

EASY DRAWSTRING BAG

I have made many drawstring bags, back packs, and beach towel back packs. Each time I created a new one, I revised my method until I came across this one. The method described below is the easiest and can be used for any size drawstring bag.

For those who prefer to use a pattern, I have a pattern for a finished bag 10" tall by 8" wide

Decide the size your bag needs to will be.

Add 2" on each end of the bag for the draw string casing.

Add 1" to the width of the finished size for the two ½" side seams.

I cut out a rectangle 24" x 9"

For larger bags, add 2 ½" on each end of the bag, so the heading will be 1 ½" instead of 1"

Serge or zig zag finish each narrow end of the cut rectangle.



If you plan to embroider a design or name on the bag, do it now.

To form the casing: on each finished end, mark 2" line and fold to the inside. Pin. Measure down from fold 1" and draw a stitching line with tailor's chalk or water soluble marker.



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Measure $\frac{1}{4}$ " away from finished edge and draw another stitching line.



The raw edges at both ends of the casing need to be folded to inside along $\frac{1}{2}$ " seam line. Measure down from finished edge 3.5" and clip in $\frac{1}{2}$ " to seam line.



Refold casing. Pin along stitching lines.



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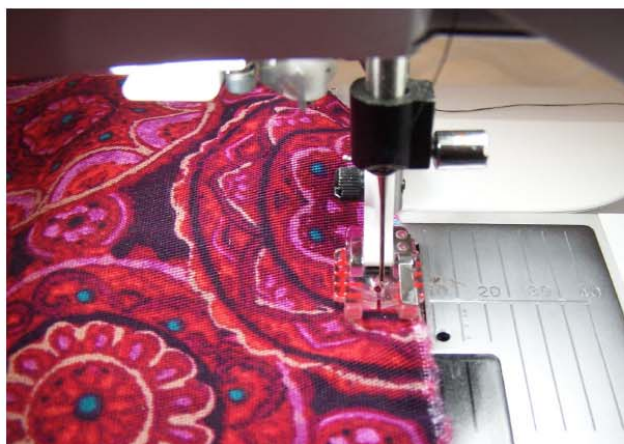
Stitch on both marked lines to form casing on each end of the rectangle.
Backstitch at beginning and end of stitching lines.



At this point, you can choose to serge the side seams together or do a French Seam to finish them. To serge side seams, place CORRECT sides together, matching up top folds of casings. Pin bag together at sides from below the 2nd sewing line to bottom of bag. Serge on ½" (13mm) seam line.



To make French Seams: Place fabric WRONG sides together and pin.
Stitch first seam on ¼" (6mm) seam line.

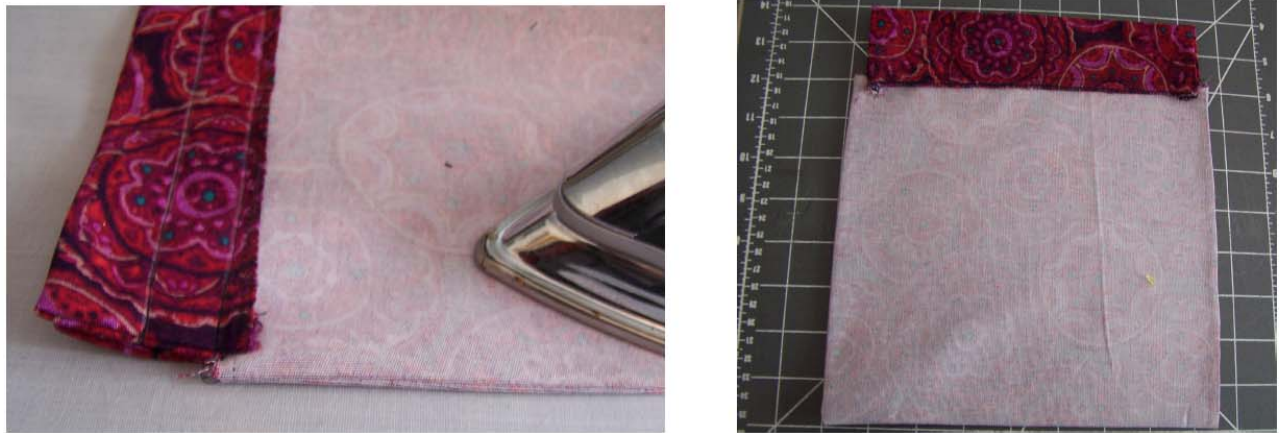


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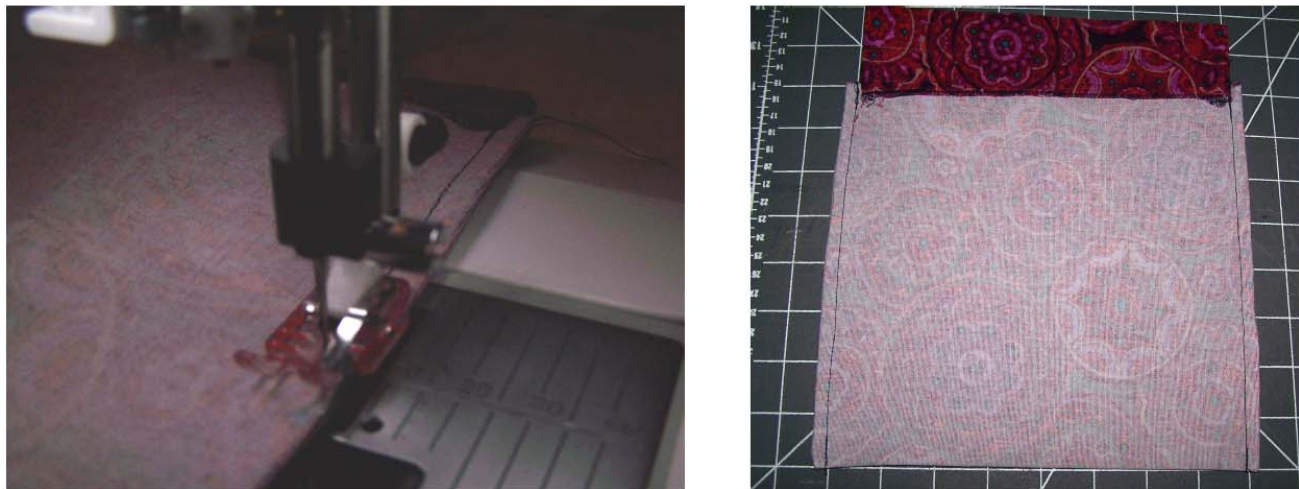
Trim seam to $\frac{1}{8}$ " (3mm). From WRONG side, press seam to one side.



Press seams together.



Stitch second seam on $\frac{1}{4}$ " (6mm) seam line. Be sure to backstitch at each end.



The bag is finished, but needs a draw string. Measure the finished width of the bag. Double this measurement and add 4" (10cm). For my bag the width is 8" (20cm). So the length of the drawstring is $8 \times 2 = 16 + 4 = 20$ " (50cm).
Cut two draw string cords or ribbons that measurement.

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Using a safety pin, thread the cord from one side of the casing through to the other side. Then thread it back through casing on other side of bag so cord comes back to side from which it originated.

Tie two ends of cord or ribbon together.
Repeat this process for the other side of the bag.



The bag is complete.

