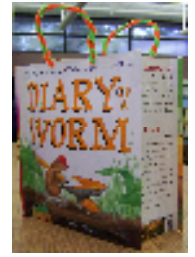




How to Make a Book Jacket Gift Bag

These instructions have been modified for younger audiences.
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We thank Suzanne Metcalf for her original design of recycling discarded book jackets into gift bags.



Supplies:

**2 book jackets,
scissors, two-sided tape, ruler, pencil, single hole punch,
ribbons, pipe cleaners, file folder, index card, or other scrap cardboard in a variety of thicknesses
(such as: gift cards, cereal boxes, posterboard, etc.)**

1. Select your favorite book jacket.
2. Close the jacket as you would the book and fold along the length of the binding. Open out the book flaps; make sure they are the same size. Some flaps are uneven. The flaps will become the sides of the bag, so you want them to be the same width. Trim or refold the flaps accordingly.
3. Cut the jacket in half along the binding fold. Keep the front flap attached to the front cover.
4. Cut the BACK flap along its fold and set aside.
5. Note: whenever taping two parts of body of the bag together, you will always be taping white to white (the inside of the cover to the inside of the cover). Tuck under the front cover's flap and firmly crease along the folded edge. Turn the cover over, open the flap and place a strip of two-sided tape on the inside of the book cover, along the inner corner of the fold. Press the fold back together; run a ruler down the folded paper to help the tape adhere firmly.
6. To make the first corner of your bag, fold back the un-taped portion of that front flap, pressing the fold back on itself; run a ruler down this new folded edge. Re-open the flap and you will have a neatly creased L shaped corner. Set aside this part of your bag for now.
7. Now pick up your back cover and your back flap piece. Apply two-sided tape along **inside** of the spine edge of the back cover. Firmly press the left side of the back flap along this taped edge — remember white to white. Run a ruler over the taped pages to ensure the tape adheres firmly.
8. Fold back the un-taped portion of this back flap, pressing the fold back on itself; run a ruler down this new folded edge. Re-open the flap and you will have a neatly creased L shaped corner.
9. Apply two-sided tape along **inside** of the opposite edge of the back flap. Pick up your front cover and match the spine edge of the front cover to this taped edge — remember white to white — and press the two pieces firmly in place. Pinch together the taped pages to ensure the tape adheres firmly. Carefully press the fold back on itself to create another L shaped corner.
10. To make the fourth corner of your bag, apply two-sided tape along **inside** of the remaining free edge of the front flap. Line up the edges and attach the free edge of the back cover — remember white to white — and press the two pieces firmly in place. Pinch together the taped pages to ensure the tape adheres firmly. Carefully press the fold back on itself to create the final L shaped corner. The body of the bag is now done.
11. Set aside the body of the bag.
12. Using a ruler, measure the horizontal dimensions of your bag — measure the width of the front of your bag. Add 2 inches to this measurement. Record. Then measure the width of the side of your bag. Add 2 inches to this measurement. Record.

13. Select a second book jacket. On the wrong (white) side of the paper bottom, mark the dimensions of the bag recorded in step #12, in pencil, and connect with lines using a ruler to form a rectangle. It is easier if you draw a rectangle using any edge of the second book jacket as one of its sides. Cut out the rectangle. This will be the bottom of the gift bag.
14. Now you need to make tabs on the bottom of the gift bag. Place the rectangle on a solid surface. Set the body of the bag in the approximate middle of the rectangle. There should be a border surrounding the body of the bag on all sides. Using a pencil, mark a dot on the rectangle where each of the corners of the bag meet. Remove the body of the bag. Using your ruler, draw a line from the dot to the edges of the rectangle. Repeat for each of the four dots. You should now have four 90 degree angles on the corners of your rectangle. Cut along the lines, removing the corners of your rectangle. The bottom will now be a rectangular t-shape. (This “t” is the very bottom of the bag. The t-tabs will be glued up and around the sides of the bag.) Fold up each tab over on the wrong side and crease well for easier placement and taping.
15. Place the bottom wrong-side up on your work surface with tabs sticking straight up. Fit the body of the bag down inside the tabs, making certain it is a good fit.
16. Choose one tab and apply a strip of two-sided tape, push the tab into place against the outside of the bag with one hand — while using the other hand to press from inside the bag. Continue pressing for a few seconds to secure the tab in place. Tape the remaining tabs in place all around the bag in the same way.
17. Now you need to reinforce the top edge of the bag before attaching the handles. Select thin pieces of cardboard (file folders work well) and cut into two 4 “x 1 “ strips. Tape one strip on the inside (white side) of both the front and the back of the bag, approximately 1/2 inch down from the top edge.
18. Use a hand-held hole punch to create holes for a handle at the top of the bag by punching through both the strip and the bag, making two holes on the front and two holes on the back of the bag. Place the hole punch down over the paper as far as it will go. Holes made too near the top can rip the paper when inserting handles. Either measure where you want to place the holes or simply punch freestyle.
19. Select ribbons, chenille stems, decorative trim, wire or anything else that can be strung through the holes for the handles. Measure and cut your preferred length of the handle. Tie a knot in one end. From the inside of the bag, thread the handle through the outside of the bag and back into the hole. Tie off. Chenille stems and wires can simply be inserted through the hole and twisted around.
20. Measure the outside bottom of the completed bag. Cut a piece of heavy-duty/thick cardboard the same size and place down inside the bag. This supports the gift bag to help keep it from buckling on the bottom when an item is placed inside and the bag is carried by the handles. Use colorful cardboard — or glue on a piece of decorative paper that has been cut to fit the cardboard.



Making Gift Bags from Book Jackets
[Reflector.com]

Greenville librarian Suzanne Metcalf
recycles discarded book jackets
into lovely gift bags.

