

## Save the Planet Veggie Bags

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Spring is coming, and this means our farmers' markets and grocery stores will soon be bursting with fresh crops of our favorite fruits and veggies. You probably already have a collection of re-usable shopping bags handy, but with just one yard of fabric, you can make six assorted re-usable, washable bags to use when you shop for produce. It's a small gesture to using a little less plastic!



**Drawstring Bag Sizes:** approximately 15" x 20", 10" x 10", and 7" x 7". Use the largest bag for heavy things like oranges and apples, or big leafy bundles of greens. Use the smallest bag for fresh herbs, and things you buy in smaller quantities like garlic or ginger.

### **Skill Level:**

Confident beginner (all straight seams, no bias edges). Skills required: Basic rotary cutting and a mostly consistent seam allowance.

### **Time:**

2 to 3 Hours

### **Janome Supplies Required:**

Sam uses the Horizon Memory Craft 8900 QCP

Satin Stitch Foot F (or a foot that will handle a zig-zig stitch)

OR AcuFeed Flex Dual Feed Foot or Walking Foot

### **Fabric and Notions Required:**

- 1 yard regular cotton fabric of your choice - this is a great opportunity to bust some stash and use up fabrics you no longer love!
- Thread to match or accent (plus one wound bobbin of the thread)
- 5 yards of 1/2" or 5/8" twill tape or grosgrain ribbon

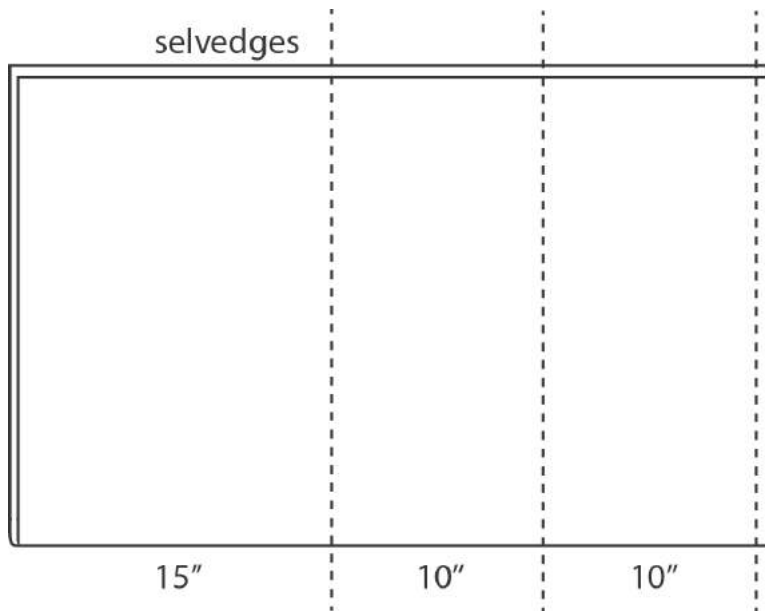
**Before you begin:**

All seam allowances are a generous 1/4" unless otherwise stated.

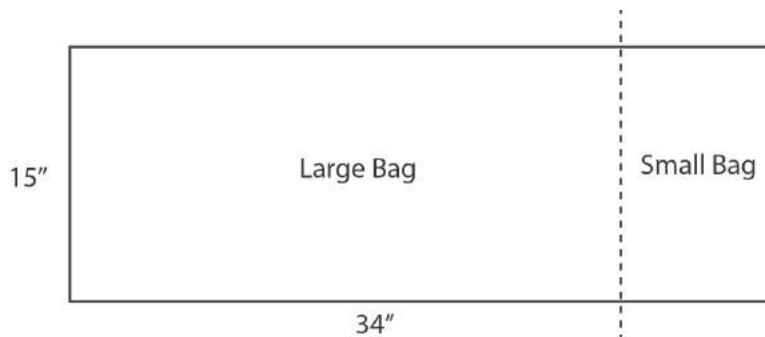
This pattern assumes your fabric is at least 40" wide, selvedge to selvedge. There is no need to trim the fabric back to 40" if it happens to be wider – you'll just have slightly deeper bags.

