

# The Bag of Bags

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**Design:** This design is sustainable because it is completely made out of leftover materials. The fabric, elastic and thread are all left over from past projects. This project takes about  $\frac{1}{4}$  yard of fabric, 6" of elastic and a couple yards of thread as needed. Most fabric stores sell scraps of fabric, often purchased by quilters, which would be enough material for this project. Buying these scraps instead of cutting from a full roll of fabric helps prevent the waste from unsold scraps from entering the landfill.

**Function:** The function of this design is sustainable, both economically and environmentally because it promotes the reuse of plastic shopping bags. According to a study done by the Australian government in 2002, over 7 billion plastic bags were thrown away per year (this study included both landfill and litter). By reusing shopping bags, less waste is entering the landfill because fewer bags are needed to be consumed. Some usages for plastic bags include lunch sacks, transportation and storage of goods, dirty laundry sacks while traveling, packaging material for shipment (in place of packing peanuts), and small garbage can liners (eliminating the need to purchase liners).



**Above:** Photograph of completed project;  
**Left:** Illustration of design concept.

