

Annie's Gift Bags

Make these fast and fun gift bags to personalize your gift giving and help reduce paper waste in the environment. Encourage the recipient to reuse the bag for someone else. The bags can be simple or highly decorated. If you are a quilter, you probably have a fabric stash with fabrics appropriate for many seasons, reasons and people. If you are in a pinch for gift wrap, you can go to you fabric collection and make a jiffy, reusable, custom gift bag.



[Basic directions](#) can be found on this page here.



[Wine bag directions](#) can be found at the end.

information further down the page:

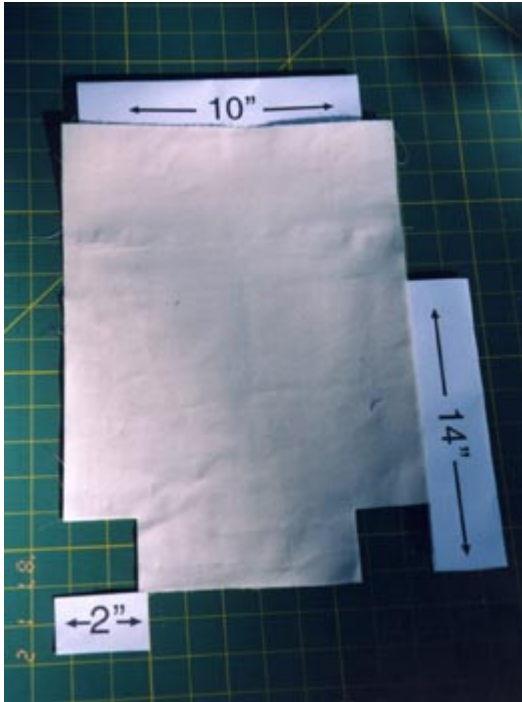
[Size Suggestions](#)

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Basic Directions

1. Cut two rectangles of the same size (Click [HERE](#) for size suggestions).





2. Cut a square out of each bottom corner.



3. Sew rectangles of cloth together on sides and bottom edges (right sides together).



4. Open bag and fold so that one side seam lines up with bottom seam. Sew along the diagonal which is formed. Repeat for other side.



5. Fold top edge down about an inch and top stitch around bag to form casing for cord. Use straight or zig-zag stitch.

6. Turn bag so right sides are outside. Use your seam ripper to remove a few stitches on one side seam to provide an opening for the drawstring.

7. Pin safety pin to end of grill grain ribbon, metallic cord or self made cord and string through casing. The cord should be about three times the width of the bag. After cord is through casing, tie a small knot at each end.

(To make your own cord, cut a length of the desired fabric 1 1/2" wide by about three times the width of the bag. Fold over twice (so raw edges are inside the fold) and top stitch with either straight or zig-zag stitches).

You can make the gift bags any size you like. In general cut the rectangles taller than wide (4 or 5 inches difference is good)

Size Suggestions

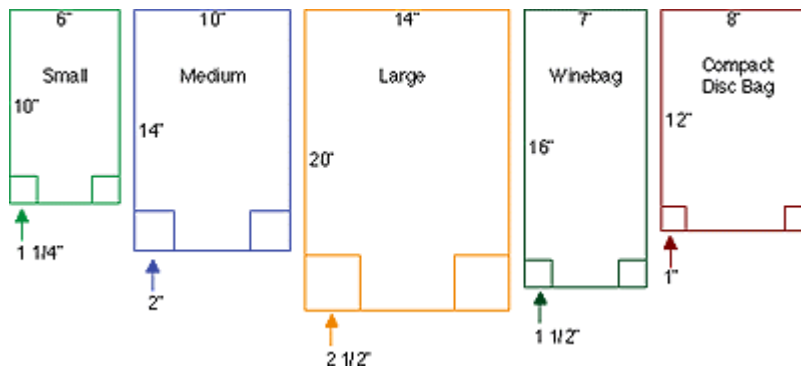
Small - Cut 6" x 10" rectangles. Cut out bottom squares about 1 1/4" x 1 1/4".

Medium -Cut 10" x 14" rectangles. Cut out bottom squares about 2" x 2".

Large -Cut 14" x 20" rectangles. Cut out bottom squares about 2 1/2" x 2 1/2"

Wine Bottles - 7" x 16". Cut out bottom squares about 1 1/4" x 1 1/4"

Compact Disk Bag - 8" x 12". Cut out bottom squares about 1" x 1"



Fabric Choices

1. You can use printed holiday fabric or fabric which seems appropriate for the recipient or occasion.
2. Choose a plain or simple background fabric and embellish it.

Embellishment Ideas

1. Use a plain fabric and cut out a panel or section of specialty fabric. Attach specialty fabric to background fabric with wonder under. You can leave it at this or use a machine embroidery stitch to finish the edges. Or use liquid decorative sealer on the edge. Or you could appliqué decorative fabrics on top of the background.
2. Use photo transfer material or have a photo transfers made at a local copy store to create custom fabric with a favorite photograph or drawing.

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3. Sew stuff on the bag, use buttons, trims, whatever you like.
4. Sew bells on the ends of the cords.
5. Use your imagination to create something special for your recipient.

Annie's Gift Bags - Wine Bag



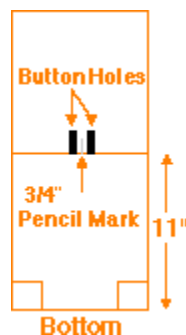
Make this wine gift bag to personalize your gift giving and help reduce paper waste in the environment. Encourage the recipient to reuse the bag for someone else. The bags can be simple or highly decorated. If you are a quilter, you probably have a fabric stash with fabrics appropriate for many seasons, reasons and people. If you are in a pinch for gift wrap, you can go to you fabric collection and make a reusable, custom gift bag.

Note: you will need a sewing machine with a narrow arm for part of this construction.

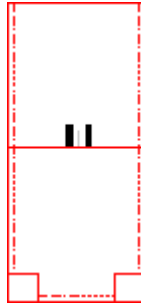
1. Cut two rectangles of the same size - 7" x 22"
2. Cut a 1 1/4" square out of each bottom corner.



3. Make a pencil mark 3/4" long starting 11" above center of bottom edge of front of bag.



4. Make two button holes, one on each side of pencil mark. Cut opening of button holes.
5. Sew rectangles of cloth together on sides and bottom edges (right sides together)



6. Open bag and fold so that one side seam lines up with bottom seam. Sew along the diagonal which is formed. Repeat for other side. See photograph for step three on Annie's Gift Bag Instructions.
7. Fold top edge down about six inches and top stitch around bag to form casing for cord. Sew both above and below the button holes. Use straight or zig-zag stitch. You need a narrow free arm on sewing machine to be able to do this.
8. Turn bag so right sides are outside.
9. Pin safety pin to end of grill grain ribbon, metallic cord or self made cord and string through casing. The cord should be about three times the width of the bag. After cord is through casing, tie a small knot at each end.
10. At this point you can insert wine bottle and tighten ribbon around neck of bottle and tie a bow. You can also embellish the front with silk flowers or other trim.