



“Beginner Drawstring Bag”

Great Gifts for Kids of All Ages.

Note: This pattern is for personal use only. Some required materials are trademarked and may not be sold for commercial purposes.

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Description: This pattern was designed for people of all skill levels in sewing but especially the novice. It is a quick project that can be completed very easily with minimal technical difficulty. The instructions contain multiple full color pictures to help make it an enjoyable bag to produce with minimal frustration. A video is also available on YouTube at Lagniappe peddler



Finished Bag

The materials needed are shrink-wrapped towels that can be purchased from Dollar Tree or any Party Store. You will need two.

They don't have to be the same towels so mix and match to be creative. You will also need 54 inches of Para cord for the handle. Take the towels out of their shrink-wrap and wash in cold water then dry on low. Use an iron on low to press them. Press on the back side of the towel so you don't interfere with the ink printed on the towels. They should be colorfast but you don't want to get ink on your iron.

These character towels are trademarked so this pattern is meant for personal use only and not to be made and sold.

Towels in packaging



Towels washed dried and ironed. Ready to Sew



Two towels and 54 inches of Para cord
NOTE If sewing for a toddler you may want to use a shorter length of cord to keep it safe when pulled shut. Use discretion when sewing for a small child

I use regular thread and all seams are 5/8 inch.

You will see some irregularity in the towels





Place your towels right sides together. This is done because you will sew the seams all around the bag and be able to turn it the right way once you are done.



Fold your Para cord in half and lay it on the top of your towel.



Begin folding the top down over the Para cord. This will create a channel that your Para cord will be able to slide through once the bag is finished. You want to create enough width so fold it down about one inch. These bags are usually printed right to the edges so some of your character may be in the hem but it will still be very cute. You do not need to do a second fold because the edges of the towels are already hemmed.



You will start placing pins on your folded channel to keep it in place until you sew it. Remember to leave enough room for the cord to slide in the channel.





Now flip your two towels over and begin to fold down the channel on the other side. Note your ends of the Para cord are just hanging out right now.

Your second side should be pinned now and you will see that there is a small loop that is showing where your cord goes around the bag. That is ok because when we sew it, we will connect the two towels and that loop will be hidden.

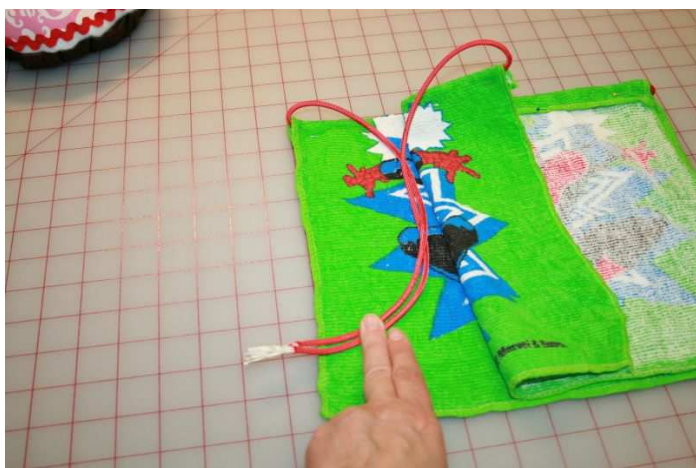


The ends of your Para cord will need to be secured now. Some drawstring bags leave the cord out but for this pattern we prefer to tuck it inside the bag. It is meant for people of all ages to use especially little children. They sometimes can't tie a bag but they can usually pull it open and shut. This securing method will make sure that cord does not come out of the bag when little hands are opening and closing it all by themselves





To secure the cord, lift one side of your towels



Pass the Para cord down in between the two towels. You can bring the ends all the way to the bottom corner or you can put them up higher. Whatever your preference.

Lay your top towel back down once you have placed your cord where you want it. Make sure you leave a little extra out. You can always trim those ends close once it is sewn.





Be careful that your cord is nicely tucked out of the way at the top of the bag. Take your time with this.

Our cord is ready to be pinned.



Mark your Para cord with two pins. This will hold it in place better while you sew and it will also remind you to go back and forth over it a couple of times. This part of the bag will have a lot of pressure or stress on it so you want to make sure you really tack it well when sewing.





Now you will begin pinning all around the sides of the bag and the bottom. These towels are not perfect. If we were using material we would be able to cut them perfectly. We don't cut these towels because terry cloth will create a mess when cut. We use the existing hems on the towels to help us while we sew. We can trim later if we want to but the hems actually help stabilize our sewing and we won't see any of this once the bag is turned right side out. Pin the two towel edges as closely as you can. They will be very forgiving.

These two edges don't match but I am going to work around them.



At this point your perimeter of the bag should be pinned. You should also have the top channel pinned. You are ready to begin sewing. This will happen very quickly now. You are almost there!

Place your bag on the sewing machine. You will start by sewing the seam all the way around the bag. Start sewing right under the channel.

