



BABY LOCK EVENT

Be a difference *maker*



DRAWSTRING BACKPACK BAG PROJECT INSTRUCTIONS



baby lock

FOR THE LOVE OF SEWING



When we sew together, there's no end to what we can create—or the difference we can make.

Drawstring Backpack Bag SUPPLIES

Create this fun Drawstring Backpack Bag with or without a pocket, largely with your serger! Make it basic with side seams inside the bag or jazz it up with exposed decorative side seams. Add pizzaz with the optional pocket and one of the following serger embellishments: Ric Rac, Beading, Piping, Decorative Thread, or Double Fold Bias Binding. Check out what feet and attachments you'll need for your technique. If you have a Cover/Chain Stitch machine, you can even make your own straps! Choose between two Drawstring Backpack Bag size options: Child or Teen.

FOR BAG:

- Sewing Machine and 4-Thread or 8-Thread Serger (Options for Cover Stitch Machine)
- Child Size: Two 13" x 16" rectangles of Woven Cotton Fabric
- Wonder clips
- Teen Size: Two 16" x 19" rectangles of Woven Cotton Fabric
- Fray Check or Fray Block
- 4 Spools Madeira Aerofil Serger Thread
- 1/4" Grommets (for bags not using the Double Fold Bias Binder for the side seams and knot)
- Skinny Loop Turner or Needle

FOR OPTIONAL POCKET:

- **Child Size:** Two 13" x 10" rectangles of Woven Cotton Fabric
- **Teen Size:** Two 16" x 12" rectangles of Woven Cotton Fabric
- 3/8" Elastic – Child Size 10" and Teen Size 12"
- **POCKET TRIM OPTIONS AND SERGER FEET (CHOOSE ONE TRIM OPTION)**
 - **Child Size:** 18" Cut
 - **Teen Size:** 21" CutSee pocket trims on Pages 3 & 4
- Ric Rac - 1/2" Ric Rac Trim with Standard or Clear Serger Foot
- Beading - 1/8" or 3mm Bead Trim with Serger Beading Foot (*Optional: Madeira Glamour 12wt thread to match beads for upper looper*)
- Piping (purchased) with Serger 5mm Cording Foot
- Piping (make your own) – 1-3/8" bias strip and 1/8" or 3mm piping cord with Serger Cording Foot
- Decorative 3-Thread Wide Stitch – One spool of Madeira Aerofil Serger Thread and Two Spools Decorative Thread (*i.e. Madeira Glamour 8wt, Lana 12wt, Decora 12wt, Sulky Cotton 12wt, or the like with Standard or Clear Serger Foot*)
- Double Fold Bias Binding – 1-3/8" bias strip and 36mm Double Fold Bias Binder Attachment (for Cover/Chain Stitch Machines) and Standard or Teflon Serger Foot

SIDE SEAMS:

- **For Basic 4-Thread Overlock Side Seams** – Sewing Thread and 4 spools of Madeira Aerofil Thread
- **For Decorative Side Seams** - Two Spools Decorative Thread – Madeira Glamour 8wt, Lana 12wt, Decora 12wt, Sulky Cotton 12wt, or the like and One Spool coordinating thread with Standard or Clear Foot
- **For Double Fold Bias Bound Side Seams** – Two 30" long x 1-3/8" bias strip and 36mm Double Fold Bias Binder Attachment (for Cover/Chain Stitch Machines) and Standard or Teflon Foot

STRAPS:

FOR PURCHASED STRAPS:

- **Child Size:** 3 Yards or **Teen Size:** 4.5 Yards

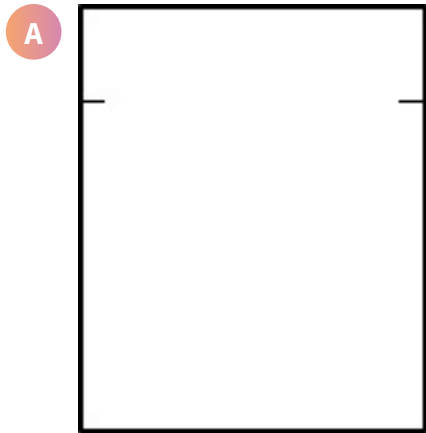
FOR BIAS STRAPS WITH THE 36MM DOUBLE FOLD BIAS BINDER ATTACHMENT – (*Chain/Cover Stitch Machine Only*)

