

'Jiffy' bag tutorial

How to sew a reusable cloth bag in 7 minutes or less

Re-purposed Materials used:
Two upholstery samples and a belt.



Upholstery samples can easily be attained! Just ask at a futon store or re upholstery place for their discontinued samples. You will probably end up with a boat load! The great aspect to these in terms of time is they are serged around all four edges so you don't have to turn under any seams.

If you want to try this bag with just regular fabric make sure the fold is the bottom of your bag and turn under the top seams and then follow the rest of the instructions. You won't have to sew the bottom seam since that will be where your fold is. O.K., start the stop watch!

Step one: Here are two samples ready to go. These just happen to be a nice size for a reusable bag. They are 17" x 17". But many sizes work so you decide!

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Step two: Put right sides together and sew the bottom seam 1/2" from the edge.

Step three: Sew the i.d. tag on the front of the bag. I like to zig zag around the tag. You will see the tag on the front of the finished bag in the final photo.

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Here is the belt. You can also use a neck tie or a piece of webbing from an old back pack. Cut the leather parts off of the belt.

It will be sewn into the side seam.



Step four:

This is the only tricky part! First sew down the side seam for 1 inch. Now, insert the handle from the top (front) and through the sides.

Snug it against your stitching pulling it as vertical as possible. Make sure a little of the handle sticks out of the seam so you are sure to capture all of it. Sew across where the handle inserts and back several times for extra strength. Then complete the seam.

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Here is how it will look once both of the edges are sewn.

Now turn it inside out.



Veggies, daisies and a reusable bag!



Here it is all finished with the bagshare tag on the front. Fill out the tag with a permanent marker.

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Be sure and sew the bagshare tag on the front!

Here is a bag using a neck tie for the handle.

We also go to car salvage places (junk yards) and ask if we can cut off the seat belts! These are great sturdy handles for heavy weight bags.

To straighten the handle:

To make this handle straight and a little stronger, just twist it against the top edge of the bag and sew across it several times.

To comment on this pattern or suggest ways to make it better please e mail Leni.

If you have a bag pattern that is strong and can be made in 10 minutes or less e mail Leni!

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Send us pictures of your bagshare project for our website.



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Straight handle variation :

To make a handle that goes straight up from the sides instead of slanted do the following:

Go to Step four: of the tutorial. The bag is still inside out.

Sew down the side seam for 1 inch.

Then insert the handle from the top **OUTSIDE** of what will be the side seams. The end of the handle will now stick out of what will be the finished **front** of the bag. Sew back and forth where the handle is inserted and then finish the side seam. Turn the bag inside out and trim off the excess handle.

Now twist the top of the handle to make it straight and sew it across the top part of the bag. The handle is now secured in two places.