

Drawstring Bag Tutorial

Materials:

- Fabric – 2 pieces measuring 14" x 15"
- Drawstrings – 2 lengths of bias binding or ribbon measuring 42"
- Tape measure
- Pencil or air erasable fabric pen
- Pins
- Scissors
- Pinking shears
- Cotton thread in the same colour as your fabric
- Safety pin

Method:

Cut out two pieces of fabric measuring 14" x 15". Use pinking shears if you have them as it's an unlined bag and will stop the seams from fraying too much.

(Note: The size of this bag is just a suggestion; you can make the bag any size you like).



First you need to make the encased top section where the tape will go, so grab a tape measure.

Turn the fabric so the long edge is at the side.

Measure 2" from the top and make a mark on one side of the fabric. Now measure down one more inch and make another mark on the fabric. The space between the two marks is the gap where your tape is going to be inserted.

Make the same markings on the other side of your fabric.

Put the right sides of your fabric together and sew three sides of your bag, leaving the top open and missing out the 1" gaps you made. Leave a half inch seam allowance.

At this point I sometimes sew a couple of stitches either side of the gap – for strength. This is an optional step – don't do it if you are in a hurry!

Now press the bag while it's inside out and press open the seams. This will help you to see the gap you left for the tapes.

Now turn your bag right side out. While you are still at the ironing board press the top of the bag under by about a quarter of an inch.

Fold it again by about 1 and a half inches and press. This is enclosing the top section and creating space for the tapes.

Make sure that the little gap you left at the side is completely within this section.

Pin it down and sew around the top of the casing. Leave a small seam allowance (about an eighth of an inch).

You are now ready to insert your tapes. If you are using bias binding, fold it in half and sew down the edge.

Make sure your tapes are long enough. If you are making a small bag for



little items you may only need short tapes, but if you are doing a bigger bag like this one it's a good idea to have nice long tapes that will hang on a peg or that you can carry over a shoulder.

At the very least the tapes need to be double the length of your top seam plus 5".



Take the end of your tape and attach a safety pin.

Insert the tape into one of the gaps. Work it around the whole of the casing until it reappears from the same hole. Now do the same thing on the other side.

You now have both tapes inserted. Pull them apart and the bag will close.

There are a couple of options for finishing off the tapes. I have just tied a knot in the ends because it's easy!

However you can sew them shut by overlapping the ends and sewing a square shape on the overlap. If you do this method be sure to pull the tape one way so the overlapped section is inside the casing (for neatness).

Well done! You now have a cute drawstring bag that has many uses ... it could be a laundry bag, a toy bag, a bag to store your knitting or a lunch bag. The options are endless!