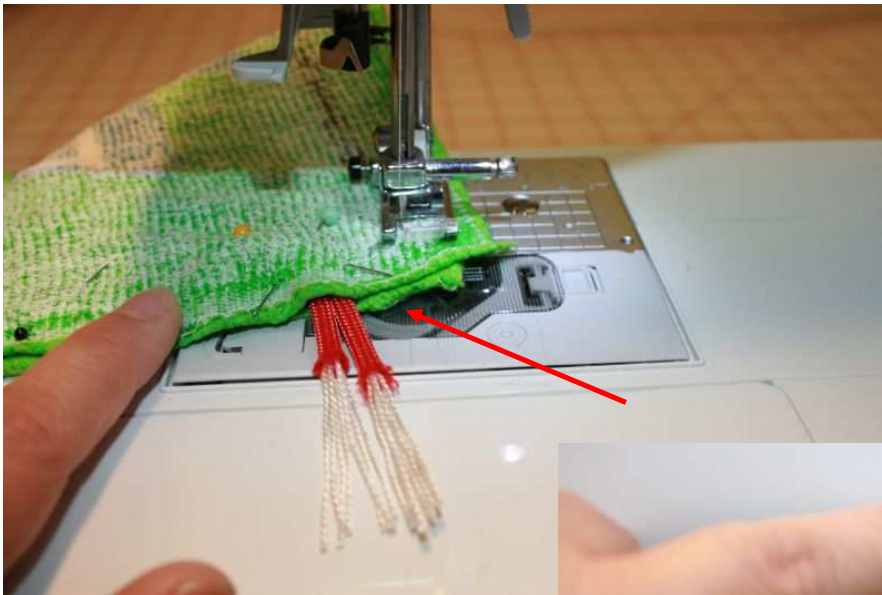
(See in the picture I started on the side where I can see that loop hanging out) Don't sew into the channel because you might catch the Para cord and then it will not be able to slide.

Always start your sewing with your needle down. Rotate your wheel toward you until the needle is in the towel. This way you know where the seam will be. Also, once you begin sewing, tack the beginning by going backward and then forward. This will make sure you have a strong seam to start that won't unravel.

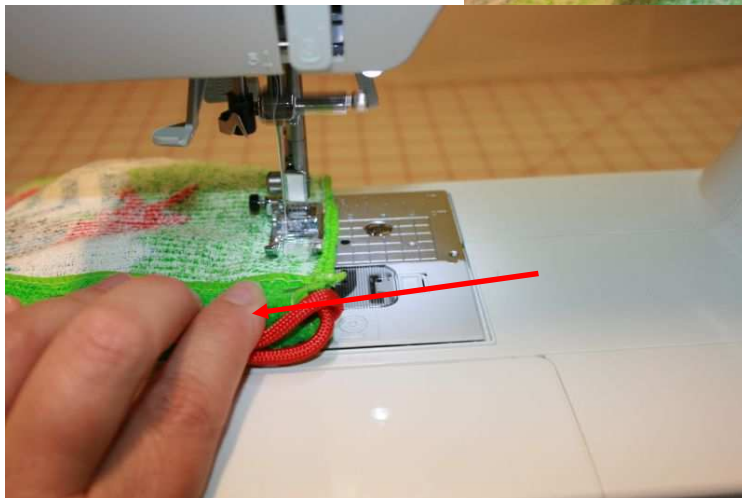
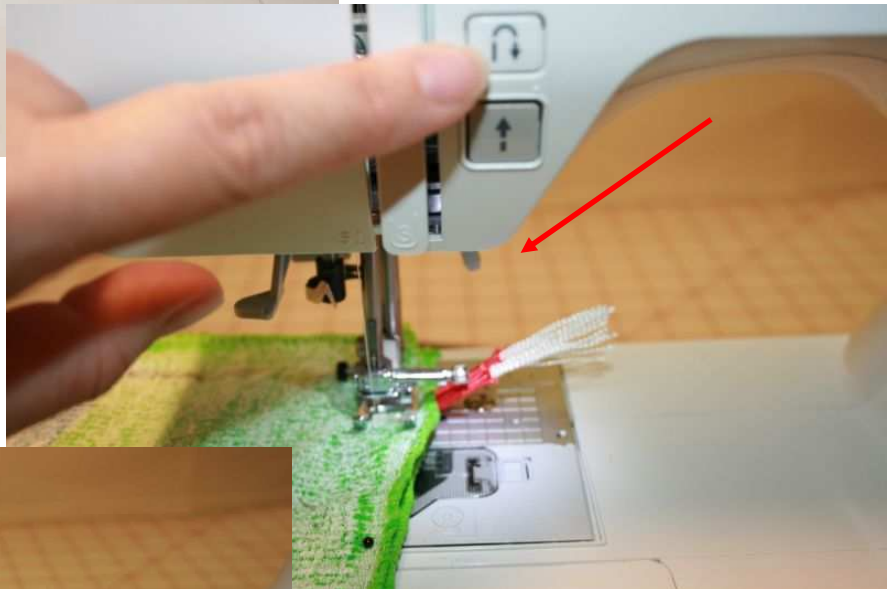




Sew your seam around carefully taking out your pins as you go. Do not sew over the pins because it may damage your needle. When you get to the first corner make sure you are catching the top and the bottom because the towels may not match perfectly



When you reach the Para cord you will see the two pins you put there. As you sew take the pins out and go over the cord very slowly. You can even use your hand wheel on your machine to accomplish this. The cord is pretty thick and slippery so take your time. Remember to go backward and then forward over the cord also to ensure it will hold very well.



