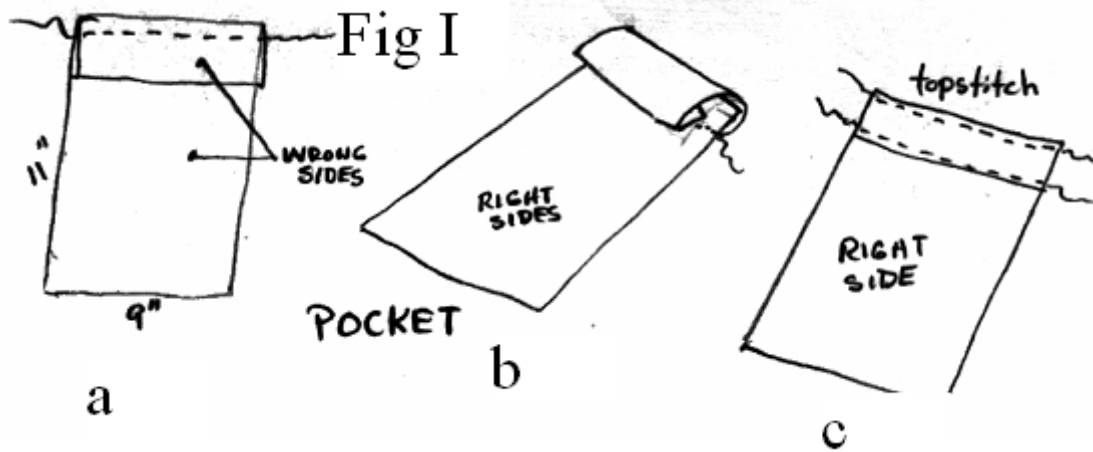


Directions for making St. Matthew's bags:

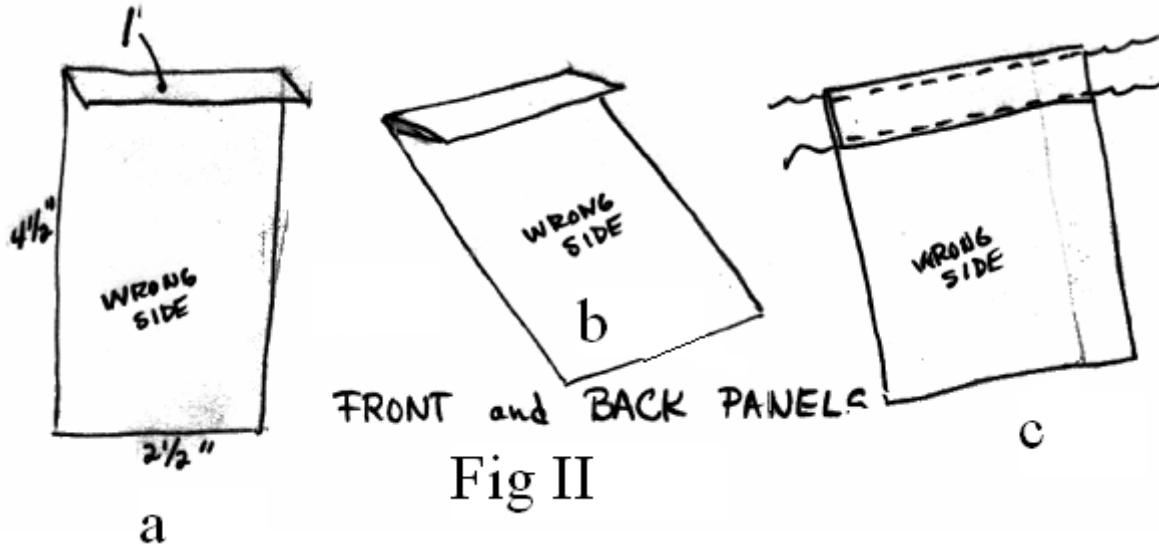
Materials Needed: [2/3 yard of 44-45 inch fabric]

- 2 pieces 1" x 48" straps (cotton webbing works best, but you might construct your own self-fabric)
- 1 piece 6³/₄" x 11" plastic craft webbing (optional for bottom)
- 1 piece 2¹/₄" x 9" pocket facing
- 1 piece 9" x 11" pocket (we used canvas and had the cathedral steeple & name screen printed on)
- 2 pieces 12¹/₂" x 14¹/₂" – back & front panels
- 1 piece 8¹/₂" x 40" – side-bottom-side one piece strip

