



Half-Yard Shopping Bag

Just half a yard of fabric, some bias tape & narrow elastic and you'll have a handy, foldable shopping bag that you can pop in your purse so it's there when you need it!



Materials

- ½ yard cotton fabric, 45" width
- 1 ½ yards wide double-fold bias tape
- 7" narrow elastic, about ¼" width

NOTE: for Metric, use ½ m fabric - your bag will be about 5cm higher!

Approx 15" W x 17½"H,
1" x 3" x 3" folded



Half-Yard Shopping Bag

Step 1 - Cut Handles

Keeping the fabric folded as it was cut from the bolt, selvages together, cut 2" off selvage edges. They will be 2" x 18".



Step 2 - Cut & Square up

Take remaining fabric, cut at fold and square up, making two pieces 18" x about 20" (this will depend on the original width of the fabric).



Step 3 - Press & Sew Handles

Press NON-selvage edge towards center, just a bit more than a third of the width. Press selvage edge over top of raw edge, stitch handles close to edge of selvage.



Step 4 - Tack on Handles & Elastic

Measuring in about 6" from edges on long side of one bag piece, place elastic (once) and both ends of one handle, baste in place a scant 1/4" from the edge. Add only handles to second bag piece.





Step 5 - Cut Bias Binding

Cut two pieces of bias binding the to match width of the top of the bag, where the handles are tacked on.



Step 6 - Add Bias Binding to Top

Making sure you start with the narrower fold, open bias tape, align edge with top edge of one bag piece, stitch along the fold. Repeat with other bag piece.



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Step 7 - Press & Top Stitch Bias Binding

First press bias binding straight up, making sure the bag top is getting pressed downward. Then fold binding to the inside of the bag and press again. From inside, top-stitch along the lower edge of the bias binding, then stitch again along the top edge, as close to the edge as you can.



Step 8 - Seam Sides

Place bag pieces right sides together and line up top edges. Sew side seams and finish, either with a serger or a zig zag stitch on the sewing machine.





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Step 9 - Fold Bottom

With bag right-side out, place bag on ironing surface. Pull seam away from you, leaving a 2" section. Press to make a 2" fold from seam all along the side of the bag. Leaving the seam where it is, pull the top side of the bag towards you until it also has a 2" fold. Press.



Confused? It should look like a capital "M", with the center point pointing into the bag. Like this:



Clip/pin the folds in place top & bottom.



Step 10 - Finish Bottom

With bag still right-side out, sew bottom edge a scant 1/4" from edge. Cut one piece of bias binding the width of the bag bottom, PLUS 1".



Stitch bias binding to bottom edge, leaving 1/2" extra at each end.





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Step 10 - Finish Bottom, con't

Fold bias binding over the bottom edge, tucking the extra in for a closed end.

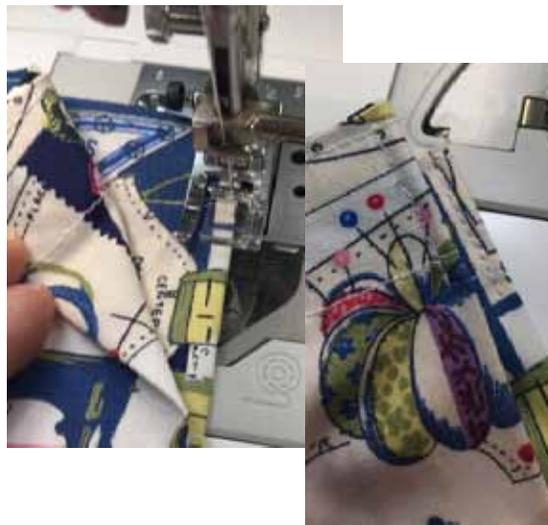


Top-stitch with a zig-zag stitch.



Step 11 - Finish Top

Sew about 1" along all four top folds, as close to the edge as possible. This makes the bag easier to fold.



Folding your Shopping Bag

Lay flat, making sure sides are folded in. Fold sides inward.



Tuck handles over bag. Fold again...



...and again, making sure elastic is on the outside. Start rolling!



Roll all the way up, then pull elastic around the bundle.

