



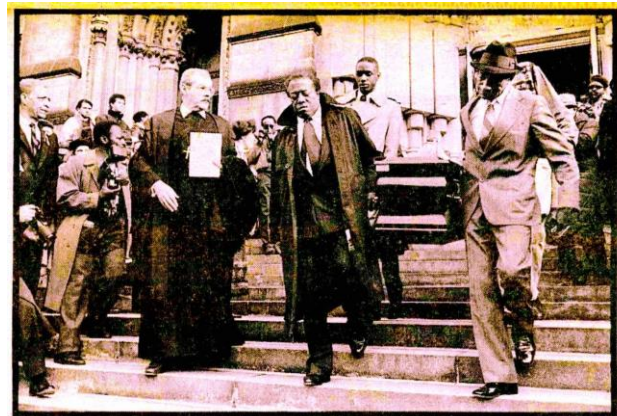
History of the Shopping Bag

It is thought that the bag dates back to ancient Egypt, but I can't imagine it was to go shopping at Aldi.



In 1852, [Francis Wolle](#), a schoolteacher, invented the first machine to mass-produce paper bags. Wolle and his brother patented the machine and founded the Union Paper Bag Company.

In 1853, James Baldwin, papermaker of Birmingham and Kings Norton in England, was granted a patent for apparatus to make square-bottomed paper bags. Thereafter he used an image of a flat-bottomed bag as his business logo.



In 1871, inventor [Margaret E. Knight](#) designed a machine that could create flat-bottomed paper bags, which could carry more than the previous envelope-style design.

In 1883, [Charles Stilwell](#) patented a machine that made square-bottom paper bags with pleated sides, making them easier to fold and store. This style of bag came to be known as the S.O.S., or "Self-Opening Sack".



History of the Shopping Bag 2

In 1912, [Walter Deubener](#), a [grocer](#) in [Saint Paul, Minnesota](#), used cord to reinforce paper bags and add carrying handles. These "Deubener Shopping Bags" could carry up to 75 pounds at a time, and became quite popular, selling over a million bags a year by 1915.

1970s [Plastic bags](#) were introduced and thanks to their lower cost, eventually replaced paper bags as the bag of choice for grocery stores



"To my dad (the plastic bag inventor), the idea that people would throw plastic bags away would be bizarre"

In the early 1960s, Thulin developed a method of forming a simple one-piece bag by folding, welding and [die-cutting](#) a flat tube of plastic for the packaging company Celloplast of [Norrköping](#), Sweden. Thulin's design produced a simple, strong bag with a high load-carrying capacity, and was patented worldwide by Celloplast in 1965.



History of the Shopping Bag 3

From the mid-1980s onwards, plastic bags became common for carrying daily groceries from the store to vehicles and homes throughout the developed world. As plastic bags increasingly replaced paper bags, and as other plastic materials and products replaced glass, metal, stone, timber and other materials, a packaging materials war erupted, with plastic shopping bags at the center of highly publicized disputes.

In 1992, [Sonoco Products Company](#) of [Hartsville, SC](#) patented^[8] the "self-opening polyethylene bag stack". The main innovation of this redesign is that the removal of a bag from the rack opens the next bag in the stack.

In 2015, the world's largest paper shopping bag was made in the UK and recorded by Guinness World Records. Also in 2015: The **European Union** adopted directive (EU) 2015/720, that requires a reduction in the consumption of single use plastic bags per person to 90 by 2019 and to 40 by 2025.

In April 2019, the European Union adopted Directive (EU) 2019/904 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 5 June 2019 on the reduction of the impact of certain plastic products on the environment.^[11]