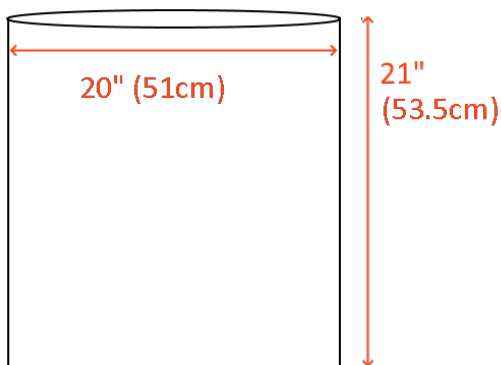


Simple Quilt Bag

Nicola Ritter, March 1, 2021

This large quilt bag is easy to make and is big enough to hold one large quilt or two single bed quilts, which is perfect for our purposes.

If you have a different bag pattern that you are used to then feel free to use it, just make sure that the finished bag is at least 20" (51cm) across and 21" (53.5cm) tall.



Requirements

- **Bag:** Two rectangular pieces at least 23" \times 20 $\frac{1}{2}$ " (58.5cm \times 52cm) of quilting or heavier fabric *or* 23" (58.5cm) of full width quilting fabric.
- **Handles:** Two pieces of 1" (2.5cm) wide strapping at least 20" (51cm) long *or* two pieces of fabric 20" \times 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ " (51cm \times 9cm).

Seams

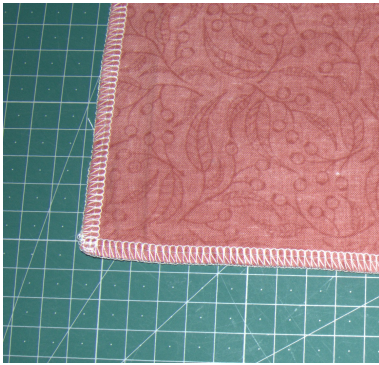
- Seams should be approximately $\frac{1}{4}$ " (6mm) wide.
- The seams need to be sturdy with finished edges in case the fabric frays, so either use an overlocker, sewing machine straight stitch plus overlock/overcast stitch, or a French seam (Google it).
- Make sure you go backwards over any straight stitching at the beginning and end of the seam to secure it.
- Overlock thread should be threaded back through the stitches to secure it.



Step 1: Simple Bag

If your fabric has a pattern, then make sure that both pieces are the same way up and with the pattern pointing upwards.

Two separate pieces: Join the two pieces (right sides together) along the two long sides and the bottom using sturdy seams.



One long piece: Fold with right sides together, matching the selvages. Sew along the selvage edge with a straight stitch and press open. Arrange the tube so that the seam is in the middle of two folded edges and then run a sturdy seam along the bottom.



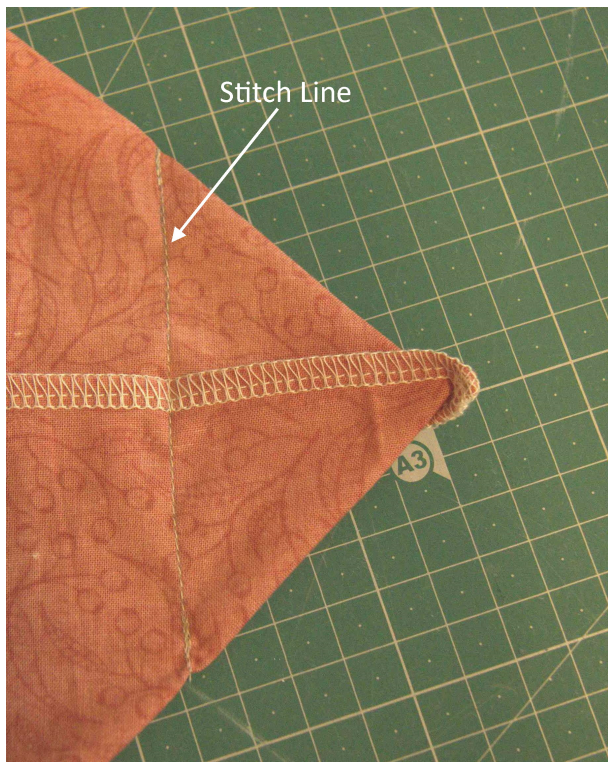
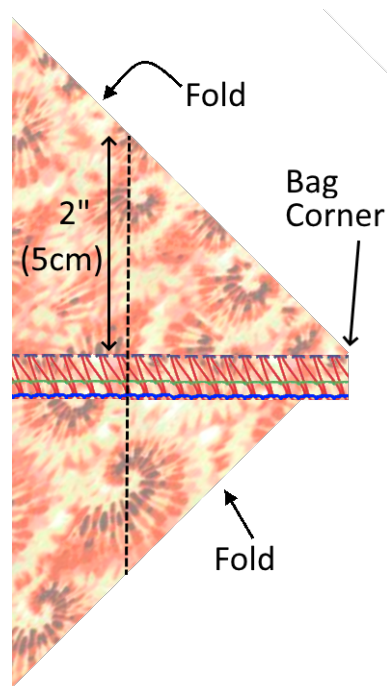
Step 2: Bag Base

Open out the bag at one of the bottom corners, so that the bottom seam runs down the middle.