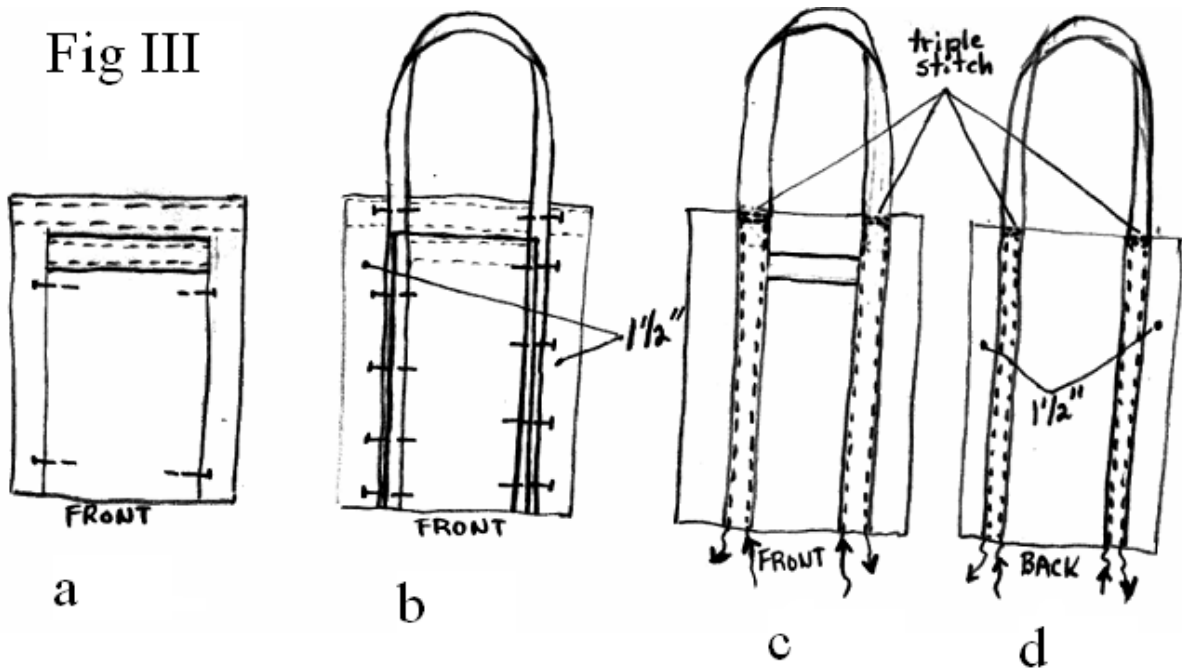
1. **Pocket Assembly:** place pocket facing right side to the back side of top edge of pocket (9" edge). Stitch at ¹/₂" (**Fig Ia**) Fold over the top edge and press. Fold under ¹/₂" hem on the front side of pocket (**Fig Ib**) and top stitch both edges of the facing (top & bottom) (**Fig Ic**).



2. **Front & Back Panels:** fold down the top edge (12¹/₂" 1" (**Fig IIa**) and then down again. (**Fig II b**) Topstitch both edges of the hem (**Fig IIc**). Do this on both panels

