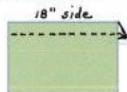
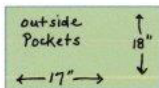
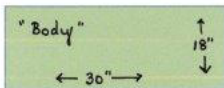


"Celebrate Our Vets" Walker/Wheelchair Bag Directions by Su Scott, January 2016

Thank you for making a bag for the men and women at the Veteran's Home. This simple unlined bag is made with ties on each side to accommodate either a walker or a wheelchair. Pockets on each side of the "body" of the bag provides small places to carry belongings. Using Home Dec., light canvas, upholstery and even denim creates a strong bag. You may consider quilted fabric. I like to use Ikea Home Dec. fabric which is a light canvas weight. You may consider a patriotic theme if you like but it isn't necessary. There is no pattern, only directions. You may create and embellish as you wish, but keeping the size about 15" or 16" wide and 17" or 18" long will fit the size restraints of a walker/wheelchair easily. The bags may be washed so keep that in mind.

I use polyester thread and a 90/14 topstitch machine needle.

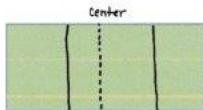
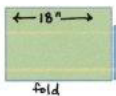
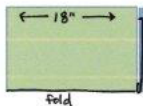
1. Cut 2 rectangles: Body and Outside Pockets. Fold over the 18" sides twice and sew them down.



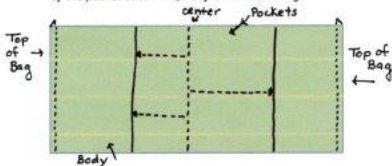
2. Cut 2 long strips: 1 3/4" X 40" OR 4 shorter strips 1 3/4" X 20" - Create the ties by folding and sewing each.



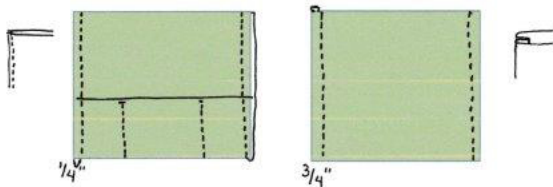
3. Fold the Body in half to find the center of the 'bag.' Press. Fold the Outside Pockets piece to determine the size of the pockets on each side of the body. Press. You may fold the pocket in half OR create a smaller pocket on one side and larger pocket on the other. With the Body right side up, lay the Outside Pocket right side up matching the Press lines. Pin and sew, making sure you backstitch.



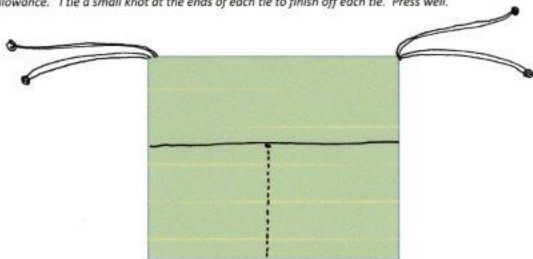
4. Determine the stitch lines of each Outside Pocket. The larger side, I find the center between the sides and using a disappearing marking pen, draw the stitching line. The shorter side, I find the center, but off center the lines to create three small pockets. Again, draw lines to mark the stitching line. I make Bar Tacks to strengthen the top of the pocket stitch line, not just backstitching.



5. To sew the sides of the bag, I use a French Seam. With 'wrong' sides together, I sew each side starting at the top of the bag (be sure to backstitch) and using a $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance sew toward the fold. Turn the bag inside out which now shows 'right' sides together. Make sure your new seam totally covers up the raw edge inside the seam allowance. I use $\frac{3}{4}$ " seam allowance on this pass from the top of the bag toward the fold.



6. Using your best judgement, locate the best place to sew the ties on the sides. If you have two long ties, find the center and then sew. If you have 4 shorter ties, you may consider sewing each tie just to the sides of the seam allowance. I tie a small knot at the ends of each tie to finish off each tie. Press well.



Return to Su Scott at the June evening meeting. We would like to deliver the bags over 4th of July weekend at the Veteran's Home in The Dalles, OR. If we have more, we'll take them to the Veteran's Home in Lebanon, OR. There are 175 beds in each Vet's Home. Please consider Assisted Living/Nursing Homes as well. If you have a question, please contact Su at gr8scotts@msn.com or 360.891.5918.