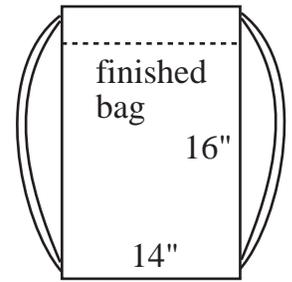


**Drawstring Backpack** ~ Finished bag has a casing at the top for the drawstring. When you pull the drawstring closed the cords become the backpack straps. Finished dimensions are 14" wide by 16" long. Nylon flag fabric will make a sturdy bag, or use quilting cotton if you like. You can buy the cord at The Sew Inn, Wal-Mart or Lowe's. You can fuse an applique or do embroidery on one or both sides of the bag.



## Materials ~

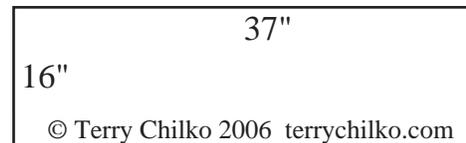
1/2 yard bag fabric (nylon flag fabric, lightweight upholstery fabric, or quilting cotton)  
- cut 16" x 37"

4 yards drawstring cord (nylon, polyester, etc - something strong)  
- cut into two 2-yard lengths.

Fabric scraps for applique(s), optional

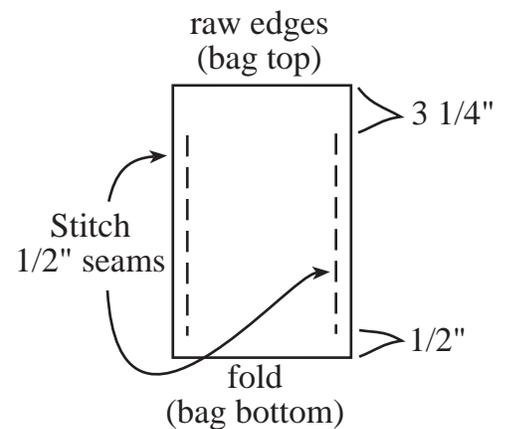
Fusible web for applique(s), optional

Threads to match bag and appliques

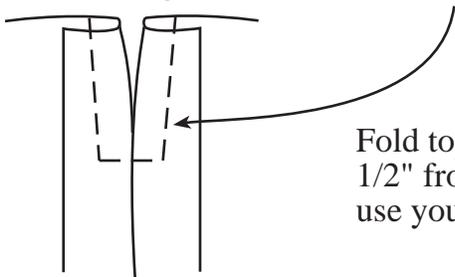


**Directions** ~ Finish all raw edges of bag fabric by serging or zigzagging. Fuse and stitch appliques to one or both sides if you like.

Fold bag fabric in half, right sides together, meeting short edges. Place pins 3 1/4" from top edge and 1/2" from the bottom. Stitch 1/2" seams between the pins. Stitch side seams twice for extra strength. Press seams open and continue pressing 1/2" from edges above stitching.



Topstitch loose edges above side seams.



Fold top edges toward inside of bag 1 3/4" to form casing. Stitch 1 1/2" from casing fold. You'll be stitching in a circle (a great time to use your machine's free arm if you have one). Stitch twice.

Thread each drawstring through both casings (going all the way around the top of the bag), threading one from each side. You will end up with two loose cords hanging from each side of the top.

From outside of bag, tuck ends of cording through holes in bottom corners (wrapping scotch tape around ends may make it easier to push thru and will keep ends from fraying). From inside bag, pull slack from cording - with drawstring casing pulled all the way open, the cording ends should be about the same length of the bag sides (similar to first diagram, only cords will be straight along sides of bag).

Turn bag inside out and box lower corners, catching the cording in the stitching. (To box corners, line up side seams with fold at the bag bottom forming triangles at each corner - see diagram. Stitch about 1/2" from triangle point.) Stitch seam at least twice. Knot ends of cord and trim excess cording.

