

Rustic Newspaper Bag

This bag has been created from layers of newspaper and furnishing fabric, aged and distressed to give an organic effect. Handles made from sticks complete the natural look. Finding the right furnishing fabric is the key to this project; you need a design that is loosely woven or has long threads on the back that can be cut and distressed. The antique-looking seal, made from glue and a rubber stamp, adds a finishing touch.



YOU WILL NEED:

- 28 x 44cm (11 x 17¼in) sheet of newspaper
- sponge
- coffee granules
- 1 piece furnishing fabric, 30 x 50cm (12 x 20in)
- scissors
- sewing machine
- metal brush or teasel
- extra newspaper for protection
- black webbing spray
- felt lining fabric, 30 x 50cm (12 x 20in)
- craft knife
- 2 interesting sticks, about 22cm (8¾in) for the handles
- sandpaper
- baking parchment or Teflon baking tray
- talcum powder
- hot glue gun
- rubber stamp
- bronzing powder
- Ormoline fabric medium
- patination fluid
- metallic cotton thread

Making the fabric

- 1 Colour the sheet of newspaper using a sponge soaked in cold coffee. Leave to dry.
- 2 Place the sheet of newspaper on to the back of the furnishing fabric and cut away any excess fabric.
- 3 Drop the dog feed on the sewing machine, and sew the newspaper to the back of the furnishing fabric using straight stitch in meandering vertical lines. Make the lines fairly close together and overlap them (A).
- 4 Using a metal brush or teasel, pull or tear pieces of paper away (B and C). You may need to tear the paper by hand but don't be tempted to use scissors as they will make the edges look too neat. Draw through some of the threads from the fabric underneath and distress the whole surface, using scissors to cut any long threads on the fabric (D, overleaf).
- 5 Place protective newspaper on a flat surface in a well-ventilated area. Place the fabric on to the newspaper, turn newspaper side up and lightly cover with black webbing spray.
- 6 If the fabric looks appealing at this stage then proceed with making the bag. If it lacks character then you need to work into it some more. Try hand sewing in running stitch or backstitch, or place a dyed nappy (diaper) liner over the fabric, stitch into it and blast it with a heat tool. A potential problem with this method is that it can feel hard to the touch so try it out on a scrap piece first.



A



B



C

Pattern taken from *Bags with Paper & Stitch* by Isobel Hall £18.99.
Available to buy now.



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