- **Child Size:** At least 3 Yards of 1-3/8" wide BIAS Cotton Fabric Strip (join bias strips with diagonal seams)
- **Teen Size:** At least 4.5 yards of 1-3/8" wide BIAS Cotton Fabric Strip (join bias strips with diagonal seams)
- Consider using a decorative thread in the Chain Looper

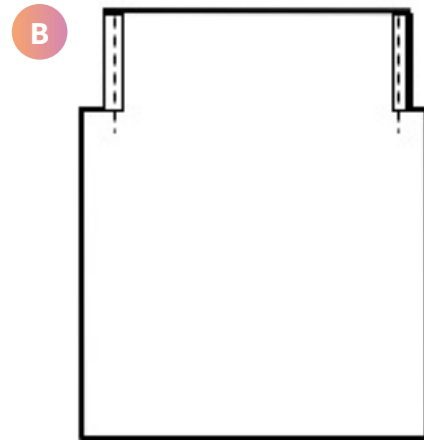
FOR BIAS STRAPS WITH THE 3/4" BELT LOOP BINDER ATTACHMENT – (*Chain/Cover Stitch Machine Only*)

- **Child Size:** At least 3 Yards of 1" wide BIAS Cotton Fabric Strip (join bias strips with diagonal seams)
- **Teen Size:** At least 4.5 yards of 1" wide BIAS Cotton Fabric Strip (join bias strips with diagonal seams)
- 1/4" Twill Tape – At least 3 Yards for Child Size and at least 4.5 yards for Teen Size
- Consider using a decorative thread in the Chain Looper

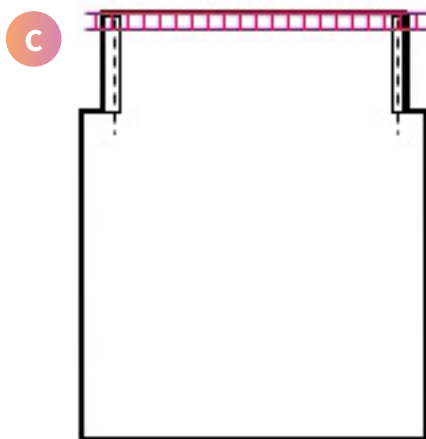
1. Casing On The Bag Top - FRONT AND BACK



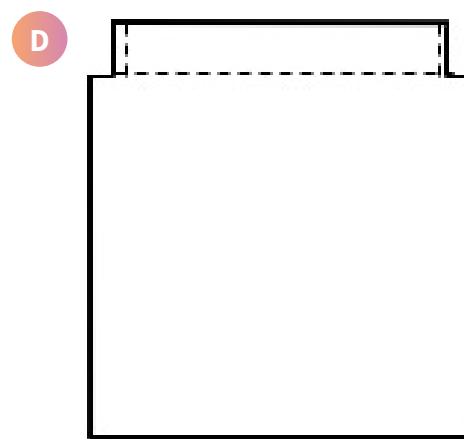
Line the bag front and back up together and clip 2.5" down from the top left and right of the bag, to clip both simultaneously. The clip should only be 3/8" in from each side.



On the bag front and back, roll and press the 2.5" flaps in twice (to the wrong side) to create approximately 1/8" rolled hem. Topstitch the rolled hem in place with a sewing machine, extending the stitch about a 1/2" below the flap to give this area reinforcement.



On the bag front and back, serge the top edge with a 3-Thread Wide (set to the smallest width) or a 3-Thread Narrow (set the widest width) with regular serger thread. Press the serged edge to the wrong side on the front and back pieces.

