

# Drawstring Gift Pouch

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This simple pouch makes a nice alternative to wrapping a gift. It is more environmentally friendly than wrapping paper and can be reused for other gifts or for other purposes, too.

## Materials:

1. Fabric: **Width** = width of gift + thickness of gift + 1" wobble room + 3/4" (two 3/8" seam allowances). **Height** = twice the total of (height of gift + thickness of gift + 1" wobble room) + 3" for casings. The wobble room is necessary for removing the gift from the bag. You can add more wobble room, if you prefer. Example: For a gift that is 6" wide by 5" high by 2" thick, I would allow  $6" + 2" + 1" + 3/4"$  for the width and  $(5" + 2" + 1") + (5" + 2" + 1") + 3" = 19"$  for the height.)
2. Ribbon, up to 3/8" wide: 2 pieces, each twice the width of the pouch + 8". ( $9" + 9"$ ) + 8" = 26" for the example pouch calculated above.)
3. Tearaway or cutaway stabilizer.
4. Embroidery Thread for design.
5. Fancy Jumbles alphabets for embroidery design.
6. Thread

## Instructions:

1. On the right side of your fabric, place two pins along one vertical side. Place one pin 2 1/4" from the top edge and the other at the midpoint of the side. Mark your horizontal centerline for embroidery midway between these two pins. Mark your vertical centerline midway across the fabric in the other direction. NOTE: The fabric in Figure 1 is shown sideways for better use of the photo area. The vertical centerline appears horizontal in the photo. The shaded area shows where the design can fit. Remember to allow space for side seam allowances and for a border of fabric around the design.
2. Embroider your design, making sure the top of the design is toward the top of the fabric. Remove excess stabilizer and trim jump threads.
3. On the wrong side of the fabric, mark a line 2" from and parallel to the top edge of the fabric. Fold the raw edge up to meet the marked line and press the fold. (Fig. 2)
4. Fold the double hem to the right side, so that the marked line is at the fold. Press crease, being careful not to press out the crease made in step 3. Allow the folds to fall open.
5. Repeat Steps 3 and 4 at the opposite end of the fabric.
6. Fold fabric in half, right sides together, so that the bottom of the pouch is at the fold. Pin side seams so that you can stitch from the raw edges to the fold on both sides.
7. Stitch 3/8" seams: Stitch about 1/4" of the seam and backstitch to secure. Raise the presser foot and move the fabric so that you are about 1 3/4" from the raw edge. Stitch and then backstitch, then continue sewing off the fold of the fabric. Backstitch back onto the fabric to secure. Finish the seams with a 3-step zigzag, beginning where the stitching resumes after the gap. (Fig. 3)
8. On each side, cut a snip in the seam allowance as shown by the arrow in Figure 4. Be careful not to cut through the stitching.
9. Press the seam allowances open above the snips. From the right



side of the fabric, stitch a rectangle to secure the seam allowances. Begin at the raw edge, pivot at the bottom of the opening, stitch across the bottom of the open, and pivot to stitch back up to the raw edge. Make sure the stitching catches the seam allowance. (Fig. 5)

10. Press the side seams toward the back (non-embroidered) side of the pouch.
11. Turn the pouch right side out. Fold the raw edge up to meet the crease that is on the marked line. Pin together. (Fig. 6)
12. At the side seams, make sure the seam allowances face the back of the pouch.
13. Stitch seam with 1/4" seam/overcast stitch. Press seam allowances away from casing. (Fig. 7)
14. If desired, top stitch through all layers from the right side of the pouch, just below the seam line.
15. Using a bodkin or safety pin feed one ribbon into the casing. Begin at one side opening, come out the other side and back into the second casing, and emerge again where you started. Begin the second ribbon at the opposite side seam. (Fig. 8)
16. Tie each pair of ends into a knot.
17. Your pouch is ready for a gift. Pull on both ribbons at once to close the pouch. (Fig. 9)

