

BACKPACK STYLE BOOK BAG

Upholstery fabrics samples with grommets in the corners were used for this project.

Supplies: 2 pieces of sturdy fabric for bag body (each approximately 16x24)

4 yds of cord for shoulder straps. I purchased soft clothesline cord (polyester)

- 1 Choose two (2) coordinating or similar upholstery samples that are approximately 16 x 24 with grommets in the upper corners.



For each front and back: Measure 20" up from bottom edge, mark, and cut off top section.

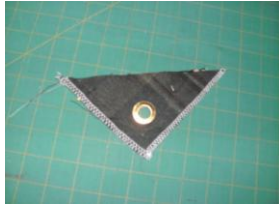
- 2 On first fabric: Cut corner grommet sections with a *diagonal* cut that is about 1" away from the grommet. *(See note below about cutting second fabric.)



* When doing the 2nd fabric ALIGN THE GROMMETS on top of each other before making the diagonal cut. Outer edges may misalign.



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Using one of each of the fabric prints, right sides together, align the diagonal edges and pin.



Stitch on outer edges with at least a 1/4" seam. Using a zipper foot will help to get in the small space between the grommet and outside edge. Turn right side out.

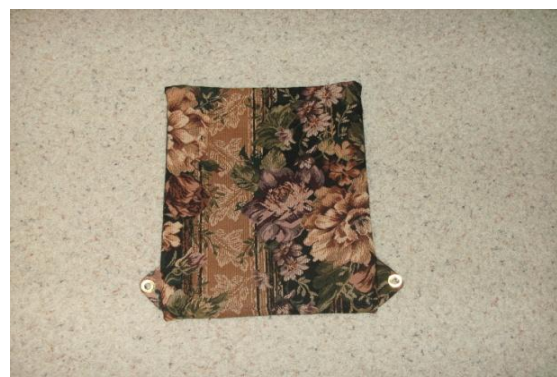
Measure up from bottom edge about 1/2" on the *long side* of bag and meeting raw edges of bag and grommet insert, pin insert in place. Stitch in place. Repeat for second grommet insert.



- 3 Layer bag front and back with right sides together and sew the bottom seam with a 1/2" seam allowance. Press to one side and topstitch for reinforcement. Again with right sides together, start sewing the side seam 1-1/2" down from the top edge. Stitching a second time will reinforce these seams also. Finish the raw edge with a zig zag stitch or by serge finishing.



Topstitch the open side seam allowances for 1-1/2", forming a hemmed edge. Fold the top edge to the inside 1-1/2" and straight stitch to form a cord pocket. Turn bag right side out.



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4 Attaching the draw cords and finishing



Cut two 36" lengths of cord. Knot or tape the ends to keep them from raveling.



Fold the cord in half and feed folded end through the grommet.



Feed the cut ends of the cord through folded loop.



Pull cords tight.



On cord set 1: Feed one cut cord through each top pocket then knot together to secure. Repeat at other grommet.

5 *Congratulations! You've finished your drawstring backpack.*

Pack with school supplies, fold top down, pull cords tight and tie together. Tuck ends in bag opening and it's ready for packing and shipping.



Instructional tutorial by
Char Grant char@LABrat.com
Eastern North Dakota Synod / ELCA