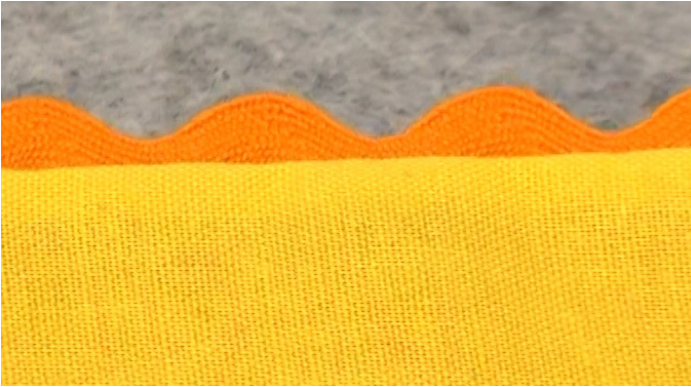


Then, on both the back and front, press the folded edge down again (to the wrong side) even with the clips. Topstitch the casing with a sewing machine or a Serger Chain Stitch. If using the Chain Stitch, a leader fabric with the same thickness will help start the Chain Stitch at the start of the casing. Consider using a decorative thread in the chain looper and serge on the back side so the decorative thread is on top. Use Fray Check on the stitch ends or tuck the thread tails and stitch over the ends with a sewing machine to secure the Chain Stitch.

If you are not adding a pocket, skip to step 4. Lower Bag Seam.

2. Pocket Trim OPTIONS

If you would like to add an embroidered design to the pocket, it's best to add it now before adding your serger embellished trim.



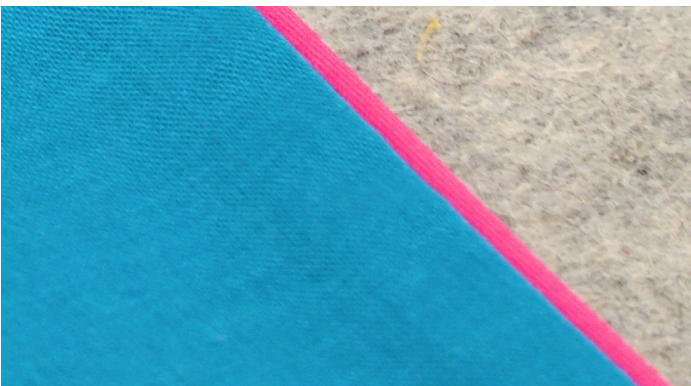
POCKET TRIM OPTION 1: RIC RAC

Place Ric Rac in between the top edge of the two pocket layers (right sides together). Serge with a 3-Thread Narrow Overlock Stitch and use the Standard or Clear Foot. Line up the raw edge with the blade (as your guide), cutting minimal to nothing off. Turn the pocket right sides out and press so that the ric rac is exposed. Now, advance to the elastic casing step. Trim excess ric rac down even with the edge of the pocket.



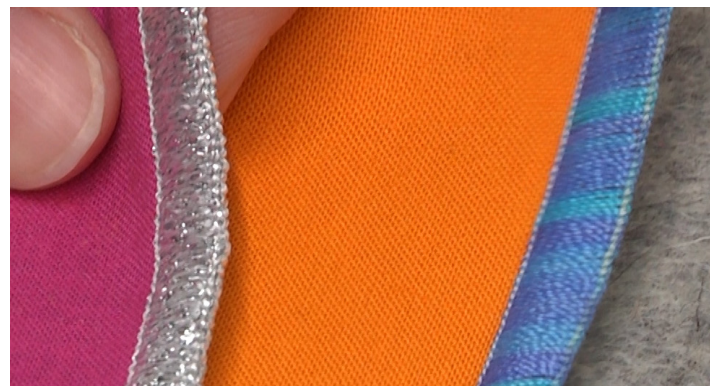
POCKET TRIM OPTION 2: BEADING WITH THE BEADING FOOT

Serge upper pocket seam with the two pocket layers right sides together and a 3-Thread Narrow standard stitch on the widest width to create the seam on the upper edge of the pocket. Turn right side out and press. Then, set your serger up for a 3-Thread Narrow Overlock (needle in O2) on stitch selector B. Stitch length should be 4 Standard and Stitch Width on M with the blade locked. Differential feed may need to go down to .6. Consider placing a 12-weight Glamour decorative thread in the upper looper. Trim the trim down even with the edge of the pocket after stitching. Bust 2-3 beads with pliers or the like on the end of each side of the bead strand within the seam allowance for easy side seam sewing.



