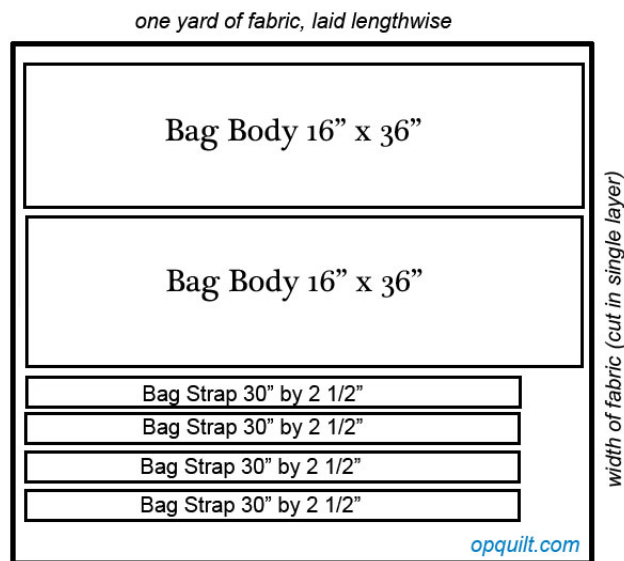




From one yard of fabric, you can make two bags:



WST: Wrong Sides Together

RST: Right Sides Together

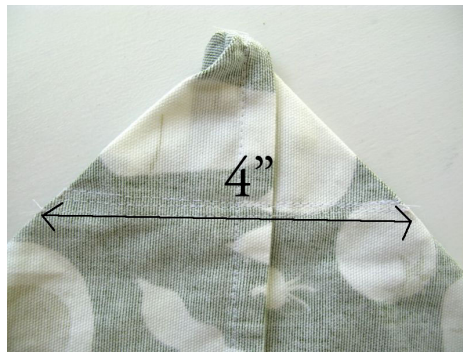


1. Fold the bag piece in half WST so that it measures approximately 16 x 18." You'll make a French seam along the short (side), then longer (bottom) edge of the bag as follows: First stitch a 1/4" seam with the wrong sides together (WST). Flip it wrong sides out, and iron that seam open, then closed, so that now the bag is RST laying flat. The corner will be a bit wonky. Ignore it.

Now stitch that same seam again in a 3/8" seam, enclosing the original. This way your bag will be free of shredding threads. It only takes a minute.



2. Box in the corners by aligning the seams on one side (and the imaginary side seam with the bottom seam on the other side), then pin.



3. After you get them all settled (a couple of pins will help here), slide your ruler down until you find a place that measures 4" across. Mark it with a pencil, then pin across that line so it won't move while you stitch it (then again and again). After stitching, some people like to trim across that seam, cutting off the triangle part, but I figured why do that? This way I don't have to finish off another seam. It doesn't affect the bag's performance in carrying groceries in the least.



4. Straps: Fold in 1/4" along one long side and press. Fold in the other side about 5/8" and press. Now fold over that first side so that the folded edge is approximately in the middle of your strap. This isn't rocket science, as you can easily see by the photo above, showing how my "center" seam isn't exactly in the middle. I just need all the raw edges to be enclosed, as this bag needs to be sturdy. Stitch down the middle of the strap, then along each side. Repeat for other strap. Set aside.





5. Top Band: Fold over 1/4" all along the top raw edge and press. Fold again 1" down and press, then topstitch into place; I stitched again at the top edge. I know my band is crooked. The groceries won't care.



6. Figure out where you want your strap handles to be. Mine are 4" in from the side seam and about 3 1/2" out from the center point. Approximately. Lay the right side of your strap down onto the bag, having the raw edges of the strap's edge sticking up 1/4" above that bottom top-stitched line. Stitch across that line again. You are securing the tip-top of the bag strap there to hide the raw edges.

Now fold the strap upwards, into its correct position. If I have talked you through this correctly, your bag strap now covers the raw edges of the strap end.

Stitch in a square and a criss-cross to secure the strap to the bag. Repeat three more times, making sure you don't twist the straps while you are doing this. I attached one strap to the same side of the bag, so that when the clerks open it, the straps won't be in the way. (See the photo at the top of these directions for more guidance.)



7. I sewed a piece of the selvage to the upper band of the bag for fun, and because I liked this fabric line's name.

Have fun!