

# Designs by Maude Grocery Bag

This shopping bag is made of 100% cotton, is fully machine washable and dryer safe, nearly indestructible, and will last for years.

## Materials:

- 1 piece of cotton canvas (duck cloth works well) at least 39" wide and 37.5" long AFTER washing in warm water.
- 1 piece of contrasting accent fabric at least 39" wide and between 9" and 11" long AFTER washing in warm water. Cotton prints work well for this.
- 1 piece of 2" wide, 33" long cotton strapping in a color that looks nice with the color of your canvas.
- 1 piece of 1" wide, 5" long cotton strapping in the same color as the longer, wider strapping.
- Thread to match the color of the canvas.

## Tools:

An iron that steams nicely, pins, scissors, tailors chalk, a long ruler, and heavy duty hand-sewing needle. A rotary cutter and a large mat are EXTREMELY useful also. A seam ripper. A sewing machine that can stitch through 8 layers of canvas and size 90 or larger needles (denim).

## Instructions:

1. Read all instructions, start to finish, before you begin.
2. VERY IMPORTANT: Wash all fabric and strapping in warm water and dry on normal heat.
3. Press all fabric flat.
4. Cut the canvas into a well-squared-off rectangle 37-1/2" long and 39" wide. Do not use the selvage as the selvage edges on canvas get wavy and are too difficult to square, and it is very important for both pieces of fabric to be perfect rectangles.
5. Cut the contrasting accent fabric 39" wide, neatly squared, and from 9 to 12" long. Again, it is very important to square off the fabric – otherwise, the shopping bag will not look right.
6. Lay canvas flat, right side up, on your cutting table (fig. 1)



fig 1

7. Measure the length of the accent fabric and subtract 1" ( i.e. 9" minus 1" = 8" for a 9" long piece of accent fabric). Measure down from the top of the canvas that measurement and draw a line with tailor's chalk and a straight edge (green line in fig 2).



fig 2

8. Put accent fabric face down; measure up 1/2 from the bottom of the accent fabric and make a line (yellow line, fig. 3).

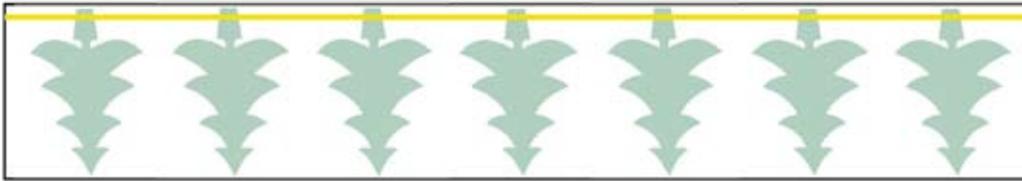


fig 3

9. Place the accent fabric right side down, upside down, on the canvas; line up the edge of the accent fabric and the green mark; pin; stitch. Line up the sides evenly (fig. 4).

