

Gift Bag With Fabric Drawstring

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This is a fun project that can be completed in a couple of hours or more time can be spent working on quilting block designs for added decoration. People will enjoy receiving a gift wrapped in a fabric bag that can be reused.

Note: There are three 9 inch quilt block pattern suggestions at the bottom of this document. They are optional for this project.

Materials: Two fat quarters (front, back and tie) or use fabric scraps to make quilt blocks for the front and back; 3" square of iron on interfacing for the button holes; sewing machine with button hole capability; thread; tape measure; scissors or rotary cutter with mat; iron with ironing board

Step 1	<i>Cut two 9 ½ by 15 ½ inch rectangles from the front and back fabrics or use two 9 inch block patterns with 9 ½ by 6 ½ inch pieces of fabric for the top of the front and back.</i> These will be used to make the front and back of the gift bag as well as the casing for the fabric tie. You should have a total of two rectangles when the quilt blocks are sewn together with the tops.
Step 2	<i>Cut one 1 ½ by 22 inch rectangles for the tie.</i> You should have one rectangle.
Step 3	Fold the 1 ½ by 22 inch piece in half the long way, wrong sides together. Use the iron to make a strong crease. Open the fold up and fold the two long sides to the center fold and use the iron to make a strong crease. Sew a ¼ inch seam down the 22 inch side to make the tie. Fold in the ends and sew across the opening to make finished ends for the tie.
Step 4	Place the two 9 ½ by 15 ½ inch rectangles face to face and sew around three sides, leaving the top of the bag open (the short end with the plain piece of fabric if using the quilt blocks).
Step 5	Iron the interfacing on the inside of the bag across one of the side seams and about 5 inches from the top of the bag. This will be to reinforce the button holes on either side of the side seam.
Step 6	Make one 1 inch button hole on either side of the side seam with the interfacing. This will be a total of two button holes.

Step 7	With the bag inside out, fold down the top of the bag to about half an inch below the button holes. Iron a crease on the fold.
Step 8	With the bag still inside out, sew a straight line around the bag just above and just below the button holes. Make sure to catch the edge of the folded top. This forms the casing for the fabric drawstring.
Step 9	Turn the bag right side out and use a safety pin or other bodkin to thread the drawstring through the casing.
Step 10	Fill the gift bag with a gift, pull the drawstring and tie a bow with the ends of the tie.

Three 9-inch Quilt Block Ideas

Quilt Block #1: Sew three 3 ½ by 9 ½ inch strips of fabric together to make a 9 ½ by 9 ½ inch quilt block. This pattern is known as Rail Fence.

Quilt Block #2: Sew nine 3 ½ inch squares of fabric together in three rows of three blocks, then sewn together to make a 9 ½ inch quilt block. This pattern is known as a Nine Patch.

Quilt Block #3: Sew five 3 ½ inch squares of fabric together with four 3 ½ inch half square triangle squares on the four corners. See directions below for making the half square triangles.

Half Square Triangle Directions:

Step 1	Cut two 3 7/8 inch pieces of fabric (one light and one dark). Place them face to face.
Step 2	With the light fabric facing up, use a ruler and pen to draw a diagonal line from one corner to the opposite corner.
Step 3	Sew a ¼ inch seam on either side of the diagonal line.
Step 4	Cut the triangles apart on the center diagonal line.
Step 5	Press open the fabric on both pieces. Press the seam to the dark side of the fabric. This makes two squares.