

Drawstring Bag or Purse

Leader’s Guide 4-H Unit 1 Sewing – Non-clothing option

Simple drawstring bag includes straight machine stitching, topstitching, seam finish, French seams, self-fabric straps, and a casing. Use to teach beginning machine sewing and measuring skills. Draw pattern according to dimensions on layout illustration.



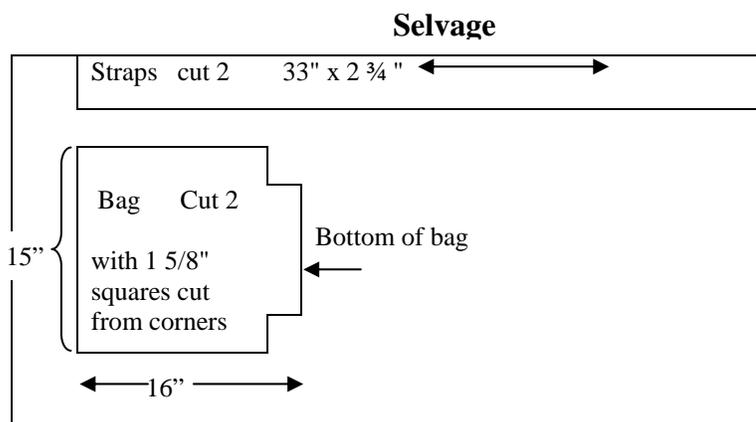
Materials Required:

- 1 yard firmly woven fabric of medium weight (light weight denim, sports cloth, etc.)
- Thread to match

Equipment Required:

- Dressmaker’s shears
- Sewing gauge
- Large safety pin
- Serger (optional)
- Pins and pin cushion
- Measuring tape
- Sewing machine
- Paper and pencil for drawing pattern pieces

Pattern Layout:

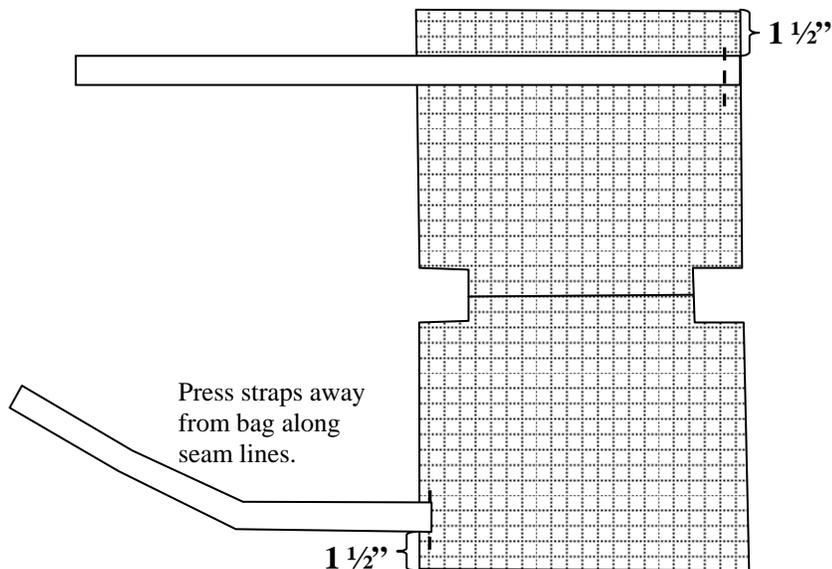


Notes: If a non directional fabric is used, the bottom seam can be eliminated by placing the seamline on a crosswise fold of the fabric. You can get two bags out of one yard of fabric. Cut out the corners 1 inch up from bottom fold and 1 5/8 inches in from the side.

Bag Construction: 5/8" seam allowances, read through all instructions before starting to sew.

