

A is for backpack.

This little drawstring backpack is a quick and easy project, great for beginners and a cinch for more advanced sewers.

The simple design of one string as opposed to the two strings you see on many drawstring bags helps kids get the bag off and on with ease. A simple pull on both the strings while pushing back the fabric closes the bag securely. This is a small sized bag, designed for preschool kids to carry a few things, like an extra change of clothes and a water bottle. But of course this could be easily adapted to a larger size.

Happy Sewing!

Supplies:

1/2 yard cotton, twill or canvas fabric
2 yards cotton cording
matching thread
straight pins and safety pin
sewing machine
fabric marker or tailor's chalk
transparent tape

Note: Use a 1/2" seam allowance.

Cut to the following dimensions:

fabric, 16" x 13" (cut 2)
cording, 50"

1. Pin the fabric right sides together. Sew around sides and bottom, leaving an opening on either side for the cording to be inserted. The opening should be around 1/2" wide and 2" from the bottom corners, as shown. Trim excess and finish seams with an overcasting stitch, being sure not to sew over cording openings.
2. Turn bag right sides out. Make a mark 2" down and centered on the back side of the backpack. Sew a 3/4" buttonhole centered on your mark, as pictured.
3. Turn inside out. Press top edge of fabric out 1/2" towards wrong side of fabric. Fold again, this time 1", again towards wrong side which will make the casing for your drawstring. Be sure that your buttonhole is showing on the right side. Sew opening in place starting at the side seam and sewing about 1" from the top edge.
4. Wrap a small piece of transparent tape around each end of your cording to prevent fraying. Attach a safety pin to the end of your cording and insert into the buttonhole and through the casing, returning through the buttonhole again. It's helpful to wrap tape around the safety pin so that it doesn't come open while threading the cording.
5. Insert end of cording through the inside of the bag into one of the side openings. Pin in place with a straight pin. Repeat for the other side. Sew cording in place with a zig-zag stitch. Then sew a straight stitch to finish it off and to be sure the opening is fully closed. Adjust cording until there are equal lengths on either side to form the straps of the backpack. Done!

