

# Simple Shopping Bag

## Fabric requirements

- 1 yard of fabric. Heavier fabrics like canvas and denim work great.
- 1 orphan block about 8-inches square (optional)
- 1 square of muslin the same size as the orphan block for lining.

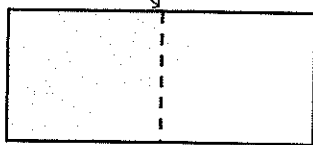
## Assembling the bag

From fabric cut the following:

- 21-inch x 40-inch rectangle for the main bag body
- 4 1/2-inch x 40-inch rectangle for the straps

Fold the large rectangle in half with right sides together matching short edges. Press a crease at bottom of bag. Sew side seams. Go over the seams again with a zigzag stitch on the raw edges or serge for strength.

Fold line



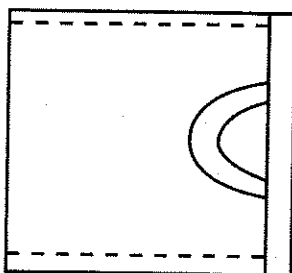
Bag Body

Fold the narrow rectangle in half with right sides together by matching long edges. Sew into a tube. Turn the tube right side out and press flat, with the seam along one edge of tube. Topstitch near each edge of the tube. Cut the tube into two straps 20-inches long.

Fold line

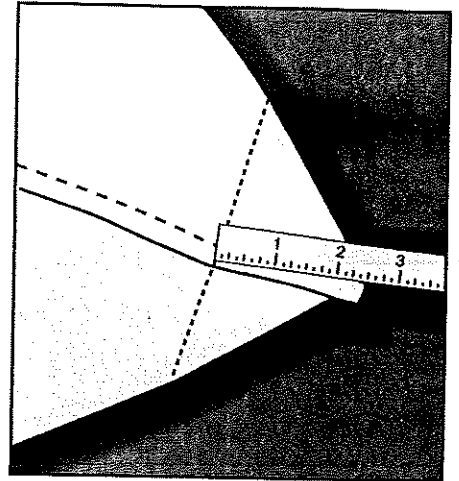
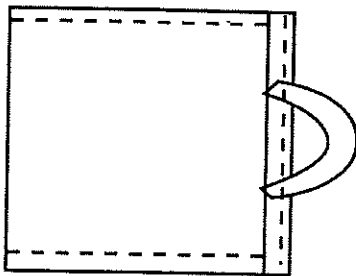


Strap



Press under top edge of bag 1/4 inch to the inside. Fold over edge of bag 1 1/2 inches from the pressed edge. Place the center handles as shown against inside of bag, with edges pushed all the way up against the fold. Top stitch along bottom fold, catching handles in the seam.

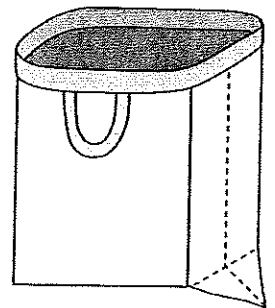
Fold handles up into position and top stitch along the top fold of bag, catching handles in this seam as well. For extra durability, zigzag over the top and bottom seam lines to reinforce the stitching at stress points.



## To make boxed corners on the bottom of the bag

To make a flat-bottomed tote, create a boxed base by bringing one side seam of your bag to the bottom center fold, matching seam to bottom fold and pin. This will make your corner come to a point. Center the seam against bottom fold. Measure 2 1/2-inches in from the point, drawing a line across the corner as shown in the diagram. Sew across the bottom of the bag on the drawn line, 2 1/2-inches away from the point.

Turn bag right sides out. The corners are left inside of bag bottom and can be tack-stitched to the bottom of bag.



## Optional pocket

Match the orphan block with a square of muslin the same size placing right sides together. Stitch around block, leaving a 3-inch section open for turning. Clip across the corners on a diagonal, being careful not to clip stitching and turn block right side out. Press, making sure that seam allowance on the opening is also turned towards the inside of the block.

Stitch the opening to close by hand if desired or it can be caught in top stitching later. Top stitch across top of pocket.

Position pocket on bag front where desired. Pin in place and top stitch the pocket to the front of the bag, stitching close to the edge of the pocket, and catching the turning opening in the process as you sew around the pocket.