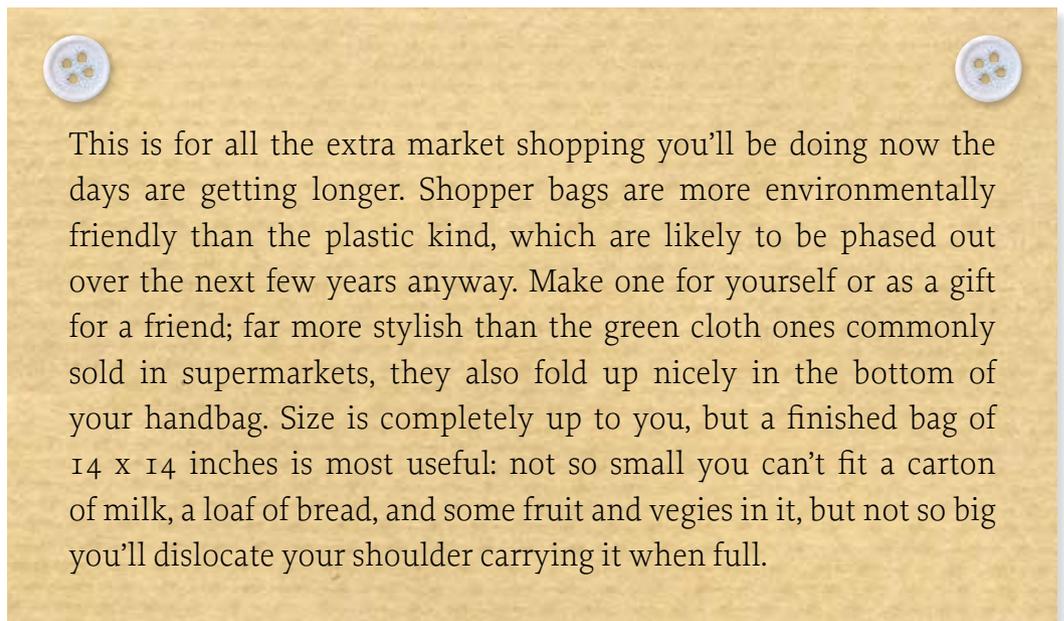


“Spring is Here” shopping bag

You will need

- ⦿ Approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ yard x 44 inches sturdy fabric, such as upholstery fabric in cotton or a cotton/linen mix
- ⦿ Measuring tape or ruler
- ⦿ Fabric scissors
- ⦿ Sewing machine and thread
- ⦿ Iron
- ⦿ Sewing pins



Instructions

1. Measure and cut two 16-inch squares of fabric.
2. From the leftover fabric, measure and cut two straps, each $4\frac{3}{4} \times 31$ inches. This is a good size for full straps that don't cut into your shoulder and allow enough space to carry comfortably under your arm.
3. With *wrong* sides together and allowing $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch seams, sew the squares together around three edges. Trim diagonally across the seam allowance on the lower corners and turn the bag inside out, so the right sides are now together.
4. With *right* sides together, stitch around the sides and bottom edge again, this time allowing a $\frac{3}{8}$ -inch seam allowance. (This double seam is called a French seam and gives a very strong, nonfray finish.)
5. To create boxed corners, fold the lower corner into a point so that the side seam is centered at the apex and aligned with the bottom seam. Measure $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches down the seam from the apex and rule a straight line across the corner at this point. Sew across the ruled line, securing the stitching firmly at each end. Make another line of stitching close to the first for strength. Do not trim off the corner.
6. Repeat Step 5 for the opposite corner.
7. Using your iron, press under $\frac{3}{8}$ inch around the remaining raw edge at the top of the bag, then press under another $\frac{3}{8}$ inch and stitch this hem in place close to the inner fold, creating a neat opening edge. Leave the bag inside out at this stage.
8. Fold each strap in half lengthwise, right sides together, and stitch along the length, allowing a $\frac{3}{8}$ -inch seam. Leave both short ends open.
9. With your iron, press the tube so that the seam you have just stitched runs down the center of the strap (rather than on the edge) and press the seam allowance open.
10. Stitch across one short end. Trim diagonally across the seam allowance on the corners and turn the straps right side out.
11. Turn under the raw edges on the open end of each strap and press. Topstitch around the edges of the straps, stitching $\frac{1}{8}$ inch from the edge.
12. On each side of the bag, measure $2\frac{3}{4}$ inches in from each side seam and mark with a pin for your strap positions. With the right side of the strap facing the wrong side of the bag, pin the ends of the straps in place on the inside of the bag. Check that you've got all your right and wrong sides facing correctly, then stitch the straps firmly in place, working a small square or rectangle of stitching, with intersecting diagonal lines, for extra strength.
13. Turn the bag inside out—you now have a fully finished shopping bag.