POCKET TRIM OPTION 3: PIPING WITH CORDING FOOT

Place the Serger Cording Foot on your serger and set up for a 3- or 4-Thread Wide stitch at the widest width and 3-3.5 stitch length. Place piping cord within bias strip and place in the groove of the foot. Serge piping trim. Place the trim between the two layers of the pocket (right sides together) and stitch with the piping in the groove of the foot. Turn the pocket right sides out and press so that the ric rac is exposed. Now, advance to the elastic casing step. Trim excess piping down even with the edge of the pocket.



POCKET TRIM OPTION 4: 3-THREAD WIDE DECORATIVE THREAD

Set up the Serger with a 3-thread wide, with regular serger thread in the O1 needle and Decorative Thread in the upper and lower looper. Set your width to the widest width and test the length between 1-2 for the desired satin-like stitch. Serge the upper edge together of the 2 layers (wrong sides together) of the pocket using the Standard or Clear Foot. Trim excess serger tails.

2. Pocket Trim OPTIONS CONTINUED



POCKET TRIM OPTION 5:

DOUBLE FOLD BIAS BINDER WITH COVER STITCH CHAIN/COVER STITCH MACHINE ONLY

Set up your serger for a Chain Stitch with the needle in C1 with your stitch length at 3.0. Place the attachment on the machine, lining it up so that when the bias strip passes through, the stitch lies just inside the 2 rolled edges of fabric (test several strips). Start stitching onto the bias strip and make sure that all is lined up. Place the fabric into the groove in the attachment (wrong sides together) and stitch the bias binding to the top edge of the pocket. Clip the trim even with the edge of the pocket. Consider placing a decorative thread in the Chain Looper, but stitch the trim onto the pocket with the pocket face down so that the decorative thread shows on the top after stitching.

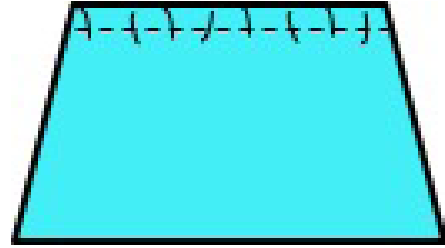
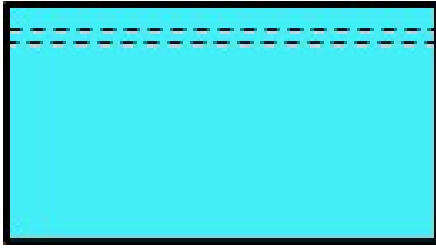
EXTRA FUN:

Cover or Chain Stitch with Decorative Thread in the Looper. Stitch with the wrong side of your pocket up so that the decorative thread is on the right side of the pocket after stitching. Create your own fabric designs or crosshatching with the stitches you sew! **Note: Stitch through the two layers of the pocket to give your pocket stability while stitching.**



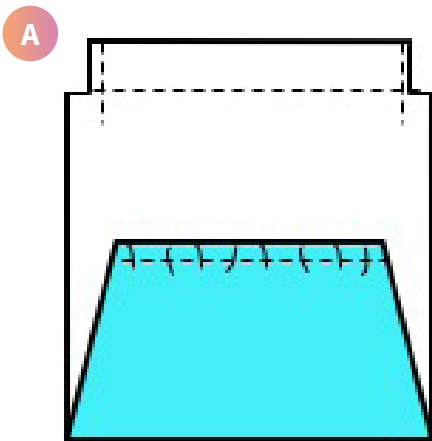
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3. Elastic CASING

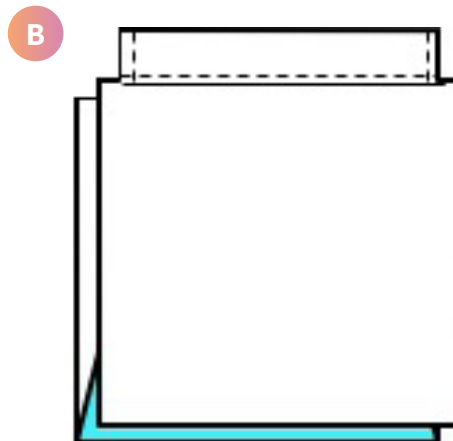


After the trim has been added to your pocket, you'll need to add an elastic casing so that the pocket doesn't hang away from the bag. With the sewing machine straight stitch, topstitch 1-2 lines to create a 1/2" casing just below your decorative trim (if your serger stitch acts as the first stitch line, just stitch an additional line a 1/2" below it to create the casing). Using a safety pin or skinny loop turner, feed the elastic through, leaving 1" elastic extending on both ends of the casing. Use a straight stitch within the 3/8" seam allowance and secure elastic in place on the left and right. Pull on both sides to distribute the fabric scrunch evenly. Clip excess elastic even with the edge of the bag.

