

cutie bag!



In my new book, *Ruby Star Wrapping*, I show you how to create reusable gift packaging for nearly any gift under the sun. Some of the projects are super quick and simple (last minute gifts, anyone?) while others, like this one, are detailed and hand-crafted for the most special recipients.

My co-author Allison found this statistic from the Sierra Club: if every American family wrapped just three gifts this year in something that could be reused, we would save enough paper to fill 45,000 football fields. So, while you may not always have time to create a handmade gift package, doing this just a few times a year could make a big difference.

My favorite part about handmade gift packages? They can make even the most humble, inexpensive gifts feel completely delightful. Put some m&m's and a pack of stickers in this cutie bag, and just see what happens!

HAVE

pretty scrap fabrics for your bag
 ribbon: 2 pieces, 18" each
 2 small buttons for eyes
 pink blush or ladies' lipstick for rosy cheeks
 dark embroidery floss and needle for mouth
 optional: 2 pieces of fusible batting, a bit larger than 10"x14" each

PREPARE

print and cut out your paper pattern pieces; tape the last 2 pieces together without any overlap
 transfer and cut the pieces from pretty scrap fabrics

MAKE

THE FACE:

Align the top edge of the hair fabric with the top edge of the face fabric, both *right sides up*. Sew across the top edge with a $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance. (*illus 1*)

Stack the hat fabric on top of the hair/face fabric, *right sides together*, with the *top edges aligned*. If the hat fabric is directional, it will need to be upside down (otherwise, don't worry about the direction).

Sew across the top edge with a $\frac{1}{2}$ " seam allowance.



Flip the hat fabric up, and iron flat. If you like, top stitch about 1/8" above the new seam.

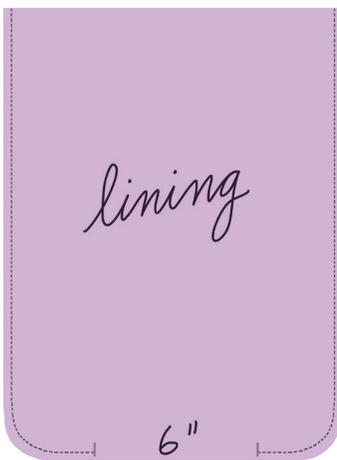
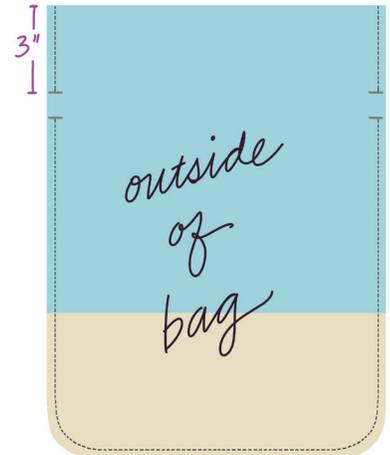
For the face, I sewed two buttons for eyes, and embroidered a tiny mouth. *Use the pattern piece for placement of each.* For the rosy cheeks, I put a little pink lipstick on my finger and *very lightly* rubbed it into the fabric. You can also use blush, and dab it onto the fabric with a blush brush.

THE OUTSIDE OF THE BAG:

Optional: iron fusible batting to the wrong sides of the face fabric, and the fabric for the back side of the bag. This will cause your bag to be more substantial, and less flimsy. Be sure to use some parchment paper to keep the batting from sticking to your iron and ironing board. Trim the batting afterward to the same size as your fabrics.

Put the face side and the back side of the bag *right sides together*, bottom corners aligned. Use a ruler to measure 3" down from the top edge, and make a mark on the left and right edges of the fabric. Make a second mark 1" below these marks. (*illus 2*)

Sew around the sides and bottom of the bag with a 1/4" seam allowance. Avoid sewing between the two marks you just made. This will leave room for a channel for the drawstring when your bag is complete. Trim notches about 1/4" apart around the curved bottom edges of the bag, but avoid cutting into your seam. (This will allow the curves to be smooth when you turn your bag right-side-out).



THE LINING:

Put your two lining fabrics right sides together, bottom corners aligned. Make 2 marks along the bottom edge of the bag, about 6" apart. Sew along the sides and bottom of these fabrics with a 1/4" seam allowance. Avoid sewing between the 2 marks you just made. Trim notches around the curved corners again. (*illus 3*)

JOINING THE LINING WITH THE OUTSIDE OF THE BAG:

Turn the outside of the bag *right side out*, and smooth the bottom corners. Put this bag completely inside the lining, which is still inside-out, so that the top edges and bottom corners are both aligned. Sew the lining fabric to the outside fabric all the way around the top edge with a 1/4" seam allowance.

