

Animal Print Gift Bags

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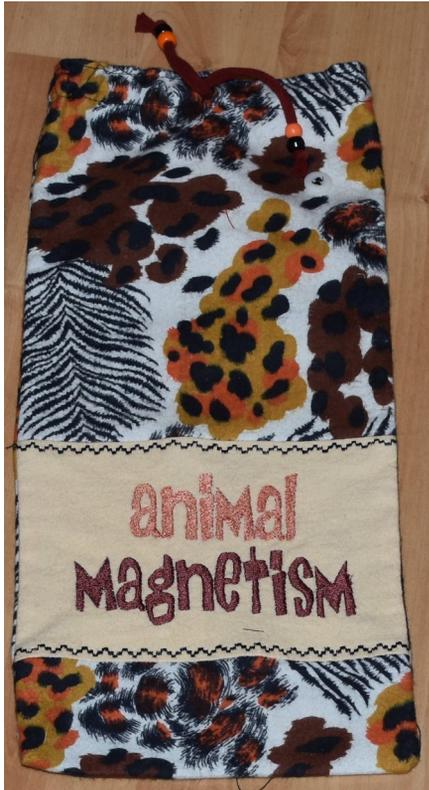
A couple of years ago, I started making drawstring gift bags as a way of using up remnants of fabric, but instead of diminishing the pile, I've found myself acquiring even more fabric when I see interesting pieces in the thrift store.

Last week I saw this remnant of fun animal print flannelette, and couldn't resist -- my sister loves animal prints, and to be honest I do too.

The remnant wasn't very large, but I figured it would yield a few interesting bags. I was right.



I like to coordinate the sayings on the bags with the fabric print if I can, and sometimes -- as in this case -- that necessitates creating new designs especially for them. I've found that words and slogans seem to work best for the bags.



<--- This "animal magnetism" design is the first one I made especially to match this print. I chose a font that looks both playful and a bit wild, and I like the effect.



----> I already had the "I fought the cat" design, and couldn't resist using it with this fabric. I like that the lettering looks like cat scratches -- though it takes a bit longer to stitch out than plain fonts do.



<---- I used that same wild/playful lettering -- inspired by a TTF font called "Day of the Tentacle" -- to make the other new designs, including this "animal crackers"; I couldn't help thinking of the Marx Brothers movie title.



----> "Wild thing" only occurred to me after I'd already made the other three bags, but I *really* like it on this fabric.



<----- I had a small scrap of leftover fabric when I'd finished the other bags, so I made this teeny "beastly" bag, which I love. We wrap everything, including stocking stuffers, so the little bags can come in handy for small items.

When I originally started making gift bags I was mainly thinking of Christmas, and I chose Christmassy fabrics. Then my friend requested some "non Christmas-specific" bags that she could use for other occasions. It was a great idea, and DH agreed, since he'd already started using the original bags for birthdays, Valentine's Day, and anniversaries --despite their Christmas theme.



Once the idea took hold, I found myself with loads of new inspiration, and after making a few bags with other themes, I branched out. Now I find myself choosing slogans based more on what will go with the fabric print than on a strictly gift-giving theme, and it's made for some truly unusual bags that can be used for multiple occasions.

I'm making gift bags pretty much all the time, so from time to time I'll share pictures of the specialty ones. We are amassing quite a collection, and wrap-challenged DH now uses them for every occasion.