**Let's get started!**

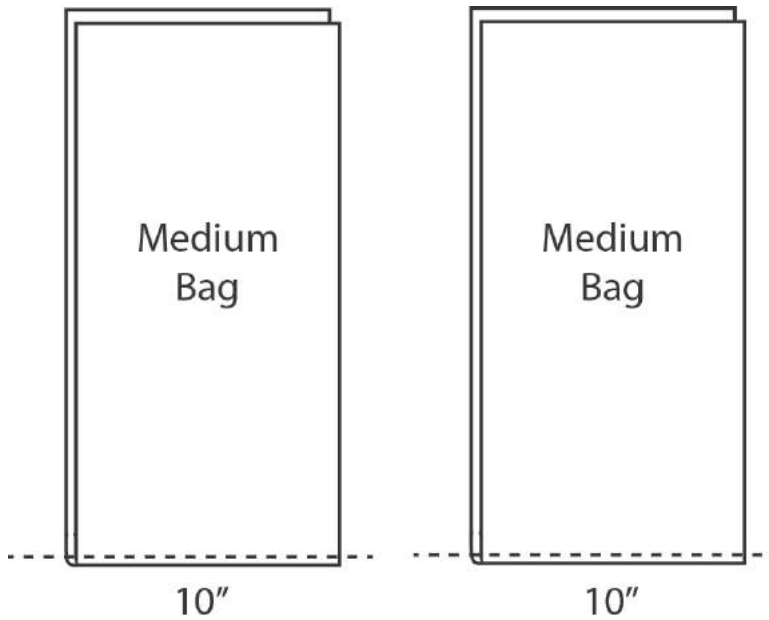
1. Fold the fabric such that the selvedges are together. Remove the selvedges, and cut according to the drawing below:



2. Take the 15" wide piece, and trim it to 34" – this will become the Large bag. Keep the remainder of the piece for the Small bag.



3. Take the remaining 10" widths, and cut them at the fold to make 4 pieces of 10" x 20ish"



NOTE: The instructions are the same for all sizes of bags from here out. You can make them one at a time, or do the same step on all six bags at once before moving to the next step.

4. The bag is made with a fold at the bottom, and seams up both sides. Keeping this in mind, press over about a 1/4" of both top edges of the fabric (WRONG sides together).



5. Set your machine up with either a zig-zag foot or AcuFeed/walking foot, with straight stitch at 2.20 stitch length, and topstitch both of these edges down. I like using the AcuFeed/walking foot for this as it keeps seams flatter, and the edges aligned without needing to use pins.



6. Fold the bag, RIGHT sides together. Mark or place a pin 2" down from the top on ONE side.



7. With a generous 1/4" seam, sew from this mark, with a straight stitch, to the bottom of the bag (at the fold), locking the stitches well at each end.

8. Press open the seam allowances of the 2" opening (but DON'T press the rest of the seam open).



9. Straight stitch around this opening to stabilize it.



10. Clip the seam allowance just below the stabilizing stitches so the remainder of the seam can be closed again.



11. Stitch from the fold at the bottom of the bag to the clip using an Overcast Stitch (such as Stitch 12 on the Memory Craft 8900 QCP). This is a stitch that is both zig-zag and straight stitch at the same time. The zig-zag stops the seam from fraying, and the straight stitch adds extra strength to the seam.





12. Sew the opposite seam closed also, using both straight and overcast stitches.

13. Fold the top edge of the bag over, WRONG sides together, to make the casing tube for the drawstring, and press.



14. Stitch along the topstitched line, all around the bag, to make the casing. Be sure to back tack at the opening for extra strength.



15. I don't usually clip the corners here as I find that it can weaken the seams at the corners. Just turn the bag RIGHT sides out, tuck the corners in, and press.



16. Cut a length of twill tape or grosgrain ribbon that is 12" longer than the circumference of the bag. Pin a safety pin to one end, and use this to thread the ribbon through the casing.



17. Tie the ribbon in a knot close to the bag, and cut off at an angle to prevent fraying.



18. Put your collection of bags with your other shopping bags, and fill them full of produce next time you shop. And be prepared for a lot of admiring comments about your pretty cloth bags!

