

How to make a drawstring gift/makeup bag

You will need:

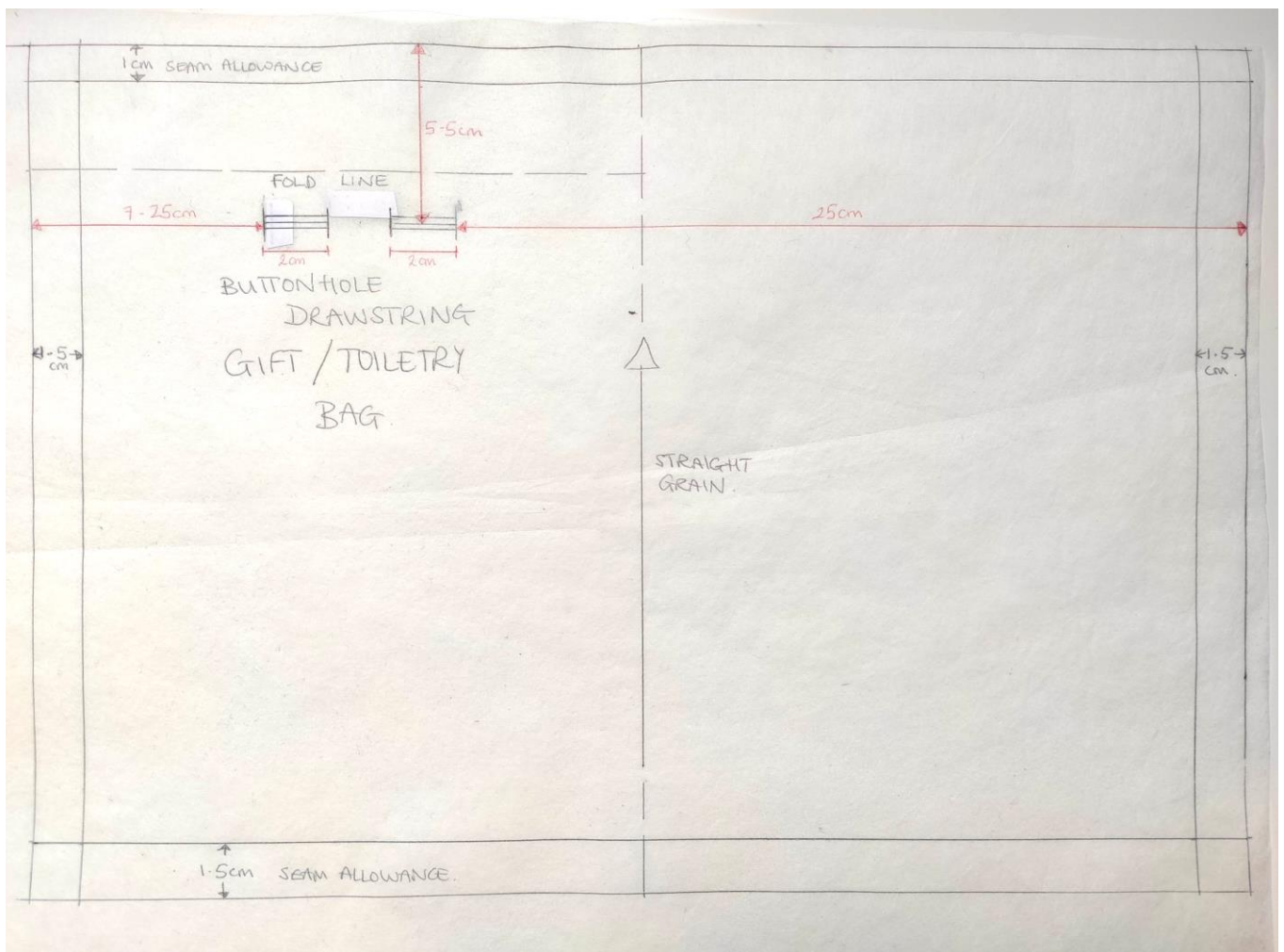
Fabric – Scissors – Pins - Grader
ruler - Chalk pencil – Fusible
Interfacing – Sewing machine –
Stitch ripper – Safety pin –
Cord/ribbon – our in-class pattern

