

Once you've made one, you'll find you can sew this bag in about half an hour. Be prepared to improvise as your fabric requires. Creating a bag out of a pair of shorts will take a little more ingenuity than a bedsheet, for example.

### You will need

- two pieces of fabric 18 in. x 20 in.
- two pieces of fabric 18 in. x 4 in. (or longer, if desired)
- matching thread
- measuring tape or ruler
- scissors
- sewing machine
- iron

### Make the handle

1. Take one 18 in. x 4 in. piece of fabric and fold it in half lengthwise. Press, then open it back up.
2. Fold each edge in to the center fold (A). Press.
3. Fold the strip in half again, encasing the raw edges. Press.
4. Sew down the middle of the handle, then sew approximately ¼ in. from sewing line on either side. Repeat for other handle.

### Make the bag

1. Take one 18 in. x 20 in. piece of fabric and fold under ¼ in. on one short edge. Press.
2. Fold the same edge down again, this time 1 in. Press.
3. Tuck handle ends into fold approximately 5 in. from either side. Pin in place, then sew down close to inner folded edge, catching the handle ends.
4. Fold handles upward and press. Sew a box at the base of each handle. Sew an X inside for extra reinforcement (B). Repeat with other side of bag (C).

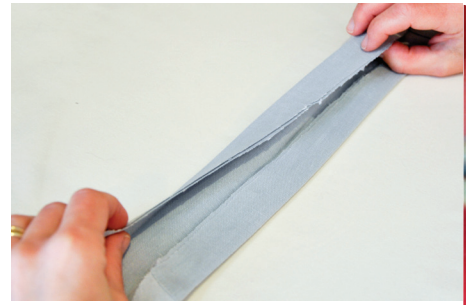
5. Place the wrong sides of the bag together (right sides will face out). Pin together, then sew sides and bottom together ⅝ in. from edge. Trim fabric to ¼ in. all around, and clip away extra fabric at the corners. You will make an enclosed (French) seam.

6. Turn bag inside out (right sides will face in) and press. Sew again along sides and bottom, this time ⅜ in. from edge. This encloses the seam (D).

7. Turn bag right side out and press. To make it official, visit [www.morsbags.com](http://www.morsbags.com), print out a label, and stitch it on to finish.

8. Take a photo of your bag and e-mail it to [info@crwmagazine.com](mailto:info@crwmagazine.com). We'll add it to our Facebook photo gallery!

Instructions adapted from [www.morsbags.com](http://www.morsbags.com) and used with permission.



A



B



C



D



**Top:** Writer Maura Henn topstitches a bag handle.  
**Right:** The day begins with possibilities as *Coulee Region Women* contributors (**from left**) Heidi Blanke, Carol Schank, Betty Christiansen, Diane Raam and Maura Henn gather their fabric.