

# Reusable Holiday Gift Bags

Paulette Livers

These easy bags are so simple to stitch up, you won't be able to stop making them! Keep a lookout for inexpensive holiday design fabrics at your local sewing or craft store. Inexpensive sheets are also an option when you can find them on sale; or better yet, put your worn-out sheets and pillow cases to a new use. Let your gift recipient keep the bag—with a promise to reuse it, and pass it on.

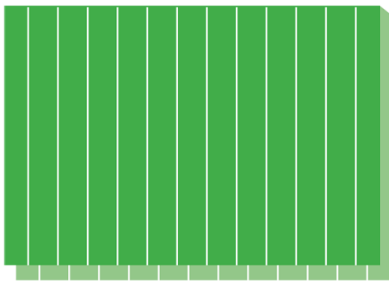


## You will need:

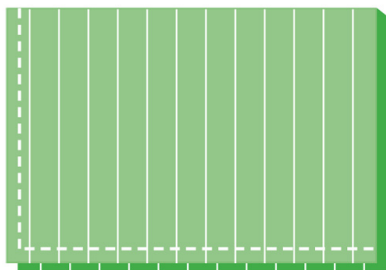
- Several yards of fabric
- Matching thread
- Ribbon in color complementing the fabric
- Scissors
- Straight pins
- Measuring tape
- A large flat surface to cut on



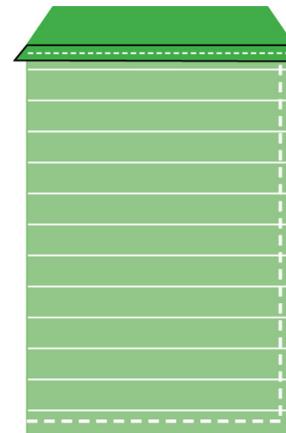
1. Measure the height and girth of the box or item you intend to wrap.



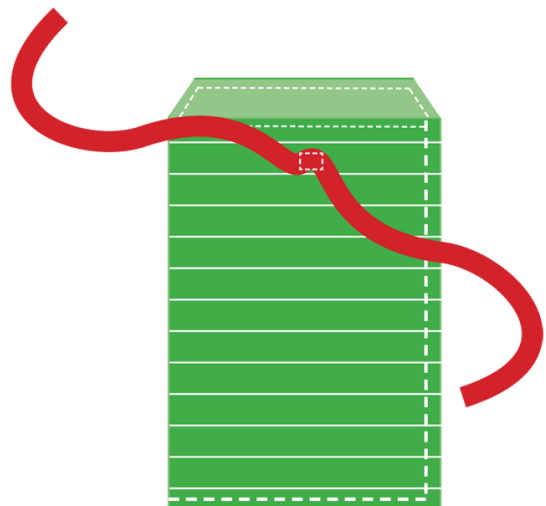
2. With your fabric doubled, cut the fabric to proper dimensions, adding 3 inches in all directions.



3. Fold the fabric in half and turn inside out. Pin the edges together down one side and across the bottom. Sew up the side seam and bottom. This can be accomplished with a machine or by hand. You now have a piece that looks like an inside-out pillow case (the size varies, of course, depending on the gift you've measured).



4. Turn down the top (open) edge of your bag, and pin. Sew around the top edge.



5. Turn the bag inside out. Fold the ribbon in half. Sew the ribbon to one side of the bag, 3 or 4 inches from the top of the bag.

6. Put the gift in the bag and tie the ribbon at the top. (Note: Stitching is shown here as a white dotted line. Your stitching thread should match your fabric.)

*~Paulette Livers is a writer and artist in Chicago.*