



I'M A SLEEVE TO WINE!

Fabulous fashionistas not only look good, but they also have excellent style and grace. A fashionable lady knows never to show up at a friend's house for dinner or a party without a hostess gift. If you are anything like us, the gift is usually a bottle of wine or champagne. A simple trick is to keep homemade, fabulous wine bags on hand, so even a bottle of Two-Buck Chuck looks divine. Paper wine bags from the corner store are overpriced and, frankly, not that cute. We took a sweater sleeve and a man's shirt and tie and turned them into two creative and cute (and nearly free) wine bags. Grab an old shirt and let's get to it!

What you'll need

either

- ★ long-sleeved shirt
 - ★ ribbon or thin cord ($\frac{1}{2}$ yard—this will be your drawstring)
- or
- ★ man's long-sleeved shirt with button cuffs (French preferred)
 - ★ man's necktie
 - ★ $\frac{1}{4}$ yard of the thinnest elastic you can find

bottle of wine

scissors

thread

hand needle or sewing machine

Techniques you'll use

running stitch, if hand sewing

straight stitch and backtacking, if machine sewing

Time to complete

hand sewing: 30 minutes

machine sewing: 20 minutes

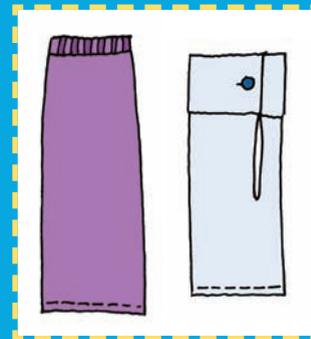
Step 1: Fit it

Stick the wine bottle in the sleeve of whichever shirt you are using (with the cork or screw top pointing out of the cuff). If you are using a long-sleeved shirt, stick the bottle in far enough so the top of the bottle is covered. If you are using the man's shirt, the cuff will act as the wine bag's "collar," so unbutton the cuff and fold it over, as if the sleeves are starting to be rolled up. You'll want the top of the bag to be the "collar" near the neck of the bottle (where the bottle starts to taper off). This is where the tie will rest. Pinch the sleeve below the bottle to close off the bag (imagine that you are estimating where the bag

will end). Cut the sleeve off a little farther toward the shoulder than where your fingers are.

Step 2: Sew it

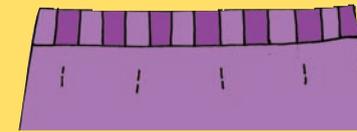
Turn the sleeve inside out and, with a ½-inch seam allowance, sew the bottom of the bag shut (either by hand or machine). You will not need pins for this, as it's a short distance to sew. Turn the sleeve right-side out and stick your bottle



in again to make sure you like the length (and that the bottle stands up straight—if not, trim some of the seam allowance off).

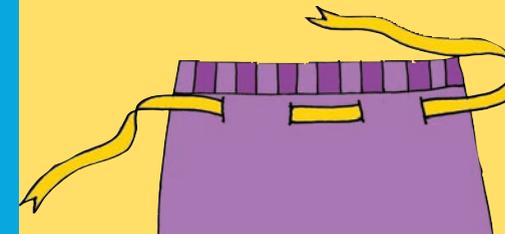
Step 3: Tie it

You will need to add a drawstring (or elastic tie) to the top of the sleeve/bag to make sure it stays up over the bottle. The easiest way to do this with the shirt sleeve (we'll get to the cuffed sleeve in a second) is to clip little slits (about the width of your ribbon or cord—no more than ½ inch



in length) 2 inches down from the top (or around where the neck of the bottle starts),

all the way around the sleeve. This is where you will thread your drawstring. You should clip a minimum of 6 slits, but any even number will do. (The number needs to be even so that when you thread it, your drawstring winds up on the outside of the bag so you can tie it.)



