

COMMUNITY SERVICE

2010 NATIONAL COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT



U.S. Troops Drawstring Bag

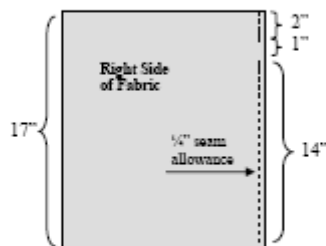
National Quilting Day, March 15th, Service Project for OUR TROOPS.
Join in making Troop Bags. This is a national 501C3 non-profit charity that fills and sends the filled bags monthly to our troops. The request is for a 14" drawstring bag, it holds a filled gallon baggie. The troops can use the bags for personal use, and some pass them on to the children in Iraq.

When finished send to: **Operation Care Package**
611 Wilcox Street
Joliet, IL 60435

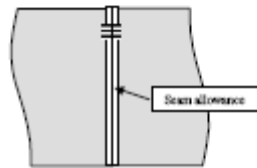
No special holiday or color is needed, everything goes. This is a great project for youth groups and those just starting to sew. Volunteers across the country will gather in their local communities to make the bags.

Fabric – 17" high x 30" wide
Drawstring cord – 1 yard
1 Cord Lock (optional)

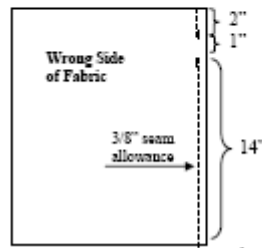
1. Cut fabric 17" x 30".
2. Fold fabric **WRONG** sides together and sew for 2" along the side seam, back tack, leave a 1" space and continue to sew the length of the seam.



3. Press seam open and zig zag the seam allowance to the main fabric on both sides of the opening.

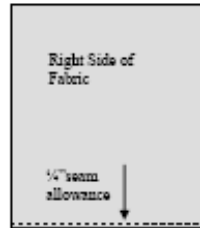


4. Turn bag with **RIGHT** sides together, press flat along seam line and stitch a 3/8" seam allowance over the 1/4" seam allowance. **Stop 2" down and leave a 1" opening.** Continue to finish sewing the side seam. This will make a "French seam" with all the raw edges encased.

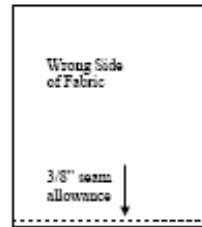


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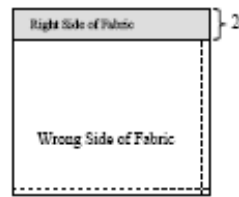
5. Press seam to one side.
6. Turn bag **right sides out** (wrong sides together) and sew along the bottom seam with a 1/4" seam allowance.



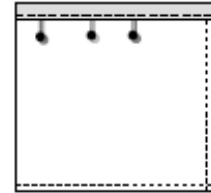
7. Turn bag **wrong side out** (right sides together) press the bottom seam flat and stitch across the bottom seam again with a 3/8" seam allowance. This will make another "French seam" encasing all the raw edges.



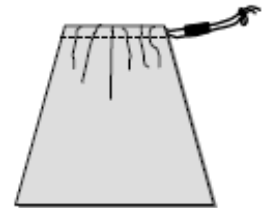
8. With bag still wrong sides out, fold down the top raw edges 2" and press.



9. Fold raw edges under again to meet the pressed edge forming a one inch casing, press and pin in place.



10. Stitch around the entire top edge of the bag very close to the folded edge, making a 1" drawstring casing.
11. Turn bag right side out.
12. Attach a safety pin in the drawstring and place it through the opening that was created in the side seam of the casing. Pull the string all the way around the casing exiting where you started.
13. Thread both ends of the drawstring through the opening of the optional cord lock, and/or tie the cords together at the ends.



Note: If you wish you can send a "general" letter for our troops inside your bag and it will be sent along with the filled baggie. An empty gallon baggie would also be helpful.

The American Sewing Guild is proud to announce the selection of the U.S. Troops Drawstring Bag as our 2010 national community service project. A project of *Operation Care Package*, a non-profit organization that receives, fills and mails the drawstring bags to deployed service men and women from all branches of the armed forces. You can learn more about them at www.operationcarepackages.org. Please note: ASG headquarters will not be receiving or shipping the bags. We will not have a drop off area for them during the 2010 conference. The bags are to be mailed directly to Operation Care Package and can be shipped at any time to: **Operation Care Package, 611 Wilcox St., Joliet, IL. 60435**

ASG Members, please report the number of bags sent to your chapter representative who will be maintaining a count for ASG. A drawstring bag pattern (created for this project) has been designed by Laura Martell of *The Creative Thimble* and you can access it from a link on the Community Service page of the ASG website or at: <http://www.thecreativethimble.com/FreePatterns/US%20Troop%20Bag.pdf>.

Operation Care Package has requested that we enclose a note of appreciation thanking the recipient for their service. Once again, our friends at *ScrapSmart* have stepped up to support our project by designing a special appreciation label and a card that can be used to include a personal note with your bag(s). As soon as this is available, members will be alerted and a link will be available from our website.