

How to Sew a Drawstring Bag

By Terri Ashley Ocean, Designer

Draw string bags are easy to sew and can be used for many purposes from storing jewelry to bags for birthdays and holidays. One can be very imaginative in creating these bags from all different sizes to adding embellishments and one's own style.

Supplies:

Fabric of your choice – this bag was created from ladybug cotton material – Ladybugs are considered lucky! One piece of fabric measuring 10 inches x 4.25 inches creates a 4 x 3 inches bag.
Yarn, ribbon, or cording – 12 inches in length (2 pieces) scissors, matching thread, straight pins, large eye needle, fabric marking pen or pencil, sewing machine or may be hand sewn.



Instructions:

Cut a piece of fabric 10" x 4.25" – will make a 4 x 3-inch bag.

Fold the length of the bag in half with wrong sides together.

Measuring 1.58 inches from the top of the bag using a fabric pen or pencil, mark on both sides of the bag.

Pin the wrong sides together.

Starting at the 1.58 mark from the top, sew side seams together 1/8 inches down the sides of the bag.

Turn the bag out so the right sides are facing each other.

Press the bag with an iron and measuring from the top of the bag and on both sides, mark 1.58 inches which will create the top casings.

From the top mark, sew 1/4 inch down the side of the bags. – This will catch the inside 1/8-inch seam inside the 1/4 inch seam, so a French finished seam is made inside the bag and looks professional.

Turn the bag right side out.

Top Casing -

At top of bag fold fabric down to wrong side of fabric $\frac{1}{4}$ inch and press.

Turn top side seams $\frac{1}{4}$ inches into wrong side of the fabric and press.

Fold both top seams down again so they meet each other to the $1\frac{5}{8}$ " mark.

Sew across horizontally each seam as close to the mark to finish the casings.

Cut 2 - ribbon, cord, yarn, etc. x 12 inches.

Using a large eye needle, thread the cording through one casing seam and back through the opposite casing seam so that both ends of the cord is on the same side. Tie a knot at the end of the cord.

Using the other cord do the same threading at the opposite casing seam so the ends of the cord are on the other side of the bag. Tie a knot at the end of the cord.



Embellish the bag as you please. I added two red pony beads on the cords prior to tying the knots on the end of the cords.

To enlarge your bags, and have the dimensions accurate, increase the inches to the side and top of the bags equally. For example, if you want to make a bag that is 5 inches by 4 inches – the cut of the fabric will be 11 inches x $5\frac{1}{4}$ inches.

Have fun and enjoy making these fun drawstring bags!