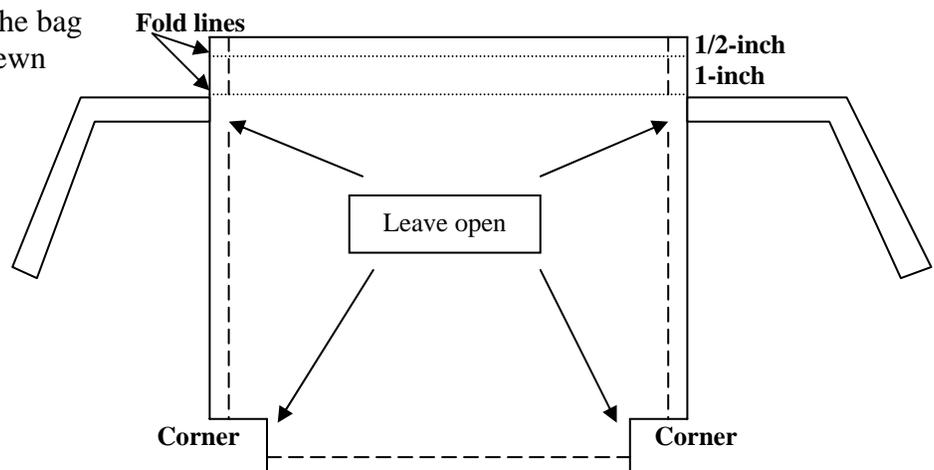
1. **Straps:** Measure and press the long edges of each strap under 5/8 inches (toward the wrong side of the fabric). Fold each strap in half, long ways, matching the pressed edges. Pin together. Press. Each strap should measure 3/4-inch wide. **Alternate method:** Fold each strap right sides together so that long edges meet. Seam long edges, press seam open, and turn right side out. Press strap so that the seamline is along one long edge.
2. Top stitch around each strap close to the edge.
Note: topstitching may be omitted if strap was stitched and turned.

3. Apply seam finish to seam allowances on sides and bottom of bag pieces. (Based on selected fabric, choose one of the following: zigzag, serged/overlock, turned and stitched, or seam sealant)
4. Press top edge of each bag piece under $\frac{1}{2}$ inch. Fold pressed edge down, to the inside of the bag, 1 inch and press again. (Pressing these lines first makes the bag construction easier.)
5. ***If the pattern was not cut on the crosswise fold, sew the bottom seam:*** Place right sides of fabric together and pin together along **the bottom edge, only**. Sew seam following the $\frac{5}{8}$ -inch seam line. (Adjust seam width if turned and stitched seam finish was selected.) Press seam open.
6. **Attach straps to top of bag:** Unfold all pressed edges. Pin and sew straps as illustrated. Sew each strap to the right side of the fabric on opposite sides of the bag just inside the seam line. Press straps away from bag along seam lines.

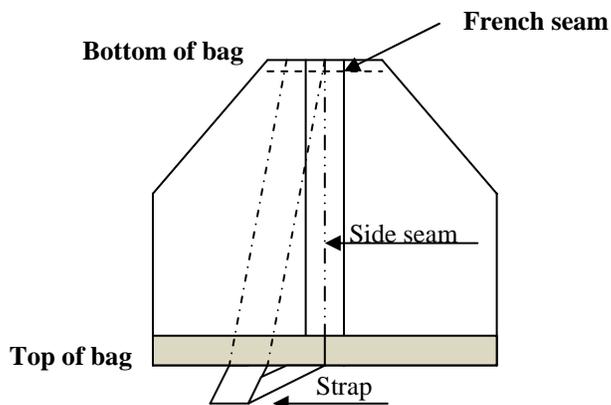


7. With right sides of the bag together, pin side edges together. Sew side seams **leaving a 1-inch opening where the drawstring is attached**. See illustration below. Press side seams open.

Note: The corners of the bag should not be sewn yet.



8. **Casing:** Pull straps to outside through opening in each side seam. Fold top edge of bag along the ½- and 1-inch established crease lines to form the casing. Pin in place. Using regulation machine stitching, stitch close to lower edge of casing. Overlap stitching to secure. Be careful not to catch the straps in the stitching.
9. **Insert straps through casing:** Turn bag right side out. Using a large safety pin attached to the strap end coming from the right side seam, insert the strap back through the casing on the front of the bag starting at the right side seam and threading it through to the opposite left side seam. For added security, topstitch through the casing and strap close to the seamline where the strap was first attached. Be sure that drawstring strap can still be pulled through the casing. Repeat for second strap on the back of the bag.
10. **Attach straps to the bottom corners:** With bag right side out, fold bag bottom so that side seams and bottom centerfold/seam matches. Match raw ends of corresponding straps to raw edge of each corner (the one coming out on the side above the corner). Sew strap to corner seam using ¼-inch seam. Trim seam if edges are not smooth. Turn bag wrong side out. Press corner seam flat. Sew corner seam again using a 3/8-inch seam. The raw edge of the first seam will be enclosed forming a French seam at each corner.



Marjorie M. Baker, M.S.
 Extension Associate for Clothing and Textiles
 June 2010