

How to make the DRAWSTRING BAG

Use pretty, bright, and colorful fabric which young girls will fall in love with!

- ➔ Follow fabric guidelines on page two.
- ➔ Finished size of bag: 10” wide x 12.5” tall minimum.

1. Cut piece of pre-washed, washable lite-weight fabric 11x28 inches (28x71 cm). Quilters cotton or poly-cotton is best.
2. Serge/zigzag/overcast both long edges (28” side).

Long sides serged:



3. Press the casing for the drawstring on each 11” side as follows: fold $\frac{1}{4}$ inch to wrong side, press, then fold-over another $1\frac{1}{4}$ ”, press again. Repeat for other end. DO NOT sew the hem/casing; it is done at the very last step. (Picture shows casing turned to inside of bag)
4. Attach the DfG label, if available. (Shown on last page.) The label can be centered two inches below the casing on the outside of the bag. Stitch around all four sides of the label, using a straight-stitch.

Casing folded $\frac{1}{4}$, then $1\frac{1}{4}$:



Both casings folded and pressed:



5. Sew side seams as follows: right sides together, align drawstring casings at top, begin sewing just below the casing (back tack here) and sew down the entire side to the bottom corner (back tack again). Use a $\frac{3}{8}$ inch seam. Repeat for other side.

Side seam sewn below casing:
casing folded (left) and unfolded (rt)



How to make the DRAWSTRING BAG

6. Unfold the casing, turn in the edge about 1/4 inch, and then, sewing from the top, taper the seam to a V to the point where the side seam begins, then ‘needle down’ your needle, twist the piece and sew back up the other side to secure the edge of the other casing. Repeat for other end of casing.
7. Re-fold the casing as it was pressed. Stitch the ‘casing hem’ close to the lower edge of the casing. Be careful to fold the other side out of the way while stitching. Repeat for other side. Be sure to leave casing ends open.
8. Turn bag right-side-out and press. If you did not back-tack the side seam just below the casing, give it another few stitches to secure the side seam from ripping apart when the drawstring is pulled open.
9. Verify the finished measurement of the bag. Adjust your seam allowances etc as necessary as you continue to make bags.
10. Cut two drawstrings; 36” each (92cm).
11. Insert the drawstring as follows: each string goes in opposite directions. Refer to pictures on next page. One starts at left end of bag, goes through one side and continues back through other side. Knot the ends here. The other string starts at the other end of the bag and goes in reverse. Knot this string on the right side. Use an inexpensive Drawstring Threader (available at sewing stores and online) to pull the string through the casing. Alternatively, you could use the old-fashioned method of pushing the string through with a safety pin but that is a bit tedious and time-consuming. A threader makes it so easy.



What to use for drawstrings?

The best option for drawstrings is ½ inch or 5/8 inch twill tape or similar. You could also use ribbon of similar width. Do not use tiny cording or string because it digs into the skin and is not comfortable to wear. The drawstring must be washable and durable.

Fabric guidelines: Use bright, colorful, pretty, washable fabric. Do not use anything with animals, reptiles, war, camouflage, glam, bugs, knives or anything culturally-specific; these items are forbidden in some cultures, as well as inappropriate in many others. Florals and geometrics are best. Bags must last three years of *daily* use (the girls use them *every* day, not only a few days each month). Use quality materials. Good quality quilters cotton is good. Fabric may be 100% cotton or poly-cotton blend.

Is the bag for the postpartum kit the same size?
YES.

How to make the DRAWSTRING BAG

Drawstring threading:

(actual length of string longer than shown in sketch)

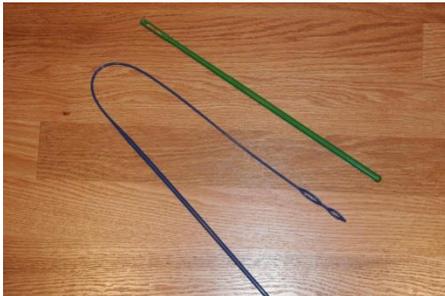
First string like this:



Second string goes the opposite direction:



Examples of drawstring threaders:



This picture of the inside of the bag shows a nicely finished casing and seam:

