

YARNGEEK

Musings & rantings of a yarn addict.

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Tutorial: Folding Grocery Tote

December 29, 2009 by yarngeek

I hope you haven't been holding your breath waiting for me to get this tutorial up. I have written this with the beginner sewer in mind, so be forewarned there are **lots** of pictures. Please let me know if you have any questions or if something is unclear.

Read on to make your very own foldable, portable, washable, reusable grocery bag!

YARNGEEK'S CALENDAR

December 2009

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
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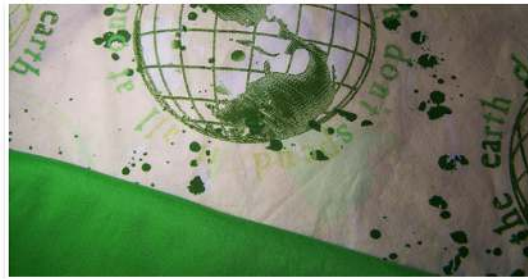
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Folding Grocery Tote Tutorial



Cut Your Fabric

Main Fabric

Fold your fabric with selvages together. Lay your fabric out with the folded side away from you. Trim the edge if it is rough (as shown below) and then cut your piece so it is 16" wide.



Your piece now measures 16" x 36" unfolded. Set aside. *If you cut the other bag body at this point, you can repeat each ironing step for both bags and end up with two completed at the end.*

Contrast Fabric

Lay your contrast fabric out so the short (18") side is closest to you. Cut your fabric every 4" for four strips. (You will have a 2" strip leftover.) Each strip should measure 4" x 22". Set two of the 4" strips aside for the second bag.

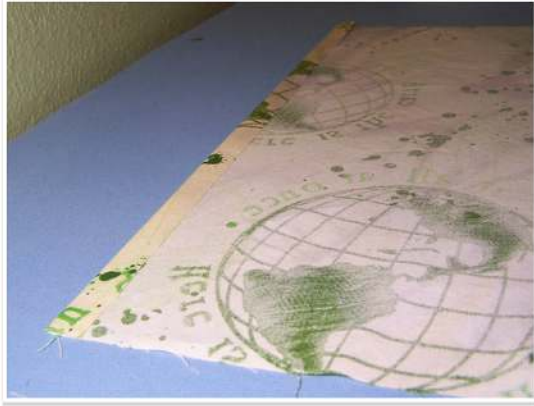


Iron It All

Tip: For greater efficiency, iron the pieces for both bags all at once.

tip: for greater efficiency, iron the pieces for both bags at the same time.

On the short (16") side of your main fabric piece, fold over and iron about 1/2".



Fold over again, approximately 3/4" to 1" and iron. Repeat on the other end.



Iron the strips, in 4 easy steps (click to embiggen).

1. Iron 1/2" in on each short end.



4. Fold in half lengthwise and iron again. You should have nice finished edges all the way around. Repeat for other large strip as well as the small strip.



Sew Your Bag

Please note: For best results, sew back and forth at the beginning and end of each seam to lock threads in place.

Beginning at the folded side of the strip, sew around the entire perimeter with a 1/4" seam. Repeat for other large strip. For the small strip, simply sew down the center of it lengthwise.





Sew the side seams. Use the edge of your presser foot as a guide.



If you have a serger, finish the side seams now. Otherwise, use pinking shears to keep the inside edges from fraying.

Box the Bottom

Using your quilting ruler and chalk, mark a 2" x 2" square at each bottom corner of your bag, using the seam line as a guide.

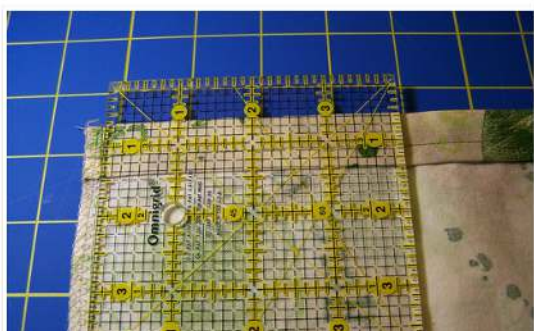


Pull the bag's sides apart and match up the edges of the opening you just cut. You will match your seamed edge to the fold at the bottom.



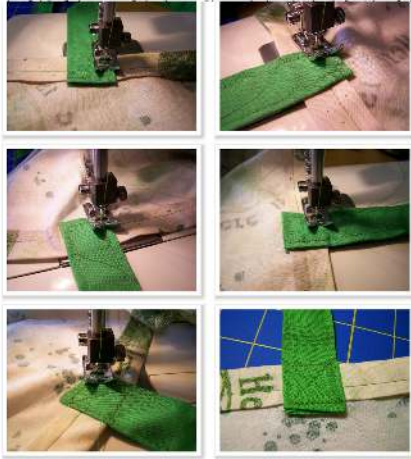
Add the Handles

Using the seam as your guide, use chalk to mark 3" from each edge of your bag. Turn over and repeat on the other side.





Place your handle to the outside of the chalk line, with the edge about 1/4" below



Place the button loop by measuring 7.5" from the side seam. Mark it with chalk and sew across the loop several times to secure. Trim off any excess.

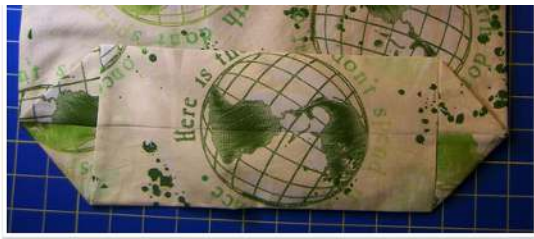


Attach the button securely** to the side with the button loop attached. Place it 3.5" from the bottom and 7.5" from the side seam.



It holds quite a bit. Don't be afraid to really fill it up!





2. Fold the sides into the center in thirds.



3. Fold the bottom up (you should see the button).



Your bag is done! Now fold it up and take it shopping.

yarn... 😊



The Journey So Far « yarngeek

on April 15, 2010 at 1:19 pm | Reply

[...] hanging on the pressing line on the wall and turned it into a prototype for a larger size of the grocery tote. Never mind that it was fabric purchased on clearance that I might not be able to get more of. [...]

Green Grocery Bag Challenge « yarngeek

on November 8, 2010 at 8:28 pm | Reply

[...] (Remember, if you need a bag pattern, there's a tutorial I made here.) [...]

Suzie

on November 12, 2010 at 2:09 am | Reply

Hi There, I found this post through the Green Grocery Bag Challenge facebook page. I love this bag and it folds up so neatly! Thanks for the very clear tutorial, think I may have to give this a go! 😊



yarngeek

on November 12, 2010 at 10:03 am | Reply

Thanks, Suzie! I hope you enjoy it. Do let me know if you have any questions.



