

Fabric shopping bag

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. If you have a large enough piece of fabric, unfold the pattern and fold your fabric in two so that the fold is at the bottom of the bag.

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.

1. If the bag has been cut in 2 pieces, sew the 2 pieces together along the bottom edge, on the inside.
2. Sew each side together and oversew those seams.
3. Make a loop. Iron the strip for the loop 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. Fold the strip just sewn in half and pin in the middle of one "U", so that the fold is pointing down towards the bottom of the bag.
4. Finish the curved edges by making a narrow hem and sewing it in place [preferably with a narrow zig zag stitch], catching the loop in the hem as you sew.
5. Sew the handle seams and oversew the seam
6. Now the tricky part! With the help of an iron, fold the handles in half, underneath, from the outside to the inside. Stitch in place along the 'ditch'. Fold in a gusset on each side at the bottom so that the sides are straight with the handles.
7. Sew a seam along the bottom edge, on the outside, so that the gusset is anchored.
8. Fold the loop up and sew across to anchor it in the up position.
9. Add a button onto the side opposite the loop if you wish.