

Tips for Sewing Fabric Reusable Giftbags

- Bags can be any size. Rectangular shape works best.
- Best fabrics are cotton (organic, if available) or felt (especially felt made from recycled plastic). Avoid slippery fabrics such as nylon and some polyesters.
- For easy to make giftbags, avoid fabrics with directional prints.
- Cut fabric to desired size of giftbag, allowing room for seams.
- Either trim the top edge with pinking shears to prevent fraying, or fold the top edge approximately 1/2 inch toward the inside of the bag, iron flat, and stitch (*see photo of sample at MarvelBelieveCare.org*).
- For a ribbon or other tie, either sew the ribbon into the side seem (*see photo of sample at MarvelBelieveCare.org*), or sew a loop (e.g. seem tape, bric-a-brac, or ribbon) into the side seem, and then tie a ribbon to the loop, to assure the ribbon stays with the bag.
- Attach the tie, or tie-loop, several inches below the top of the bag (distance will depend on overall size of the bag) so that the top of the giftbag bunches nicely.
- For large bags (e.g. 24" wide), sew a loop into the side of the bag opposite where the bag-tie is attached. This extra loop assured the bag's tie loops nicely, and stays put, around the top of the bag.
- Give the giftbag away along with the gift inside. We can only hope that someday reusable fabric giftbags will replace disposable paper and ribbon. Eventually enough reusable giftbags will be in circulation that your supply will ebb and flow. Also, packets of reusable giftbags themselves make great gifts.
- For a fun and easy craft project for kids (including Girl Scouts), sew small giftbags made of two felt squares, with a ribbon-tie sewn into one side seam a few inches from the top of the bag. Let each child decorate his or her own giftbag -- for example using stick-on or glue-on decorations. Note: most major craft stores now sell felt squares made from recycled plastic bottles.
- Send your tips for making fabric reusable giftbags and photos of your creation care handiwork to info@marvelbelievecare.org so we can share them with others.
- Be creative, have fun!