You will learn:



Buttonholes
Zig zag stitch
Inserting a drawstring
Hemming

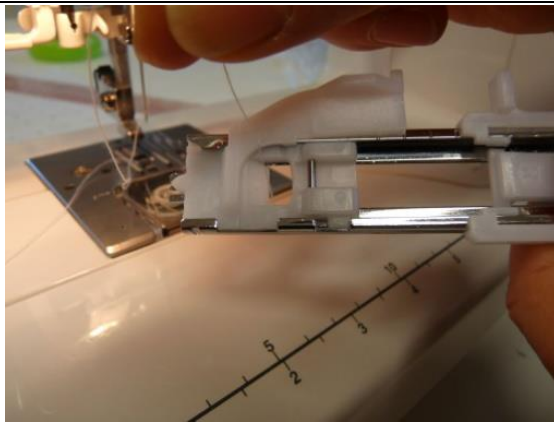


We have made this on our Janome 525s/725s sewing machine which is a standard machine – you may need to look up certain functions in your machine guidebook if not using this machine, e.g., if buttonhole foot is different type or settings. **To make the pattern** cut a rectangle of paper 26.5cmx38cm (larger than A4 so you could tape 2 pieces of printer r paper together) and mark the buttonholes as shown in this image on the next page on to it.





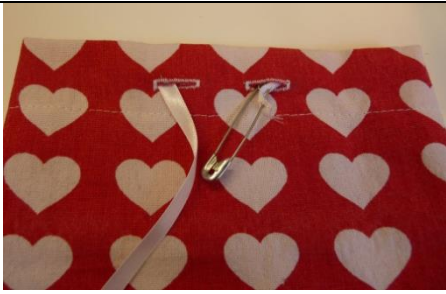
The edge of the left buttonhole is 7.25cm from the edge of the pattern. The edge of the right buttonhole is 25cm from the right hand edge of the pattern. Both buttonholes are 5.5cm from the top edge of the pattern.

<p>Step One</p>	<p>Pin the pattern to the wrong side of the fabric and cut the fabric out. Before removing the pins, see step 2</p>	
<p>Step Two</p>	<p>Buttonhole markings – put a pin through the pattern and fabric (all layers) where the buttonhole markings are, mark <i>the right side of the fabric</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - If using an automatic buttonhole foot mark just where the buttonhole starts (shown in pic), - If doing ‘manual’ machine buttonholes or 4-step buttonhole with machine, mark start and end of buttonhole. <i>TIP: with the non-auto buttonholes it’s handy to extend the end mark with a pin or masking tape or more chalk/pen, so you can see where to stop and do your end bar, as otherwise your end mark can be hidden under the foot</i> 	
<p>Step Three</p>	<p>Interfacing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cut a small piece of fusible interfacing to go behind where the buttonholes will be. • Iron on the interfacing. (When ironing, cover with another piece of fabric so that the interfacing doesn’t stick to the iron.) 	
<p>Step Four</p>	<p>Make the buttonholes using automatic buttonhole foot on Janome 525s/725s (refer to machine manual for other models)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Attach the buttonhole foot and set the size of the buttonhole to approx 1.5cm. 2. Pull the arm next to the presser foot all the way down (has a raised image of buttonhole on). 3. Set the sewing machine dials to buttonhole as shown in image below (dial on top of machine stays on 5). You may need to reduce the stitch length when sewing the second bar at the back, so the stitching looks the same on the second side of the buttonhole. An idiosyncrasy of our machines is the 2nd side is sometimes a longer stitch, more spaced out, than the first – we don’t know why but that trick fixes it, just click it twice back and RESET before starting next buttonhole 4. Test the buttonhole a few times on a piece of doubled up scrap fabric first. 5. Line the first buttonhole mark on the fabric up with the notch on the buttonhole foot and sew the buttonhole. It will do the bar first, then the fabric will move towards you as it does the left side, then stitches on the spot a few times to secure. Stop after it’s done a few stitches on the spot 6. Reset the top dial and repeat for the second buttonhole. 7. Using a stitch ripper: carefully cut through the centre of the buttonhole. <i>Tip: place a pin across the end on the inside of the bar so you can’t rip the bar.</i> 8. Snip away any loose threads. 	