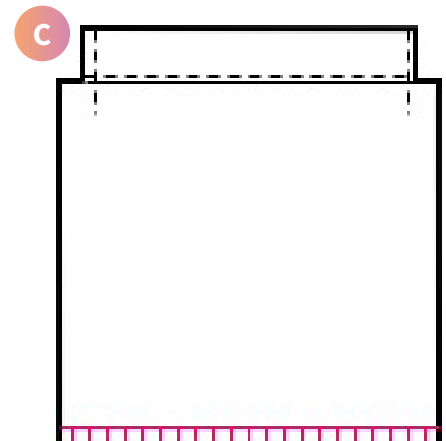
4. Lower Bag SEAM



If adding a pocket, align the pocket with the lower edge of the bag front. If necessary, (with sewing machine) baste lower edge of pocket onto lower edge of bag front.



With right sides together, align the lower edge of the bag front and back.

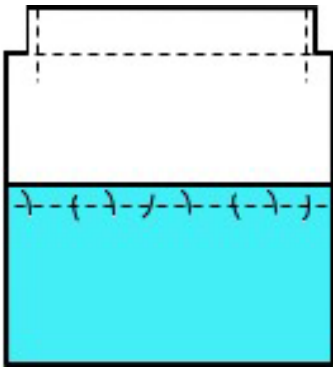


TO CREATE THE LOWER SEAM ON ALL BAG TYPES, use a standard 4-Thread Overlock Stitch, serge the lower edges together to create the bottom seam of the bag. Turn right side out and press lower seam.

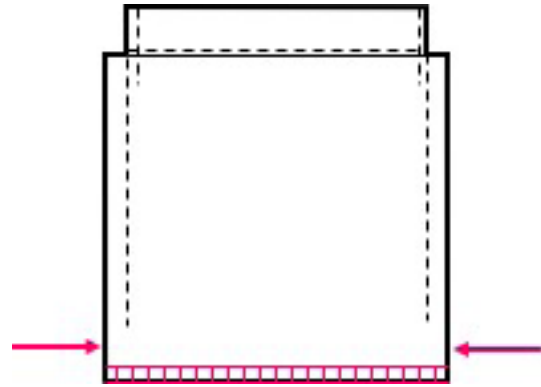


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5. *Side* SEAMS

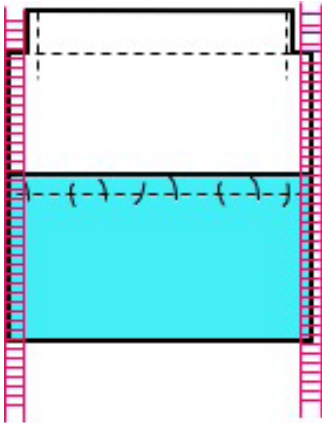


Using Wonder Clips, clip the sides of the pocket so that it aligns with each side seam allowance on the bag front. It is not a bad idea to baste the pocket in place to the bag front with a 1/4" seam allowance with a sewing machine to hold the sides in place.



SIDE SEAM OPTION 1: BASIC 4-THREAD OVERLOCK SEAMS

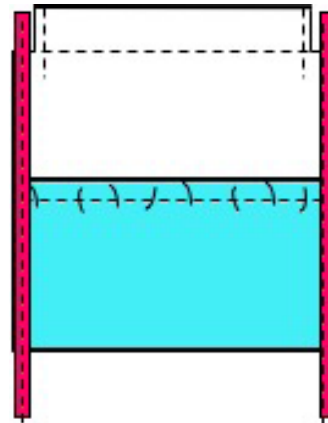
(INSIDE BAG) If you would just like to keep it very basic and serge the side seams on the inside of the bag, flip the back to the front again (right sides together) and clip the side seams together using Wonder Clips. Using a sewing machine, stitch both side seams with a 3/8" seam allowance, leaving a 1" opening. Turn right side out and skip to Step 6: Straps.



