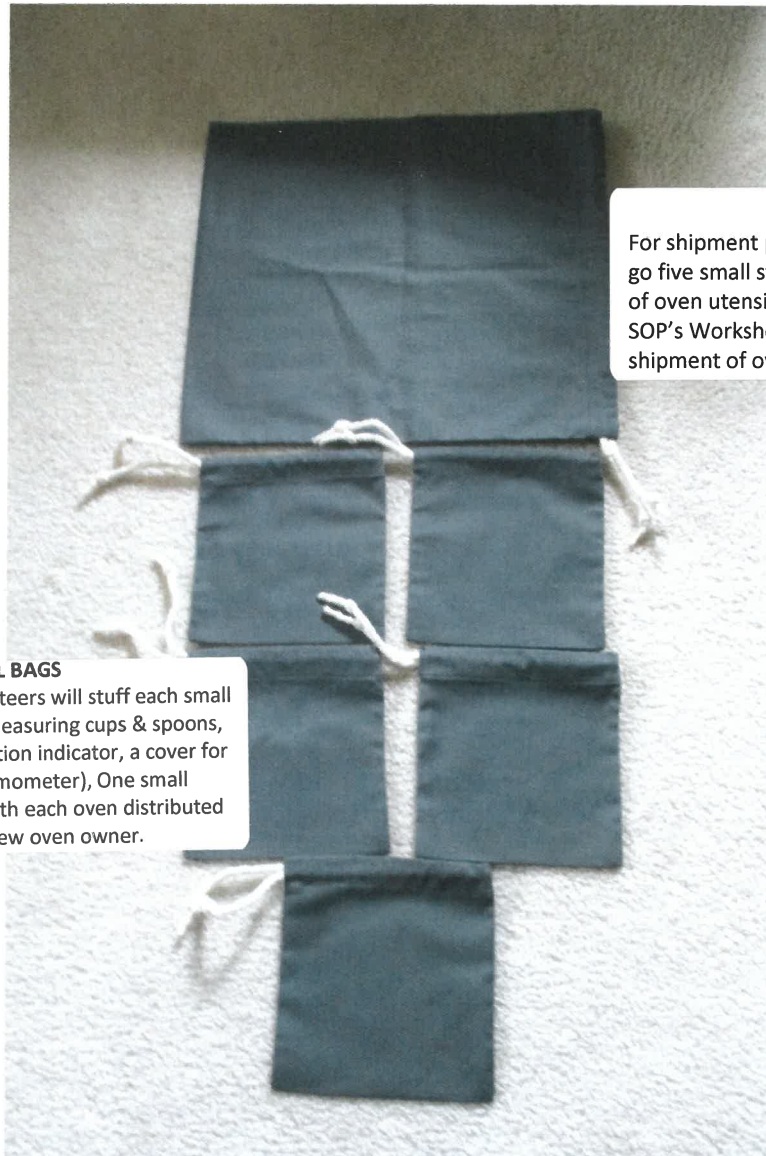




Solar Oven Partners

910 4th Street, Suite G
Brookings, SD 57006



LARGE BAG

For shipment purposes...into one large bag will go five small stuffed bags each containing a set of oven utensils. Large bags are returned to SOP's Workshop in SD for reuse with next shipment of ovens to mission sites.

SMALL BAGS

At SOP's Workshop volunteers will stuff each small bag with oven utensils (measuring cups & spoons, a WAPI/water pasteurization indicator, a cover for bread pan and oven thermometer). One small stuffed bag is included with each oven distributed on the mission site to a new oven owner.

Contacts:

Karen Workman, Bismarck, ND
701-250-9370 or 701-214-2234 cell
Gloria Borgman, Spearfish, SD
605-642-5321

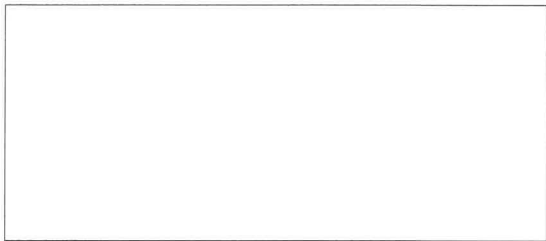
SOLAR OVEN PARTNERS UMC

Solar Oven Partners UMC
910 4th Street, Ste G
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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Reduce and Reuse: SOP Takes on Plastics—By Marj Evans-de-Carpio, SOP Director

Perhaps you have been learning about the environmental hazards of plastics. They break into pieces, eventually becoming tiny beads that flow into the ocean. Some fish and birds have been dissected and found to have a stomach completely filled with plastic, accumulated over time until they no longer had room for food.