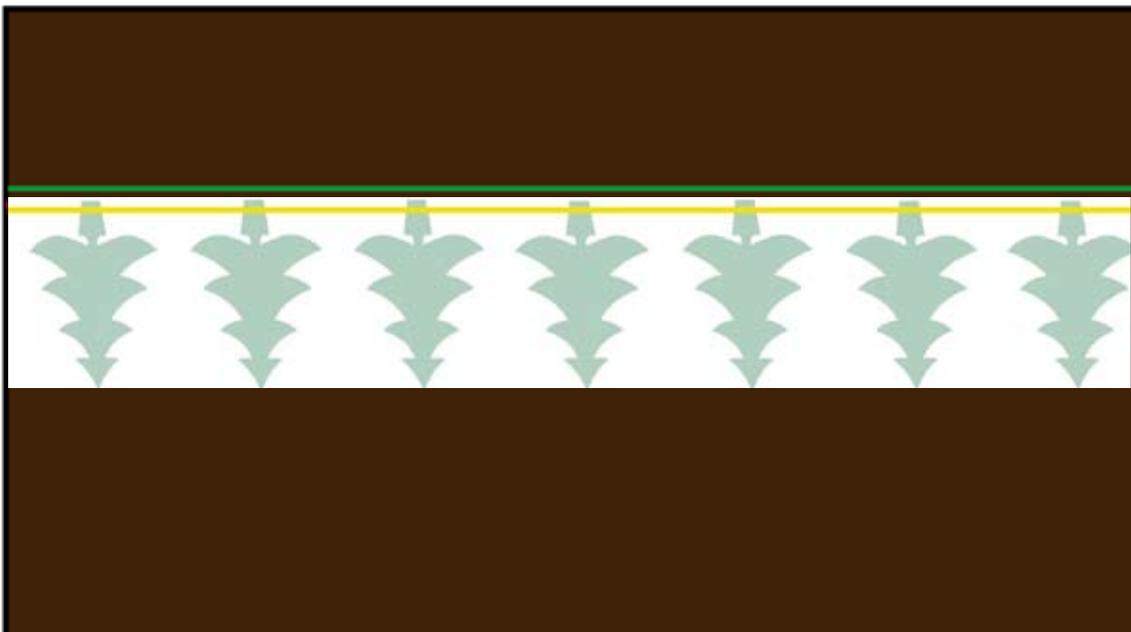


fig 4

10. Press seam to set; then fold accent fabric up so that top of the accent fabric lines up with the top of the canvas; press flat, and top stitch along bottom of accent fabric (dotted line, fig. 5). Press to set top stitching.

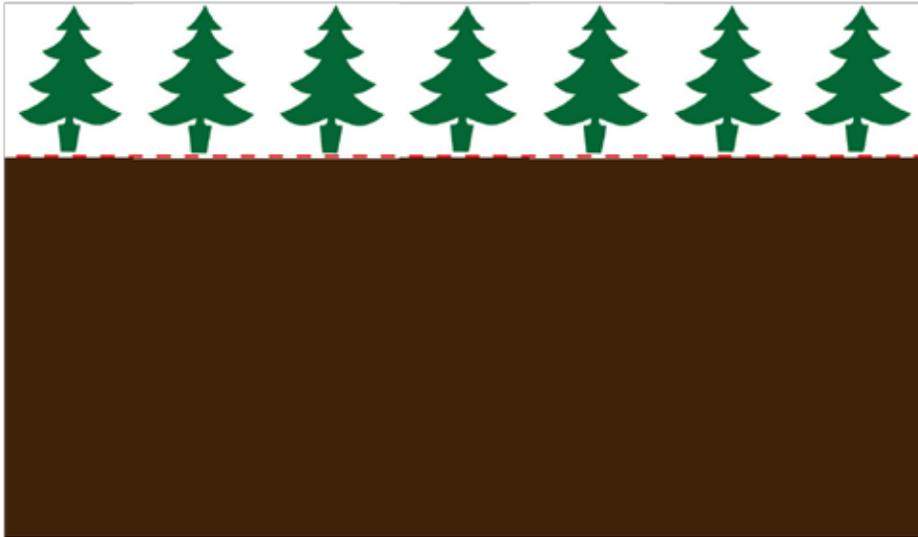


fig 5

11. Fold bottom of canvas up to top of canvas (fig. 6) right sides together and stitch 1/2" seam allowance seam across the top, with 6" of basting in the middle. DO NOT forget to tack both ends of regular stitching before and after the basting (fig. 7).



fig 6



fig 7

12. Press seam to set.; then press seam towards accent fabric.

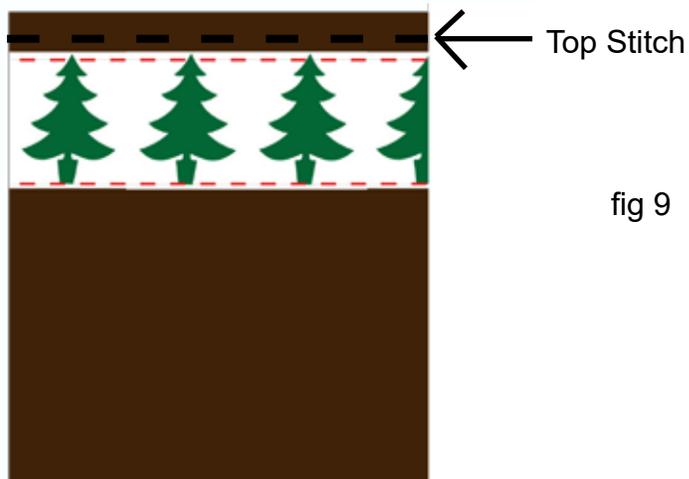
13. Pull one end of seam through the tube to match the other end, right sides together on the inside of the tube (pull end A in fig 8 through the center of the tube to match end B).



