

Gift Bags to Re-Gift!

By Karen Charles

Create this fun, easy to make holiday gift bag and encourage the gift-receivers to re-gift the bags to others! The bag can be a single layer of fabric that is finished inside with a serger, but it is more fun to line the bags, which makes them reversible. Use solids or printed calico cotton, or go wild and mix it up with silk dupioni and other fabulous fabrics like velvets, satins and upholstery fabric.



Supplies:

1/2 yard each of two coordinating fabrics - will make multiple bags
Sewing thread to match
1 yard rat tail, ribbon or other suitable cord for drawstring
Scissors
Rotary cutter (optional)
Pins
Fabric marking pen that will erase with heat/water, or chalk
Large needle or safety pin
Inspira Stick N Fuse 11 -Optional if you add an applique

Cut: Cut 1 each of the two fabrics 7" wide x 19" long.

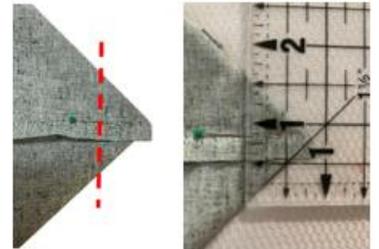
Prepare:

1. Fold each fabric in half, right sides together.
2. Place a wash-away pen or chalk mark 1 3/4" from the top on the left and right of each fabric.
3. Set your machine for 1/4" seam allowance.
4. If you want to add an embroidery, like the Star of David bag, do it before you start sewing the bag together. The designs should be centered on the front. The Star of David embroidery design can be found in MySewNet Embroidery.



Sew:

1. For each piece of fabric, start sewing at the $1\frac{3}{4}$ " mark a half inch, then back stitch to lock the seam. Sew down to the bottom of the bag. Stop and cut the threads.
2. Repeat the process for the remaining side seams of both fabrics.
3. Press the bottom fold and seam to one side.
4. If you want to box the bottom so the bag stands up, fold the side seam to the bottom fold mark that was just pressed so they line up. Pin.
5. Measure $\frac{3}{4}$ " from the dashed red line to the tip of the fabric. For a larger flat bottom, measure 1" from the read line to the tip of the fabric. Mark a line on your fabric where the dotted red line is on your fabric.
6. Sew along the red line. Repeat for the other corner and on both corners on the 2nd fabric.



7. Place one of the fabrics inside of the other so the right sides are together.
8. Sew one fabric to the other along the top, both front and back, using $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance.

9. Pull the inside fabric out so one fabric to the left and one to the right, with the raw edges showing. Where the two fabrics join, fold the raw edge back a $\frac{1}{4}$ ". Do not sew the opening closed, you are just turning the sew allowance back so the raw edge won't show when the bag is turned right side out.



10. Turn the bag right side out through the opening. Press the seams at the top of the bag where one fabric meets the other.
11. Draw a line $1\frac{1}{2}$ " and $\frac{3}{4}$ " from the top on both the front and back. Sew along the marked line, front and back to form the casing.

12. Thread the cord or rat tail through one side of the casing and through the second side. Repeat with a second cord from the opposite side. Tie the ends of one cord together. Tie the ends of the second cord together. When you pull on the cord on the left and the right, the bag will close easily.

To make larger bags, increase the size of the fabric you cut, and follow the directions to sew together. Consider appliquéing fabric to the front, as the Kwanza Bag pictured below. To convert this design to use for a menorah use 9 candles and change the colors to blues and silver.

Before cutting fabric for an applique, iron on Inspira Stitch N Fuse 11 on the back of the fabric. Cut the fabric shapes out. Remove the paper from the back of the pieces and place the pieces on the front of the bag center from top to bottom and side to side. Lift the pieces up to move till you are happy with the complete design. Iron in place.

Use a satin stitch, zig zag stitch or decorative stitch to cover the raw edges or get creative and use the specialty bobbin case to add ribbons and yard to the edges or the candle holder for an embellished look.

To make the Kwanza bag, cut the rectangle 36" L x 16" W. The candles are cut $\frac{3}{4}$ " wide. If you like the look of different heights of candle, cut strips that are $\frac{3}{4}$ " wide and then sub cut them to the heights of candles you want. If you have an embroidery machine, embroidery words to add interest. If you do not have an embroidery machine, you can type a word on your computer in the size of font you want and print the word to use as a template. Get creative and make the bags as personal as you want or keep them general so they can be gifted to others.

