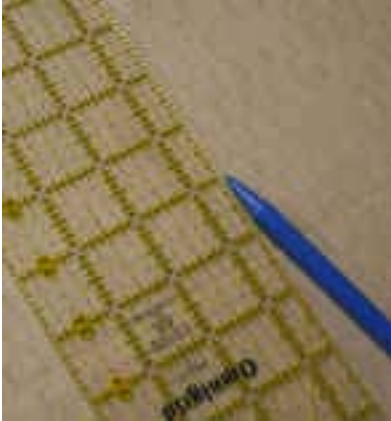


4. Fold the raw edges at each end in about 1/2" and press.

5. Fold the strip in half length ways again and top stitch all the way around $\frac{1}{4}$ " in.
6. Repeat for the other strap and set aside until later.

Make the bag body and lining

1. Measure your gusset strip and mark all the way across at $13\frac{1}{2}$ " from the top. Press the crease to be sure you end up with a bag that is not twisted.



2. With right sides together and matching crease with corners pin and sew bag front to the gusset.
3. With right sides together and matching crease with corners pin and sew the bag back to the gusset. Check to be sure you have a box that is not twisted.
4. Sew over both seams again to reinforce. Clip at corners when pivoting around to make it easier if desired.



5. Repeat for the bag lining but leave a 6" opening along one bottom seam.

Complete the bag.

1. Insert the exterior bag (right side out) into the lining bag (wrong side out). The right sides of the two should be touching each other. Pin along top edge matching the seams on the exterior and interior bags. Sew along the top edge of the bags all the way around twice.
2. Gently pull the exterior bag out through the opening left in the lining bottom.
3. Smooth it all out. Stitch the opening closed by inserting the raw edges into the opening and topstitching.
4. Push the lining to the inside of the bag and press.
5. Top stitch $\frac{1}{4}$ " from top all the way around. Then stitch all the way around again 1" or so from top of bag.

Attach the handles

1. On right front: measure in 2" from side seams and 1" from top. Pin with the outer edges of your handle here.
2. On left front: repeat for other end of the front handle.
3. At each end sew a box with an X inside to secure the handle to the front of the bag. It is OK that you sew over some of the other topstitching as this just makes it stronger.
4. Repeat on backside for second handle.

Making a bottom insert:

1. Cut a rectangle 8"X12" from heavy cardboard, Timtex, recycle a piece of plastic from something you would throw away.
2. Place the two 9"X13" rectangles you cut earlier right sides together and sew around three sides.
3. Put the cardboard inside, fold in the raw edges and topstitch the last edge closed.
4. Place in the bottom of your bag.

Designer grocery bags – what do you think?