

TSW Designer Selvage Bags by Metha Schuler

Here are the basics.

Step 1 - Choose a cheap bag like you generally get for promotions. This will be our foundation and pattern. Disassemble it **except** for the handles; leave them attached.

Step 2 – Cover disassembled bag pieces with fabric scraps. I have been using selvages (those edges of fabric that are generally thrown away.) I re-enforce the sides, bottom and handles.

Step 3 – Cover the handles. Cut a piece of fabric that is twice the width of the old handle and as long as you want to use. Sometimes I like my handles to go all the way to the bottom of the bag. Press under about one half inch and then press the opposite side so that the two meet in the back middle. Place a piece of reinforcement inside this creation and then topstitch it onto the old handle.

Step 4 - Re-assemble bag. I used whatever seam allowance size that the original bag was stitched with and it makes the bag go together rather nicely (well, most of the time). Mostly, one quarter inch allowance. Once I have turned the bag right side out, I topstitch a quarter inch along the side and bottom edges and it gives the bag nice definition and helps it stand up.



HINTS:

1. Never iron those cheap bags...they melt. They are, however, washable.
2. Sort your strips into colors. i.e. blue/red/yellow; blk/wht/red;
3. Use any fabric that you like, even UFO's or samplers from classes, panels, etc
4. I use a 90/14 needle as some seams are thick.

I can finish one of these bags in a day, although my first one took longer.
Email me if you have further questions methasch@aol.com