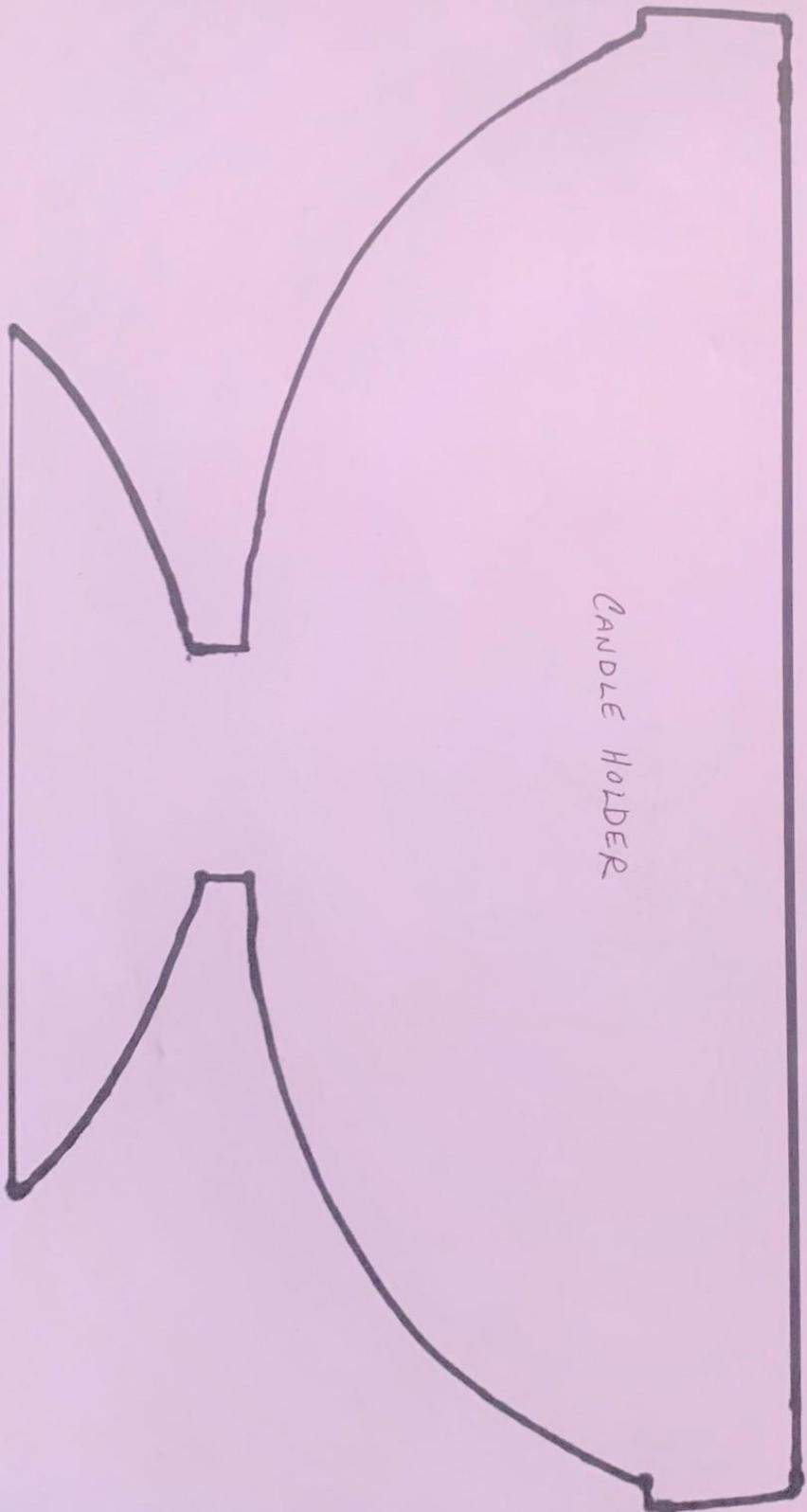
Everyone will love receiving their presents in these person recyclable bags.



CANDLE - CUT 7 FOR KUNDA ZAH
3 RED, 3 GREEN, 1 BLACK



HANUKKAH MENORAH - CUT 9 CANDLES



CANDLE HOLDER