SIDE SEAM OPTION 2: DECORATIVE 3-THREAD WIDE EXPOSED SEAMS

Set up your serger for a 3-Thread Wide Overlock Stitch with a decorative thread in the upper and lower looper. Set the width to the widest width and set the stitch length so that the stitch density looks similar to a satin stitch (between 1-2). Fold the top of the serger stitched side seam towards the back and the serger tail into the bag.

Topstitch over the seam/decorative thread on each side to secure the serger thread tail inside the bag (clip excess). Tuck the lower serger thread tail into the back side of the stitch with a skinny loop turner needle.



SIDE SEAM OPTION 3: DOUBLE FOLD BIAS EXPOSED SEAMS - CHAIN/COVER STITCH MACHINE ONLY

Set up your serger for a Chain Stitch with the needle in C1 with your stitch length at 3.0. Place the 36mm Double Fold Bias Binder Attachment on the machine, lining it up so that when the bias strip passes through, the stitch lies just inside the 2 rolled edges of fabric (test several strips). Start stitching onto the bias strip and ensure all is lined up. When ready, place the side seam into the groove in the attachment and stitch the bias binding along each exposed side seam. Try to have 3" of stitched bias tail above the side seam and 10" below the side seam. Consider placing a decorative thread in the Chain Looper, but stitch the trim onto the bag with the bag face down so that the decorative thread shows on the top after stitching. At the top of the side seam, press the bias towards the back and the excess tail into the bag. Topstitch over the seam/bias trim on each side to reinforce this area and to secure the serger thread tail inside the bag (clip excess inside).

6. Straps

If you purchased pre-made straps, skip to below where it says **FOR ALL STRAPS (purchased or created)**. If you are making straps with the Double Fold Bias Binder or the Belt Loop Binder, make sure to join bias strips with diagonal seams to create one really long strip based on the strap measurement needed (but, extra length is always nice to have when using the binders).



SERGER STRAP OPTION 1: DOUBLE FOLD BIAS BINDER STRAPS

To create Double Fold Bias Binder Straps, set your serger up for a Chain Stitch with the needle in the C1 needle position and the Standard or Teflon Foot attached. Stitch length should be 3. Align the 36mm Double Fold Bias Binder Attachment up so that as the 1-3/8" strip passes through the attachment, the stitch lies right inside the 2 rolled edges of the strap, stitching them together. Consider placing a decorative thread in the Chain Looper! Stitch the entire long strap. If you have a mistake and need to take the thread out, nip the LAST two TOP stitches and then, pull the looper thread and it should unloop down the entire strap! Press out the strap gently (not stretched) and try again!



SERGER STRAP OPTION 2: BELT LOOP BINDER STRAPS

To create the Belt Loop Binder Straps, set your serger up for a Cover Stitch Wide with the stitch length at 3. Align the 3/4" Belt Loop Binder Attachment up with the needles so that when the 1" bias fabric strip passes through, both needles catch the rolled fabric edges. Consider placing a decorative thread in the Chain looper! After you get the strip of fabric aligned and stitching in the foot, place the twill tape underneath the 1" bias and make sure it catches and stays in the center. The twill tape gives the strap extra body. Stitch the entire length of the strap. If you have a mistake and need to take the thread out, nip the LAST two TOP stitches from each stitch line and then, pull the looper thread and it should unloop down the entire strap! Press out the strap gently (not stretched) and try again!

