

Quick Make

Sew a drawstring bag

Stitch a nylon drawstring bag to hold your stuff or to give as a gift bag!



Ripstop nylon is strong, tightly woven, lightweight, water-repellent, breathable, machine washable, and relatively inexpensive. Ideal for drawstring bags. This design features sewn-on drawstring channels that eliminate buttonholes or other openings. There are two drawstrings, threaded in opposite directions, for smooth closing. All the raw edges are enclosed in the seam and hem finishes.

This 10" x 15" bag was designed to fill with holiday gifts, such as gloves, hats, soap, deodorant, and books for young teenage boys. Sewing guild members stitched, filled, and donated dozens to Families Forward Bidwell Riverside Center in December 2025.

Ripstop nylon and drawstring cord will be available at the February 28th Sewing Lounge for all to make donation bags.

Instructions

Finished size: 10" wide x 15" long

Make it any size: The drawstring channel is 2" shorter than the bag width

Seam allowances: ½" for French side seams

Hem allowances: 1" wide, folded twice for a ½" finished hems

Microtex 70/10 or Universal 70/10 needle recommended for Ripstop

Cut

Bag Fabric: One 11" wide by 32" long piece

Channel Fabric: One 10" wide by 7" long piece

Drawstring: Two 27" lengths of cording

Drawstring Channels

1. Hem the short 7" sides. Fold over ½" twice. Edgestitch and topstitch each side. The channel piece is now 7" x 8".



2. Cut in half lengthwise, forming two 8" x 3½" pieces. Fold each in half making two 8" x 1¾" channels. Baste ¼" from the raw edges.

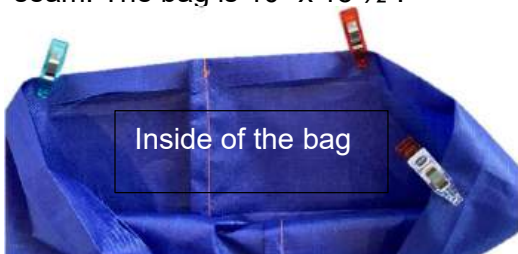


Bag

3. Fold the short edges ½" to the wrong side. Finger press and clip.

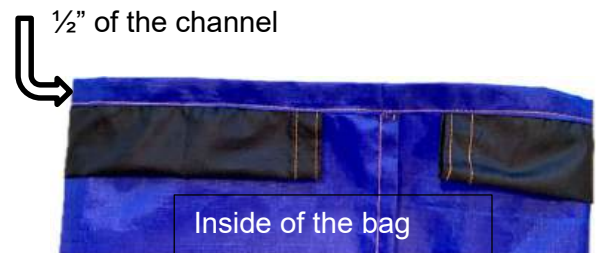


4. Sew each long side with a French seam. The bag is 10" x 15 ½".

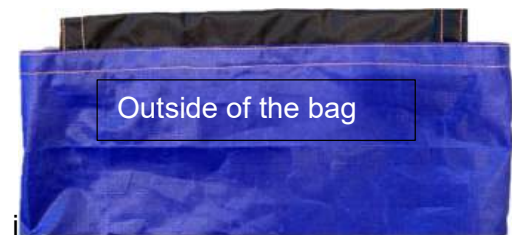


5. Finger press a second fold at the top of the bag. The top edge is folded twice, making a ½" hem.

6. Slip the basted raw edges of the channels under the top double fold. Edgestitch the bag hem securing the channels.



7. Fold and finger press the channels up. Edgestitch around the top stitching through the bag and the channels.



Drawstring

8. Start at the right-hand side the bag and insert a cord through both channels. Next, start at the left-hand side and insert a second cord through both channels. Tie the ends of the drawstring,