<p>Step Five</p>	<p>3 step zig zag stitch on the top edge above the buttonhole (the other edges will be zigzagged together later after seam is sewn)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Change back to a standard foot • Set up the 3-step zig zag on Janome 525s/725s: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stitch Width 5 • Stitch Type D • Stitch Length 1.5-2 • Place raw edge under the slit in the clear plastic foot. As you sew, the needle should drop off the edge of the fabric as it stitches to the far right – this is how the edge is bound and stops fabric fraying. Adjust position if your machine slit is in the middle, so that the needle still drops off as it goes to the far right. • Take to iron. Stretch out edge gently and iron flat. 	
<p>Step Six</p>	<p>Sew into a bag</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fold lengthways with <i>the right sides together</i>. Sew a straight stitch along the long side and the bottom using a 1.5cm seam allowance. • TOP TIP: place some masking or washi tape on the base of the machine, the left edge being 1.5cm away from the needle tip, as shown in this picture. Use the edge of the tape as a guide when sewing to stick to your 1.5cm seam allowance <p>3-step zig zag the same edges together to stop them fraying – see step five for zig zag instructions</p>	

		
<p>Step Seven</p>	<p>Secure down the seam allowance to one side on the side seam. (n.b. this is so when you thread the ribbon through the top edge channel using a safety pin after stitching down, the safety pin won't get caught in the seam allowance if you do this):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cut 1 small strip of bondaweb 7cm x 1cm (cut 2 if you have 2 side seams on your bag, 1 if there's just one seam) • Fuse, with iron, the bondaweb to the underside of the seam allowance, peel off paper then iron so the seam allowance is fused to the inside of the bag from the top to 7cm down i.e., the where the fold will be 	
<p>Step Eight</p>	<p>Turning the top edge to make ribbon channel</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mark line in chalk pencil or wash-out pen on the wrong side of the fabric – if this is not shown on the pattern it's approx the width of a grader ruler Remove the pattern and using a grader ruler mark the fold line on the fabric. • Fold the top edge down to the fold line (so the top zigzagged edge of the bag <i>meets</i> the line, giving a finished fold of just over 1"/2.5cm) • Press (iron) with iron, put a few pins in to secure • Place needle approx on the peaks of the 3-step zig sagging, then place masking tape on the base of the machine next to the top fold edge – use this as your guide for sewing round, so that when you turn the bag to the right side the stitching is the same distance from the top edge all the way round • Sew all the way round. You can overlap the 	

	start and finish of your stitching which does the same job as backstitching	
Step Nine	<p>Turn the bag inside out (tip – use the technique for corners in our Cushion corner tutorial on our YouTube Channel or on our home sewing page here) and press (iron).</p> <p>Attach a safety pin to the edge of the cord/ribbon and push through one of the buttonholes until it comes through the other side. Remove pin. Cut to the length desired (snip ribbon ends at an angle to limit fraying) and tie a bow.</p> <p>You've finished! Insert gift or make-up! You could make a larger version of this and sew on some straps (avoiding the drawstrings)</p>	

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About our skills levels:

- **Beginner** - you're brand new to sewing, never sat at a sewing machine, or picked up a hand sewing needle, never pinned & cut fabric. Or perhaps you sewed in school & want to re-learn/refresh the machine sewing basics from scratch
- **Improver** - for improving beginners: you have used & threaded up a sewing machine before, sewn in a straight line following a seam allowance, made a small item like a bag or cushion or more, but may need a reminder
- **Intermediate** - you've made at least 2 simple items of clothing with a sewing machine
- **Experienced** - you've made 5 or more items of clothing using a sewing machine, including set in sleeves & are confident sewing unsupervised



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