



Eco-friendly Grocery Tote
Designer: Katrina Simeck

I guess you could call me a "bag lady"...I have dozens of fabric bags around the house. In an effort to "green up" our life, I have completely switched my grocery habits to include reusable bags. One challenge that I encountered when I started this habit was not having the bags with me when I needed them...especially on unplanned trips to the store. To remedy this, I decided to start making my own bags...that way, I'll have a few extras to keep in the car. Not only are these bags good for the environment, they're super cute!

I started out using Butterick pattern, but decided to modify it to make a little more simple. The great thing about making your own totes is that you can make whatever size fits your needs, and you can make it as fancy (or as simple) as you'd like.

Supplies:

Fiskars Classic No. 8 Bent Scissors 94517397

Fiskars 12-in-1 Sewing Multi Tool 12-59777097

Fiskars Spring Action No. 5 Micro-tip Scissors 999217097

Fiskars 6.5x24.5 inch Easy to Read Ruler 12-87327097

Fiskars 24x36 inch Cutting Mat 12-83727097

Fabric – 1 yd of cotton or canvas fabric

Wide Bias tape

General sewing supplies – thread, sewing machine, pins

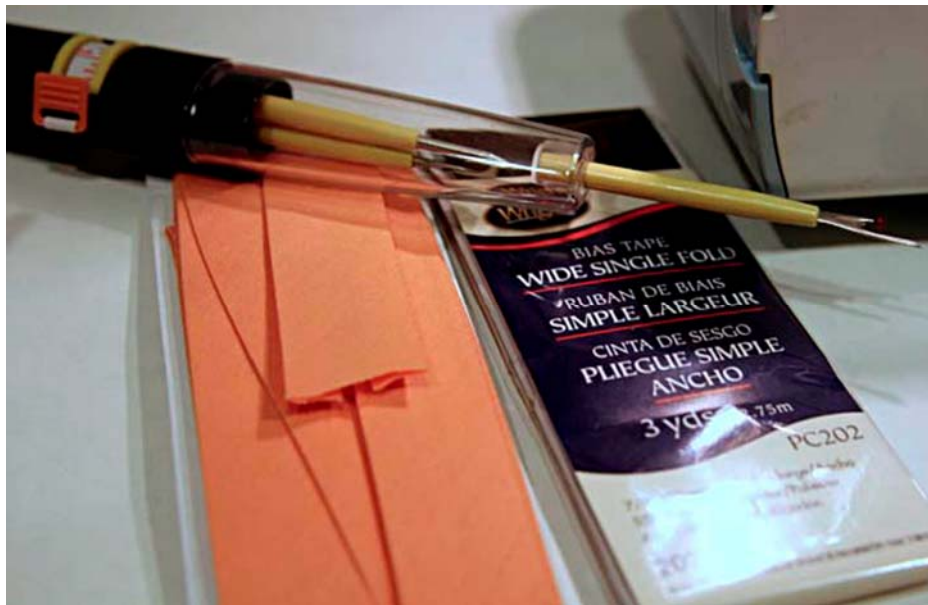
Optional – pattern (Butterick B5338)

Instructions:

1. Begin by cutting your fabric into 2 pieces. If you're following a pattern, be sure to fold your fabric, and pin the pattern according to the "fold" line. If you'd prefer to do this project "freehand," simply cut 2 pieces of fabric to your desired size, in the following modified "H" shape. This will form the body of your bag, with handles.



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2. Fold wide (7/8") bias tape over the edges of the handles, and stitch. The bias tape will bunch a bit in the inner corners...don't worry about making those corners perfect. And remember, if you make an error, the seam ripper in the 12-in-1 Sewing multi tool comes in very handy!



3. Pin right sides of the bag together, and stitch along the sides. Encase the side edges of the handles in bias tape & stitch.

4. With right sides still together, fold the sides of the bag inward, far enough so that the handles are folded in half. It might help to iron the folds at this point (I'm always looking for shortcuts when I sew!)



5. Stitch along the bottom. For reference, you'll be stitching through each of the folded portions and the center of the bag.

6. Turn the bag right side out, and fold along the same lines (think of making a pleat along the sides of the bag). Press with iron.

7. Now for the handles (this part is a bit tricky!). Open the back handle, and fold over the front handle. You'll have right sides of the fabric together.



8. Stitch along the top of the handles. Turn the handles right side out and press.

Now you're ready to fill up your bag with food. Let's go shopping!