Over the last year, Solar Oven Partners has implemented changes to reduce and reuse plastics. When we hold our solar cooking seminars, which culminate in a shared meal together, we used to use disposable plastic plates, cups and spoons. No longer! We now take reusable dishes to communities where we teach solar cooking. We have also eliminated the plastic baggies that used to contain measuring cups and spoons. Our sewing volunteers have embarked on making cloth pouches instead. Each pouch holds a set of measuring cups and spoons, a thermometer, a WaPI (water pasteurization indicator) and a black cloth bread pan cover. In addition to reducing the amount of plastic that we use in packaging, these pouches also make distribution of the ovens and their accessories much easier for our volunteers in



Volunteer in Mission Deb Anderson in the Dominican Republic with a stack of reusable cups and freshly washed plates.

mission. Now they only have to make sure each oven has a pouch, rather than having to make sure it has each of the four items that go in the pouch. When distributing 70 or more ovens, this will make things run much more smoothly. And the oven recipient keeps the pouch, either to store oven implements or to use as a little coin purse.

But it doesn't end there. Sewing volunteers are also making one large pouch for every five small pouches. These will be used to replace the plastic grocery bags that we formerly used to pack supplies in preparation for shipment. We will bring the large pouches back to be re-used for the next shipment. All of this is plastic that we will no longer leave behind in the communities where we distribute ovens—communities that often struggle with disposing of the plastic they already have. We still have work to do to reduce our plastic packaging, but we're definitely moving forward.

Thank you for your willingness to be part of the work of Solar Oven Partners by sewing cloth bags. We will use the bags to package solar oven components instead of sending plastic that will only become more trash. Bags will be given to the ladies receiving the ovens so will continue to be useful in their homes.

Fabric required: sturdy cotton, flannel, denim. Please do not send bags made of thin, knit, or stretchy fabric. Fabric should be washable. Each bag will require a piece 9 inches by 20 inches. 30 inches of sturdy cord will be needed as a drawstring. These bags will receive much more use, so please zigzag or serge edges/seams to be sure the bags are sturdy.

Cut one piece of fabric 9 inches by 20 inches. This would allow you to cut 4 bags from one yard of fabric or you may use scraps of that size. The 9- inch side will be the TOP of the bag so if you are considering the pattern of the fabric you may wish to cut accordingly.

On one long side, measure down from the top 1 3/4 inches and make a mark at the edge on the wrong side. Measure 3/4 more inches and make a second mark. Fold the fabric in half lengthwise, right sides together, matching the short ends.

Start stitching with a 1/2 inch seam (width is important) at the top and sew down to the first mark. Stop and then start sewing again from the second mark to the bottom of the bag. DO NOT sew in the "gap" between the marks, as this will become the opening for the gathering cord.

Press the 1/2 inch seam open. Locate the opening in the side seam. Holding the seam flat, sew a small "box" around the opening to strengthen the cord opening. It helps me to draw the box with a pencil so I don't sew the opening shut in error. In effect you are making a "buttonhole" around the opening.

