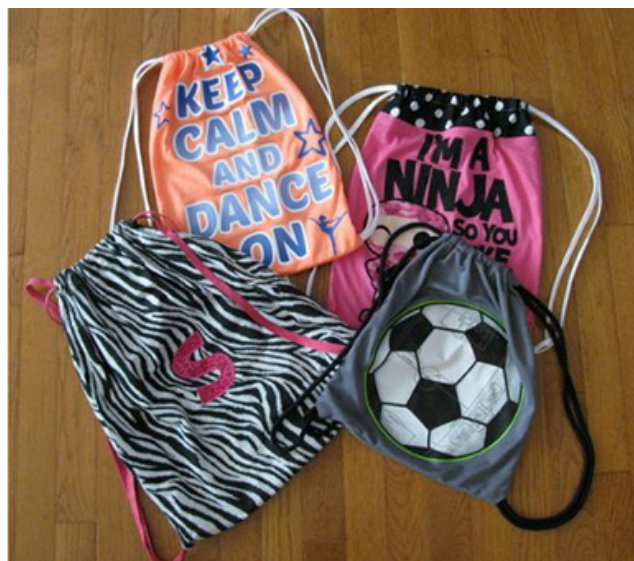




Drawstring Backpack



Christmas is coming and you have lots of gifts to sew, right? You need something quick and easy for all the different personalities! For about \$10, you can make these great bags from t-shirts or fabric in less than an hour. For boys, girls, and adults, these are great for snacks and such for soccer games, bike rides, trips and so much more!

Skill Level: Beginner

Created by: Stephanie Struckmann, Blogger [Totally Stitchin'](#)

Supplies:

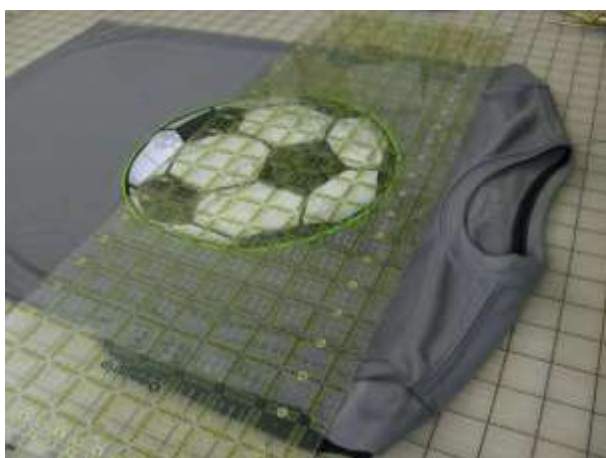
- Baby Lock® sewing machine
- Baby Lock Serger
- Madeira® Aerolock serger thread
- Madeira Aerofil all-purpose thread to match fabric
- Either an XL child OR adult t-shirt OR ½ yard of fabric (To personalize each bag, its fun to find a shirt/fabric that is the gift recipient's favorite cartoon character or interest. I bought my t-shirts at the local big box stores for about \$3 (on clearance) to \$7.)

- Klasse Stretch Needles size 11 or 12 (if you are working with jersey, t-shirt fabric)
- 2.5 yards (child bag) or 4 yards (teen/adult bag) of lanyard type cording for straps (I like the flat kind the best because it's easier to sew over, but, a roping type cord (braided, not twisted) would work too...I've also tried a quality/strong twill tape and that worked, too.



Instructions:

1. Lay the shirt flat. For an easy shirt where the graphic is set down further from the neckline, cut 2 pieces (front and back) 13" by 16" for a child OR 16" by 19" for an adult. Make sure the graphic is about 6" down from the top cut edge to allow for a 1" casing on the top for the straps to pass through and gather as it closes. If the graphic is too high on the neckline, see if you can sacrifice some of the graphic while preserving the look. If it would cut into the graphic too much, add fabric to the top. You can also cut the graphic out upside down to allow space above the graphic for the strap casing and gathering.



2. After you've cut your front and back, measure 2.5" from the TOP edges (right and left of both front and back pieces) and mark a $\frac{1}{2}$ " in from the side (shown below).



3. Make a $\frac{1}{2}$ " clip at that mark into each side (4 clips total for right top and left top, front and back).



4. Iron those 2.5" flaps in a half inch (if you are using a woven fabric, iron it under again so that you have a $\frac{1}{4}$ " flap that conceals the raw edge). Jersey doesn't fray, so, you don't need to worry about folding it in again. Stitch those flaps in place.



5. At the top edge, iron down a $\frac{1}{2}$ " and then, press that edge down another 2" to create a 1" casing.



1" casing shown below.



- 6.** Stitch down the casing.



- 7.** Put the front and back together, pretty sides in towards each other. Stitch and serge/finish the lower edge first. Then sew your side seams stopping 1.5" from the bottom edge, leaving a 1" opening (see graphic below, on right).



8. Time to put the straps in! Cut your strapping in half and place a safety pin on one end of each strap. Lay the bag down flat, casings closest to you (bag is still inside out). Thread the first one through the lower casing and then through the top casing. Pull straps even.



9. Now, you're going to put your second strap in, starting at the opposite side (shown below). The same strap should be coming out of the two casings on one side. Do the same for the other side.



10. Make sure the straps are not twisted. Lay one on top of the other and safety pin the ends on both sides.



11. Pull each strap duo down into the (pretty side, inside) bag and down to the openings of its same side. If you are making this for a small person, you may need to make the straps smaller here by pulling more of the strapping through the opening.



12. Now, you'll stitch the rest of the seam down closed (over the straps, too) really well (as shown below, right picture)!



13. Finally, finish/serge the sides of the bag. You may want to start at the top of the bag/seam allowance as it is easier to place the bag since the casing is somewhat bulky.



14. I just zip the ends of my serging under the sewing machine so that the serging doesn't start to unravel. Then clip the threads with the best little thread clippers ever...I just got these and I love them so much (Creative Notions Easy Squeeze Scissors)!



15. Turn bag inside out and you are done! You can add some fun things inside the bag for the gift recipient!



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