

Fabric Basket with Drawstring Top

Finished size 7"(l)x 4"(w) x 6"(h) and it extends another 6" with the drawstring top.



Materials:

- Exterior Basket Fabric 2 pieces – 12" x 9"
- Exterior Basket Fabric (Handles) 2 pieces 18" x 4"
- Lining Fabric for Basket 2 pieces – 12" x 9"
- Drawstring top Fabric 4pieces – 12" x 7"
- Medium/Lightweight Woven Interfacing 4 pieces – 12" x 9"
- Medium/Lightweight Woven Interfacing 4 pieces – 12" x 7"
- Fusible Fleece 2 pieces – 12" x 9"
- Fusible Fleece 2 pieces – 18" x 3"
- 2 pieces of ribbon or cord 50cm each



Notes: Handles can be made whichever size you would like. Additionally, fleece in the handles to stiffen them may be too thick, so swapping fleece for woven interfacing is another suggestion.

You will need a walking foot to sew and a darning foot for any free motion quilting that you may want to do.

Instructions:

All seams are $\frac{1}{4}$ "

Follow all manufacturers instructions to fuse fleece and interfacing to fabrics.

1. Fuse woven interfacing of matching size to the wrong side of the lining, exterior, drawstring bag pieces
2. Fuse fleece to wrong side of the handles (centring the fleece) and to the exterior pieces (which already have woven interfacing to them).
3. Quilt the exterior pieces as you wish.



4. With right sides together sew around two short sides and one long side – leaving one long side unsewn.
5. Repeat for lining pieces.
6. For the lining piece - Press seams open (carefully without scorching the fleece or fabrics) and then flatten the corners, ensuring the side seams are laying directly on top of the bottom seams. Measure up from the sewn corner by 2"(not the fabric corner) and draw a line across the corner. Sew along this line to make a box corner and cut the seam down to $\frac{1}{4}$ ".



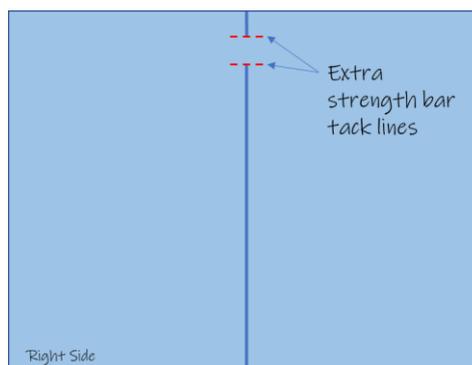
7. Repeat for the basket piece
8. Make the handles by making a fold as a mark along the middle of the long side of each handle and then fold the long edges into the middle and press. Then fold the long edges over again and sew each long side $\frac{1}{8}$ " in to secure the handles.



9. Attach the handles to the long sides of the basket. Position the outer edge of the each handle 3" from the side seams of the basket exterior. See picture of the orientation of how you attach the handles. Attach with a $\frac{1}{8}$ " seam allowance.

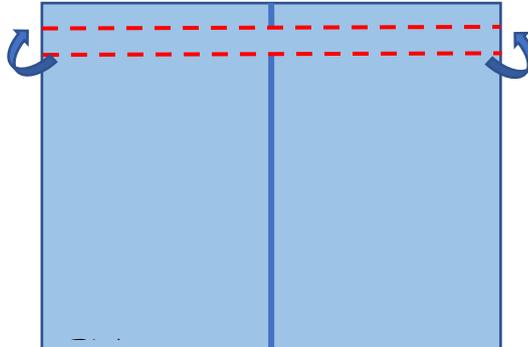


10. For the drawstring top take 2 of the pieces and sew the (7") side seams. Press the seams open. This is now the drawstring lining (mark it ☺).
11. With the other two pieces mark a line $\frac{1}{2}$ " from the top and $1\frac{1}{4}$ " from the top along the two shorter edges. Now sew the edge as you did with the lining (in the step above) but do not sew between the two lines that you have marked. When you get the mark do a backstitch to secure the thread, break it and start again with a small backstitch. This is eventually where the ribbon or cord will pull through.
12. If this is for a small child then it would be a good idea to put a bar tack stitch across the opening as it is likely to get pulled. This will just secure the opening further. See the picture below for guidance.



13. Next we sew the lining and exterior of the drawstring part together. Place the exterior inside the lining. ie: the right side of the drawstring top is next to the right side of the lining, lining up the top edges of the lining and the exterior. Sew the top edges of the lining and the exterior ensuring that the side seams are open. Now turn this out (right sides out) and press the top seam that you have created.

14. To make the channel for the ribbon or cord, sew two lines across the top of your combined drawstring piece. These lines are one above the gap in the lining and one below (see the picture).



15. Now we can attach the drawstring part to the box. (As the machine is sewing through multiple layers, a jeans needle is useful as it is very strong.) Turn the main basket right side out. (*exterior fabric is on the outside*). Turn the drawstring top inside out. The opening for the casing should be on the inside. (*lining fabric is on the outside*). Slide the drawstring top over the fabric basket, right sides together. Tuck the handles in between the basket and the drawstring top and sew on a 4 length stitch to tack these two pieces together with an $\frac{1}{8}$ th to $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance.
16. Turn the basket lining inside out. Slide the lining over the drawstring top. (*The drawstring top is already attached to the basket.*) Line up the top edges of the drawstring top, with bag attached, and the lining. Match the seams on either side, making sure the seams are open. Sew a $\frac{1}{2}$ inch (1.3cm) seam.
17. Turn the basket right side out, pull the exterior of the basket through the lining and hand or machine sew the gap in the lining.
18. Make sure the lining is pushed right into the basket and topstitch $\frac{1}{8}$ " from the edge of the basket all around the top.
19. Using a safety pin pull the cord or the ribbon through the opening. I cut my cord in $\frac{1}{2}$ and with one threaded it through the complete drawstring casing with the end coming out the same opening as it started. Repeat with the second cord/ribbon and other opening.
20. Knot the end of the cord and added beads if you wish.