14. Line up top seam of end A with top seam of end B; stitch 1/2" from edge all the way around. Press to set side seam then jiggle the tube around so that the side seam is in the middle of the tube (not the ends) and press side seam open flat.

15. Find basted portion of top seam, remove the basted seam, reach into the hole and turn the tube right side out.

16. Measure 2" of canvas at top of insert, pin (don't forget to pin the hole where the basting used to be), press, and top stitch on canvas. Your flattened bag should now resemble fig. 9. Press top stitching to set seam.



17. Measure 1/2" up from bottom, side to side, and mark. See green mark, fig 10. Pin top of bag and bottom of bag, exactly over each other, somewhere in the middle (yellow mark, fig. 10).

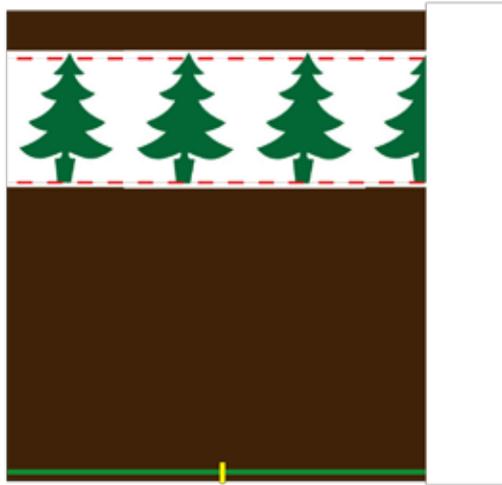


fig 10

18. Match bottom part pin with top of part pin, and the edge of the bottom with the line drawn on the top (the green line in the picture). Pin from edge to edge, as far as possible. The bag should now have a 1/2" overlap on the "bottom". This is your bottom seam.
19. Hand baste along 1/2" overlapping bottom seam or pin the bottom seam, but be careful not to stick yourself with the pins.
20. Roll (cuff ) sides of bag down until the cuff (around a 3-1/2" cuff ) is around the bottom.
21. Machine stitch along edge of 1/2" bottom seam; remove bag from machine; turn bag inside out, replace under presser foot, and stitch the other side of the 1/2" bottom seam. Turn right side out, press to set seams.
22. Flatten bag with side seam as one edge. Press the other side that does not have a seam so that a clear sharp crease remains.
23. Turn bag inside-out; push corners out. Make a point of the corner by lining up the side seam (or crease on the other side) with the center of the 1/2" bottom seam (fig. 11).

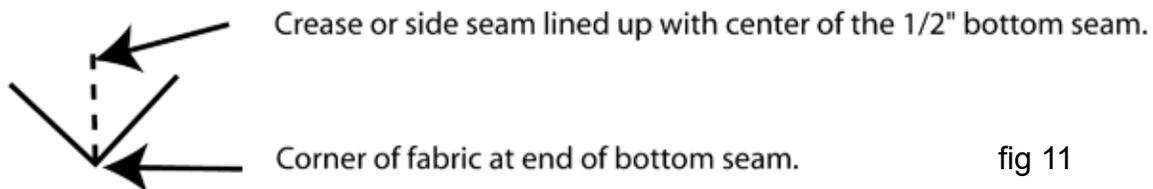


fig 11

24. Make sure fabric does not bunch up under the point. Using the 45 degree angle on the ruler at the corner, keeping the center of the bottom seam lined up with the side seam or crease. Mark a line across on the 7" point of the bag (see fig. 12). Pin side seam to center of 1/2" bottom seam; stitch along 7" line, tacking both ends thoroughly. Set seams.

