

Drawstring Backpack Tutorial

Materials:

- 2 x Pieces of fabric measuring 16" x 17" (40cm x 43.5cm)
- 2 x Drawstrings, bias binding or ribbon measuring 67" (170cm)
- Tape measure
- Pencil or air erasable fabric pen
- Pins
- Scissors
- Pinking shears (optional)
- Cotton thread in the same colour as your fabric
- Safety pin



Method:

Cut out two pieces of fabric measuring 16" x 17" (40cm x 43.5cm). Use pinking shears if you have them as it's an unlined bag, so this will stop the seams from fraying.



First you need to make the encased top section where the tape will go, so take your tape measure, turn the fabric so the long edge is at the side.

Measure 2" (5cm) 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. Repeat these marks on the other side of your fabric.

Put the right sides of your fabric together and sew down each side of your bag leaving half an inch (1.3cm) seam allowance. Make sure to leave a gap between the two marks you made on either side of your fabric.

Don't sew to the bottom of your bag! Stop a few inches from the bottom. You are leaving the bottom of the bag open for now because unlike a normal drawstring bag you are going to secure the tapes into the side of the bag. This is what transforms it into a rucksack.

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, and will make threading the tapes much easier.

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 (0.5cm).

Fold it again by about 1 and a half inches (4cm) and press. This encloses the top section and makes 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.

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!

Turn the bag inside out and lay it flat with the drawstring section at the top. Make sure your tapes are neatly together with no twists.

This is where you attach the drawstrings to the bottom of your bag, so carefully lay the drawstrings inside. Take the ends and pin them to the side of your bag about an inch from the bottom, so about half an inch (1.25cm) is poking out and pin them in place.



Repeat this on the other side. Pin the bottom of the bag.

Sew the remaining three sides of the bag. Go over the tapes a couple of times to ensure they are securely in place.

We're nearly finished!!!

Now just trim off the ends of the tapes and the corners of the bag so it lays nice and flat. Turn it right side out and press.

Hurrah! You just created a backpack! If you made it with the spooky Halloween fabric it's now a wonderful trick or treat bag for a child (or chocolate lover) ... Yay!!!

Happy Spooky Halloween!

