

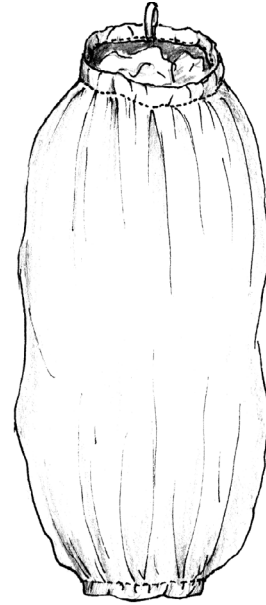


Bag Caddie

Introduction

This bag caddie is a neat little object that can corral all those grocery bags that float around in your pantry.

For this project, you will learn sew a French seam, which encases the raw edges and makes a very nice, finished seam.



Tools, Supplies & Materials

Tools & Equipment

- Rotary Cutter*, cutting mat* & rotary cutting ruler*
- Straight pins & pin cushion
- Dressmaker's shears* & 4" sewing scissors*
- **Bodkin*** or large safety pin
- **Fabric marking pencil***
- Sewing machine
- Steam iron and ironing board

Fabric & Notions

- 1/2-yard piece of fabric
- Two 10" pieces of 3/8"-wide elastic
- 5" piece of 1/4"-wide ribbon
- Thread to match your fabric



Right side of fabric



Wrong side of fabric

Finished size: 8 1/2" x 18"

Instructions

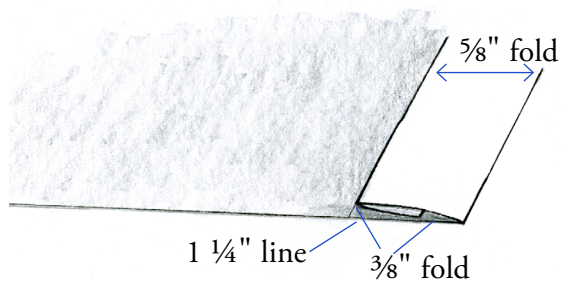
Preparation

- Use the rotary cutting system or make a paper pattern piece to cut a piece of fabric to 17" x 24".
- Cut 2 pieces of elastic 10" long.
- Cut a piece of ribbon 5" long.

Iron the Casing

- To mark lines for pressing the casing, lay the cut fabric wrong side up. Align the ruler along one of the 20" sides and mark a line 3/4" from the cut edge. Mark a second line 1 1/4" from the first line.
- Repeat for the other 20" side.

* See Sewing Suppliers List at end of document.



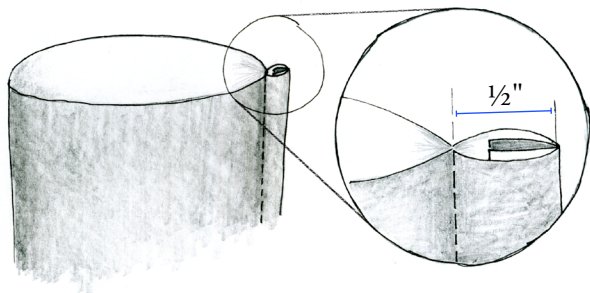
- Fold the cut edge to the first pencil line, making a $\frac{3}{8}$ " fold. Press.
- Fold again, bringing the pressed edge to the second marked line to form a $\frac{5}{8}$ " fold for the casing. Press again. Repeat on the other 20" side.

Sew a French Seam

- Unfold both pressed edges. Fold the two 18" sides *wrong* sides together and pin. Sew a $\frac{3}{8}$ " seam.

Reminder: Remember to [backstitch](#) at the beginning and end and trim the threads.

- Trim away all [frayed](#) threads hanging off the seam edge.
- Turn the caddie inside out, the right sides together. [Finger press](#) the seam open. Roll the seam to the edge. Press, being careful not to unpress the [crease marks](#) on both ends.
- Now sew a $\frac{1}{2}$ " seam. It is very important to sew this seam straight. If it is sewn crooked, raw edges could show on the finished caddie. Finger press the seam to one side.