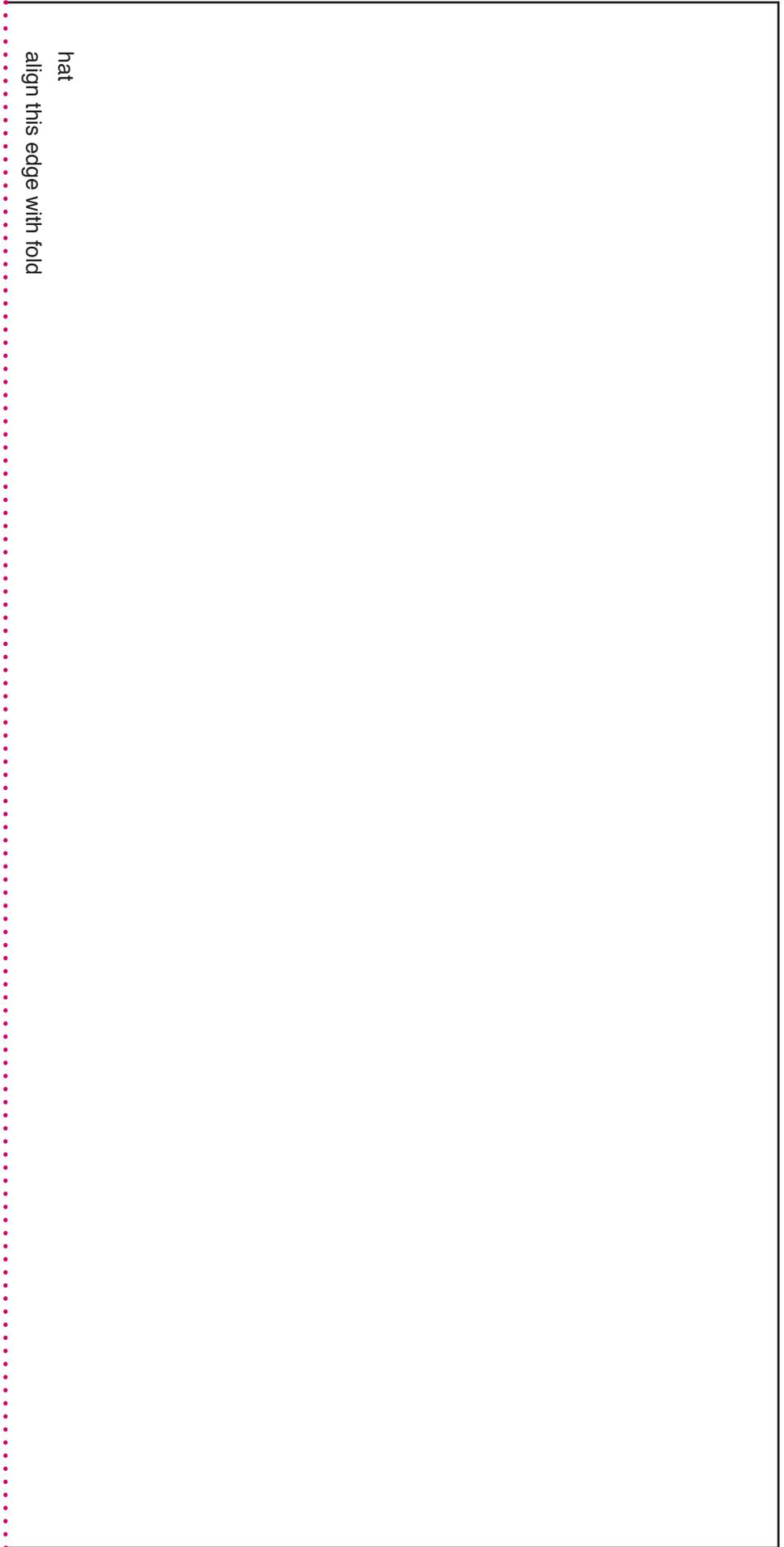
Pull the face-side of the bag all the way out of the 6" opening on the bottom. Allow the lining to flip right-side out, and stand straight up at the top. At your 6" opening, tuck in the seam allowance, and iron flat. Then, sew across the opening. You can either hand-stitch or just run it through your machine with the smallest seam allowance you can manage (because it will be inside the bag, no one will really see this).

