MAKE A DOLL KIT TO PACK IN YOUR CHRISTMAS SHOEBOX

The Operation Christmas Child shoebox project is special to me. Thinking of the opportunity to give to a child who has so little and spread Jesus’ love is heartwarming. Here’s a doll kit to make for packing in a shoebox. I make a simple pillow, blanket, and tote. I purchase the dolls at a discount store.

PIllow
- Cut a piece of fabric 6 inches by 7 inches.
- Fold the fabric in half (making it 6 inches by 3½ inches) with right sides (the printed side of the fabric) together, and sew a ¼-inch seam allowance.
- Sew 3 sides. Be sure to leave an opening on 1 side about 2 inches long. Remember to backstitch when you begin and end.
- Turn the pillow inside out and stuff it.

Blanket
- Cut a piece of fabric 20 inches by 10 inches.
- Fold the fabric in half with right sides (the print) together.
- Sew a ¼-inch seam allowance on 3 sides, leaving an opening on 1 side about 3 inches long. Backstitch when you begin and end each seam.
- Turn the blanket inside out.
- Use a chopstick or the tip of your scissors to push out the corners. Be careful not to push too strongly.
- Topstitch ⅛ inch around the edges folded under.

Tote
- To construct the tote’s handles, fold the 3-by-14 pieces of fabric in half with the unprinted sides together, making them 1½ inches by 14 inches. Finger press or iron. Fold the raw edges to the center. Press. With the raw edges folded in, topstitch ⅛ inch on each side. Repeat for the other handle.
- For the body of the bag, fold 1 piece of 12-by-20 fabric with right (print) sides together, making it 12 inches by 10 inches. Sew on 2 sides with a ¼-inch seam allowance, creating the folded bottom and sides sewn. Leave a 3-inch opening in the middle of 1 of the sides, always remembering to backstitch where the stitches start and stop. Turn the body of the bag inside out so the raw edges are on the inside.
- Place 1 handle about 2½ inches from the seam and pin. Without twisting, place 2½ inches from the other seam and pin. Repeat on the back of the body with the other handle.
- Sew an ⅛ inch, tacking the straps in place.
- Place liner (second piece of 12-by-20 fabric) over the bag’s body. The liner will have the raw edges facing out, and the body will have the raw edges facing in. Pin every 2 inches, aligning the seams. Sew a ⅛-inch seam allowance, overlapping stitches by a ½ inch. Grab the bag’s body through the opening and pull. Be sure to poke out the corners. Hand or machine sew the liner opening with the raw edges facing in. Tuck the liner into the bag.
- Sew an ⅛-inch topstitch around the top of the bag.

If trying to use scraps, use 2 pieces of fabric to make the pillow (6 inches by 3¾ inches) and 2 pieces (10 inches by 10 inches) to construct the blanket. Just remember to sew on all 4 sides and leave an opening on 1 side for turning. The tote’s body and liner can be made from 2 pieces (12 inches by 10¾ inches). Just remember to sew on 3 sides and leave an opening on 1 side of the liner.

Be creative and adjust the pattern to any doll. Remember that the tote’s body and liner need to be the same size. While making the doll kit, pray for the little girl who will receive it.

—Submitted by Christine Hayworth of Morristown, Tennessee

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