

More Specialty Gift Bags

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Posted 2021 Apr 9

Lately I seem to be spending much of my craft time on projects I can't post because they're going to be gifted to people who follow the site, and I don't want to spoil the surprises. However, I'm continuing to make gift bags in an attempt to use up at least some of my fabric stash.

Some of the bags are specialty bags with a family theme, like the two I'm sharing this week. First up is a bag that features a cartoon of my brother, drawn by a friend of his. The framed caricature hung in my folks' home for several years. It captures my brother very well, just as he looked way back when, and I think he'll get a kick out of seeing the cartoon recreated on a gift bag.

For the bag itself, I chose a rustic Christmas print featuring a log cabin in the woods, along with wildlife and other accoutrements of country living. As it happens, my brother lives in a rural area in a little cabin surrounded by woods, with lots of animals around (including bears!).

I'm not even sure whether my brother has a copy of the original cartoon, so I know he'll be tickled by this bag, and that he'll immediately recognize why I selected this particular fabric print.



My sister-in-law is a fan of dragons, and her favourite colour is purple, so this one was a no-brainer.

The phrase "Here Be Dragons" used to appear on old-time maps when the cartographers weren't sure what lay beyond the areas they had explored, and myths of fearsome sea serpents still abounded. I love the calligraphic style font. I selected the black polka dot fabric (the dots are purple) for obvious reasons, and stitched the dragon to the front after the insert was in place but before I had finished stitching up the sides of the bag.

The redwork dragon design is from Kreative Kiwi. To make it really stand out against the black background, I hooped the black fabric, then floated a piece of purple felt on top. I stitched the dragon using a slightly darker purple thread, and added a golden yellow eye. I trimmed the felt close around the stitched dragon, leaving a very narrow border all around. I think he looks great. I love the effect and will use it again whenever I want to make the design stand out against a busy background.

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Once I started making themed bags for particular recipients, I've found tons of inspiration: favourite colours, typical sayings, childhood memories, all provide fodder for creativity, and I'm having a blast creating them.

