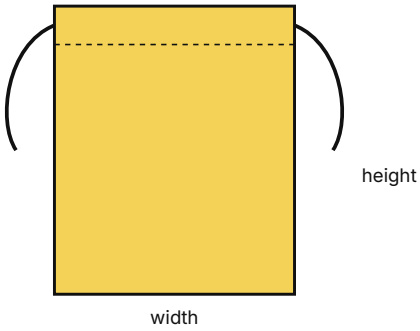
FREE PATTERN · 3 SIZES · BEGINNER

The double *drawstring bag*

A classic two-cord bag that pulls shut from both sides. One rectangle folded at the bottom, so there are only two side seams, plus a casing at the top. Three sizes, from a gift pouch to a laundry bag.



SIZES AND CUT PIECES (½" SIDE SEAMS AND CASING INCLUDED)

SIZE	FINISHED (W × H)	CUT 1 BODY (W × H)	CORDS (CUT 2)	FABRIC, 44" WIDE
Small	6" × 8" (15 × 20.5 cm)	7" × 19" (18 × 48.5 cm)	22" each	¼ yd (makes 2)
Medium	10" × 12" (25.5 × 30.5 cm)	11" × 27" (28 × 68.5 cm)	30" each	⅜ yd
Large	14" × 18" (35.5 × 45.5 cm)	15" × 39" (38 × 99 cm)	40" each	½ yd

The body is one long rectangle folded in half at the bottom, so the cut height is twice the finished height plus 1½" at each end for the casing (¼" turn-under + 1¼" fold). Good uses: small, gift pouch, jewellery, sachets; medium, project bag, shoes, toiletries; large, laundry, toys, gym kit.

YOU NEED

Fabric: light to medium woven cotton: quilting cotton, canvas, linen, calico or chambray. Prewash it first.

Cord: two lengths of ⅛–¼" cotton cord or ribbon per bag (lengths above), or make fabric ties. A safety pin or bodkin, thread, pins and an iron.

HOW TO USE THIS PATTERN

Every piece is a rectangle. Page 2 has the cutting layouts. Page 3 has the steps and a full-size casing guide: print at 100% / "Actual size" and check the test square.

One-way print? Cut two pieces, each half the cut height plus ½", and sew a bottom seam so the print is upright on both sides.

Photo tutorial: sewbytheyard.com/drawstring-bag-pattern/

1 inch
test square

2.5 cm
test square

Measure before you cut. Print at 100% / "Actual size", never "Fit to page". Off by more than 1 mm? Reprint.

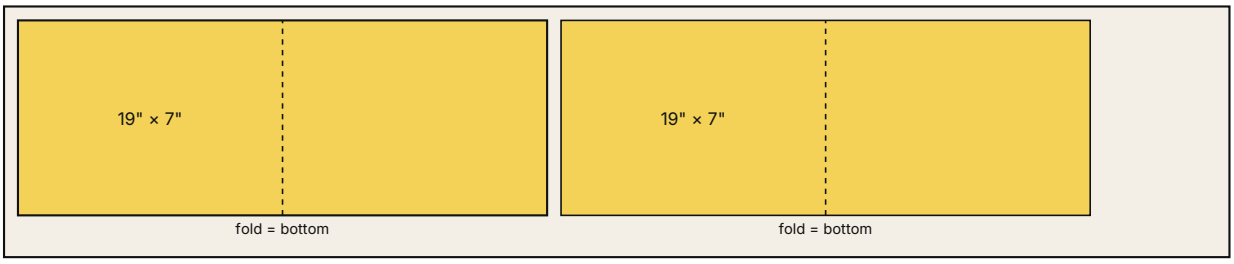
Made by Sew by the Yard, an independent garment-sewing site.

Free for personal use and small-batch selling of what you make. Please don't resell or share the PDF itself.

Cutting layouts

Lay the body with its long side running across the fabric, selvage to selvage. On a woven that is perfectly stable, and it fits every size on a 44" width. Mark the fold line (the bottom of the bag) halfway along the long side.

