

MICHELLE WARD designs

How to Make Your Halloween Treat Bag

A folded treat bag from the Electric Screams collection by Michelle Ward Designs



The two sizes side by side.

Materials Needed

- One sheet of 12" x 12" cardstock for the 6.75" bag or one sheet of letter-size, 8.5" x 11", cardstock for the 5.75" bag
- Your cutting machine — Silhouette, Cricut, or similar
- Paper glue, double-sided tape, or glue dots
- Optional: a bone folder or scoring tool for crisp creases
- Optional: a printer, if your download came with pattern JPEGs

Finished bag size: about 6.75" high, 3.875" wide, and 1.5" deep from the 12" sheet, or about 5.75" high, 3.25" wide, and 1.25" deep from the letter sheet.

What's in Your Download

- Bag template — an SVG, a DXF, and a PNG. They're the same bag: the cut lines plus the fold lines.
- Pattern JPEGs — full-sheet patterns to print, if your template came with them. There are at least two, one for each side of the paper.
- Read Me — how to open your files, plus where to find me
- Personal Use License Agreement — this design is licensed for your personal use

Understanding the Template

Which file do I use? If your software opens SVGs, use the SVG. If it doesn't — the free version of Silhouette Studio, for instance — use the DXF. The PNG is a picture of the bag, so you can see what you're cutting, and for software that traces an image rather than opening a vector file.

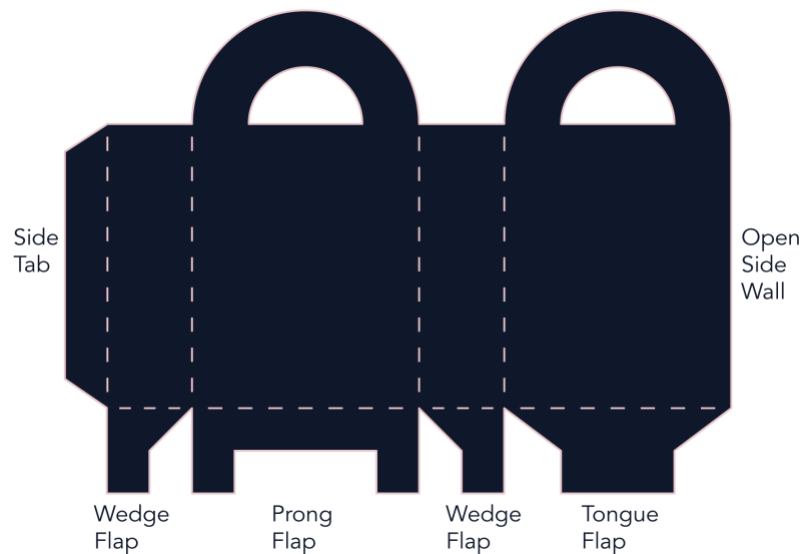
Printing Your Patterns

If your download came with pattern JPEGs, you can print them and cut the bag from your own printed sheet. There are at least two, because both sides of the paper show on the finished bag — one pattern faces out and one lines the inside. Print only one side if you'd rather the inside stayed plain cardstock. Each JPEG is formatted for either 12" x 12" or 8.5" x 11" and labeled with the size, so use the one that matches your bag template.

- Print the patterns, one to a side. Print at 100% or actual size, not "fit to page," so each pattern fills the whole sheet — a scaled print won't line up with the cut. If your printer handles cardstock you can do both sides at home; otherwise a print shop can run them for you.
- Open the template in your cutting software and check that it sits in the middle of the page. If it looks off, use your software to center it.
- If the printed pattern is directional — if it includes type, for instance — the top of the JPEG is the top of the printed page. Load the printed sheet the same way up as the pattern appears in the JPEG.

Cut and Fold

The bag cuts as one piece.



1. **Cut the bag.** Load your cardstock and cut the template. It cuts the bag shape, the arched handle opening near the top of each face, and the fold lines.
2. **Fold along all the fold lines.** Crease everything firmly. Sharp creases help the bag hold its shape.

Close the Side

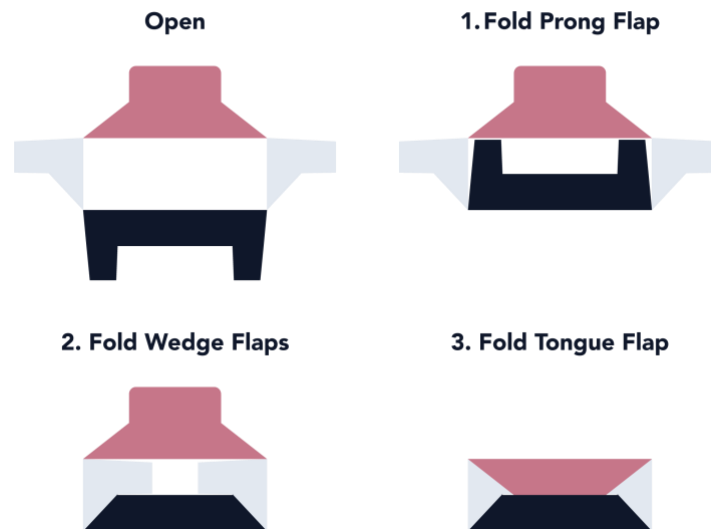
3. **Lay the bag flat, inside facing up.** Fold it in half so the free edge of the Open Side Wall lands along the crease at the base of the Side Tab. Nothing's glued yet — this is just to show you where that edge has to land. Working inside up is what puts the outside of the bag on the outside once the Open Side Wall folds over.
4. **Lift the Open Side Wall back up out of the way.** Fold the Side Tab in along its crease and run glue or tape the full length of it.
5. **Fold the Open Side Wall back down.** Line its edge up with the crease and press firmly along the whole seam. The Side Tab ends up inside the bag, and the bag's now a flat tube.

Close the Bottom

The bottom is a **Tuck Lock**: a Prong Flap, two Wedge Flaps, and a Tongue Flap that holds the other three down.

6. **Open the flat tube out into a rectangle.** The four walls become the four sides of the bag. It won't hold its shape yet — the bottom's what does that.
7. **Fold the Prong Flap down first.** It's the flap shaped a little like a goalpost.
8. **Fold the two Wedge Flaps down over it.** One comes in from each side.
9. **Tuck the Tongue Flap in last.** Fold it over the Wedge Flaps and tuck it under the area between the prongs of the Prong Flap. That's what locks the bottom.

Tuck Lock: Bottom View



10. **Secure it, or don't.** For heavier treats, add a little glue or tape under the Tongue Flap. Left untaped it still holds, and you can pull the bottom open to fold the bag flat for storage and use it again.

That's it — you have a treat bag.

Make It Yours

- The bag cuts and folds the same way on any paper or cardstock you like. Patterned scrapbook paper, a solid, or something you printed yourself all work.
- Thread ribbon or twine through the two handle openings if you want to tie the bag shut.
- Ink the edges, or add a die-cut tag, for something a little more finished.

Find more designs in the [Michelle Ward Designs Etsy shop](#) or at michellewarddesigns.com. For project tutorials, join me for Crafting with Chaos on the [Michelle Ward Designs YouTube channel](#). Happy crafting!