



Hearts in Unity

Sewing School Bags for Children in Tanzania, Africa

FOR EACH SCHOOL BAG YOU WILL NEED:

- **ONE piece of fabric 13" x 30"** (bag)
- **ONE piece of fabric 39" x 3"** (handle) (Note: a piece of fabric as short as 36" x 3" is OK also)

Please use fabric made of sturdy cotton or cotton/polyester blend (see notes below). Use ½" seam allowances. Finished bag (excluding handle) is approximately 12" wide by 13½" high. The finished handle is 1" wide.

SEWING THE HANDLE: There are different 2 options for sewing the handle (choose your preference).
Note: Option #2 works better for heavier fabrics.

Option #1 Fold the piece of handle fabric in half, right sides together (39" x 3" folded to a 39" x 1½" size). Stitch a ½" seam allowance along the long side. Turn right-side out. Press flat. Set aside.

Option #2 Along each long edge, fold over 1/2-inch of fabric and press. Fold the handle in half (right sides out) matching the folded/ironed edges. Press. Topstitch ¼" along each of the 2 long sides of the handle.

SEWING THE BAG:

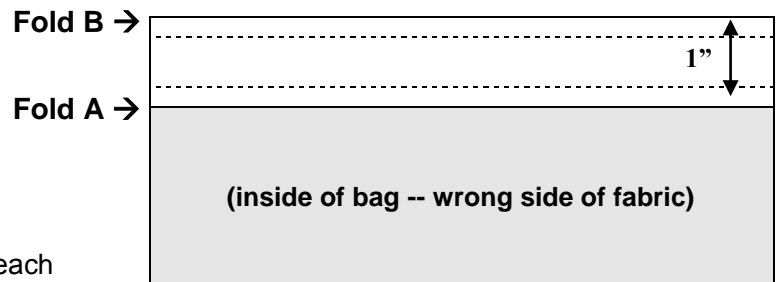
Fold the 13" x 30" piece of fabric in half, right sides together (to a 13"x 15" size). Stitch a ½" seam allowance along each 15" side. Add a zig-zag stitch or serge along each seam edge to prevent fraying. Keeping the bag inside-out, fold the open 13" edge of the bag over ½" (to the wrong side of the fabric) and press (See Fold A below). Fold over again another 1" and press (See Fold B below). Now you are ready to pin and sew the handle onto the bag.

SEWING THE HANDLE TO THE BAG:

Pin the ends of the handle to open edge of the bag at the two side seams of the bag. The handles will be sewn to the inside of the bag. The handles should extend ¼" beyond/below the fold at "A"

Topstitch around the top of the bag by fold "B" (stitching the handle ends to the bag as you sew).

Topstitch around the bag by fold "A", folding the end of each handle under ¼" just before you stitch over each handle end. Turn bag right-side out. Press with an iron if needed.



PLEASE NOTE:

- Use sturdy cotton or poly/cotton blend fabrics (no knits, stretchy or sheer fabrics)
- Do not use heavy/thick fabrics such as denim or upholstery fabrics – heavy fabrics add significantly to shipping costs.
- Darker colors and darker-colored prints work well to hide the dirt.
- Please be mindful of the fabric prints/patterns that you choose. Remember that these children have little in the way of any possessions, and we want to be mindful of the message that we send about the possessions that we have and they don't. Use your good judgment as a guideline...What type of school bag would you want to personally hand to a Tanzanian child? Good fabric choices are prints of animals, fish, birds, flowers, fruits/veggies, nature, soccer ball prints or any abstract prints, plaids or stripes.

Completed school bags can be shipped to the following address at any time:
Hearts in Unity ♥ P.O. Box 41 ♥ Germantown, WI 53022 ♥ USA
Questions? Please email us at hearts_in_unity@yahoo.com

Monetary donations to help offset the cost to ship your school bags to Tanzania are welcome. Shipping costs are approx. \$4 per pound. If you can help with a donation to cover the cost to ship your school bags to Tanzania, you can include a bank check (U.S. banks only), payable to Hearts in Unity, with the school bags that you send to us. We also accept online donations to cover these shipping costs at www.heartsinunity.org (click the donate button and write SCHOOL BAG SHIPPING in the message box when you make your donation.)

Thank you for your help and for opening your heart to the orphans and at-risk children of Tanzania.