

Lined fabric shopping bag.

<http://www.craftster.org/forum/index.php?topic=177482.0>

The bag is made from one pattern piece. It's just like the plastic shopping bags and in fact the pattern is made from the shopping bag.

Place the pattern on the fold of your fabric and pin. You will need to cut 2 of the main fabric and 2 of the lining fabric.

Also cut a strip 20 x 5 cm from either fabric. This is to make a loop to go over the hook at the checkout.

Iron this strip in half, wrong sides facing then bring each outside edge into the middle and iron. Now fold the strip in half so that the raw edges are hidden, iron in place then sew along each side of the strip to form the loop.

Place one main fabric piece and one lining fabric piece right sides together. Fold the strip just sewn in half and pin between the two pieces of fabric, in the middle of one "U", so that the fold is pointing down towards the bottom of the bag. Then sew the middle "U" shape. Then sew the other curved seams **BUT ENDING APPROXIMATELY 4cm BELOW THE TOP OF THE HANDLES**. This allows you to sew the top of the handles later. Clip the curves and turn right side out and press. Repeat for the other two pieces of fabric but without the loop. Don't topstitch at this stage.

Place the two pieces together, right sides of the outside together. Now we are going to work on the top of the handles. Push the lining back and pin the main fabric together:



Keeping the lining away, start sewing across the main fabric:
Keep sewing and continue on into the lining:
Continue to sew along the lining:



until you get to the end:

Push all that fabric into the handles and this is what you will get - an opening in the side of the handles:



Now put the two main pieces together and the two lining pieces together (right sides together) and sew the side seams:



Turn right side out and place the lining in the main bag. Press side seams and topstitch around the handles and the bag's opening . The topstitching will close the handle openings.

Now to make the gusset. Fold the handles in half by folding the outside underneath to meet the other side. Place the side seam parallel with the handle fold, like this but on both sides:



To anchor the handles in place, sew across the handles, in the ditch, along the line of the original stitching.

Now we are going to sew a french seam across the bottom of the bag. With right sides out, sew across the bottom of the bag (making sure to catch the gusset in the bottom seam):
2.00rim the edge so that it is smooth and even, then turn inside out. Sew across the bottom encasing the seam allowance:



Turn your bag, right side out, iron it flat, and it is now finished:

Add a button onto the side opposite the loop if you wish.