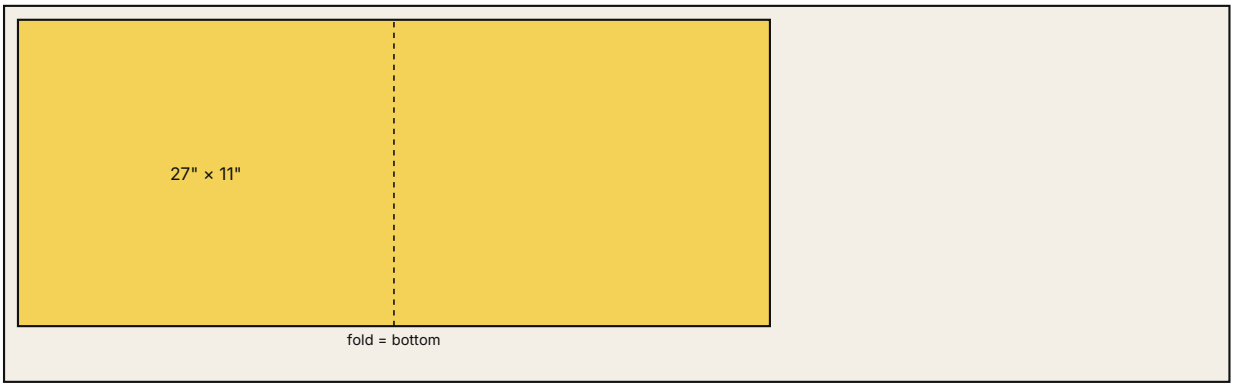
SMALL · ¼ YD OF 44" FABRIC (9 × 44")



Small: 6" × 8" finished. Two bags fit side by side.

selvage ↔ selvage: 44" 9" along the grain

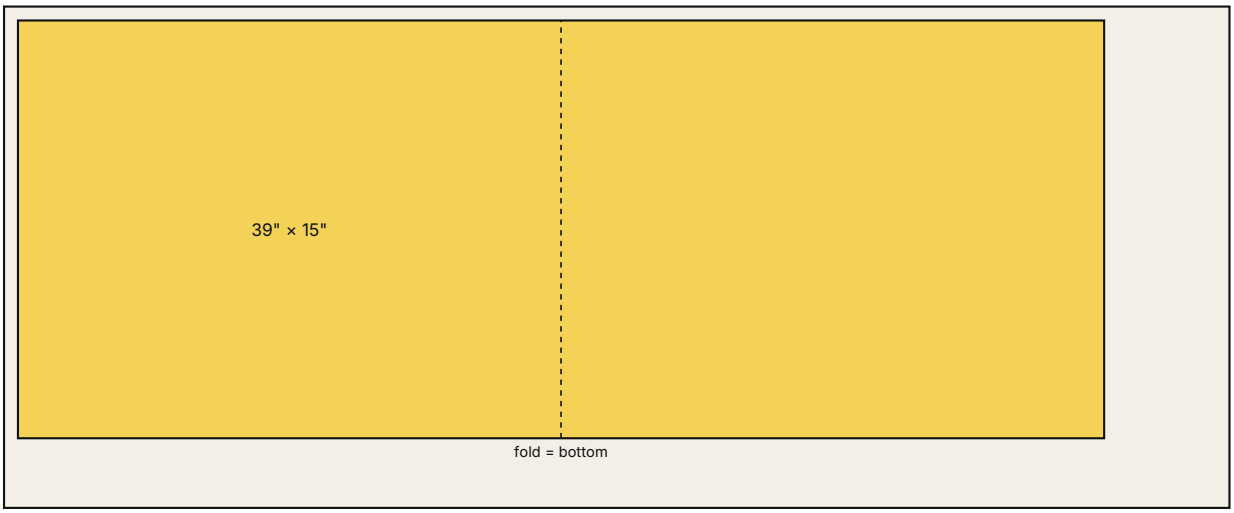
MEDIUM · ⅜ YD OF 44" FABRIC (13.5 × 44")



Medium: 10" × 12" finished. The rest of the width makes fabric ties or a second small bag.

selvage ↔ selvage: 44" 13.5" along the grain

LARGE · ½ YD OF 44" FABRIC (18 × 44")



Large: 14" × 18" finished. Fits on 44" with 4" to spare.