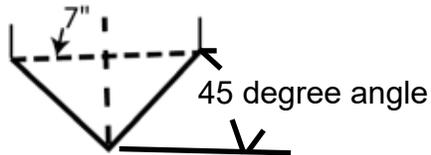


fig 12

25. Turn bag right side out; press new corner seams with points pressed towards bottom of bag. Pin points to bottom on either side of the tip of the point (too many layers to pin the tip). Make sure the fabric under the point is FLAT. Cuff bag again.
26. Stitch points, getting as close to the corner as possible; tack thoroughly; set seams.
27. Press "grocery bag folds" into sides.
28. Cut 33" long piece of 2" wide webbing in half making 2 each 16-1/2" straps.
29. Find center side top of each bag; measure from side seam and crease, not from grocery bag folds. Measure 1-1/4" to either side of center line, on each side of the bag; pin the 4 spots (2 on each side).
30. On top 2" of bag lay wide webbing with 1/2" on each end of the strap overlapping the 2" wide canvas top where at the pins marking the 1-1/4" space on either side of the center of the bag; stitch across the straps where the top stitch line is (fig. 13).

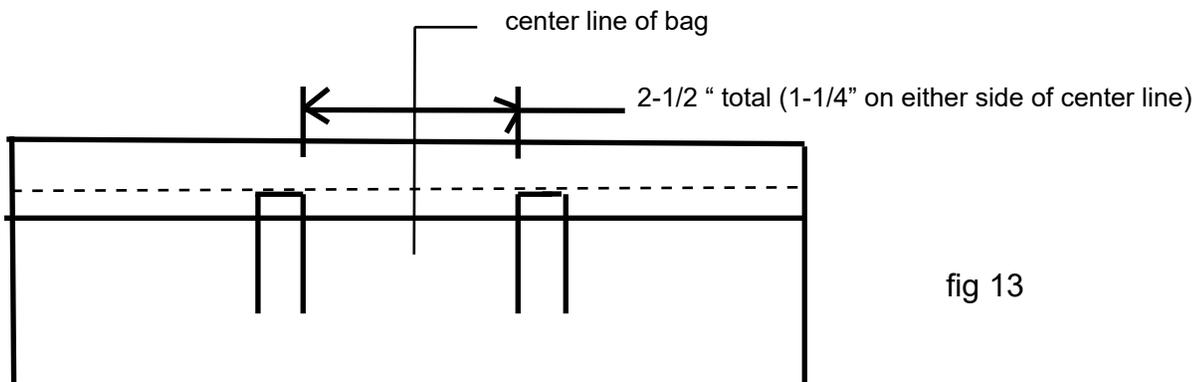


fig 13

31. Fold straps up and tuck narrow piece of webbing crosswise between each end and lining up with the 1/2" of the strap folded up. Pin onto bag. Stitch into the bottom of the newly formed loops. Make sure the narrow strip (which forms the bag holder loop) is firmly stitched in (fig. 14). Repeat on the other side without the bag holder loop; press to set seams.

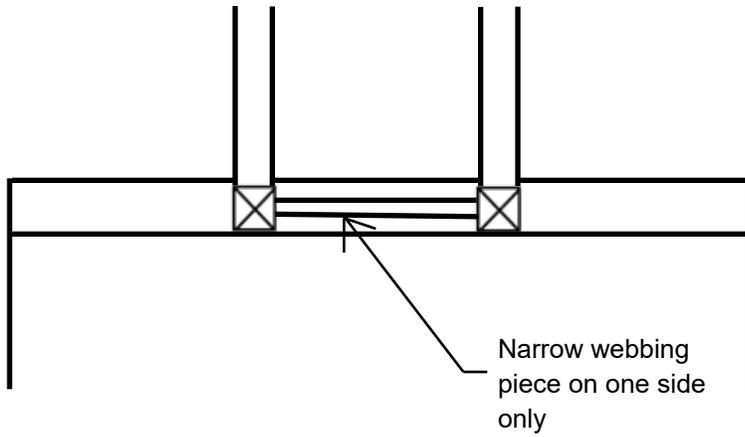


fig 14