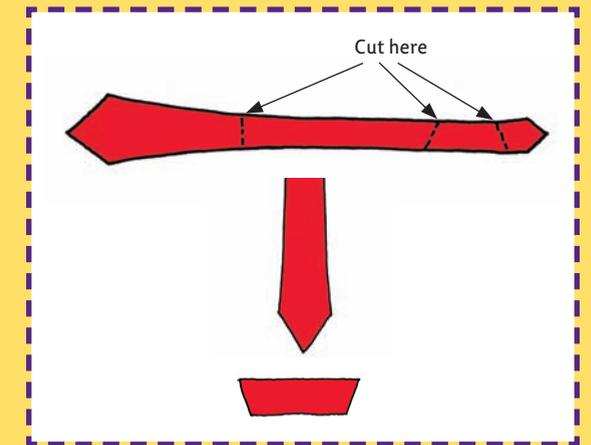
Thread your drawstring through the slits (over and under, almost like hand sewing, but without a needle), slip the bottle of

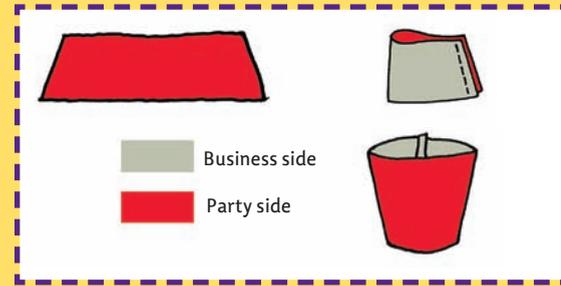
wine back in, and tie the ends of the drawstring together in a bow. You can embellish the drawstring by adding a button or pin to the end of it. Or punch a hole in a piece of stationery paper, write a quick thank you to your hostess, and thread it on the drawstring. You decide. Repeat with the other sleeve of the shirt so you have a spare for last-minute gift emergencies! (Don't forget to remove

the price tag from the wine!)

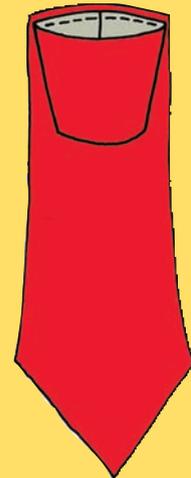
As for the cuffed shirt, you'll need to make a faux tie. Turn the bag right-side out and fold the cuff over as if it were the collar on the bag. Put the bottle in the bag and wrap your thin elastic under the collar, just tight enough to hold it up. Either tie a knot or sew the elastic shut. Trim off the excess. You should now have a thin elastic ring.

To create the mini tie, cut off a 6-inch to 8-inch length from the wide end of the tie, keeping the pointy end intact. (Some people like short ties, some like 'em long.) This is going to be the mini tie. If you want to use the small end of the tie,





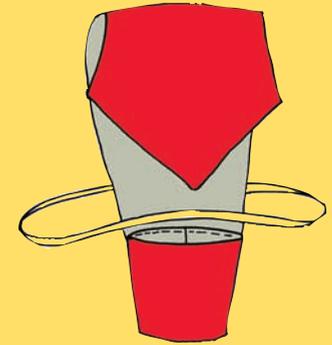
feel free, but remember that your design will be upside down on the finished tie (and you'll need to take any visible tags off). Cut a 3-inch length from the narrow end of the tie. This part will be your faux knot (think clip-on tie). Make your



cuts angled so the piece is 1 inch wider on the top than the bottom (a trapezoid shape, if you will).

Take the trapezoid piece, face party side to party side, sew the short sides together with a 1/2-inch seam allowance, and turn it right-side out. It should look like a tie knot, but with a point on the top back part (where the opening is wider).

Face the front of the long piece you cut off to the back of the knot



(the party side, where the seam is). Sew the top of the tie to the point of the knot.

You can probably see where this is going. You will then slip the long tie through the faux knot. But not so fast! First slip your elastic ring between the tie and the knot, so that when you thread the tie through the knot, it will hold in place.

Slip your gorgeous tie under the collar of your wine bag, and you've got a delightful man's shirt wine bag. Grab another tie and the other sleeve and make yourself a spare!