Continue to sew until you reach the channel again. Sew right up but not into it. Remember to go backward and forward to tack the end of your seam really well. Your sides are done!





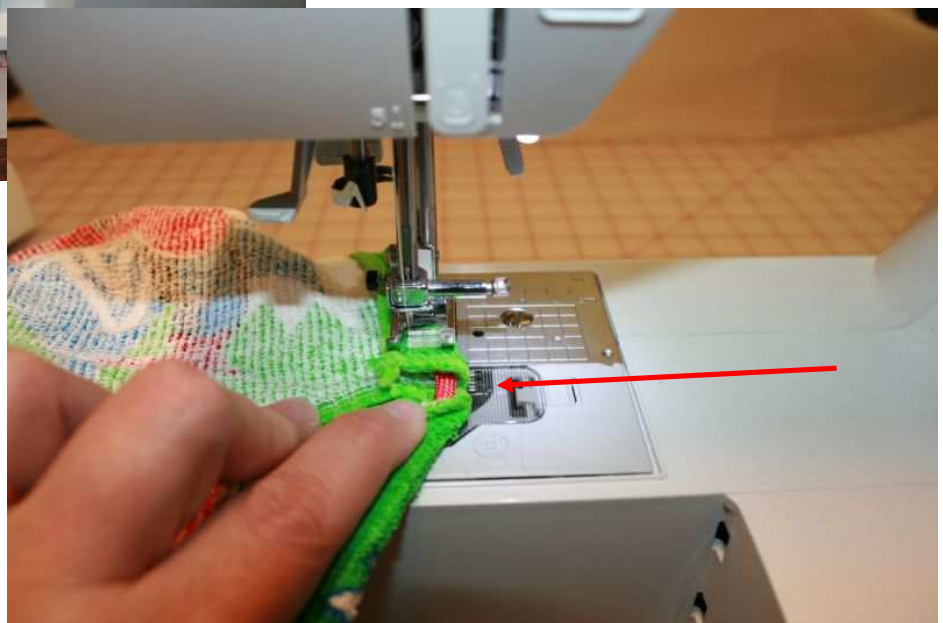
You are now ready to sew the top or channel. Remember to take the pins out as you go. Start the seam on one of the OPEN ends that the Para cord slides out of. This way once you start sewing you can go all the way around the top like a big circle.

To make sewing easier I took my tool kit off my sewing machine so there is more room for the towels to move around. You may have another part on your machine that you can remove to make that area narrow.



Sew around until you get to that loop. Make sure you don't catch the Para cord. Only sew the channel

Now you have made it to the loop where the two towels meet. Very carefully go over this area and while you do, pull the two towels together to create one seam. Watch your fingers! If you don't get it perfect that's ok. It will still work great as long as you don't catch the Para cord.

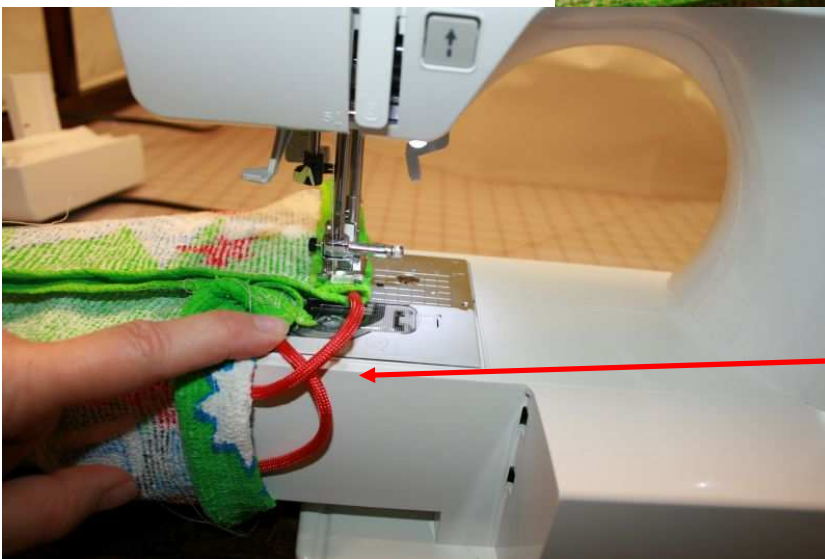




Keep sewing past that area until you reach the end.



Be careful here and make sure all of the towel underneath and the Para cord are out of the way as you reach the end. Go back and forth to double tack the end of your seam!



Take your bag off your machine and snip all of the extra thread





TADA!!! One drawstring bag! YOU DID IT!!!



Turn it right side out



Test the drawstring pull a few times. This loosens up that channel and makes sure everything is pretty sturdy.



******ENJOY, MAKES LOTS MORE AND GIVE THEM AWAY TO THAT SPECIAL SOMEONE !!!!!******



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