



The "In a Minute" Drawstring Bag is a great little bag that only takes a few minutes to sew! It's the perfect grab-and-go sack for all the little things that you want to take along. This bag finishes at 10 ½" wide x 14 ½" long.



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Supplies:

- ½ yard of main fabric
- ¾ yard of pocket and trim fabric
- 4-5 yards of cording



In order to make this bag quickly, we are going to take a few shortcuts. (We're also going to skip the lining.) These shortcuts will not affect the way the bag functions at all, but if you really love topstitching, you might run across a few places where you'll want to add it while I just skip it.

Ready to get started?

Cut 2 rectangles measuring 11 ½" wide x 14 ½" long from your main fabric.

From your pocket/trim fabric cut these rectangles:

- 1 long rectangle measuring 11 ½" wide x 20" long for the pocket
- 2 – 12 ½" long x 3" wide rectangles for the drawstring channels
- 2 – 3 ½" x 2" rectangles for the drawstring tabs



Fold your long pocket piece in half with the wrong sides together and match up the short ends. Press along the folded edge. Set the pocket aside for now.



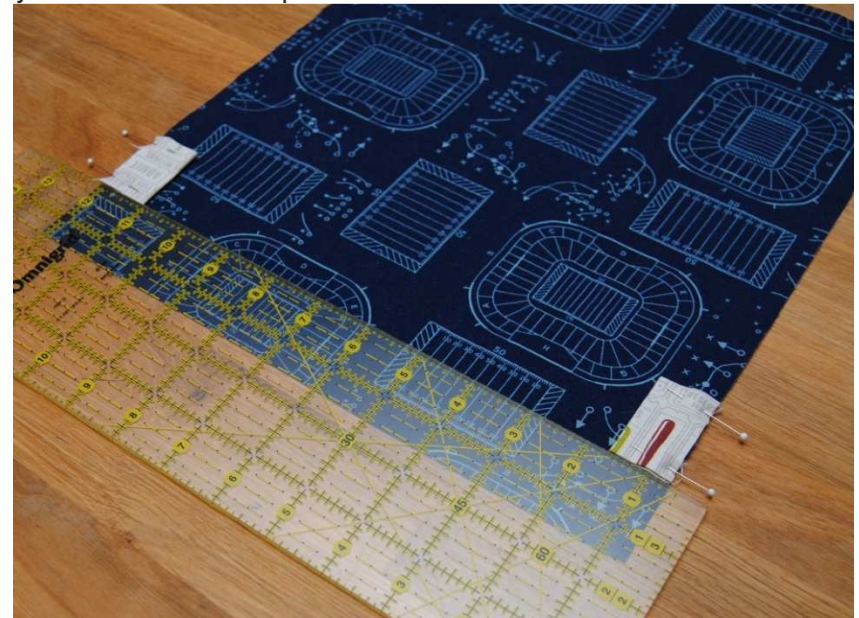
Grab one of your tab pieces. Press each short end in a scant $\frac{1}{2}$ " , then a scant $\frac{1}{2}$ " again. Check to make sure that the length now measures $1 \frac{1}{2}$ ".



Now fold the tab piece in half and match up the raw edges so that your folds are hidden inside. Press this really well. Repeat this process with your second tab piece.



Follow the same process to prepare your drawstring channel pieces. Check to make sure that each of these pieces measures $10 \frac{1}{2}$ " once they've been folded and pressed.



Position one of your tab pieces on each side of the front main piece of your bag. Place each one $1 \frac{1}{2}$ " up from the bottom with the raw edge aligned with the raw edge of the main body piece. Pin these in place. (Be sure that your pin heads are facing away from the fabrics because you're going to be sandwiching these under the pocket in the next step.)



Place your folded pocket piece on top of the front main piece of your bag over the tabs that you just pinned. The folded edge of the pocket should be toward the top of main piece. The raw edges of the pocket should all be aligned with the raw edges of the main piece. Don't pin this yet.



Place your back main piece over the other pieces with the right side facing the right side of the front main piece. Pin the sides and the bottom.



