

RAGS2BAGS REUSABLE FABRIC BAG INSTRUCTIONS

SEWING MACHINE

1. KIT CONTAINS:

- a. either 1 pc 18" X 36" fabric OR 2 pcs 18" X 18" fabric (they may not match, but they will coordinate'ish)
- b. 2- braided handles
- c. A RAGS2BAGS label

2. YOU NEED:

- a. A sewing machine that does straight and zigzag stitch
- b. Regular sewing machine needles
- c. Thread...any color. Bobbin and top thread don't have to match. Use up spare thread
- d. Pins
- e. Optional: seam ripper, small scissors, walking foot

3. INSTRUCTIONS

- a. **Match the piece/or pieces right sides together.** Fold the 18" X 36" piece so it's 18" X 18", fold at the bottom
- b. Sew the side seams with a generous ½" seam allowance. Start at the top edge and sew toward the fold or bottom so any excess is pushed to the bottom. NOTE: if fabric is thick you may find it easier to use a walking foot to feed fabric more evenly than a regular presser foot. It's a personal choice.
- c. Sew another seam a little bit further in (<1/8" or just eyeball or use a line on your presser foot)
- d. If you have 2 pieces of fabric sew the bottom seam the same way as above in b. c.
- e. **Zigzag the top edge** to prevent fraying. Suggested settings: Stitch Width: as wide as your machine will allow Stitch Length: 4.0-6.0 mm or 6-8 stitches per inch depending on the settings on your machine.
- f. **BOX THE CORNERS to make the bottom of the bag:** With right sides together, open the bottom, placing the side seam in the center. Fold to one side. Measure up about "three fingers" and mark a line if you wish. Sew across the bag on the line (or eyeball it.) Do the same to the other side/corner. Don't cut off any excess.



this photo shows the excess cut off from using a serger

g. FINISH the top of the bag.

- i. Fold down approximately 1" all around the top of the bag. Since you zigzagged the top edge you only have to turn it down once.
- ii. Pin one end of a handle approximately 4 inches in from each side (or measure 4 fingers width) on one side of the bag.



- iii. Pin a label in the approximate center of one side of a bag. Put the raw edge of the top of the label even with the 1" turnover on the top, and fold/smooth the extra part of the label to the front. It may be easier for the final topstitching step if you also place a pin at the bottom of the label to hold it in place.
- iv. Pin the other handle on the other side.
- v. Topstitch around the top and bottom of the folded down edge sewing the handles and label in place. Be careful that the label doesn't fold on itself or flip up.



IF YOU HAVE A SERGER AND A SEWING MACHINE

1. Serge side seams. Serge bottom seam (if working with 2 pieces of fabric)
2. Serge around the top edge
3. Box the bottom/sides.
4. Using the sewing machine: fold down top, topstitch 2 rows to attach the handles and label