

Japanese Rice Bags

This type of bag is also called a 'komebukuro.' They were traditionally made from scrap fabric and were filled with temple offerings, such as rice or other items. Made to be reversible, they are perfect to hold small objects. Think about making them to hold small Christmas gifts! All seam allowances are 1/4"

Fabric Requirements

Two pieces of cording or ribbon 18 inches long

You'll need twelve 5x5 inch squares.

Charm squares are perfect for this project. A pack of 42 squares will make 3 bags with some squares left over. It's also easy to upsize this bag as well. Just ensure that you're using square pieces of fabric.



Assembly Instructions

Start out by selecting 5 squares to be the inside of your bag, and 5 squares to be the outside of your bag.



Sew four of these squares together

Sew these four squares into a tube by sewing the first and last squares together.





Take the final square and sew it to the bottom of the tube.

*Tip for assembly: start at the seam and sink your needle there, and sew (with back stitching at the beginning and end) to the other seam. Sew one side at a time. To continue with the free sides, it's easier to sew from free seam side to previously sewn seam sides. For the last seam, you may find it easier to pull out the few stitches in the seam allowances to ease the bottom in the bag.

Complete these steps for both the inside and outside of the bag.



Place bags in each other with right sides together.

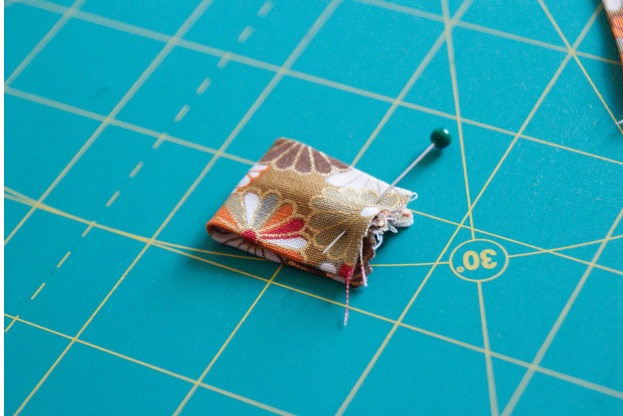
Cut one of your leftover squares into four 2.5 inch square pieces.





With right sides together, fold in half and sew along the long seam, backstitching at the beginning and end of the seam.

Turn tabs right side out and press with seam in the middle of one side, like the second tab from the left.



Fold tab in half.

Pin tabs into place into each of the four corners, centering the tab over the corner seam.





Sew the top of the bags together. Be sure to leave a gap for turning. **Be careful at the corners, you'll be sewing through many layers of fabric!

Turn bag right side out using the gap. Press and topstitch around the top edge of the bag. Thread one length of cording or ribbon through the tabs and knot the ends. In the opposite side, thread your second length of cording and knot the ends.



To create fabric bead, take the last 5x5 inch square and cut into four 2.5 inch squares. Take two of these squares and press the outside edge in 1/4 inch.

Topstitch around the perimeter. To create a fabric bead, using a needle and thread, take a stitch in one corner, and then in each of the subsequent corners, bringing all the corners together. **Be sure to do this stitching around the cording. Congratulations! You have a finished bag!

