

Made and Making



How to make your own drawstring/rucksack bag

You need

1 Pillowcase

Between 1.5 and 2m Ribbon or cord

14cm Webbing or wide ribbon (optional)

1. Cut out two rectangles 45.5cm by 37cm.
2. Cut two pieces of webbing/cotton tape or strong ribbon 7cm long.
3. Take the short edge of the two pieces and fold over 4cm. This now shows you the approximate final size of your bag. (If you wish to decorate your bag, do so now. Keep the fold at the top and remember to allow for seam allowances at the bottom of the bag. You can stitch ribbons, trims, buttons, sequins, appliqué fabric shapes, etc).
4. Optional step for the webbing to make a drawstring rucksack bag. Fold your webbing in half and pin. With one piece of fabric right side up place your two pieces of folded webbing on either side so that the top side of the webbing is 10cm from the bottom of the fabric. Now place the other piece of fabric on top with the right side facing down. Ensure that the webbing pieces are level.
5. With the right sides together, and the two folded edges matching, pin along the two long edges and the short edge that is not folded. Place your pins at right angles to the edge of the fabric with the points facing out. Using the machine sew straight stitch along the short edge. Take care to use a 1.5cm seam allowance and remove the pins as you approach them.



6. Starting at the short edge that is already sewn together sew straight stitch along the pinned long sides taking care to stop at your 4cm fold.

7. Press the seam allowances open, folding them back onto the fabric above the 4cm fold. At this point secure them back into place sewing very close to the edge.

8. You are now going to use those 4cm to make the casing for the cord. Fold over 1cm and iron, then fold over 3cm and iron in place. Sew the folds in place using straight stitch 0.5cm from the bottom of the fold.

9. If making rucksack bag take approx 2m of cord for each handle, thread using safety pin and knot. You will thread from one side up through the webbing, all around the casing and back down through the same piece of webbing. Tie a double knot to secure. Now do the same for the other piece on the opposite side of the bag.

If just making a drawstring bag then you only need to thread through the top of the bag.



Feel free to share your creation under #pillowcasechallenge and tag us, @madeandmaking. We'd love to see.