

Easy Market Bag Pattern

There are several options included in this pattern. The best options will depend on the size of the fabric you will be using for the bag and the material you choose for the handles. Read through all the instructions before you begin so you can choose the best options for your project.



Notes about Fabric Selection:

This pattern does not include a lining. The fabric used should be thick enough to survive use and washing.

You can use different fabric or material for the straps to add contrast to the bag fabric.

It would be best to use one piece of 41" x 21" fabric or 54" wide fabric that is folded across the bottom, for added strength. But you can use two pieces of fabric 21" x 21" and reinforce the stitching across the bottom of the bag.

Types of fabric that work well for this pattern:

- Canvas
- Double Knit (not too stretchy)
- Upholstery Fabric that won't fray along the edges easily
- Corduroy
- Denim

Options for Cutting the Fabric:

Option 1: For one yard of 54" wide fabric and additional material for bag handles, **Makes 3**

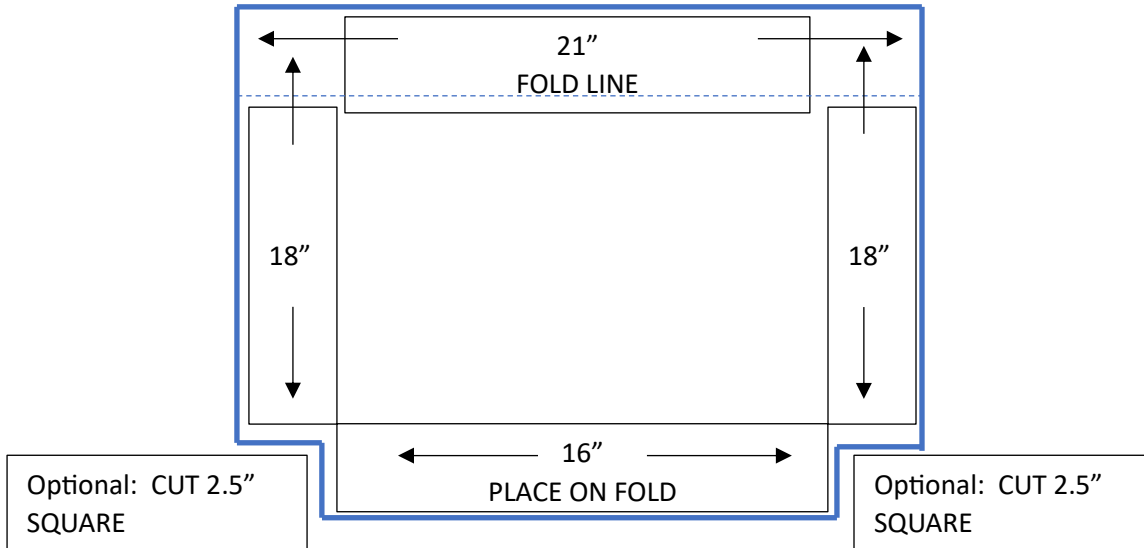
1. Cut the fabric length to 36".
2. Fold in half, selvedge to selvedge.
3. From the folded edge, measure 9" and cut the entire 36" length.
4. This will give you three pieces that are 18" by 36".
5. Cut off selvedges.
6. You will need additional material for the bag handles.

Option 2: For 54" wide fabric, cut 22" long, includes material for bag handles, **Makes 1**

1. Cut the fabric length to 22".
2. Cut off selvedges.
3. From the selvedge side, measure and cut 5" from the newly cut edge.
4. These 2 - 5"x22" pieces will be used to make the bag handles.
5. The remaining 22"x44" piece of fabric will be used to make one bag.

Option 3: For 42" wide fabric, Use the pattern below to cut the fabric, **Makes 1**

1. Use One piece of 42" wide fabric, folded and cut to 21" length.
Or Use Two pieces of fabric, 21" x 21".

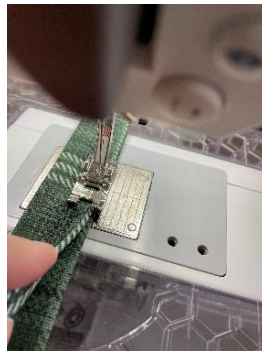


2. Fold the fabric right sides together, in half to measure 21" across and 20.5" tall.
3. Place the pattern on top of the fabric so that the bottom marked Place on Fold is on top of the fold of the fabric.
4. Cut around the pattern. The seam allowances are included.
5. Cut two strips of fabric, 5" x 27" for the bag handles.

