

# Be a green shopper. University of Southampton initiative.

## About Be a Green Shopper



The 'Be a Green Shopper' initiative was created by Alison Simmance (coordinator of Sustainability Science at Southampton) in March 2013 in association with the University's Winchester School of Art and the Green Academy. The initiative is inspired by an entrepreneurial group of women from the Gioto Garbage Slum, Nakuru, Kenya- who developed an ingenious sustainable way to earn money by creating purses and handbags from recycled plastics (known as the Nakuru Women's Plastic Recycling Business).

## Introduction:

Create your own eco-friendly shopping bag from recycled material. The University 60th Anniversary 'Changing the world' campaign banners will be used as the material and will create a long-lasting legacy of sustainability within the University. Become a Green Shopper and help minimise your environmental impact.



## Further details:

The initiative was launched during Multidisciplinary Research Week 2013 and was accompanied by two fascinating talks on sustainable consumption lead by leading academics and researchers at the university.

Website: [www.southampton.ac.uk/sustainability\\_science/green\\_shopper/green\\_shopper.page](http://www.southampton.ac.uk/sustainability_science/green_shopper/green_shopper.page)

## Materials for Be a Green Shopper:

The following materials will be used:

- University of Southampton 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary campaign fabric (half yard);
- thread;
- scissors or pinking shears;
- a tape measure; and
- a sewing machine.

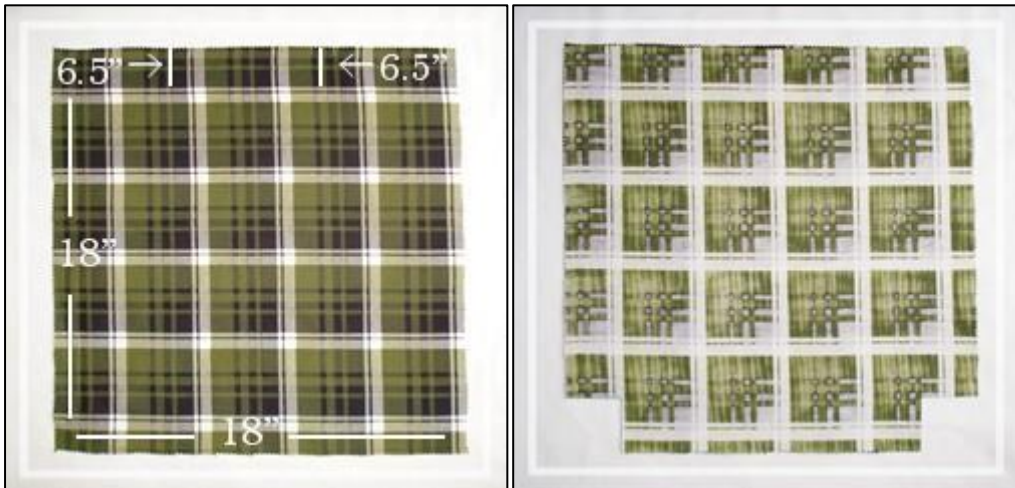
## Instructions For Be a Green Shopper:

Please ask for assistance at any time to help with the design of your eco-friendly shopping bag. The bag can be created in 5 easy steps. Alternatively, be creative and personalise your design as you wish. Have fun and be creative!



Step 1:

Cut out two 18" x 18" squares of fabric and mark the top of each square (on the right side of the fabric) at 6 ½" in from each side. This is where the handles will be attached. Then place the fabric so the two right sides are facing each other. Now cut a 2 ½" square out of the bottom corner on each side.



Step 2:

With the right sides of the fabric facing each other, sew ¼" in from the edge, along both sides and across the bottom. Do not sew along the cut-out corners, leave those open.



Step 3:

You will now be sewing the bottom corners closed. To get a corner ready to be sewn, open up the bag a little bit. Now on one side of the bag, pinch the fabric at each of the inner corner cuts. One corner from the front of the bag and one corner from the back. Line up the cut edges and sew about ½" seam.

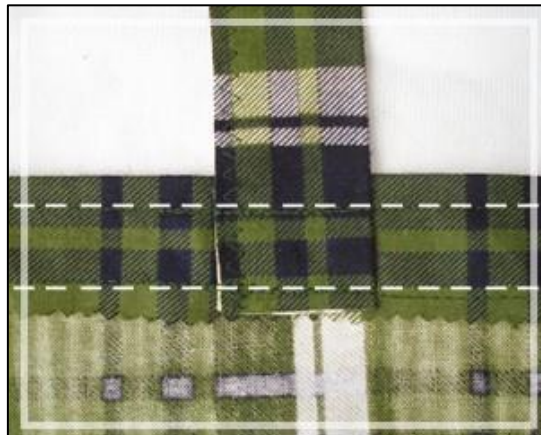


**Step 4:** Now cut two strips of fabric that are 3" x 18" for the handles. Fold the strip of fabric in half, length-wise, with the right sides facing out. Zig-zag stitch, or serge the open edge closed.



**Step 5:** Fold over the top edge of the bag about 1" or more, and sew a seam about  $\frac{3}{4}$ " down from the top, around the whole bag. As you do this, sew down the ends of the handles at the marks you made in step 1. To reinforce the handles, backstitch over the end of the handle and then continue forward as you get to each handle. Be sure that the handles are not twisted when sewing them down.

After you've gone around the bag once, repeat this step again, at about  $\frac{1}{8}$ " down from the top edge of the bag, reinforcing the handles again.



**Your bag is now complete and you can turn it right side out and go shopping!**