

How To Make A Reusable Grocery Bag

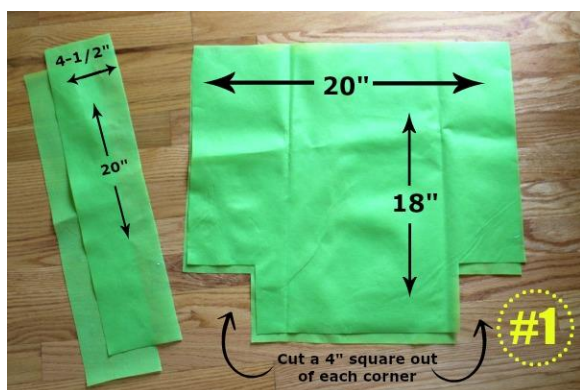
Pattern from: TheMakeYourOwnZone.com

Materials Needed:

1 Yard of Oly Fun Fabric (I was actually able to get 2 bags from a yard)

Coordinating Color Thread

Sewing machine, scissors, tape measure, and pins.



#1 - Cut Out Your Pieces

Cut two pieces for the body of the bag that are 20" wide by 18" tall. Cut a 4" square out of each bottom corner on both pieces.

Cut two 4 1/2" x 20" pieces for the handles.



#2 - Sew Side and Bottom Seams

Pin the two body pieces together (Note: There is no right or wrong side to the Oly-Fun fabric).

Using a 1/4" seam allowance, sew both side seams and the bottom seam, leaving the corners open.



#3 - Sew Bottom Corners

Open up one of the corners and match the side seam and the bottom seam. Pin, and then sew the corner seam using a 1/4" seam allowance. Repeat for the other corner of the bag.



#4 - Sew the Handles

For each handle piece, fold up 1/3 of the piece (1½ ") and then fold up again, lining up the fold with the top of the piece. Pin and then topstitch around all four sides of the handle piece. Repeat for other handle piece. Set aside.

(Alternatively, if you do not want to sew handles, you can use two pieces of cotton webbing, cut to a 20" length.)



#5 - Finish the Top

Turn the top edge down 1" and pin.

Insert one end of a handle piece under the fold, 5" from the side seam. Insert the other end of the handle piece 5" from the other side seam.

Repeat with the other handle piece on the other side of the bag.

Sew around the top, 1/4" from the "raw" edge that was turned down, sewing the handles in as you come across them.

Next, turn the handles upward and pin.

Sew around the top again, 1/8" from the top edge of the bag, sewing across the handles as you go so that they are now secured pointing upwards.



#6 - Turn the Bag Right Side Out

At this point, you have a tote bag that's all put together and you can stop here if you want - BUT - a few more finishing touches will give you a tote bag with more defined edges that will help it stand up better and more closely resemble the store brand reusable bags.

FINISHING TOUCHES:**#7 - Define the Edges**

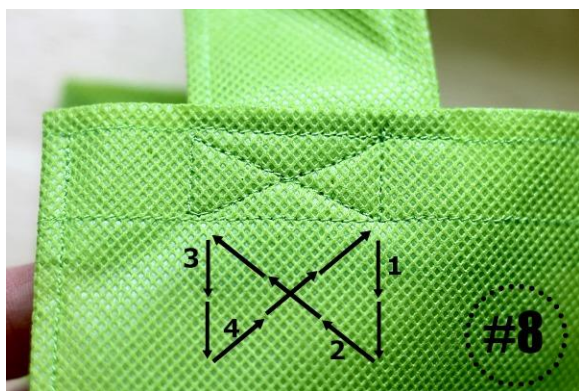
To define the sides of the bag, you will keep the bag turned right side out, and will be sewing "ridges" on the **outside** of the bag.

Find your vertical line up the side of the bag by measuring 4" from the side seam. Then sew an 1/8" topstitching seam on this line, which will go from a bottom corner point to the top of the bag. Do this for

each of the four corner points.

Define the bottom edges in the same way, using a 1/8" topstitching seam, measuring 4" from the bottom seam to find the lines to sew along.

You can also define the short sides of the bottom too, by sewing a 1/8" topstitching seam on the outside of the bag, over the corner seam that was sewn.

**#8 - Reinforce the Handles**

You can also reinforce the handles at the top of the bag by sewing an "X" .

Sew your "X" as shown for each of the four handle areas.

