

Janet A. Smith
Hand dyed Fabrics and More!
Project of the Month

September 2008
Gift Bags and Gift Boxes



www.textileart.com

September 2008 Project of the Month - Gift Bags and Boxes



Want a unique way to present a gift? Raid your stash and sew up a gift bag or fold up a box.

The box, the small light green bag and the bag on the right are made from fabric covered with iron-on vinyl from [Therm O Web](#). I got mine from [JoAnn](#) with a 40% off coupon. (Yes!)

Instead of handles for the small light green bag, I made slits in the top, 2 on each side, and wove grosgrain ribbon through them.



The cutting layout for the gift bag in three sizes follow.

Using $\frac{1}{2}$ " seam allowance sew each side of the bag. Iron on a strip of heavy weight interfacing to the top of the bag, front and back, about $\frac{1}{4}$ " from the edge. The interfacing provides more meat for crimping the eyelets.

Flatten side against bottom and stitch



Turn $\frac{1}{4}$ " over Decor Bond® then fold over $\frac{1}{4}$ " to form top of bag. Topstitch or use fusible web to secure hem.

Flatten out the bag so the side seam lines up with the middle of the bottom of the bag. Stitch each side using a $\frac{1}{2}$ " seam allowance. This makes the sides and completes the bottom of the bag.

For the top edge, shown at the bottom of the image, turn the $\frac{1}{4}$ " over the interfacing and turn again making a finished off hem. Topstitch or secure with fusible web.

Turn bag to right side.

September 2008 Project of the Month - Gift Bags and Boxes

Bag, with eyelets for handles, ironed flat like a paper gift bag.



I crease and iron the bag so it resembles a paper gift bag. I also cut a piece of cardboard, the size of the bottom, to help stabilize the bag.

The eyelets are positioned approximately $\frac{1}{4}$ of the bag width from the edge. In this example, the bag is 7" wide. The eyelets were placed $1\frac{3}{4}$ " from each side.

You may want to adjust the placement of the eyelets to your own personal preference.

After I decide where I want the handles placed, I mark the bag and punch a hole with a small hole punch. The eyelet is larger than the hole, but I find this works better. The fabric fits tight and results in a securely crimped eyelet.

Use some fabric and interfacing scraps to practice crimping the eyelets.

Depending on the size of the bag and the type of fabric used, select a ribbon or cord to match the size and weight of the bag.

Knot the cord/ribbon so it doesn't pull through the eyelet. Fray Check[®] comes in handy.



September 2008 Project of the Month - Gift Bags and Boxes



Origami Fabric Box

I covered the fabric with iron-on vinyl before cutting the squares. This gives the fabric some body so the box doesn't collapse. It also gives the fabric a sheen and a 'leatherly' look.

Hmmm . . . what else could you do with 'vinylized' fabric?



Cut the top of the box slightly larger than the bottom so it fits together nicely. The bottom was 8" square and the top 8½" square for a 3" square box.

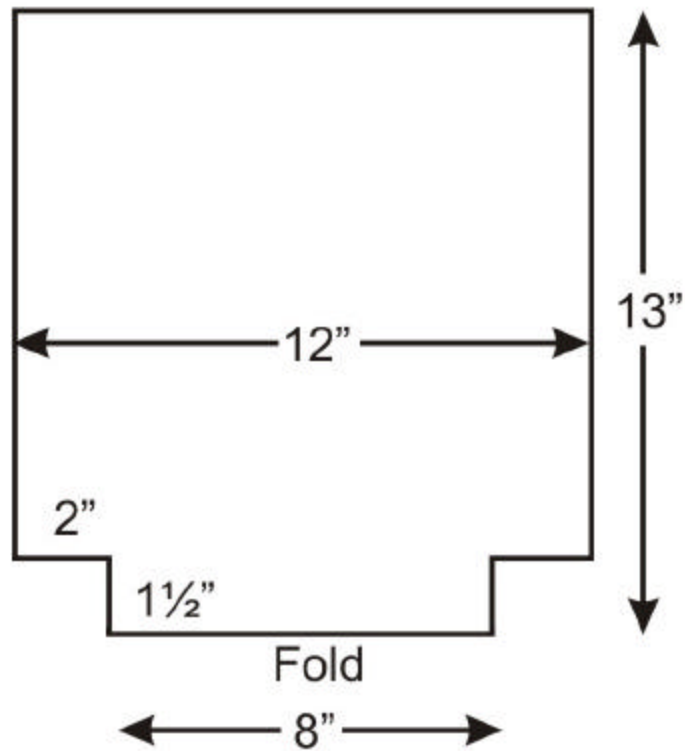
I found Origami projects with diagrams and videos at [DIY Life](#). The box project is a little more than half way down the page. I didn't make the initial 2 folds, but marked the center of the square instead. I didn't want creases in the top and bottom of the box.

Practice with paper first to get the hang of it and experiment with different paper sizes.

Large Gift Bag

4" X 7" X 10"

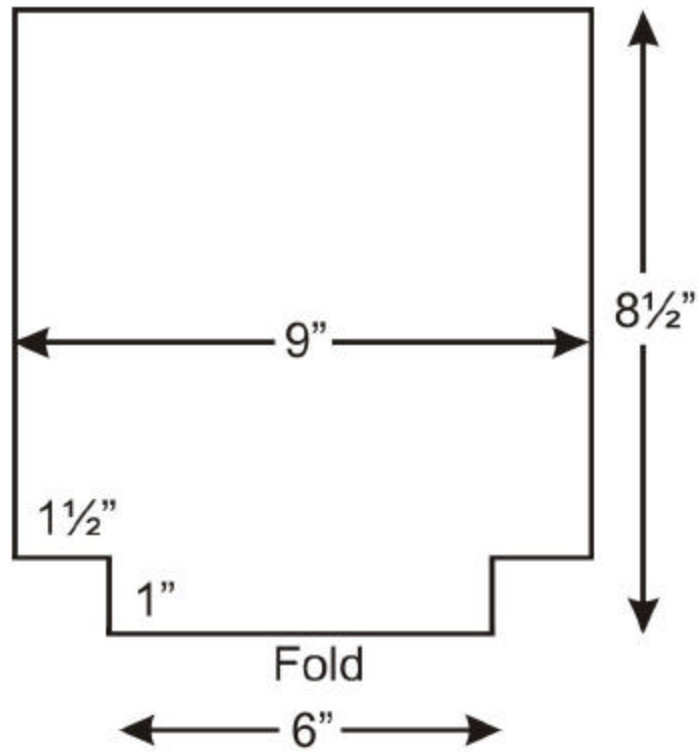
Fabric Required 26" X 12"



Medium Gift Bag

3" X 5" X 6"

Fabric Required 17" X 9"



Small Gift Bag

2" X 3" X 4"

Fabric Required 11" X 6"

