Burlap Bag Instructions

These instructions are for a 16” x 12” x 3” bag.

Instructions are for one bag.

Start by cutting two pieces of burlap 19” x 16” and two pieces of lining fabric the same sizes.

If you are going to paint or sew any appliques on the outside, do this step now. Anything like 3D flowers or designs that you will sew or glue on can be added after the bag is sewn.

Sew the two pieces of burlap together along the two sides and the bottom, right sides together. Use a 1/2” seam allowance. Repeat for the lining.

Image A

Fold the bottom corner of the bag to make a triangle, with the corner of the seam at the point and the side seam and bottom seam lining up. Right sides should still be together. Measure up from the bottom point three inches and sew across the corner of the bag. This will make the sides of your bag.

Image B

Repeat for your lining.

Trim the corner of the bag and lining off, 1/2” below the seam.

Leave the outside of the bag wrong side out. Turn the lining of the bag right side out. Place the lining inside the bag and line up the top edges and the side seams. Sew around the top edge of the bag 1/2” from the top, leaving a 3 or 4” opening in the top for turning right side out.

Turn bag right side out and fold lining into the inside of the bag. Press the top edge. (I think pressing on the lining side will be better.) Press the seam allowances at the opening in as well.

Topstitch around the top opening, 1/4” from the seam. This will keep the lining inside and close your turning opening as well.

Image C

If you are using webbing (or belling), you won’t have to do anything to the straps for sewing them other than turning the ends under. If that is the case, cut them the length you’d like - I’d say around 21”. You’ll need two strips.

Fold the ends under 1/2” and sew along the ends. Place the first strap on the front of the bag so the ends are 1” from the top and probably 5” from each side seam. (That’s a guess, you’ll probably want to eyeball strap placement.)

Sew the strap to the bag at the top edge lining up with the top stitching and at the bottom, sewing just above the bottom fold. Image D

Sew a button between the two seams. Repeat for the back strap.
And you’re done! :)