



OKLAHOMA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE

4-H Fabrics & Fashions

Beginning Level - Simple Construction

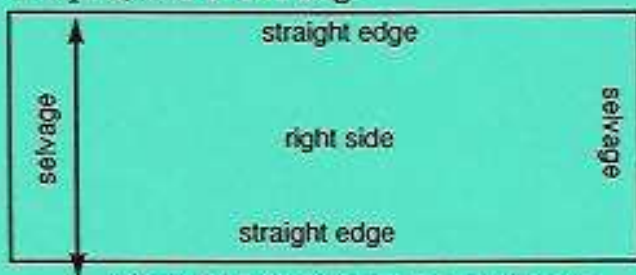
Laundry Bag

A laundry bag is handy for storing soiled clothing when you travel or even when you are at home. This bag can be made larger or smaller.

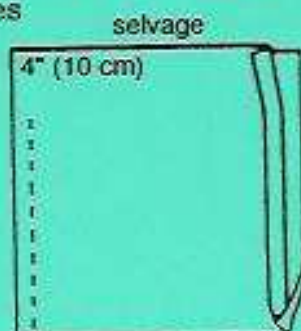
You will need:

- 24 inches of 45-inch firmly-woven fabric;
- Matching thread;
- 2 1/2 yards of fine rope or cording.

To make your laundry bag you will need to first straighten the fabric by pulling a thread or tearing straight across. The selvage edge will be the top, or open, end of the bag.



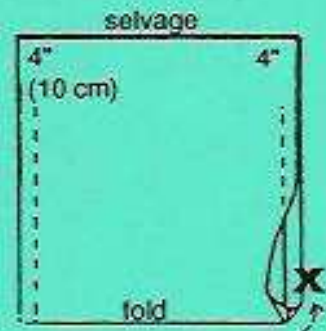
Next fold the 24-inch by 45-inch piece, with right sides together. Pin the two raw edges on either side, and stitch a 5/8-inch seam, from the fold to within four inches of the top. Be sure to allow exactly four inches from the top on both sides. Backstitch at both ends.



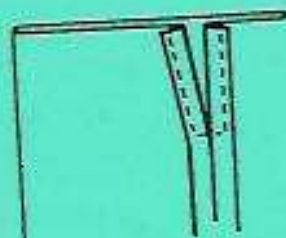
The seam may be clipped at the

bottom, if you are using heavy fabric. On light fabrics, bring the fold of the seam allowance up to the opened seam (X), and press.

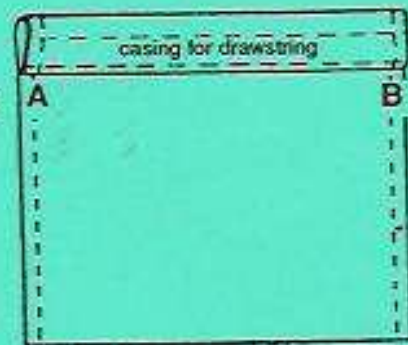
Press the seams open all the way to the top of the tote.



Topstitch 1/2 inch from the folded edge on the unstitched part of the side seam. Start at the top, and stitch down one side. Leave the needle in the fabric, and turn. Stitch across the end to the other side. Leave needle in fabric to turn. Stitch up the other side. Repeat for the other side of the bag.

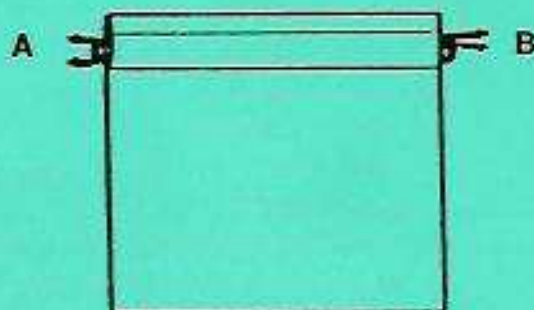


Fold the selvage edge down 2 1/4 inches. The edge will come 1/4 inch beyond the open slot at the sides. Pin, baste and stitch on the machine close to the edge, from A to B.



Measure and baste a row of stitches one inch from the top edge. Machine-stitch along this line. Backstitch to fasten each end of stitching. This makes the casing for the drawstrings. Turn the bag right side out.

Cut the 2 1/2 -yard cord for the drawstrings into two equal pieces. Using a large safety pin, pull the drawstrings through the casing from opposite sides. Pull the string through at A, around B, and back out at A. Pull the other string



through at B, around A, and back out at B.