

Craft Shop n' Ride Leftovers

I'm going to be riding my bike all over kingdom come in the purest of spring delights. The breeze will be in my hair as I enjoy the excuse of grocery shopping to take a bike ride after class and/or work. Which brings me to the point of today's (this evening's/morning's) pattern. I have a basket on my bike, which can be taken off, but with a lot of pain and suffering on the part of all parties involved, so how to know when the right amount is to ride back with, without pain and suffering. A grocery tote to fit my basket is in order! I say, make your bag out of whatever you please, out of what will make your heart delight while filling it with books, groceries, flowers, or maybe even an abandoned kitten, well that's just a bad idea, nix the kitten in the basket tote idea, I could just see hitting a bump and... well, I'm not going there... Flowers, flowers are nice in a basket tote. But on the hitting of bumps topic, I really despise outside pockets on a basket tote because well, hit a bump and there goes your keys/cell phone/wallet/kitten. No good. So this little guy has inside pockets... with buttons for keeping things in!



Ingredients:

- 1/2 yrd fashion fabric
- 1/2 yrd decor fabric (or vinyl works too)
- 2 buttons
- Lots of thread and about 3 hours

Directions:

Cut fabric for all parts of the bag:

1. Straps, on fold, for a total length of 24"x3"
2. Sides of bag, cut 1, on doubled fabric for a total of two for each fabric, 9"x6"
3. Pockets, on doubled fabric, cut 1 for a total of 2 of each fabric, 9"x9"
4. Cut one of each fabric on fold for a total length of 11 1/2"x24"

Strap

Press 1/2" hem on long edges of strap pieces, straight stitch each seam to hold.

Place wrong sides together of contrasting fabric types, pin, and stitch along the lengths of the straps.

You don't need to worry about the short sides because they will be sewn inbetween the liner and the body fabric.

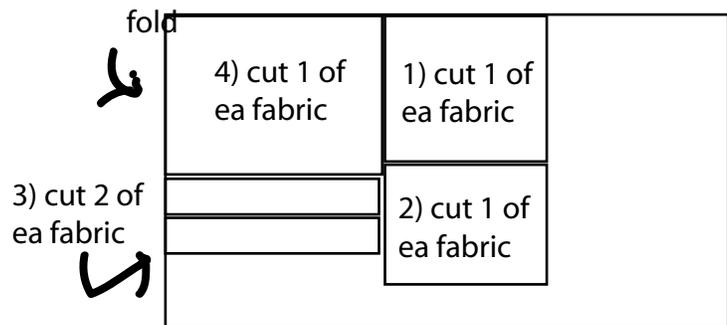
Pocket

Fold and press 1" hem along the top of the pocket fabrics and stitch in place.

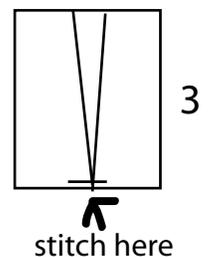
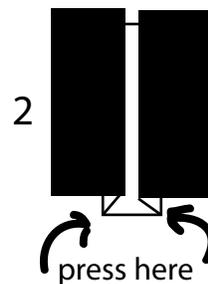
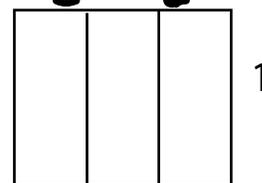
Place wrong sides together and stitch along all edges.

Make a button hole 3/4" from the top of the "pocket" and in the center (about 4 1/2" from either side).

Now for the tricky part, creasing the pocket so it goes down to a 6" width with the button hole still in the center. So with the liner facing up, measure 6" from one side, fold to create a 3" flap, press. Now fold the other side in so it meets the crease just made, press that side. Now flip it over, pull the two folds together and press the heck out of it, which creates 2 more folds on the underside. Now really quickly run it over the the sewing machine and top stitch across those 4 folds at the bottom (just about 1" in the center of the bottom) to hold all that folding and pressing in place. Repeat for second pocket. And if I haven't confused you enough, take a look over at diagrams 1-3.



fold here and here



Liner

Side pieces: Fold and press a 1" hem from the top and stitch. Repeat for other side piece.

Take your pocket and pin it to the side piece, right sides facing in the same direction. Stitch along the sides and bottom NOT THE TOP... Don't sew your pocket shut, that wouldn't really be a pocket now would it.... (I only say this because I have done it before, haha, oh the lessons I have learned). Repeat for second pocket/side liner. Sew button onto side liner piece to match up with the button hole on the pocket piece.

Body piece: Fold and press a 1" hem on the top and bottom of the liner body piece (short sides).

Pin the sides to the body starting at the tops of the sides of the side piece, stop at the bottom of the sides and then pin from the center point of the bottom of the side to the corners so that way any gathering of excess fabric will be locked away from sight in the corner seams. Sew the bottom, making sure not to catch the fabric of the body of the bag, then sew the sides. Repeat for the other side of the liner/pocket pieces.

Body

Repeat liner steps omitting the pocket parts.

Sew straps to the wrong side of the body so they overlap with the body of the bag about an inch. I just pinned and sewed a little square to really secure it well.

Now all that is left to do is sew the liner into the body of the bag. Make sure the right sides are all facing the way they should be, pin it so the seam will line up at the edge and stitch away. I sewed the longer seams with my machine, but hand stitched the corners and short seam where the pocket/buttons are.

And that is that. One bag for toting groceries and anything else that will fit just perfectly in my basket.

Definitely feel free to play around with the dimensions to fit your basket/needs. Just remember that the pocket is pressed in thirds. Also, something that I just realized, if you feel like having your pockets on the outside, you can always just turn the bag inside out because it is one hundred percent reversible! What fun right?

