



UW-MADISON EXTENSION

Self-Paced, Virtual

FEED-BAG TOTE TUTORIAL

Join our self-paced, virtual tutorial to learn how to transform an up-cycled feed bag into a stylish and functional fabric-lined tote bag. This eco-friendly project is perfect for sewing enthusiasts of all levels who are looking to enhance their skills while contributing to sustainability. Through detailed video instructions and step-by-step guidance, you'll master the art of sewing and measuring, creating a unique tote bag that you can proudly use or gift.



Supplies Needed:

- Sewing Machine
- Sewing Thread
- 1 Feed Bag (Plastic Type- NOT PAPER)
- 1 Yard Cotton Fabric
- Scissors or Rotary Cutter
- Ruler
- Sewing Needle
- Embroidery Tread (optional)
- Chalk, White Pencil or Think Marker
- Stick Pins or Quilting Clips

Part 1: Body of the Bag

Step 1: **CLEAN & PREP FEED BAG**

1. Choose an empty pet or livestock feedbag that you would like to up-cycle.
2. Cut off the bottom 2-3 inches of your feed bag using a scissors.
3. Rinse the bag out with a hose or a shower sprayer in your bathtub.
4. Allow your feedbag to fully dry. (*opening it up & standing it upright on a towel works well*)



Step 2: FLATTEN BAG & TRACE ONTO FABRIC

1. Flatten your feed bag so that the top and one of the narrow sides are facing up.
2. Lay out your cotton fabric (**iron fabric if excessively wrinkly*)
3. Place the flattened feed bag face-up onto the fabric.
4. Using a marker, pencil or chalk, trace the feed bag onto the fabric twice. (*OR trace once if your fabric is folded*)
5. Measure & mark a 1/4"-1/2" seam allowance on the long side. Cut the fabric on the lines using a scissors or rotary cutter.



Step 3: PREP YOUR MACHINE, FLIP LINER & SEW LONG EDGE

1. Load your sewing machine with a thread & bobbin color of your choice & set the machine to straight stitch.
2. Flip your inner lining fabric inside out. (*...so right sides together, wrong sides facing out*)
3. Sew along the long edge of your inner liner.
4. Check your stitches to make sure there are no gaps and the ends are locked (meaning they don't unravel).



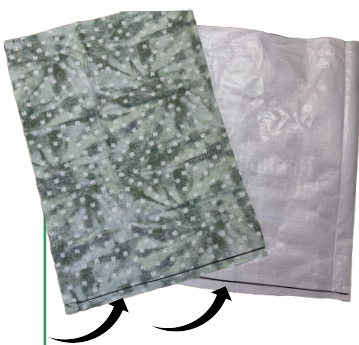
Step 4: TRIM TOP OF FEED BAG

1. Keeping your feed bag flattened, cut off the top 2-3 inches of the feed bag (*this can be more or less, depending on what size bag you want to make and where your images/logos, etc are on your particular feed bag*).



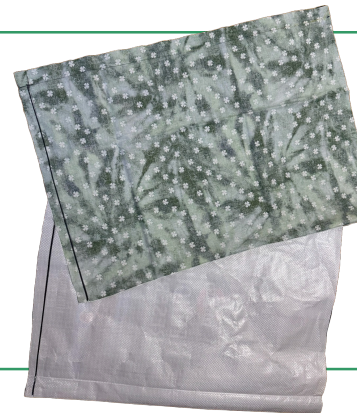
Step 5: PREP BOTTOM EDGE OF LINER & FEED BAG

1. Flip your feed bag inside out.
2. Mark a straight line 1/4"-1/2" from the bottom edge of your feed bag. Pin or clip.
3. Mark the same line on your inner fabric bottom-1/4-1/2" inch from the bottom edge. Pin or clip.



Step 6: SEW BOTTOM EDGES OF BAG & LINER

1. Take your inside-out feed bag and fabric liner to your sewing machine
2. Sew a straight stitch on your marked lines on both the feed bag and your fabric (*make sure to lock your stitches at the beginning & end of your seam!*)
3. Remove pins/clips.



Step 7: MAKE BOTTOM BOX CORNERS ON BAG & LINER

1. Measure a 2" x 2" square in from the edge and up from the bottom of your feed bag and your fabric liner.
2. Fold the edge over so that your dots line up. Mark a line across & sew with a straight stitch on all bottom corners.
3. Trim off the corners (leave enough space so you don't accidentally cut into your stitching.)



Step 8: SEW BOX CORNERS & FLIP/ASSEMBLE BAG

1. Flip your sewn feed-bag back to 'right-side' out. (Your liner will stay inside out).
2. Nestle your fabric liner into the bottom of the feed bag. Be sure to align and puff out the bottom inside corners so they match and fit snugly together.

**There should be 2-3 inches of fabric sticking out of the top of the bag.*

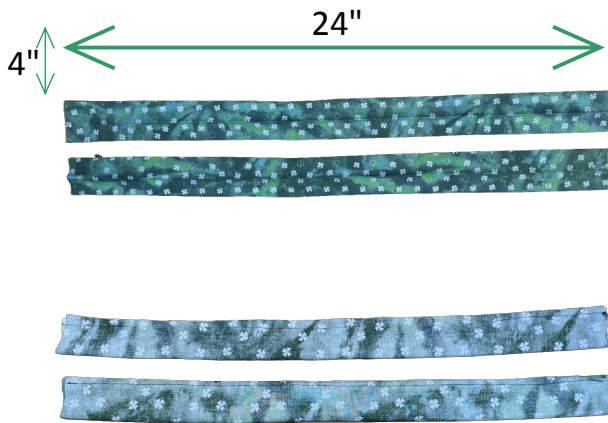


Step 9: FOLD & SEW TOP EDGE OF TOTE BAG

1. Fold the top edge of your inner fabric out over the edge of your feed bag. (You should now see the right side of the inner fabric on the outside of the feed bag.)
2. Fold under the raw edge of the inner lining under itself to make a clean edge on the outside of your bag.
3. Clip /Pin this into place around the entire top edge of the bag.
4. Determine if you want to use your machine or hand sew the top edge. (*It is highly recommended to hand-sew this!*)



Part 2: Adding Handles/Straps



Step 10: CUT, SEW & FLIP BAG STRAPS

1. Measure and mark two strips of fabric 3 OR 4 inches x 24 inches
2. Cut two strips of fabric out & fold in half the long way with right sides facing.
3. Pin/Clip the edge into place & straight stitch along the long edge of the wrong side of the fabric of both strap.
4. Flip your tubes of fabric right-side out. (a chopstick or knitting needle can help this process!)

Step 11: TUCK-IN RAW EDGES & SEW ONTO BAG

1. Tuck in the raw short ends of each strap.
2. Align on each side of your tote bag along the top edge.
3. Pin into place, stitch into place with an 'X' or square for strength. (Repeat for all 4 connection points)



Step 12: ENJOY YOUR COMPLETED TOTE-BAG!

comments, questions, or suggestions for improvement?



Contact the Portage County 4-H Educator:
Amy Boelk
amy.boelk@wisc.edu