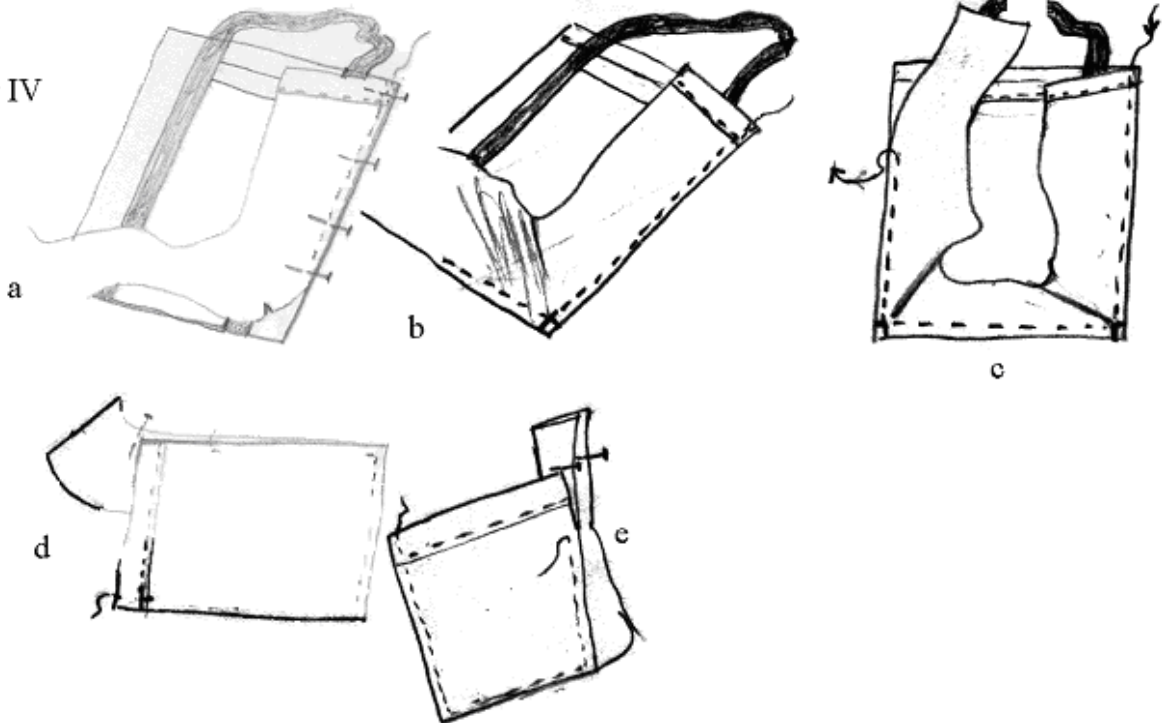


3. **Add Pocket & Straps:** lay the back and front panels down with the right sides facing up. Place the pocket on the front panel, matching the bottom edges and centering it from side to side. Pin in place (**Fig IIIa**). Place the webbing strap over the raw edges of the pocket sides and pin in place $1\frac{1}{2}$ " from side edge of front piece (**Fig IIIb**). Topstitch straps in place starting from the inside edge of the strap and stitch from bottom to top of panels, reinforcing with triple stitching across the top edge, and then back to the bottom on the outside edge of strap (**Fig IIIc**). Repeat strap placement for the back panel (**Fig III d**).



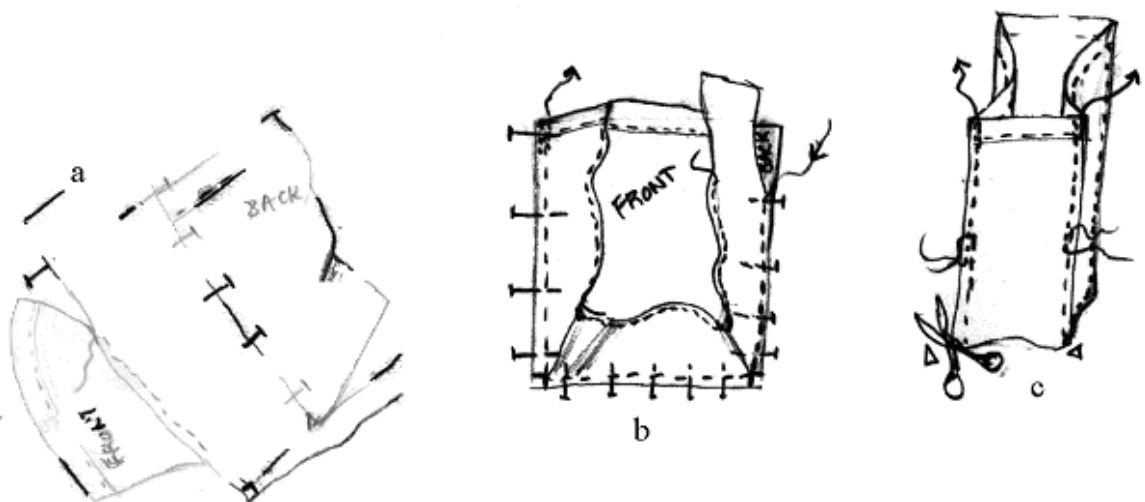
4. **Side-bottom-side Strip:** hem *one* short edge ($8\frac{1}{2}$ ") of the strip as you did for front & back panels (**Fig II**), folding towards the wrong side of fabric.
5. **Bag Assembly:** with right sides together, place the side/bottom strip on top of the front panel, matching top edges. Pin, baste in place along side edge. Stitch $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance, triple backstitch at top edges, stop 2" from bottom edge and take a small clip side/bottom piece $\frac{1}{4}$ " from bottom edge of front panel (**Fig IVa**). Stitch to the clip, and with the needle down, pivot and match up seam allowances across the bottom edge at $\frac{1}{4}$ ". Repeat the clip and stitching/pivoting at the next corner. Stitch to about $2\frac{1}{2}$ -3" from top edge and stop (**Fig IVc**). Remove bag from sewing machine. Mark the top edge on the side-bottom strip with a pin (**Fig IVd**). Fold the side-bottom strip and mark the other edge with a pin (**Fig IVe**).

