Cricut Crafts: DIY Gift Bags with Lia Griffith

Chapter 1 - Introduction
Overview
Hi, I'm Lia and I'm a blogger and paper craft designer at LiaGriffith.com. I've teamed up with Creativebug and Cricut, and designed a suite of paper crafts for you to make right on your Cricut machine. Making these gift bags in Cricut are so simple. I'm using a 2-sided card stock, so you have the detail of the two different patterns. The Cricut will cut, punch the holes, and score all in one pass. And then we'll add the ribbon handle and the coordinating gift tag. You can bags up ahead of time and have them ready for any occasion.

Chapter 2 - Materials
Materials
You don't need a lot of materials for this project. You'll want a computer and the Cricu t Explore, of course. And then for every bag you'll want 1 sheet of 12 by 12 card stock that has double-sided printing. I'm using the LightGrip Mat. I have a pair of scissors, some ribbon for my handles, hot glue gun, and for this project, you're going to need the Cricut Scoring tool.

Chapter 3 - Make Gift Bags
Print and cut paper
The first we'll do is open our gift bag template in design space. There's a small, medium, and large bag, and we're gonna make the medium bag today. As you can see the black is where the cut lines will be. And then these dotted lines are the score lines. And I have it set up so that you'll actually cut out all the holes that you need. You don't need to punch at all. I've also added a few gift tags to fill up the page. This is set for a 12 by 12 piece of paper. Let's look at our layer's pallate and you can see that each layer is either a cut or a score. The template is set up and ready to go so I'm just gonna click the green go button. And you'll open up a mat preview. The next thing I'll do is put the paper on our mat. I have the mat covered with this plastic which keeps it clean in between using. So, I'll pull that off and save it. And then we're just gonna line this up onto the mat. So, this side is actually the outer bag and then the other side will be the flap that opens up. So, I want this to show and that will be facing up. I'm gonna go to my computer and click Go. And the first thing I'll do is make sure that my dial is set right. So, I'm gonna go right halfway between light card stock and card stock, on that dot. We're gonna need the scoring tool so with the arrow pointing down. we'll snap it into place, and then close this lever. And then about the mat, place them right under these tabs. Once loaded the Cricut button will start flashing. You'll press that and it will start to score and cut. When the machine is done scoring and cutting you'll see the arrow button flashing again, I'm gonna press that, now release the mat. This is the fun part where you get to peal off the paper. If you have a newer mat and you're having trouble getting this off mat, then this Cricut tool is perfect. It's a little spatula that you could, sort of, scoop right underneath, and that will help release the paper. Another trick is to actually bend back the mat, which is another really gentle way to release the paper. These come off really easy. If your paper's curl you can just, sort of, flatten them with your fingers, bend it back. On every gift bag, I've added a couple extra gift tags, and you can use these for other projects as well. I just thought I would fill up the page. So, if you want to make a bunch of these and store them flat, you can do that or I'll show you how to assemble them.

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Assemble bag

With the scoring already done, this bag is really easy to make. I'll show you how to take it from 2D to 3D. I have the outside of the bag facing me and I'm going to do my first folds right here, I'm gonna pull down the flap. This will be the top of your bag. And the scores are solid but you can feel them with your fingers. So, what you'll want to do, is fold along each score. So, each notch will indicate that there's a score. I'm now turning the bag over, and I will fold it towards the top and this will be the bottom of the bag. Again there's a score right there, so it makes it really easy to fold. I just want to have this pre-folded. This is the side flap where I'm gonna glue it together. I'm gonna fold it flat, like this. Pull it open and I'm going to add just a little bit of glue right on the edge, and I want to be closer to the fold. You can go ahead and fill it up, but you want to be close to the fold, so keep your glue close to the edge so you have a really nice tight corner. The extra flap I'm gonna tuck it underneath. Again, just put a little bead of glue close to the fold, and then press it down. And remove any glue hairs. Already it's looking like a gift bag. So, now I'm gonna glue the bottom. I'm gonna fold the back piece in first, and add some glue to the side tabs. You need a little square shape there. Second side. And now the bottom. And for this one I'm gonna add quite a bit of glue because I want it to be really secure. And there you are. Now I'm gonna add the ribbon handles and add the gift tag. I'm gonna use this gold ribbon for the handles, and you'll need about 6 to 8 inches per handle. So, I'm gonna cut each cause I measure one against the other so that I know that they're even. One thing to remember, before you tie handles onto the bag, you'll want to add your gift tag. Cricut already cut the hole for us. So let's slide the ribbon through. You'll want to string the handles from the outside of the bag, into the inside. I'm gonna pull it tight and then tie maybe a double knot on the end of each ribbon. Depending on the ribbon, you can often tie 1 knot but sometimes 2 is better. This medium bag has 2 handles, the other gift bags just have 1, so go ahead and tie the other side, but without the gift tag. This is so cute. Let's add a gift. Perfect. You can make these bags in advance and choose your color palette for any occasion. For the small bags, you can actually put 2 per sheet. So, it's a great way to use up all that scrapbook paper.

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