

FESTIVE INDOOR/OUTDOOR GROW BAGS

By Heidi Proffetty

Summer is finally here in New England! And perhaps we may be spending a little more time at home enjoying mini-celebrations... so why not dress up your porch, patio, favorite fire pit area or even your kitchen counter with a bit of happiness. These Festive Plant Grow Bags add a fun splash of color and bring a little joy to whatever area your plans are to celebrate intimately with friends and loved ones. And how fun is this...you can sew these grow bags up jiffy, making these an ideal quick and satisfying sewing project.

Skill Level: Beginner

Makes: 1 Plant Grow Bag

Dimensions: 7" Diameter x 5.5" Tall



Project Supplies:

½ Yd - Motif or Solid outdoor UV rated & Water Resistant polyester fabric (or poly lined fabric) for side panel

½ Yd - Motif or Solid outdoor UV rated & Water Resistant polyester fabric (or poly lined fabric) for circular bottom and top cuff

UV rated thread (bonded polyester for domestic sewing machines)

7/8" metal grommets (a matched mandrel/anvil pair)

Grommet tool (appropriate size for metal grommets you use)

Thin clear plastic bag for outdoor lining protection (optional)

Note: If you plan to use your grow bags outdoors, you will need to consider looking for fabrics that are water resistant waterproof to prevent the growth of mold and mildew. You will also want to choose fabrics that have a high UV resistance and colorfastness. If choosing a polyester printed fabric, keep in mind that the fabric will probably stretch slightly over time and may fade.

Part 1 – Cutting Fabric Pieces

Cut 1 – 7 ½” circle

Cut 1 – 6” x 22 1/2” side panel

Cut 1 – 22 1/2” x 2 1/2” top cuff

*Note: Math is involved if you want to venture off into other sizes...Check on You Tube for great videos. You will need to use 3.14 Pie! Geometry teachers around the globe are smiling!

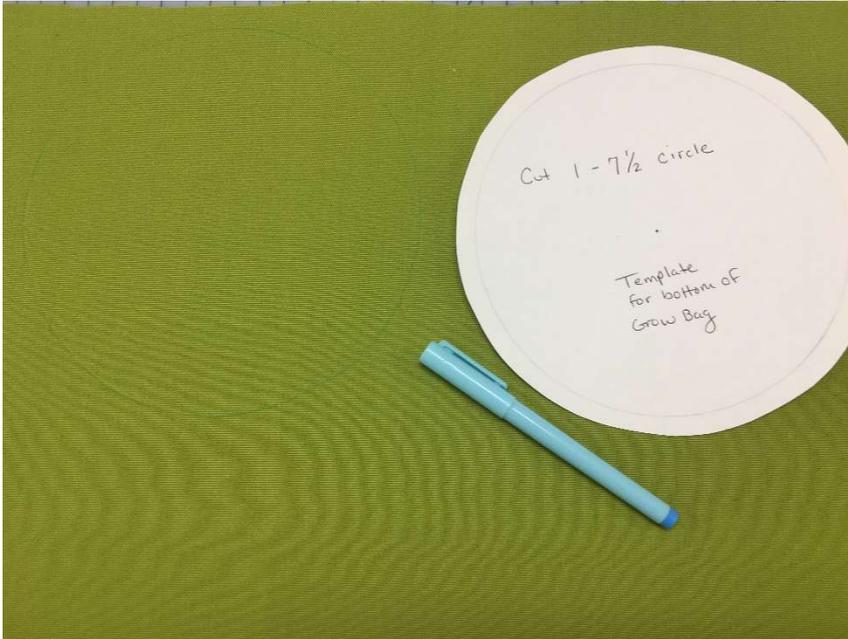
Part 2 – Preparing the Materials for Cutting

1. Using a clear quilting ruler, find the perfect motif and cut a side panel measuring 6” x 22 1/2”

What’s great about this, is that many standard quilting rulers come 6” x 24” already making it so easy to cut the appropriate length and width needed. As an alternative idea...you can also cut apart your 6”x 22 1/2” panel sewing in additional assorted colored fabrics to create a new and very different design for your side panel.



2. Cut your rectangle side, top cuff and circle bottom. * Use a protractor to create a perfect 7 ½" circle paper template, then trace and cut your 7 ½" circle from your fabric. Note: You will end up with a 7" round bag, (1 gallon size) the additional ½" is for the seam allowance.



3. Start with top cuff, on one edge, fold the fabric over ¼" then using a ruler on a hard surface, a boning tool, finger press or a brayer crease a ¼" seam. *It's not recommended to use an iron, you may scorch/melt the outdoor fabric.



4. Topstitch ¼" from the folded edge.

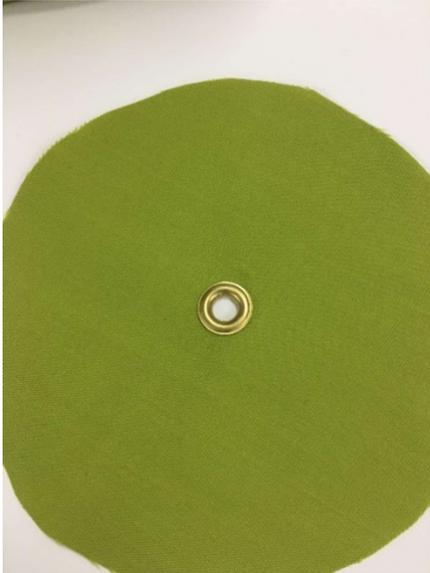




5. Match the right side of the fabric cuff to the wrong side of the rectangle side panel. Pin or use clips to align and sew $\frac{1}{4}$ " in along the raw edges.



6. Add Grommet to bottom cut circle of your grow bag.



***If using your grow bag outside, you will want to add a grommet to the bottom of your grow bag for water drainage. Using your grommet tool and grommet set, squeeze the tool, pinching the grommets (top and bottom pieces) closed with the material caught in between.**

7. Continue sewing...overcast or zig zag the side panels. My friend and respected Canadian Janome educator, Michael Smith, @ <https://www.thesewcialquilter.ca/> does a fabulous... You Tube Janome Video on the Janome "M" Overcast foot. Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KbJ68Wgf4QM>. This foot doesn't trim your fabric...but it is a great alternative, if you do not presently own a serger sewing machine.



- Clip and align the cut notches into the circular bottom to the cut notches and into the side panel. Using pins or clips (I love Wonder Clips) align and then sew $\frac{1}{4}$ " around the circular bottom of grow bag. Tip: the Janome HP foot and plate set, left most alignment, perfect for sewing curves, makes this step a pleasure with perfect results to tame curves.







9. Sew 1/4" around securing the circular bottom to the side panel. Backstitching start and finish.



10. Turn bag wrong side to right side.



11. Fold down top cuff over side fabric panel. And take time to carefully push out the circular bottom evenly throughout. *If using your grow bag outside, add thin plastic bag lining and cut small drainage hole into the plastic bag lining before filling with dirt and then add dirt and plant, aligning the grommet hole with hole in plastic bag liner for proper drainage.

12. Festive Grow Bags Finished...takes about 1 ½ hours to complete this fun project.



Cheers!

Happy Sewing & Happy Quilting!

Heidi

www.heidi@heidiproffetty.com