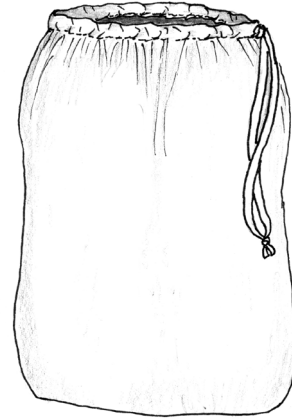




Shoe Bag

Introduction

This shoe bag is a simple fabric bag with a casing and a draw string. It is a good project to practice sewing straight lines. As you learn to sew, every straight line sewn is one seam closer to your goal of being able to sew anything!



Tools, Supplies & Materials

Tools & Equipment

- Cutting mat & rotary cutting ruler*
- Rotary cutter*
- Straight pins
- 4" Sewing scissors
- Bodkin* or large safety pin
- Pencil or chalk marker* (For light-colored fabric, use a light pencil. For darker fabric, use a chalk marker.)
- Sewing machine
- Steam iron & ironing board

Fabric & Notions

- 1/2 yard piece of fabric
- 28" piece of 1/4"-wide ribbon or a flat shoelace
- Thread to match fabric

- Right side of fabric
- Wrong side of fabric

Finished size: 11 1/2" x 15"

Instructions

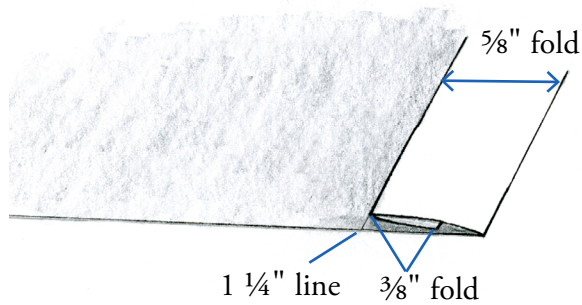
Preparation

- Use the rotary cutting system or make a paper pattern piece to cut the fabric to 17" x 24".
- Cut a piece of ribbon 28" long.

Iron the Casing

- Lay the cut fabric wrong side up. Align the ruler along one 24" side and mark a line 3/4" from this edge. Mark a line 1 1/4" from the first line.

* See Sewing Suppliers List at end of document.



- To form a $\frac{3}{8}$ " fold, bring the cut edge to the first marked line and press.
- Fold again, bringing the pressed edge to the second marked line and press. This forms a $\frac{5}{8}$ " fold for the casing.

Zigzag the Edges

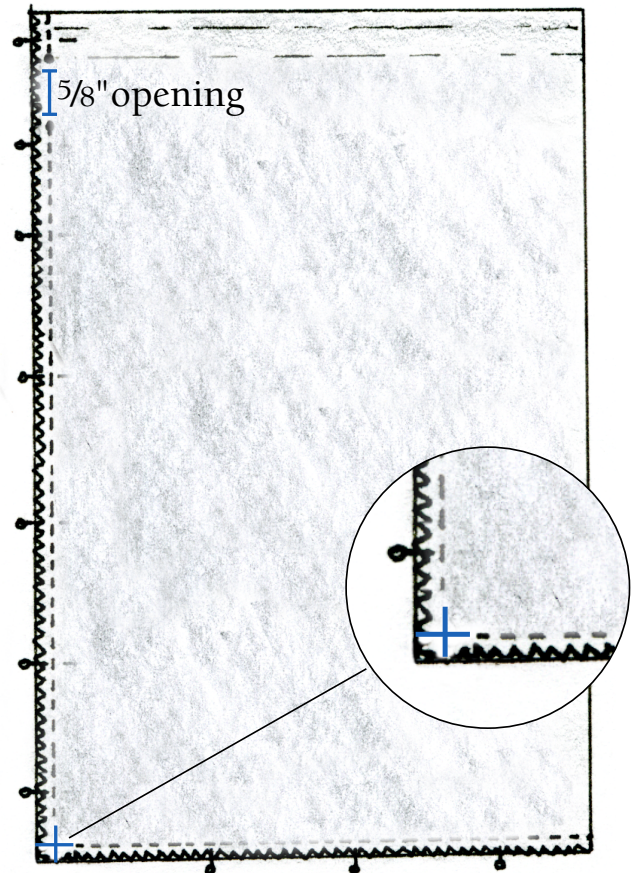
- Unfold the creased folds. Zigzag all sides *except* the creased edge.