Fig IV



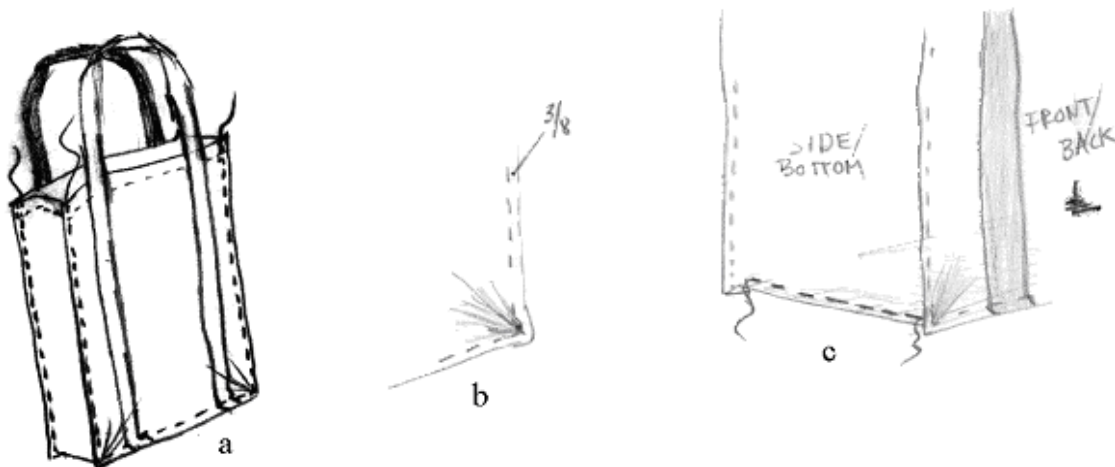
6. **Attaching the Back Panel:** You can eye-ball this next step, *BUT* the corner points on the side-bottom strip must be directly across from each other. Mark the spot with a pin and check to see if all sides and bottoms are laying flat. Once they match, pin in place and take a small clip in the side-bottom strip at each corner (**Fig Va**). Stitch with the side-bottom strip on top of the back panel, right sides together. Start 2-3" down from the top edge (where the side strip is not hemmed). Stitch $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance, pivot at corner clip, continue to next corner and triple backstitch at top edge (**Fig Vb**). Return to the unhemmed edge of the side-bottom strip and fold for a hem at the pin marks. Hem as in (**Fig II**). Now go back and finish the side seams on this side of the bag, overstitching $\frac{1}{2}$ " where you stopped before (**Fig Vc**).

Fig V



- At this point we serged the edges. Trim the corners at this point. You may choose to skip this step or zig-zag the edges. We feel it adds strength to the seams, as well as cleans up the edges. Turn the bag right side out and do a topstitch at $\frac{3}{8}$ " along the seams just sewed (**Fig VIa**). It is decorative as well as adds strength to the bag seams. Triple backstitch at the top edges. It is easier to do this step if the front and back panels are on top. You will have to "squish" the excess fabric at the bottom corners (**Fig VIb**).

Fig VI



- Slip the plastic mesh webbing into the bottom of the bag and line it up so it is straight. Fold the bag side over the mesh at the bottom corners and topstitch on the outside to hold in place (**Fig VIc**).

*** We have made these bags all one color, mixed and matched with contrasting colors, made the pocket a contrasting fabric and have matched and contrasted the thread used for top stitching. It is a great way to use all your scraps and give people a choice with their bags!!