



Sewing School Bags for Children in Tanzania, Africa

For each bag you will need:

- **ONE** piece of fabric 13" x 30" (bag)
- **TWO** pieces of fabric 13" x 3" (handles)

3 bags can be cut from a 1-yard piece of 44/45" fabric. Please use fabric made of cotton or cotton/polyester blend (see notes below).

Use 1/2" seam allowances when sewing.

Finished bag (excluding handles) is approximately 12" wide by 13 1/2" high.

The finished handles are 1" wide.

INSTRUCTIONS:

HANDLES: Fold each of the 13" x 3" pieces of fabric in half, right sides together (to a 13" x 1 1/2" size). Stitch 1/2" seam allowance along each 13" side. Turn right-side out. Press flat. Set aside.

BAG: Fold the 13" x 30" piece of fabric in half, right sides together (to a 13" x 15" size). Stitch a 1/2" seam allowance along each 15" side. Zig-zag or serge along each seam edge to prevent fraying. Keeping the bag inside-out, fold the open 13" edge of the bag over 1/2" (to the wrong side of the fabric) and press. Fold over again another 1" and press. Now you are ready to pin and sew the handles onto the bag.

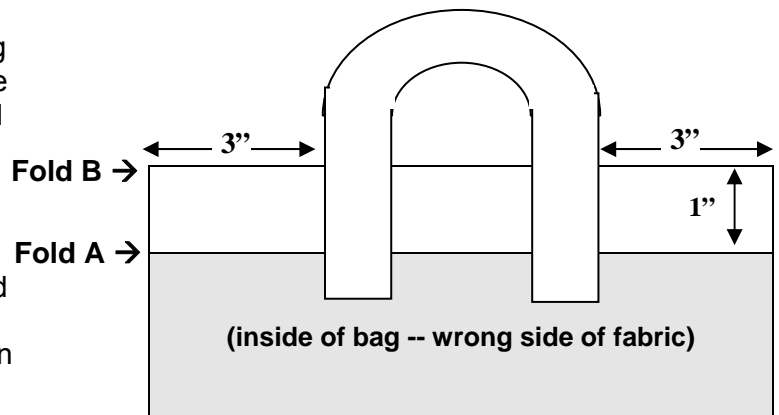
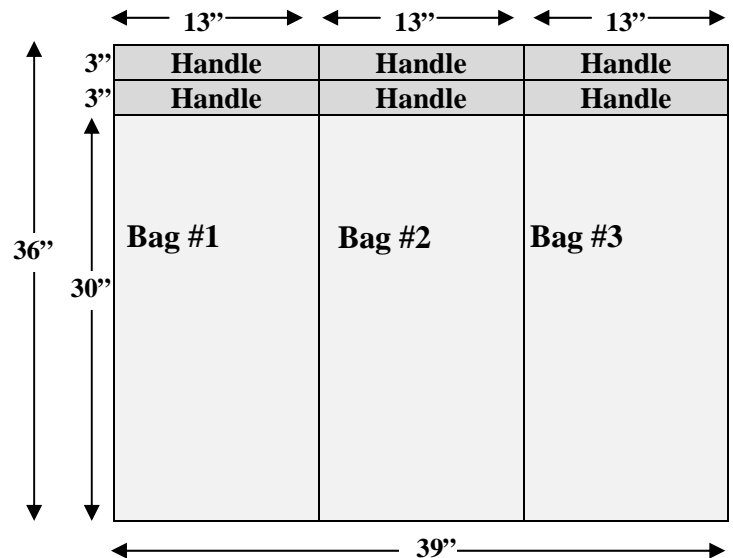
Pin the ends of the handles to open edge of the bag (see illustration to the right). The handles should be 3" from the side seam of the bag and should extend 1/4" beyond the fold at "A"

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

Topstitch around the bag by fold "A", folding the end of each handle under 1/4" just before you stitch over each handle. Turn bag right-side out. Press with an iron if needed.

PLEASE NOTE:

- Use cotton or poly/cotton blend fabrics (no knits, stretchy or sheer fabrics -- calico-type fabrics work well)
- 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. (Many people in Tanzania do not have access to running water for washing...just access to the river down the mountain).
- 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 in the U.S. Use your good judgment as a guideline...What type of school bag would you want to personally hand to a Tanzanian child?
 - **Good choices:** Prints of animals/fish/birds, flowers, fruits/veggies, nature, soccer ball prints and any abstract prints, plaids or stripes.
 - **Not so good:** Cartoon character prints, prints with all "white" people, cars/trucks, sport team logos, etc.



We welcome your email to let us know you will be joining us in this project (hearts_in_unity@yahoo.com)

Completed school bags can be shipped to the following address at any time: Hearts in Unity ♥ P.O. Box 41 ♥ Germantown, WI 53022
Monetary donations to help offset the costs to ship the school bags to Tanzania are also welcome.

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