Zigzag Reminder

- Remember as you stitch that the zig is on the fabric and the zag is off.
- To turn the corner, leave the sewing machine needle down and lift the presser foot up. Turn the fabric and continue zigzagging the next side.

Mark and Pin the Edges

- Fold the fabric in half with right sides together and the 17" edges (the short edges) even.
- Put a pin on the outside of the two marked lines. (You will leave this space open for the casing hole.) Using a ruler, mark a line between the 2 pins to remember to *not* sew that closed.
- Mark an X on the non-folded bottom corner $\frac{3}{8}$ " from both edges. This will mark exactly where to pivot the seam. Finish pinning the side and bottom edges.



Sew the Bottom and Side

- Sew a $\frac{3}{8}$ " seam along the bottom, beginning at the fold.
- Slow down at the corner and stop with your needle down in the center of the X-mark. Lift the presser foot and pivot the bag to turn the corner.
- Sew up the side, stopping at the pin that is marking the opening. Backstitch well to secure where the drawstring will come through. Skip over to the next pin. Backstitch well and finish sewing.
- At the top of the bag, finger press the seam open.

Sew the Casing

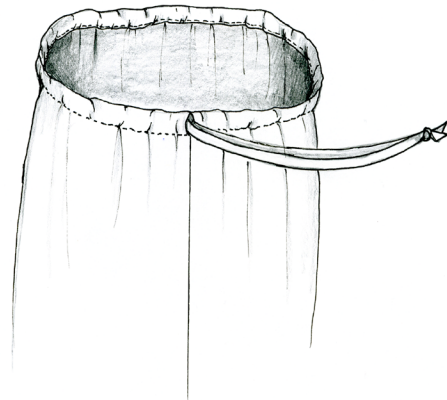
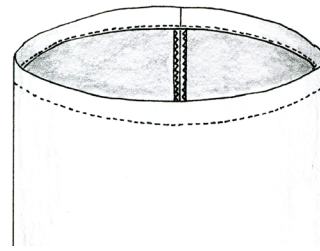
- Refold the casing along the pressed crease. Pin the fold in place, starting at the seams.

- Stitch the casing closely along the folded edge, starting at the seam.
- Turn the bag right side out. Gently poke out corners, then press the bag flat. As you press, roll the seams all the way to the edge so you don't have any tucks.

Thread the Ribbon in the Casing

- Attach the ribbon to a [bodkin](#) or a large safety pin. Slide the ribbon through the opening and thread it through the casing. Knot the ribbon ends together. Trim the threads at an angle to prevent fraying.

The shoe bag is now complete!



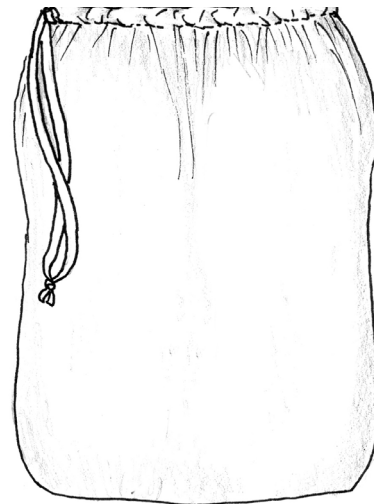
Alternate Projects

Other Sized Bags

Using the same instructions, you can make this same bag style in any size.

Laundry Bag

For a laundry bag, use a medium to heavy-weight piece of fabric 1-yard x 45". Use cording to thread through the casing. If you use a thick cord, you may need to make the casing wider. Knot the ends of the cord together to prevent fraying.



Review this video: [Project 2: Shoe Bag](#)

Watch the next video: [Project 3: Gift Bag](#)

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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Additional Videos

Beginning Sewing

- [Introduction to Sewing](#)
- [Introducing the Projects](#)
- [Notions & Fabrics](#)
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- [Cutting Methods](#)
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Project Videos

- [1 Tissue Holder](#)
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- [4 Double Drawstring Bag](#)
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- [6 Bread Cloth](#)
- [7 Basic Pillowcase](#)
- [8 Lined Drawstring Bag](#)
- [9 Pillowcase with Contrasting Band](#)
- [10 Flange Pillow](#)
- [11 Tote Bag](#)
- [12 Lined Apron](#)