

Burrito Bag

Recycled Wrapper Tote

By Vickie Howell

MATERIALS

12-14 Amy's burrito wrappers
1 roll silver, adhesive-backed contact paper
Ruler or quilters square
Scissors
Rotary cutter & self-healing mat (optional)
Sewing machine
Coordinating thread
Heavy duty needle
2, 23" pieces unbleached webbing
Paperweights (empty glass bottles work well)

Finished Size: 9.5"x14"x5"

DIRECTIONS

Making "Fabric"

1. Cut ends off and down the backside of packages, giving you flat packages to work with . Cut rectangles, squares and triangles out of wrappers to be pieced together on bag. It's a good idea to cut out a few extras in case ripping occurs. Set aside.
2. Cut out: 2, 10.5"x15" ; 2, 6"x10.5"; and 1, 10"x15" pieces of contact paper.
3. Starting with one of the 10.5"x15" pieces, lay contact paper out on a table (with adhesive side up) and carefully pull-off backing. Since the paper tends to curl in on itself, it's helpful to place paperweights at edges of all four sides of piece.
4. Leaving a little less than a 1/2" border around the contact paper piece, lay out burrito wrappers next to each other as if you were putting together a puzzle. Use your fingers to smooth down any air bubbles. (*Note: If you choose to overlap any wrappers, you'll need to glue down those areas otherwise, the contact adhesive will be enough to do the job!*)
5. Use scissors to snip 1/2" squares (doesn't need to be exact) off of all four corners of contact paper backing. Fold all four of the border edges over 1/2"—this will create a clean, finished edge. Repeat steps 3-5 for remaining 10.5"x15" (back) and 6"x10.5" (sides) contact paper pieces. You've now created the "fabric" for your tote bag. Yay!

6. Remove backing on 10"x15" piece and fold in half lengthwise, creating a double layer for bottom of bag.

Bag Construction

1. Using machine, heavy duty needle and $\frac{1}{2}$ " seam allowance, top-stitch the top edges the front, back and side pieces.

2. With wrong sides facing and $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance, sew the front, sides, back and bottom together. Take it slowly—the contact paper can be a wee bit slippery!

3. Measure 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ " in from each end of top edge of front piece and sew webbing into bag by placing raw edge on the wrong side, and top stitching on the right side. Repeat on back piece.

Vickie Howell is the mother of two sons, member of the Austin Craft Mafia, co-host of Lifetime's web series CRAFTED; columnist for KIWI and Knit.1 Magazines; host of DIY & HGTV's Knitty Gritty; and author of several books including the upcoming: Pop Goes Crochet and Sustainable Stitching. Her line of environmentally friendly yarn, the Vickie Howell Collection by SWTC, is available in yarn stores nationwide. For more information go to: www.vickiehowell.com.