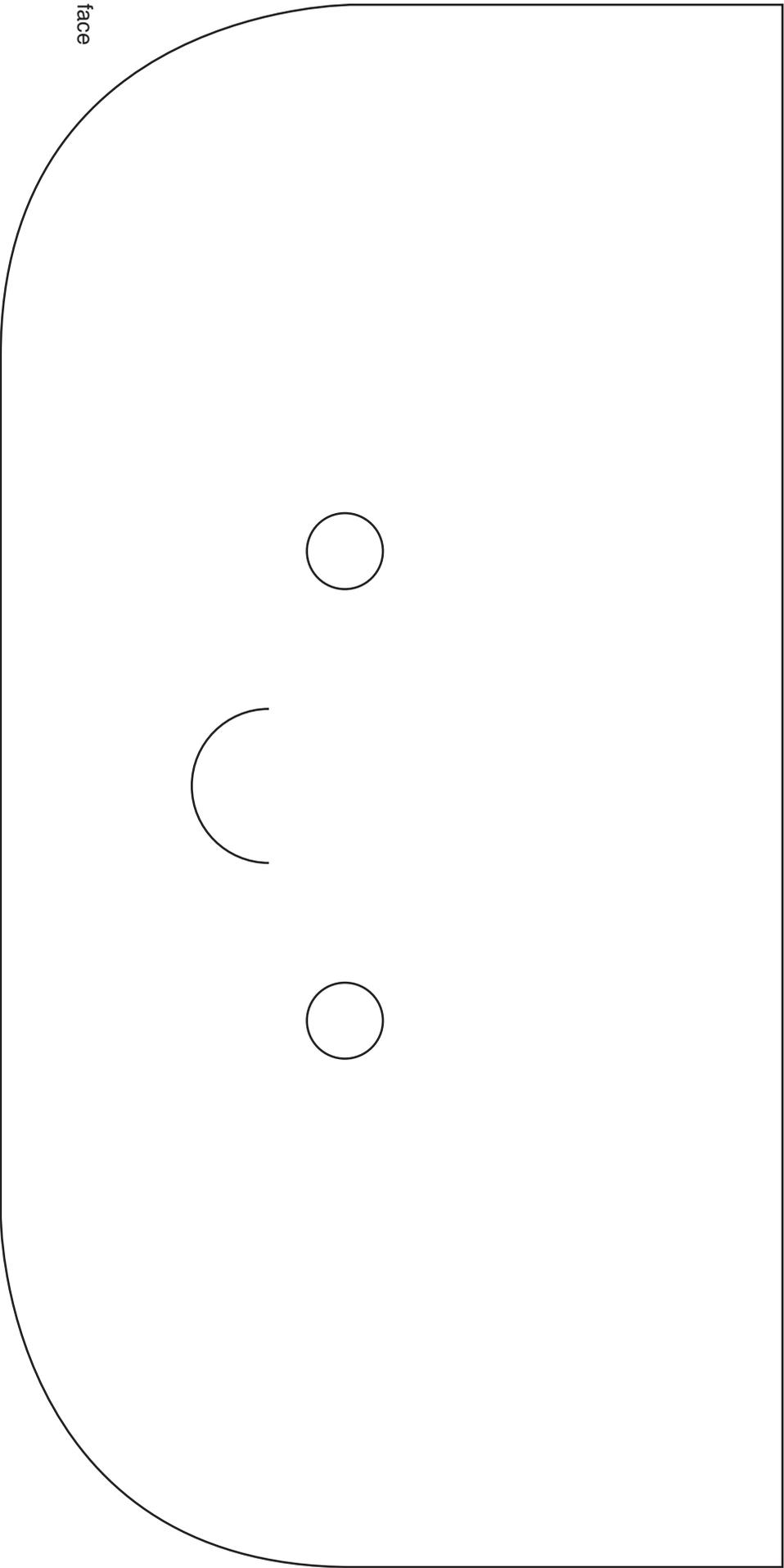
Now push the lining all the way down into the bag. Iron the top edge of the bag flat. You can top stitch along this edge if you like. Sew all the way around the bag just above and below the 1" opening you left on the side edges to form a channel for your ribbon. Using a safety pin to guide it through the channel, pull one piece of ribbon through the front side, and one through the back. Tie these ribbons in a pretty knot at the sides.

Voila! A cutie bag!

hat

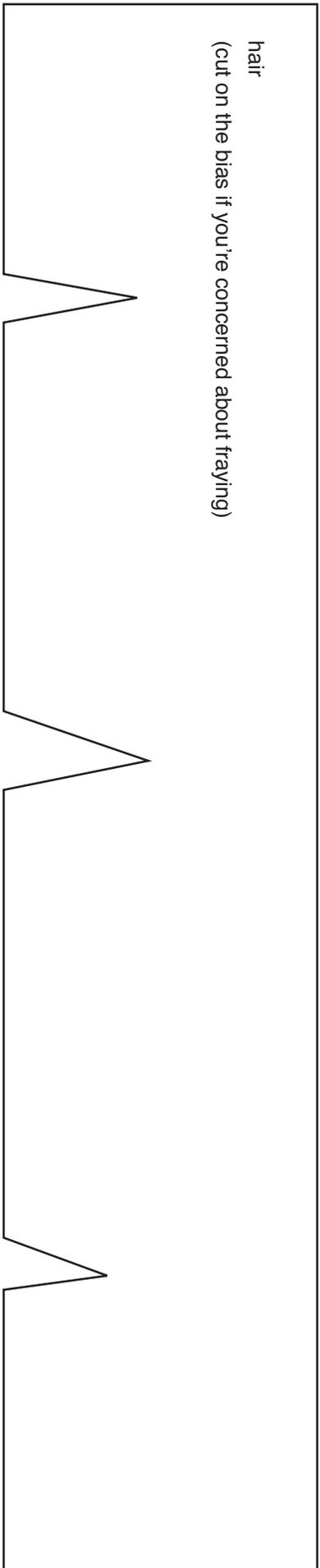
align this edge with fold





face

hair
(cut on the bias if you're concerned about fraying)



join this pattern piece with tape, no overlap

X3

cut 1 for back of bag
cut 2 for bag lining

join this pattern piece with tape, no overlap