

# Grocery Sack

By Mary Tabar



## Materials

Nylon fabric:

1 1/4 yard (60" width)  
will make 2 sacks

Matching thread for  
hemming

Four feet of ribbon,  
webbing, or make han-  
dles from main fabric

Square of cardboard for  
bottom of sack  
(optional)



This grocery sack can be all sizes and shapes. I personally went to many food stores and purchased their recyclable grocery sacks. Each sack can be a different size and made from different fabrics.

I found after making several sacks, that I like using a nylon fabric. This is not the easiest fabric to sew. The seams need to be serged or done as a French seam. The fabric for the handles can be the same fabric as the bag, gross grain ribbon, webbing, or purchased handles.

If you don't have nylon, you can use cotton or even a heavier fabric like canvas. The nylon really rolls up so small, that you could carry a few of them in a purse, and use instead of plastic or paper sacks.

Any type of fabric will work, and the cheaper the better! Make several for family and friends. You can embroidery or decorate any manner you wish.

**Cutting:** One 22" piece cut width of fabric. Nylon fabric is 60" wide. Cut the fabric 40" long (if you are using 45" fabric, just use the whole piece) the handles are 4" wide and 22" long, cut two times. You can make them from the left over 60" fabric.

**Sewing the sack:** Sew the two long sides together. Using a serger is easier. If you do not have this type of machine or stitch, a French seam is recommended.

A French seam is made by first sewing a 1/4" seam allowance, **wrong sides together**, then turned so that the right sides are together and another 1/2" seam is sewn, enclosing the first seam. This is sturdy and keeps the inner seams from raveling.

**Sew the gussets:** To make the gusset, flatten the bag with the bottom seam on top. Mark a line five inches from the tip of the triangular shape. Five inches will be on both sides of the triangle. Sew across this line and back stitch for a strong seam. When you turn the bag right-side-out, it will stand up like a paper grocery sack. Sew a one inch hem around the top of the bag. Serging the edge, or turn down 1/4" and hem.

**Making the handles:** If you are using fabric for the handles, fold the 4" by 44" in half and serge the seam. Turn the tube and cut in half. Fold 1/4" on each end and hem. The nylon might need 1/2" hem, it slips around.

Lay the handles 5" from one seamed side and sew on the hemmed edge, turn the handles around and topstitch down each side, attaching the other part of the handle on the other side. Go back and stitch an "X" where the handle is on the bag. This gives strength to your grocery sack. Do this for both handles.

Have fun shopping with your eco friendly grocery sack.

More ideas can be found at:  
<http://www.sleepingbaby.net/jan/Baby/>