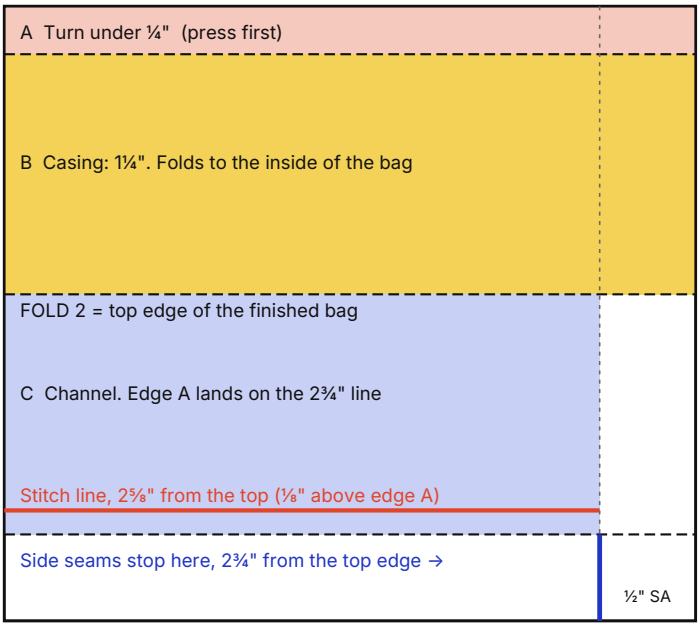
selvage ↔ selvage: 44" 18" along the grain

58–60" fabric: the same yardage works; the extra width leaves room for a small bag or fabric ties. Fabric ties instead of cord: cut two strips 1½" wide × the cord length, press both long edges to the centre, fold again and edgestitch.

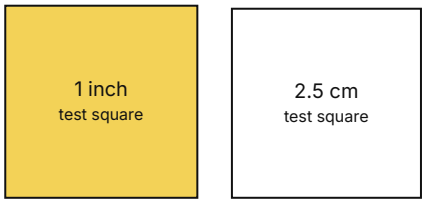
Free for personal use and small-batch selling of what you make. Please don't resell or share the PDF itself.

Full-size casing guide

Line the top raw edge of the body up with the top of the guide, at both side edges. Mark the fold lines, and mark where each side seam stops.



Top of the guide = top raw edge of the body. Finished channel: about 1⅛" tall, room for two ¼" cords.



Measure before you cut. Print at 100% / "Actual size", never "Fit to page". Off by more than 1 mm? Reprint.

Sew it

1. Mark. Fold the body in half, right sides together, short ends level; the fold is the bottom of the bag. On both side edges, mark 2¾" down from the top raw edge (use the guide).
2. Sew the sides. Stitch each side ½" from the edge, from the bottom fold up to the 2¾" mark. Backstitch firmly at the mark. Finish the seam allowances with zigzag or a serger (or use French seams; see the tutorial).
3. Neaten the openings. Press the side seams open, including the unsewn top 2¾". Topstitch the unsewn allowances flat in a narrow U around the end of the seam, so the cord openings are clean.
4. Make the casing. Press ¼" to the wrong side all around the top (A). Fold down another 1¼" (B) so the pressed edge lands on the 2¾" line, and press. Stitch ⅛" above the pressed edge, all the way around. You now have two channels, front and back, open at each side.
5. Thread the cords. With a safety pin, feed cord 1 in at the left opening, through the front channel, back through the back channel and out at the left again. Feed cord 2 the same way starting from the right opening.
6. Finish. Knot each pair of cord ends together. Turn the bag right side out and press. Pull both knots away from each other to close it.

Free for personal use and small-batch selling of what you make. Please don't resell or share the PDF itself.