
Please follow these instructions when you make a Global Links New Baby bag. We like to think that these bags will be useful for years – long after the baby is past infancy.

1. Choose a sturdy all-cotton fabric such as duck canvas or upholstery fabric. It should be washable, and a bit stiff. Buy at least 3/4 yard of fabric per bag. 27" will allow for shrinkage to the necessary 24". Only a 60" wide fabric will yield a bag body (24" x 36") and pocket (24"). Bright colors are best, and having different fabrics for the body and the pockets looks great. Feel free to mix it up!
2. Serge or zigzag the ends, then wash, and hang to partially dry before ironing it with lots of force (It is a stiff fabric, but very durable and will serve parents well into the future.) Throwing in a big towel or two will help lessen the big creases that develop in the washing process. Allow a couple of inches for shrinkage per yard.
3. Cut a 24" by 24" square, and a 24" x 36" rectangle.
4. Turn under the short ends of the rectangle and two opposite sides of the square 1/2" and topstitch about 1/4" from the folded edge.
5. Mark a chalk line across the center of each piece~ half the distance between the pressed edges. This will be the center of the bottom of the bag. Center the square on top of the rectangle, with right sides of both fabrics facing up. Stitch across the chalked line center of both pieces, sewing the square and rectangle together across the width of the bag.
6. Chalk a line 6 1/2" from the long side edges for strap placement. Use 1" wide strapping. Here's a good source: http://www.wbcindustries.com/web_polypropylene.html. The strapping should be long enough to go over the shoulder – about 4 yards. Sew the ends closed to form a loop. (Make sure there isn't a twist in the loop before you sew it!) Mark the strap's halfway point with a pin.
7. Lay the handle straps over the right side of the fabric, along the chalk marks, forming a large oval. Again, check for twists! Place the strap seam at the bottom seam of the bag, with seam allowances hidden against the bag. The pinned spot also goes on the bottom seam.
8. Sew around the edge on both sides of the strap. This will also form the outside pockets. Reinforce the straps by sewing a square where each strap meets the edge of the bag.
9. Fold the bag with right sides together and sew the side seams.
10. With the bag inside out, open it up so that the side seam lies on top of the center bottom seam, forming a triangle. The bigger the triangle, the wider (and shorter) your bag will be. Two or three inches is about right. Stitch across the base of the triangle. Repeat on the other side.
11. Fold the triangle back towards the bottom of the bag, and top stitch in place around the edges of the folded triangle. Turn the bag right side out.