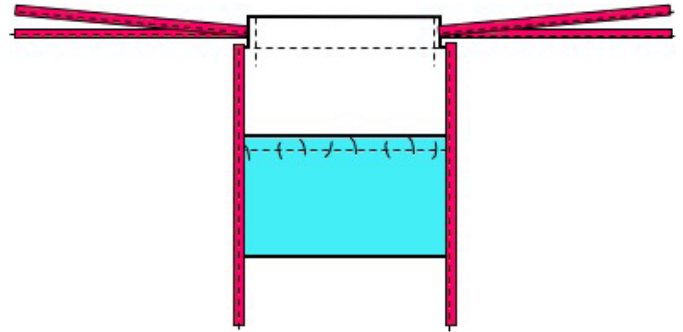
FOR ALL STRAPS (PURCHASED OR CREATED), cut the long strap in half. Child Size should be about 54" each and Teen Size should be about 81" each. Leave them a little longer if you plan on tying and leaving a little extra (like tassels). You may need less if you are just stitching the very basic bag.



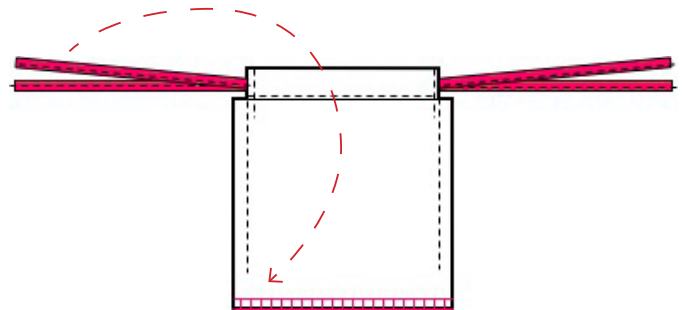
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7. Inserting STRAPS

Bag should be right side out. Use a skinny loop turner (recommended) to pull the straps through or a safety pin to feed the straps through each casing. Starting on the left side of the bag, insert one strap through the bag front casing at the top and then, feed it through the back side. You should have two tails coming out of the left side (the two tails should be from the same strap). Repeat on the right side of the bag, feeding through the front casing and then, through the back casing, leaving two strap tails to the right of the bag (these two tails should also be from the same strap). You should have two tails on each side now.

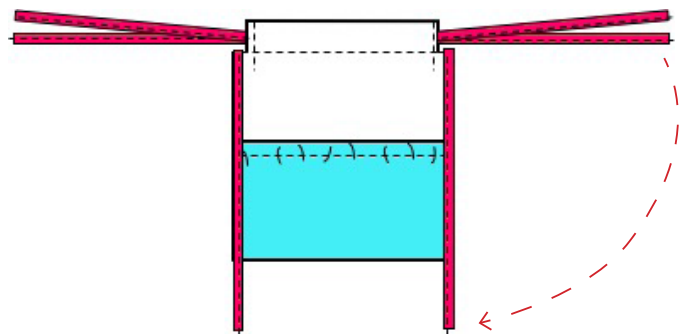


IF YOU SEWED THE SIDE SEAMS INSIDE THE BAG (ALL OTHER BAGS, GO TO THE NEXT STEP), make sure the casing is smooth/flat and clip the straps down to where they extend 15" (for Child Size) or 18" (for Teen Size) out from each side of the casing. Flip the bag wrong side out again. Pull the straps on the left together, untwisted, and into the left lower corner opening of the bag and pin in place. Repeat with the straps on the right. Stitch in place with a sewing machine and close opening in side seam completely. Serge both side seams with a 4-Thread Overlock Stitch to finish. With a double eyed needle or the skinny loop turner, tuck and conceal the thread tails within the serger stitch or stitch over ends with a sewing machine and clip serger tails short.



IF YOU BOUND THE SIDE SEAMS: With the casing smooth/flat, tie all straps together in a knot right at both corners of the bag, ensuring that there's about 15" (for Child Size) or 18" (for Teen Size) of strap from casing to knot. Clip straps at desired length (either with a 1/2" clip below the knot or leave a little tassel – use Fray Check or Fray Block on the cut threads).

IF YOU STITCHED THE SIDE SEAMS WITH A DECORATIVE THREAD, mark a dot a 1/2" up and in from each lower corner and place a grommet on each corner (following instructions on the grommet package). With the casing smooth/flat, pull untwisted straps through from front to back with the skinny loop turner and knot the straps in the back, ensuring that there's about 15" (for Child Size) and 18" (for Teen Size) of strap from casing to knot. Clip about a 1/2" from the knot and place Fray Check or Fray Block on the threads.



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