

Collage Laundry Bag by Sheila Reinke

Laundry is a fact of life – and laundry mats are something most college students have to live with. This bag may help to make the chore a little easier for your favorite grad – if nothing else, it will remind them that you are thinking of them on laundry day.

Please note, images used in this pattern are NOT to scale

Materials:

- 1 1/3 yard - main fabric
- 1 1/3 yard – coordinate fabric
- 1/2 yard – black fabric
- 6 covered buttons #30 (3/4")
- 55" cording or shoestring (approximate)
- fusible web for appliqué

Suggested Specialty Tools:

- 6"x 24" OLFA Ruler
- 6 1/2" Square OLFA Ruler
- Rotary Cutter / Mat

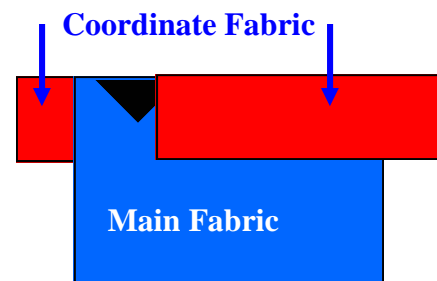
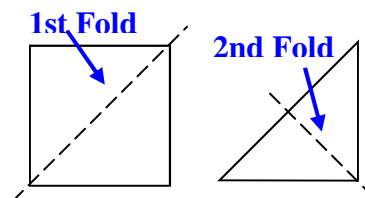
Cut fabric as follows:

- Main fabric – 46" by the width of the fabric (approx. 46" x 44" in most fabrics)
- Coordinating fabric – cut two pieces, each 46" x 8 1/2"
- Black Fabric – cut 6 squares, 6 1/2" each for prairie points

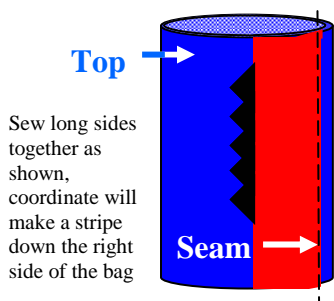
Project Level: Intermediate

Construction:

1. For this entire project, you will be using a standard 1/4" seam allowance.
2. Create Prairie Points
 - Take one black square (6 1/2") and fold in half from point to point.
 - Iron, and fold again from middle of longest side to point.
 - Iron again; you now have a perfect right-angle triangle.
3. Repeat step 2, creating a total of 6 prairie points
4. Open the main fabric (46" x 44") to a single layer, with the right side facing up.
5. On right-hand side, layout the prairie points, beginning 5 1/4" from the top edge.
6. Use your 6" x 24" ruler to space prairie points so they are 3" apart at the tip of the points
7. Pin and stitch prairie points to right edge of main fabric – you will be stitching along the longest side (6 1/2" edge) of each of the folded triangles. Make sure your folds at the point of the triangles all face the same direction
8. Layer your fabrics as follows, all should be aligned at the top edge:
 - Coordinate fabric 46" x 8 1/2" - right side up
 - Main fabric – right side up with prairie points showing (pointing down toward sewer)
 - Coordinate fabric (2nd) piece – right side down
 - See image at right for clarification
 - Sew through all layers, along the top edge.
9. Flip fabrics and iron seam so that coordinate pieces are now wrong sides together and touching (main fabric will be below the coordinate).
10. Create a tube for your laundry bag by sewing the two long sides (46") together.



This is what it would look like if we could create a cross-section of the layering. Make sure your fabric stack meets on both right and left sides as well as along the top edge.



NOTE: leave a break in the seam 4 3/4" to 5 1/4" down from the top for the drawstring



11. Sew across bottom of bag
12. Create a 2½" hem at the top of the bag. Just above that hem line (about ½", add another line of stitching to create a casing for the drawstring to go through.
13. Using a safety pin, pull the drawstring through the casing.
14. With bag still wrong side out, measure up from the corner approximately 4" and stitch a diagonal line to the bottom of the bag. Do this on each corner to reinforce the corners and create some depth to the bag.
15. Now we're getting to the fun part – finishing the bag.
 - Turn bag right side out
 - Cover the buttons with a coordinating fabric (does not need to be coordinate used in rest of the project, I used a solid)
 - Sew buttons onto the prairie points to anchor the tips of the points
 - Applique the word 'LAUNDRY' down the side using your favorite method – I used fusible web and satin stitched around each letter.

Some other suggestions:

- For guys, use tabs instead of prairie points,
- Inside the bag you could add a pocket for quarters for the washing machine
- - OR - Make a smaller drawstring bag that would coordinate with the laundry bag, one that will fit over the mouth of a coffee cup, the student can collect coins throughout the week in this bag (stretched over the cup for support) and then just grab when it's time for laundry
- Using colorfast sheets, print washing instructions (like don't wash new black jeans with white t-shirts) and sew to the inside of the bag. I suggest using fusible web, and cutting along the edge with a decorative blade – then top stitch instructions to the inside of the bag.
- - OR – print fun things to do while doing the laundry, here's the list I came up with:
 - Phone a Friend
 - Homework
 - Board game
 - Solitaire
 - Sudoku
 - Read a Book
 - Write a song to rhythm of the dryer
 - Hunt for the sock you lost last week
 - Fill out form for bigger scholarship so you can afford a laundry service
 - Write a note to Mom and let her know how much you miss her (and her washer!)

Pattern designed and created by Sheila Reinke

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If you want to use this pattern in a class, please contact Sheila.

For more patterns by Sheila, see her blog at:

<http://sheilareinke.wordpress.com/>