

How to Sew a Simple Drawstring Backpack

Supplies

- Fabric: One WOF X 18 in rectangle
- Fabric for Tabs: One 6" X 2" rectangles
- Cords: Two 72" pieces
- Matching or Complimentary Thread
- Scissors
- Straight Pins
- Safety Pin or Sewing Bodkin

Directions

1. Cut fabric WOF X 18". Remove Selvages.

2. With the wrong side facing up, fold over each of the long edges about $\frac{1}{4}$ ", press and repeat, pressing as you roll the fabric edge. Stitch in place near folded edge. Repeat on the opposite long edge.

3. On the short edge, measure 1" down from the top, as well as 3" down from the top. Mark both measurements with a pin or tailor's chalk. Repeat on the opposite end of the rectangle.

4. Fold the short side down so that the edge meets the 1" mark that you made on either side of the fabric. Press. The fold again, placing the fold at the 3" mark. Press and Pin in place. Repeat on the opposite end. This makes two casings about $\frac{3}{4}$ ".

5. Sew along the edge of the drawstring casing seam. You do not need to worry about the seam allowance, just sew close to the folded edge.

6. Make the tabs for the bottom of the drawstring backpack using the 6 inch X 2 inch piece of fabric.

Fold fabric in half, bring the wrong side of the fabric together with the right sides facing out. Press.

Open up the fabric and you will see the pressed edge in the middle. Fold one of the long sides toward the middle wrong sides together, lining up the edges with the pressed line in the middle.

Stitch along the long sides of the fabric tab, stitching close to the edge along the entire length on each side. Cut in half to have 2 tabs 3" long.



7. Fold the body of the bag fabric rectangle in half with right sides together. Matching the ends. On the bottom of the bag (where the fold is), measure up about 1 inch on either side. Mark with a pin.

Fold a fabric tab you made in half and insert it into the backpack at the 1 inch mark, keeping the cut edges lined up with the outer edge of the fabric and the folded part inside the bag. Pin in place. Place one tab on each side of the bag.

8. Sew the seams along the long side of the bag. You will want to sew close to the edge, which is around $\frac{1}{4}$ inch seam allowance. Backstitch at the top and the bottom, as well as backstitching as you go over the tabs. Sew from the bottom edge at the fold up to the drawstring casing, but do not sew across the folded drawstring casings

Turn the bag inside out, pushing out the bottom corners with your finger. Press flat.

9. Cut two pieces of cord 72 inches each.

10. Attach a safety pin or sewing bodkin to the end of one of the cords. Insert the cord into one of the drawstring casings, drawing through the entire casing and bringing it out on the other side. Leave a long piece of cord hanging out the other side, you do not need to bring the entire cord all the way through the casing.

Now draw the cord through the other drawstring casing in the opposite way.

With the other cord, repeat the same process but do it in the opposite direction. Insert the safety pin attached to the second piece of cord into the casing on the side where the 1st cord is looped (and not cut). Draw the cord through the casing, then bring it back through the second casing.

You will now have two cut ends of cord on each side of the bag, as well as a looped piece of cord on each side.

11. On one side of the backpack, draw one piece of cord through the tab. Then knot the cords together on that side.

Repeat the same process on the other side.