If you started with one piece of fabric then the bottom seam should be running along the side fold. If you started with two pieces of fabric then the bottom seam should be lying on top of the side seam with the seams pressed in opposite directions so that they 'nest' together.

Draw a line that runs perpendicular to the seam with about 2" (5cm) each side of the seam. Stitch along this line. Do not trim the 'ears' off, as they add to the strength of the bag.

Repeat with the other corner. This gives the bag three dimensions.



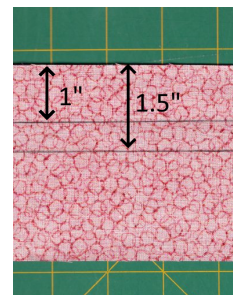
Step 3: Handles

There are lots of methods for making handles. If you have one you prefer, just use it!

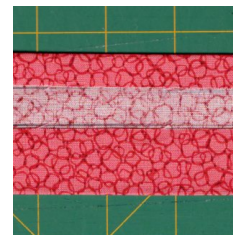
1. Cut two pieces of fabric 20" \times 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ " (51cm \times 9cm).



2. On the wrong side, draw a line down the length of the fabric, about 1" (2.5cm) from one long edge. Then draw a second line about 1/2" (1.25cm) from the first line.



3. Fold the fabric so that each of the raw edges lies along the line closest to it. Press.



4. Fold the handle length-wise so that the edge with the narrow fold lies just short of the other edge. Press.



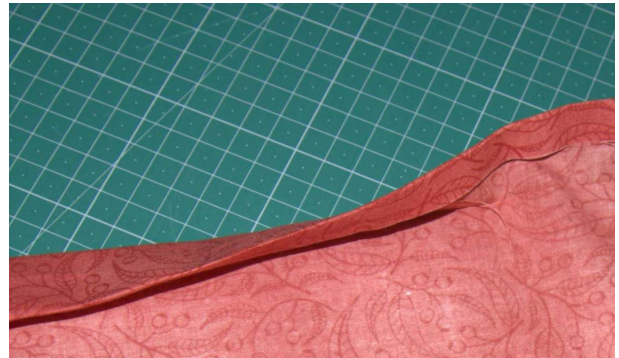
5. Stitch close to the edge of the visible fold, and then along the other edge to match.



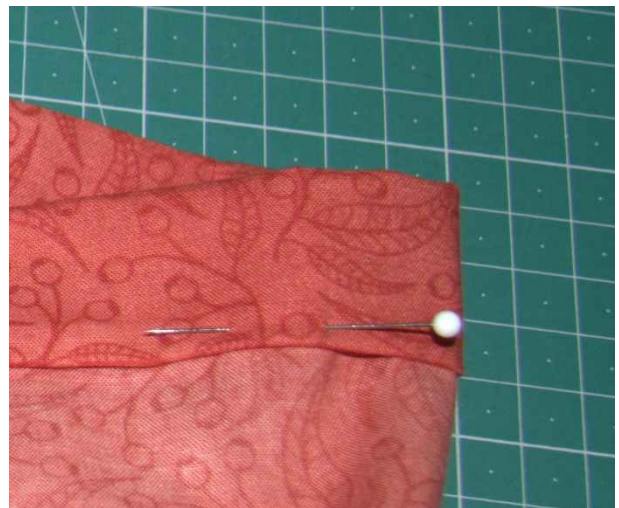
6. Repeat for the second handle.

Step 4: Finishing the Top of the Bag

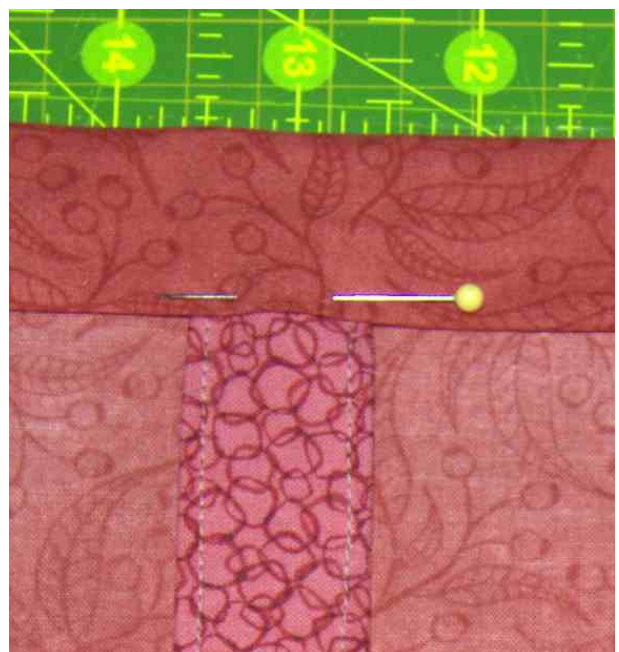
Create a hem at the top opening of the bag, with the inner fold about $\frac{1}{2}$ " (1.2cm) and the outer fold about 1" (2.5cm).



Press and pin.



Take one handle and slide the ends under the fold, about 6" (15cm) apart and equidistant from the centre of the bag. If there is a wrong side to the handle then it should face downwards. Repeat for the other handle.



Run a straight stitch around the top, a small distance from the bottom fold. Then a second row just below the top of the bag.



Fold the straps upwards, and sew a rectangle to secure each end in that position. Start along the top and end along the top with a second row.



Turn right side out, and you're done!