Options for Making Bag Handles:

Option 1: Fold in raw edges and top stitch

1. Fold the strips in half lengthwise and press.
2. Fold the raw edges into the middle and press again, to make a double folded sandwich.
3. Sew the folded edges together and top stitch along both sides.



4. Alternatively, fold each long edge with $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance fold toward the middle, and lay the edges next to each other. Stitch along the middle of the strap to secure both long ends.
5. Handles can be made from a coordinating fabric or a matching fabric.

Option 2: Use other materials

1. Use men's work ties, cut to a length between 22" – 27". This is a good way to upcycle old ties.
2. Use nylon straps or other wide material, cut to a length between 22" – 27".

Option 3: Make a tube and turn it inside out (not recommended)

1. Fold the strap material in half lengthwise, right sides together.
2. Sew along the edge, lengthwise.
3. Turn right side out. (This can be difficult if the strap is too thin)

Options for Adding Straps to the Bag:

Option 1: Attach straps to outside of the bag **after** folding down top

1. First construct the bag and fold down the top edge.
2. Tuck the raw ends of each strap inside the strap or fold under.
3. Find the center of the short edge of the bag.
4. Place the two ends of the strap 5" on either side of the center line on the outside of the bag.
5. The ends of the straps should extend between 1" – 2" down from the top edge, with the middle of the handle above the top of the bag.
6. Stitch in place on all sides and with diagonal stitches to make an X shape across the strap end to secure it in place.



Option 2: Attach straps to short edge of bag **before** folding down top

1. Before constructing the bag, lay the fabric flat on a work surface, right side up.
2. Find the center of the short edge of the bag.
3. Place the two ends of the strap 5" on either side of the center line on the right side of the bag.
4. The ends of the straps should line up with the raw edge of the top of the bag. The middle of the handle should be below the top edge of the bag.
5. Pin in place.
6. Stitch the handles in place individually or serge the handles in place while serging the entire top raw edge.



Options for Sewing the Top and Sides of the Market Bag:

Option 1: Use a serger

1. After adding the straps to the raw edge of the top of the bag, serge around the top edge of the bag along both sides.
2. Lay both sides, right sides together, and serge along each side.
3. Serge along the bottom if you are using two pieces of fabric that is not folded.
4. Fold down the top edge, wrong sides together, between 1" – 2".
5. The middle of the handles should be above the top of the edge of the bag.

6. Top stitch around the top of the bag and again along the serged edge.

Option 2: Use a French Seam for added strength

1. Press top edges towards the wrong side, $\frac{1}{4}$ " to enclose the raw edges.
2. Fold the top edge down, wrong sides together, between 1" – 2".
3. Top stitch around the top of the bag edge and again along the folded raw edge.
4. Sew the handles in place either on inside or outside. Do this before sewing the side seams.
5. With wrong sides together, align sides.
6. Sew a scant $\frac{1}{4}$ " along the side edges.
7. Turn inside out and press, rolling the seam in your fingers to get it open and flat.
8. Sew the sides again at about $\frac{3}{8}$ " to enclose the raw edges of the previous seam.

Options for Making a Box Pleat on the Bottom of the Bag:

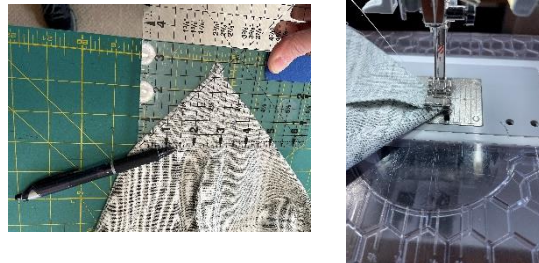
Option 1: Before you sew the sides of the bag

1. Fold the fabric, right sides together.
2. Tuck the bottom edge up into the inside of the bag about 2".
3. Sew the sides. The fold will be sewn/caught into the seam and will create a pleated box.
4. On the outside of the bag, fold up the triangle piece on the bottom of each side and sew in place.



Option 2: After you sew the sides of the bag

1. Lay one side seam along the bottom fold of the bag and flatten the bottom corner of the bag.
2. Measure between 2" – 3" across the corner and sew a straight stitch.
3. Repeat on the other bottom corner.
4. Fold each bottom triangle toward the bottom of the bag and stitch in place to secure.



Option 3: After you sew the sides of the bag, **AND** you previously cut out the bottom corners using the pattern diagram

1. For each of the bottom corners, fold the side seam of the bag along the bottom fold.
2. Flatten the fabric so the two edges of each corner line up.
3. Stitch across the corner seam using a serger or use a French Seam as before.