

Sewing Area Scrap Bag

1 - 6" x 8 ½" decorator weight fabric to hold weight
1 - 11" x 20" decorator weight fabric for bag
2 - 3" x 5 ½" main fabric for straps
1 - 20" ½" wide mesh strapping
sand or beans for weight

Iron or finger press each handle in half lengthwise, wrong side together. Open the handles back up. Fold each outside raw edge to the center fold-line and iron or finger press. Refold on center fold-line. You should now have a handle piece that is 1" wide with no raw edges showing. Stitch through all thick nesses, close to both outside edges.

Fold the weight piece in half with wrong sides together. The fold should not be lengthwise. Pin each strap where the seam will be on the long side. You should not see them at all. They will be on the outside after the stitching is complete. Make a ½" seam on one short side and continue across the long side catching the straps. Sew across the strap area more than once. Turn right side out. Fill with weight material. Hand sew the last side closed.

Fold the bag piece in half with wrong sides together. The fold should not be lengthwise. Finger press or iron the fold. Sew a ½ inch seam down the raw edges, which are across from each other.

Turn the bag inside out. On the same edges, sew a second seam wide enough to enclose your first seam. This will cover all raw edges and give a finished edge on the inside and outside of your bag.

While your bag is still inside out, sew across the bottom corners of your bag to create a flat bottom for the bag. Line up a side seam on top of the bottom fold to form a point. Stitch a straight line across each point. The farther from the point you stitch, the wider your flat bottom will be. Use your eye to figure a good proportion for the size of your bag.

Measure and fold down to the inside a 1 ½" hem for the top of your bag. Fold it over the mesh strapping. Adjust the strapping to fit. Fold under the raw edge about ½ inch. Stitch the top and the bottom of the hem down, close to the edge.

Now you are ready to attach your straps. Use your eye to figure the placement of the first strap. They should be stitched to the inside of the bag with same distance separating them as for the weight. Fold under the raw edge ends of the handle about ½ inch. Position this end at the bottom of your hem. Stitch close to both sides of the handle and close to the top and bottom of the hem. You should end up with a rectangle of stitching at each end of your handle. I also stitched an 'X' within the rectangle for more strength. Repeat the process with the second strap.