

Activity: Drawstring Tote Bag

Drawstring bags are very versatile and can be made in a variety of sizes depending on the need. A school bag is approximately 14" x 17."

Materials Needed:

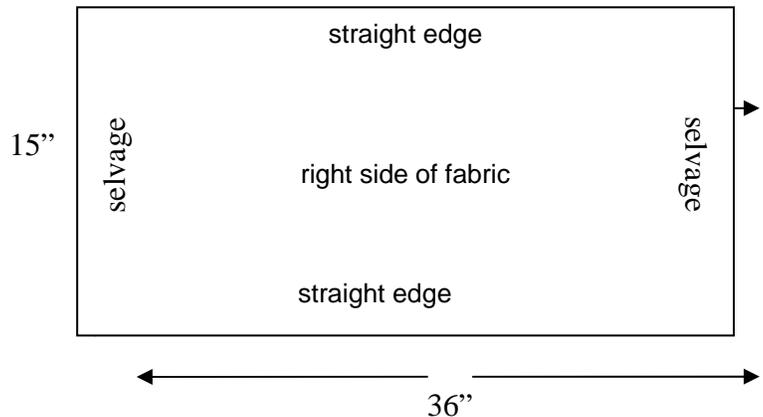
18" (1/2 yard) of 36" or 45" wide firmly woven fabric. You can make any size you want.

Matching Thread

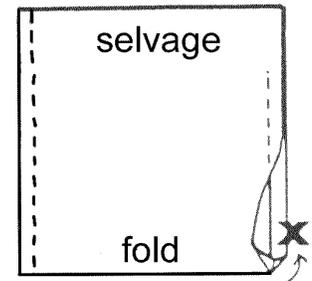
2 1/2 yards of fine rope or cording.

Steps

1. Shrink and straighten the fabric. The selvage edge is to be the top or open end of the bag.

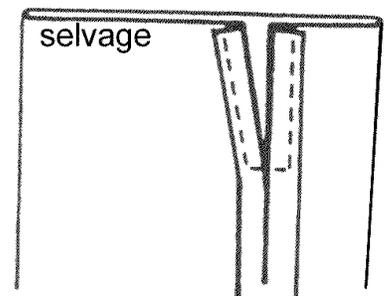


2. Fold the 15" x 36" piece with the right sides together. Pin the two raw edges on either side and to within 2" from the top of one side. Stitch the seams, using 5/8" seam allowance up to the pin on one side and to the top on the other side. If not using the selvage, clean finish top (turn edge under 1/4", stitch and press).

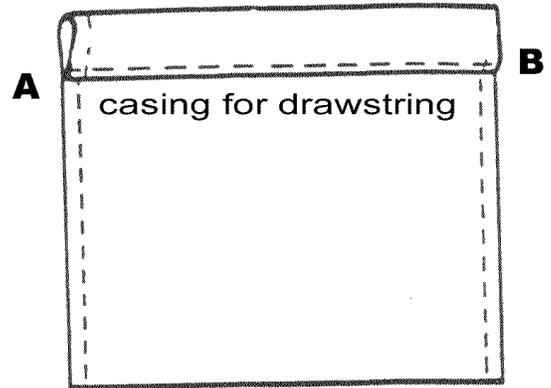


3. The seam may be clipped at the bottom for heavy fabrics. On light fabrics, bring the fold of the seam allowance up to the opened seam (X) and press the seams open all the way to the top of the tote.

4. On the side seam stitched to 2" from the top, topstitch 1/2" from the folded edge of the unstitched part of the side seam. Start at the top and stitch down one side; leave the needle in the fabric and turn. Stitch across the end to the other side; leave the needle in the fabric to turn. Stitch up the other side.



5. Fold the selvage edge down 1 ¼". The edge will come ¼" beyond the open slot at the side. Pin, and stitch on the machine close to the edge from A to B. Press. This makes the casing for the drawstrings. Turn the bag right side out.



6. Cut a 45" cord for the drawstring. Using a large safety pin, pull the drawstring through the casing. Knot the end of the drawstring.