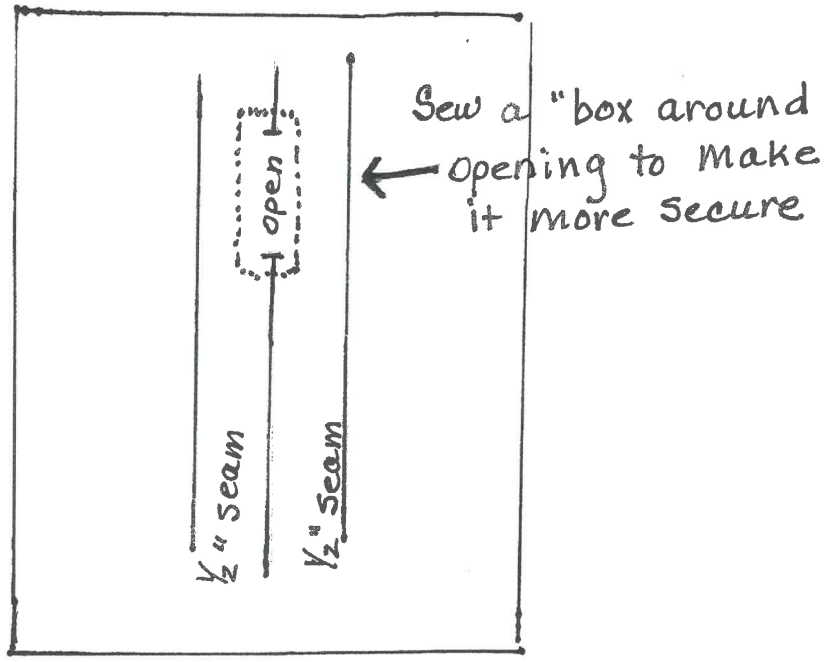
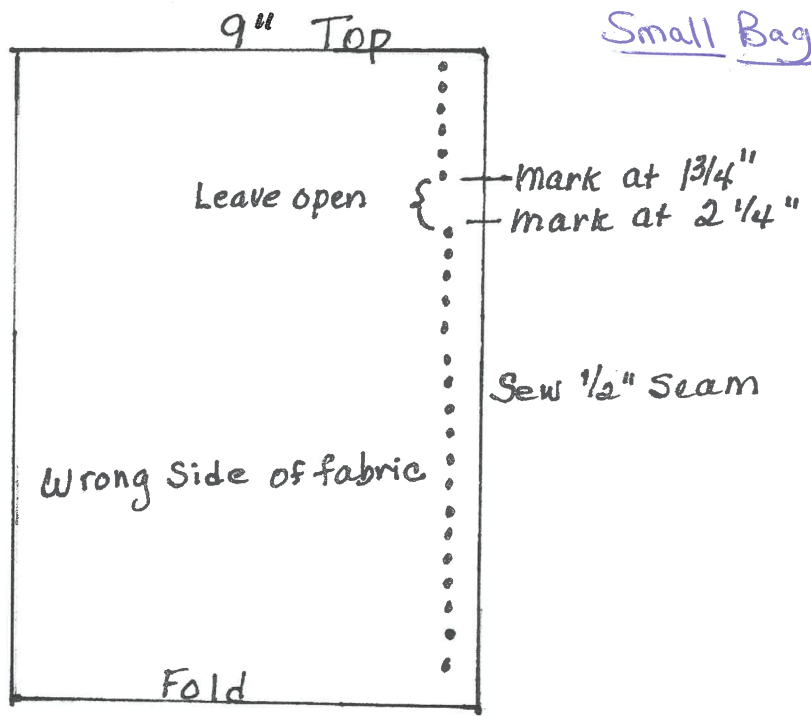
Stitch the other long side with a 1/4 inch seam.

Fold the 9 inch top fabric 1/4 inch toward the wrong side of fabric and either iron or hem the edge down

Fold the top of the bag down about 1 1/2 inches toward the INSIDE of the bag. Check to make sure that the cord opening ends up on the OUTSIDE, centered in the turned down area. Pin and then stitch all the way around the bottom edge of the folded fabric to make a casing for the cord. Turn the bag right side out and iron as needed.

Using a safety pin or bodkin, thread the cord through the opening and all the way around the bag and back out at the same place. Tie a large enough knot on the ends of the cord so that the cord cannot go back into the casing. Your bag is finished. **Thank you!**

Small Bag



Thank you for your willingness to be part of the work of Solar Oven Partners by sewing cloth bags. We will use the bags to package solar oven components instead of sending plastic that will only become more trash.

Fabric required: heavy cotton, flannel, denim. Please do not send bags made of thin, knit, or stretchy fabric. Fabric should be washable. Each bag will require a piece 18 inches by 40-42 inches. About 48" inches of sturdy cord will be needed as a drawstring. These bags will receive much more use, so please zigzag or serge edges/seams to be sure the bags are sturdy.

Cut one piece of fabric 18 inches by 40-42 inches. This would allow you to cut 2 bags from one yard of fabric. The 18-inch side will be the TOP of the bag so if you are considering the pattern of the fabric you may wish to cut accordingly.

On one long side, measure down from the top $1\frac{3}{4}$ inches and make a mark at the edge on the wrong side. Measure $\frac{3}{4}$ more inches and make a second mark.

Fold the fabric in half lengthwise, right sides together, matching the short ends. Start stitching with a $\frac{1}{2}$ inch seam (width is important) at the top and sew down to the first mark. Stop and then start sewing again from the second mark to the bottom of the bag. DO NOT sew in the "gap" between the marks, as this will become the opening for the gathering cord.

Press the $\frac{1}{2}$ inch seam open. Locate the opening in the side seam. Holding the seam flat, sew a small "box" around the opening to strengthen the cord opening. It helps me to draw the box with a pencil so I don't sew the opening shut in error.

Stitch the other long side with a $\frac{1}{4}$ inch seam.

Fold the 18 inch top fabric $\frac{1}{4}$ inch toward the wrong side of fabric and either iron or hem the edge down.

Fold the top of the bag down about $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches toward the INSIDE of the bag. Check to make sure that the cord opening ends up on the OUTSIDE, centered in the turned down area. Pin and then stitch all the way around the bottom edge of the folded fabric to make a casing for the cord. Turn the bag right side out and iron as needed.

Using a safety pin or bodkin, thread the cord through the opening and all the way around the bag and back out at the same place. Tie a large enough knot on the ends of the cord so that the cord cannot go back into the casing. Your bag is finished. **Thank you!!**

Large Bag

