



## Bonus: Gift Bags

I love using fabric bags for gifts! It's festive, economical, and "green."

For these bags, I show you how I make a bag to the size of the thing I'm giving, rather than a specific size. But, if you want to make your bags in specific sizes, that works too! I'm going to show you three ways of making bags.

Supplies:

Fabric

Ribbon or cord

No matter which bag style you are making, the first step is the same: Lay your gift on some fabric and decide how much you need.

### Style #1: Inside casing

1. Fold the top of your piece of fabric  $\frac{1}{4}$ " toward the wrong side and press.
2. Fold the fabric right sides together.
3. Sew a  $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam. Stitch from the top approximately  $\frac{3}{4}$ " and stop. Back stitch. Move down  $\frac{3}{4}$ " and resume stitching, again backstitching. Adjust these measurements to accommodate your ribbon or cord. (You will have a  $\frac{3}{4}$ " opening through which to thread the ribbon or cord when you are finished.)
4. Pivot at the corner and sew the bottom, ending with a backstitch. Clip the corner.
5. Press the seam to one side.
6. Turn down the top  $\frac{3}{4}$ " and press.
7. Stitch along the edge.
8. Turn the bag right side out. Use a safety pin or bodkin to thread the ribbon or cord through the casing.

### Style #2: Outside casing

1. Fold the top of your piece of fabric  $\frac{1}{4}$ " toward the wrong side and press. Fold the top another 1-1/2" and press.
2. Open the 1-1/2" press (but not the  $\frac{1}{4}$ " fold).
3. Place right sides together and sew down the side, pivot at the corner, and sew along the bottom in a  $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam. Back stitch at the start and end.
4. Trim the corner.
5. Fold down the 1-1/2" pressing line.
6. Sew close to the fold.
7. Measure the width of your bag, double that measurement, and add 1".

8. Cut a coordinating fabric strip that length by the width of your ribbon +  $\frac{1}{2}$ " (at least). You could also use double fold bias tape, opened up. Press under  $\frac{1}{4}$ " on long sides of the strip and  $\frac{1}{2}$ " at each end.
9. Pin to bag, covering the stitching and placing the opening where you want it (mine is in the center of the bag).
10. Sew close to both long edges (do not sew the short ends).
11. Insert ribbon.

### Style #3: Lined

1. Cut two pieces of fabric. Follow Steps 2 and 3 from Style #1 with the outer fabric; sew all the way down the side and across the bottom for the lining fabric.
2. Press seam open on the side of the outer fabric and poke out the corners.
3. Turn the lining inside out and pin it to the outer fabric, right sides together. Pin, matching the seam.
4. Sew the two layers together in a  $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam, leaving an opening for turning (not near the seam).
5. Turn the bag inside out and poke out the corners of the lining.
6. Push the lining down inside the outer bag and press; press opening closed and pin it.
7. Stitch around the top of the bag close to the edge.
8. Mark around the bag at the level of the casing (mark at both the top and bottom),
9. Sew along these lines.
10. Insert ribbon.