

## SHOWER IN A BAG

Nurses for Newborns uses tote bags for new mothers. The bags are filled with necessities for welcoming new babies. Please use sturdy home dec fabric or polished cotton fabric to make the bags. A serger is useful, but not required. It is acceptable to make the bag using a different coordinating fabric for each side of the bag. Allow a bit of extra fabric for the seam which will fall at the bottom of the bag.

### Cutting

Cut one strip 4" by WOF (45" wide – some home dec fabric may be wider; you only need 45").

Cut one piece 22" by WOF (45" wide – some home dec fabric may be wider; you only need 45").

Subcut the 4" by 45" strip in half so you have two strips 4" by approximately 22". These will be the straps for the bag.

### Bag Construction

Fold the 22" by 45" piece in half so that it measures approximately 22.5" by 22". Sew the side seams, right sides together, using a ½" seam. If not using a serger, zigzag the raw edges of the seams. Box the corners on the folded edge. For directions on how to box the corners of a bag or see the pdf at this link:

<http://www.thimbleandthreadstl.org/images/uploads/Boxed-Corners-Small.pdf>.

The measurement to use to box the corners for these bags is 4".

Using a serger or zig zag stitch on a conventional sewing machine, finish the raw edge at the top of the bag. Turn under 1" at the top of the bag and press. Pin the hem down.

### STRAPS – Serger Method

To make the straps, fold each 4" by 22" strip in half lengthwise, right sides together. Serge the raw edges together.

### STRAPS - Sewing Machine Method

To make the straps, fold each 4" by 22" strip in half lengthwise, right sides together. Zig zag or overlock stitch the raw edges together. Alternatively, press under a small amount along each long edge and top stitch.

### Attaching the Straps

Measure in 6" from each side of the top of the bag and position one of the handles on the bag. Repeat on the other side of the bag. Top stitch close to the top edge of the bag, catching the handles as you sew. Again sew approximately 1" away along the edge of the serged or zig zagged raw edge, again catching the handles as you sew.