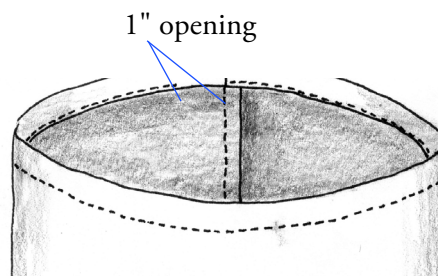


- Refold the original casing crease marks. Pin at the seam. Stretch the caddie flat and pin directly across from it so that the casing won't twist. Pin the opposite sides, dividing the caddie into quarters. Pin between the other pins. Repeat with the casing on the other end.
- Stitch the casing, starting next to the seam. End the stitching 1" before you get to the starting point. This will leave an opening to thread the elastic through.

Sewing Tip

- Backstitch carefully at the beginning of the casing. This area will get a lot of stress as you thread your elastic through.

- Repeat on the other end, leaving a 1" opening.



Thread the Elastic

- Attach a bodkin or large safety pin to one end of the elastic. Thread it through the opening in the casing.

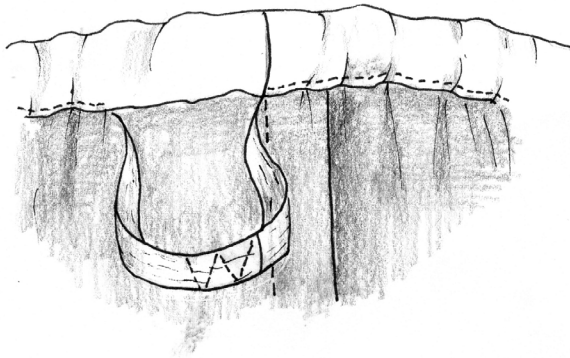
Elastic Threading Tip

- To begin, thread over the seam – it can be difficult to get past it if you thread over it last. As you thread, be careful not to pull the elastic all the way through. Leave the end sticking out about 3".

- Once threaded, pull both ends of elastic out as far as you can, making sure the elastic is not twisted. Overlap 1" and pin together.
- Thread the elastic through the other casing.

Sew the Elastic Closed

- Sew the ends of the elastic together, stitching a "W" to connect the 2 ends securely.



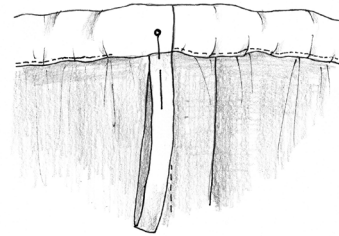
- On both ends, pop the sewn elastic into the casing. Stretch the caddy a little to flatten out the easing around the elastic.

Sew the Bottom Opening

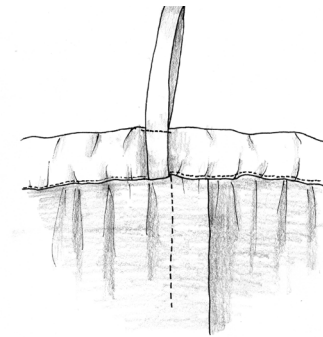
- Edge stitch the opening in the bottom casing closed. It may help to stretch the fabric a little to keep it from puckering as you sew.

Insert the Ribbon & Sew the Top Opening

- The ribbon will form the loop you will use to hang the caddy. Fold it in half and pin the ends together. At the top end, insert the cut ends of the ribbon ½" inside the casing at the opening. Pin them in place. Sew the opening closed, stitching in the ribbon.



- Fold the loop straight up and pin it to the caddy. Stitch over the loop near the top edge.



Your finished caddy is now ready for use!

Review this video: [Project 5: Bag Caddy](#)

Watch the next video: [Project 6: Bread Cloth](#)

Questions about Sewing?

Submit any questions for Crissa in the Q&A section on the course homepage or post it to our blog at www.sustainlife.org/blog/category/sewing/

Sewing Suppliers

Simply Fabrics

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