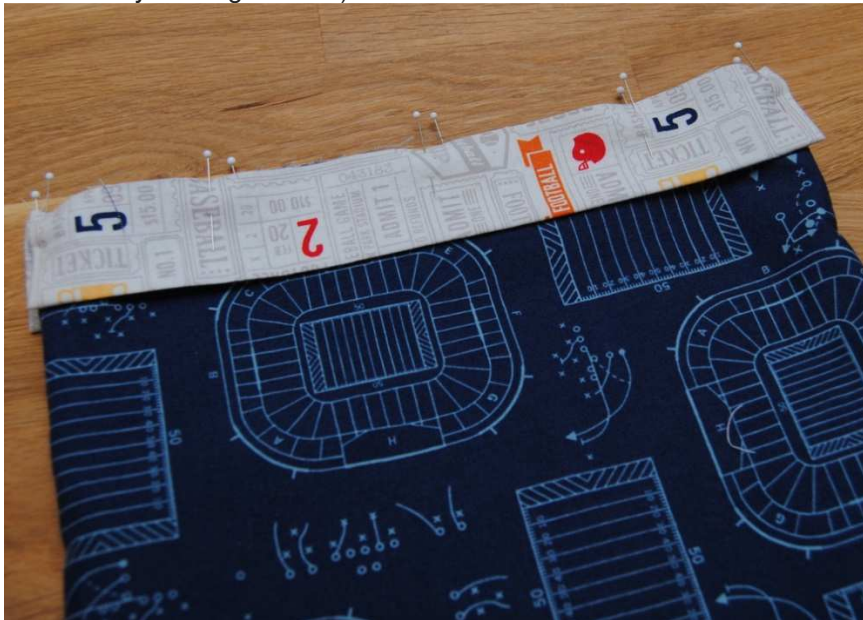
Sew down one side, across the bottom and back up the other side, using a 1/2" seam allowance. Use a short stitch length to give your bag extra strength. Your pocket and your tab pieces should be securely sewn between the layers now. You'll want to finish these seams now so that they don't fray. I used my serger to secure the edges after I stitched them. You could use a zig-zag stitch on your sewing machine inside the seam allowance instead, or you could use pinking shears or a pinking blade to trim the seam allowance.



Now turn the bag right side out. (If the tabs are inside your pocket when you turn the bag right side out, your pocket is on the wrong side. Just flip it to the other side of the bag so that your bag looks like the picture above.)



We're almost done! Let's sew on the drawstring channel pieces. Pin the first piece to the raw edge on the top of the front piece. Align all the raw edges. Position the short edges right up against the side seams of the bag. (Be careful to only pin this piece to the front of the bag. You don't want to sew your bag closed!)



Do the same thing with your second drawstring channel piece, but pin it to the top of the back piece.

Here's what the short edges should look like pinned right up against the side seam:



Sew all the way around the top of the bag at $\frac{1}{2}$ "', then finish your seam allowances.

Press the drawstring channel up away from the main part of the bag.



Okay, now we're ready to string this thing! Take a deep breath and follow these instructions:

First, cut your cording in half so that you have two pieces. (You will likely have to trim this once you have it finished and try it on for fit, but we'll come to that later.)



Grab a big safety pin and pin it to one end of one of your cording lengths. Insert this end through one side of the front drawstring channel.



Pull the safety pin through to the other side. (Be careful when pushing and pulling because you may bump into those short ends that we folded in and pressed at the beginning. You don't want to push those out. Just maneuver the safety pin until you have it through the opening.)



Slide the safety pin into the back drawstring channel.



Pull the safety pin through the back channel. Keep going with the same safety pin. Pull it straight down now and slide it through the tab.



Once you've pulled that end of the cording through the tab, unpin. Attach the safety pin to the opposite end of the same piece of cording and push it through the same tab.



Knot the ends together. (You can adjust the length later. Knotting them now will keep them from sliding back out while you work on the cording on the other side.)



Now, grab the other piece of cording and follow the same steps starting from the opposite side of the front drawstring channel.



That wasn't too hard, right?



If your cording is inserted correctly, you will be able to pull the strings on both sides of the top and have it close up tightly:



Once your bag is finished, check the fit on yourself or the person for whom you're sewing. Adjust the knots and trim off any extra length.

Note: The straps on this bag could pose a strangulation hazard. This bag is not intended for small children. Always wear this bag around the shoulders as intended.

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