



Japanese Rice Bag



Japanese Rice Bag or Komebukuro

You will need:

10 Equal squares of fabric (only four will be visible)

5 squares of wadding

Thread to match

Cord

Material for loops

You can make this bag in any size: you can use 10 cm (4") squares up to 40 cm (16") squares.

A Japanese Rice Bag or Komebukuro is easy to make. Originally made as utilitarian bags to transport and store rice, you can use this simple template for a variety of different bags. You will need 10 squares of fabric. Of those ten squares, five are for the lining, one is for the bottom and four are visible. You may want to choose your fabrics keeping this in mind.

The four sides that are visible can be decorated fabric, or four patchwork blocks that are left over or specially made.

Lay the squares of the outer bag according to the template below. Bottom in the middle and decorated squares in the form of a cross.

Pin and sew together. Now with the right sides together, pin and sew so you get a sort of cube. Trim the corners.

Lay the squares that will make the lining together. Pin and sew as per the template. Lay with the right side up on top of the wadding squares. Pin, baste and quilt the wadding to the lining. Then, with the right sides together, pin and sew so you get another box shape. Trim the corners. Put the two boxes in each other, lining in and decorated sides out. Fold the tops of the two boxes in and pin together.

Make loops from leftover material or from ribbon. The amount of loops will depend on the size of your bag, but you should have at least two on each side (eight in total).

Pin the loops in between the two boxes and sew a double seam. Use two lengths of cord through the loops to provide the fastenings.

